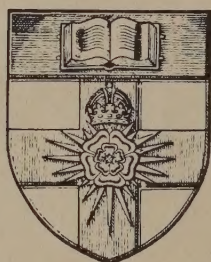


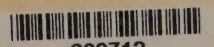
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ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

· FORTY-SEVEN VOLUMES.

— (12.) —

EAST INDIA—*continued.*

OPIUM COMMISSION—*continued.*

Session

12 March 1894 — 25 August 1894.

VOL. LXII.

ACCOUNTS AND PAPERS:

1894.

FORTY-SEVEN VOLUMES:—CONTENTS OF THE

TWELFTH VOLUME.

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Opium (Royal Commission):

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ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE

ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM

FROM

29th January to 22nd February 1894,

WITH

APPENDICES.

VOL. IV.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

VOL. IV.

At the Albert Hall, Jeypore.

FIFTY-EIGHTH DAY.

Monday, 29th January 1894.

PRESENT :

THE RIGHT HON. LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B., CHAIRMAN, PRESIDING.

Sir JAMES LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.
Sir WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.
Mr. R. G. C. MOWERAY, M.P.
Mr. A. U. FANSHAWE.

Mr. ARTHUR PEASE,
Mr. HARIDAS VEHARIDAS DESAI.
Mr. H. J. WILSON, M.P.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT, C.I.E., *Secretary.*

RAO BAHADUR KANTEE CHUNDER MOOKERJEE, C.I.E., called in and examined.

Rao Bahadur
Kantee
Chunder
Mookerjee,
C.I.E.
(Jeypore
State.)

29 Jan. 1894.

20,164. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are chief member of the Jeypore Council and an hereditary village grant-holder and Tazimi Sirdar of the State?—Yes.

20,165. How long have you held your present high office in Jeypore?—For the last 10 years as chief member of council. I came here in January 1865, as Principal of the Maharaja's College. After 12 years I was promoted to the Maharaja's Council as a member, and afterwards I was nominated as chief member of the council.

20,166. In short, you have had a long service in Jeypore in highly responsible positions, and you are, therefore, eminently in a position to give us information on the subject referred to this Commission in so far as it relates to the State with which you are connected?—That is so.

20,167. I believe you yourself have had some experience as an opium-eater?—Yes.

20,168. Will you tell us your experience?—I take one and a half grains of opium in the morning, and the same dose in the evening. I commenced it 15 years ago for chronic diarrhoea. I have got rid of the disease. During the whole period I have been eating opium I never felt the least craving to increase the dose. I was so afflicted with bodily infirmities at the age of 44, that if I had not used opium I believe either my life would have been cut short altogether or I would have been unable to discharge the duties that then devolved on me. I have been so benefited that I should recommend it to my friends under similar circumstances. I am now 59, and I think I can safely say that I am quite equal to my duties. I am a living instance of the benefit of opium in moderation to a man physically disabled. The reason which generally induces people to commence taking opium is decline of health. It is taken especially for dyspepsia, diarrhoea, or any other disorder of the stomach or bowels, and affections of the lungs, such as bronchitis, asthma, and catarrh. The habit is generally formed between 30 and 40, when in tropical climates health and strength have, it is believed, a tendency to decline. Men generally begin with a grain a day and may go up to eight grains. There are rare instances of men going up to a *tola* a day. Instances of women using opium for the same purposes are not so frequent as among men, nor do they use so much in quantity.

20,169. Will you give us your opinion as to the value of opium when used in moderate quantities?—Opium in moderate quantities is a protection against climatic influences, which are injurious to health. Consequently, those who use it moderately are less liable to disease than those who do not use it. The moderate use of opium improves the general health and protects the physical powers from the impairing effects of age. Hence, persons who take opium moderately are likely to live longer than others. It is often the practice here to give very small doses of opium to children for alleviating the troubles which arise from teething. The practice has been found beneficial. It is generally stopped at the fourth or fifth year. The moderate use of opium does not often lead to excess, nor does it

produce a craving which, in too many instances of alcohol drinkers, becomes almost irresistible and can with difficulty be suppressed. The relief which the moderate use of opium affords, might sometimes incline an opium-eater to increase the dose. There are cases, though very rare, in which opium is taken merely as an intoxicant, and such use might also lead to excess.

20,170. Comparing the effect of the use of opium even when used immoderately with alcohol, what have you to say?—The immoderate use of opium may make one indolent and injure health; but it never causes that sort of degradation and depravity found in cases of immoderate drinking. When the excessive use of opium so impairs one's capacity for work as to affect the earnings, then, of course, poverty and domestic misery are the results; but unlike most other intoxicants it never makes a man troublesome in the family circle or to his neighbours. Sensuality is not a result of opium-eating, nor does it cause insanity or make one indecent or offensive. It does not lead to crimes. In large cities hundreds of cases of crimes due to alcohol come before the magistrate; crimes are often traceable also to ganja and charas; but during the 30 years of my official career I never heard of a single case in which an opium-eater was charged with crimes traceable to the habitual use of opium. An opium-eater may rob and commit other crimes like an ordinary criminal, but not because he eats opium. Immoderate opium-eaters, if in want of money wherewith to purchase the drug, may betake themselves to gambling in expectation of gain. However, here in Jeypore, opium is so cheap that those using the drug even in excess can easily afford to pay for it. In the course of my official career I never came across a case of gambling traceable to the habitual use of opium. The evil effects of the excessive use of the intoxicants known to the natives of Rajputana might be summed up as follows:—

Free indulgence in alcohol excites people to madness; ganja and charas tend to make them extremely irritable and quarrelsome; bhang in excess stupefies and often disposes men to court solitude; while the immoderate use of opium, which is rather a soothing anodyne, makes one indolent and ease-seeking. People do not use opium in the belief that it increases the sexual appetite, nor for the sake of restoring it when failing. The general impression rather is that the excessive use of opium impairs the sexual powers. It has never been known to increase the appetite, nor does it restore the power when failing. However, as opium in moderation improves the general health, it must indirectly have an effect in keeping a man's powers in this direction unimpaired. People sometimes use bhang in the belief that it increases the appetite, but I do not know whether it does.

20,171. Is the habit of taking opium in moderate quantities considered disgraceful?—Hindus, Mahomedans, and Jains do not consider it disgraceful to take opium habitually in moderate quantities. It is only when one runs into excess that he may be ashamed of the fact of his eating opium, just as a glutton is ashamed of his voraciousness, or the drunkard of his inebriety.

Rao Bahadur
Kantee
Chander
Mookerjee,
C.I.E.
(Jeypore
State.)

29 Jan. 1894.

20,172. Is opium-eating prohibited by the Hindus, Jains, and Mahomedans?—Opium-eating is not prohibited by the religion of the Hindus, Jains, and Mahomedans. There is also no religious prohibition against the use of bhang, charas, and ganja. Bhang and ganja are rather looked upon as sacred to Shiva, who is said to be very fond of them. Alcohol is strictly prohibited by the Hindu religion, except when prescribed as a medicine and except in the case of the worshippers of Sakti or Kali, who use it on certain occasions. However, if in the observance of their religious rites they give way to excess, this is considered discreditable. The Rajputs and other warlike races among the Hindus are allowed by their religion to take alcohol. It is against the religion of the Mahomedans to take it, while ganja, charas, and bhang are not so strictly forbidden to the Mahomedans.

20,173. What do you say as to the prohibition of opium except for purely medical purposes?—The prohibition of opium except for purely medical purposes would most certainly lead to an extended use of alcoholic liquor, though it is not likely to prove, in this country, a suitable substitute for opium. Bhang, ganja, and other intoxicating drugs will also take the place of opium. Inasmuch as Rajputs, Meenas, Jats, Gujars, and other warlike races among the Hindus have no religious scruples to face in the taking of alcoholic liquor, it is certain that in their case alcohol will take the place of opium; while many of the other opium-eating Hindus will be under temptation to drink alcoholic liquor as a substitute for opium. Those who do violate the injunctions of their religion by taking alcohol, will have recourse to lies and deception of different kinds to conceal the fact from their co-religionists. A great majority of the opium-eaters among Mahomedans will presumably think of alcohol as a substitute for opium, in spite of the perdition with which their "Prophet" threatens all alcohol drinkers. Jains would mostly use bhang for opium. Apart from the religious aspects of the question, the substitution of alcohol for opium will prove a source of domestic misery, will create evils in society that do not now exist, and will, in short, be nothing less than a calamity to the Hindu, Jain, and Mahomedan communities. Again, it would not at all be wise on other grounds to limit the use of opium to medical purposes only. As far as Jeypore is concerned, I do not see how such a measure could be carried into effect in the districts, mostly inhabited by the agricultural and pastoral classes, of whom no less than 10 per cent. are habitual opium-eaters, and more than 30 per cent. use opium occasionally either as a medicine for certain diseases or as an antidote against the injurious effects of damp and cold to which their occupation unavoidably exposes them too often. Moreover, there are hundreds of isolated villages in which even the native *Vaid* is unknown. The inhabitants look upon opium as a panacea, and to them the drug has, no doubt, proved an effectual and at the same time a cheap medicine. No sympathetic and humane Government ought to impose such a restriction on the use of opium in their case, unless it can afford to make ample provision for extending to every one of them the benefits of free medical advice and proper medicines. This will certainly be a difficult and expensive business. Jeypore has an area of 14,465 square miles, with a population of three millions, while the provision made for their medical treatment consists of 19 dispensaries supported by the Raj and six by the nobles. Each of these dispensaries is looked after by a single hospital assistant. So there is but one medical officer to 578 square miles of the territory and to a population of 120,000 souls. Under the above circumstances, the prohibition in question, if enforced, will subject the masses to difficulties and inconveniences of which they could not possibly be relieved. Even if arrangements could be made for placing, free of cost, proper medicines and medical advice within their easy reach, it is doubtful whether it will satisfy the people. Ignorant as they are, they can hardly be expected to submit to the prohibition without a feeling of resentment and a bitter sense of injustice. They have unbounded confidence in the efficacy of opium, and they could not easily be induced to accept in lieu of it something else of which they know nothing.

20,174. Do you consider that the use of stimulant in some form or other is necessary to a large degree for the populations with which you have to deal?—The taking of alcoholic liquor by all classes, in its various forms, is very common in cold countries; and when taken in moderation, it is allowed by the most eminent

medical authorities to be, as society is at present constituted, beneficial, rather than otherwise. I need scarcely mention that the trades, arts, and manufactures of Europe would suffer greatly if the use of alcohol were limited to medical purposes. Here in India the labouring and artisans classes, more especially those among them whose occupation requires hard application and close attention, feel equally the necessity of some stimulant to shake off the ennui or lassitude to which the climate of their country subjects them. They have practically found opium and tobacco to be the most effectual and cheapest stimulants, and they can scarcely manage to do without them. The enamel-workers of this city afford an illustration of the above remark. The best enamel-workers are, with a very few exceptions, habitual opium-eaters. Unless stimulated by the use of opium, they find themselves ill prepared for their business, which requires close and undivided attention. With the permission of the Royal Commission, I can produce Goma, the best enamel-worker of Jeypore, who is waiting outside at my request. He is 70 years old, and a habitual opium-eater. He will speak for himself and his brother artisans. The prohibition in question will, in their case, seriously affect the art, and with it the world-wide renown which Jeypore enjoys for the exquisite beauty of its enamel work. The prohibition must likewise affect more or less the other fine arts for which Jeypore is famous.

20,175. Is the use of opium mixed up closely with any religious and social customs of the Rajputs?—The prohibition will also affect many of the religious and social customs of the Rajputs, to which they attach much importance. On occasions of the annual celebration of the religious festivals of Akshay Tij, Holi, and Dusserah opium-eating is looked upon as highly auspicious and conducive to prosperity and happiness. Opium is accordingly distributed among relations, as well as among friends and dependants, whether Hindus or Mahomedans, and the drug is partaken by all concerned as something sacred. Marriage contracts and the celebration of marriage among Rajputs are considered neither auspicious nor valid unless opium is eaten on such occasions. Opium is also used on occasions of funeral ceremonies. Moreover, when two inveterate enemies become reconciled, and propose to pass the rest of their lives peacefully, they generally partake of opium at each other's hands; and this practice is recognised as making the tie of friendship inviolable. If either of the two parties decline to take opium, it is understood that he is not disposed to abide by his promises. It is generally the practice among natives of India to offer some refreshments to a friend or acquaintance who comes to pay a visit. *Pan-supari* (betel and betel-nuts), tobacco, and spices are often presented, but a Rajput would offer opium as an unmistakable token of friendship and attachment. Under the above circumstances, I do not see how such a prohibitive measure could be carried into effect in Rajputana. It will be idle to expect the co-operation of the several chiefs who, as Rajputs, must feel personally interested in the maintenance of the religious and social customs of their ancestors, and as leaders and protectors of their clansmen and subjects they must feel it their duty to preserve intact the practices which, in the estimation of the Rajputs, as a nation, are sacred. If any chief were to break through this double obligation and come forward to assist in enforcing the said prohibition, his people would, I need scarcely mention, look upon him as an apostate. He would thus be placed in a very delicate and dangerous position, which could not possibly be minimised even by the protective influence of the Paramount Power.

20,176. Do you consider that cases of the immoderate use of opium are becoming less and less frequent among the people of whom you speak?—The evils of the immoderate use of opium are daily becoming more and more manifest, so much so indeed as to act as a deterrent to those inclined to go astray. The excessive use of the drug is accordingly diminishing. The traditional accounts we so often hear of immoderate opium-eaters who lived during the 17th and 18th centuries, and even in the beginning of the present century, are amazing, even when divested of what are apparent exaggerations. But at present a single immoderate opium-eater of the type portrayed by tradition is nowhere met with or heard of in Rajputana, nor are immoderate opium-eaters so numerous now as they were formerly. A hundred cases of opium-eating may afford but two or three instances of excessive use, which even does not exceed one *tola* a day. The progress of

education and of civilisation discernible in all directions should be relied on as the surest means of stamping out the evil from Rajputana. It is, therefore, scarcely necessary for the Durbar to adopt special measures for checking the immoderate use of opium that still prevails.

20,177. Have you noticed any hereditary tendency to the excessive use of opium among the children of opium-eaters?—The children of spirit drinkers are said to have a hereditary tendency to drink. No such tendency ever came to my notice among children of opium-eaters, many of whom I know to be in no way different from the children of persons who take no opium.

20,178. We have heard something of the use of opium for the purposes of suicide; does that rarely happen in this district?—Opium is the drug sometimes taken by suicides to accomplish their purpose. However, instances of suicide by opium are very rare in Jeypore. On a careful examination of the police records of the city, and of the whole territory, I found that during the past three years there was only one case of suicide by swallowing opium.

20,179. Are the medicinal properties of opium very highly esteemed in the Pharmacopœia of the Hindus?—Yes, the medicinal properties of opium are spoken of very highly in the Pharmacopœia of the Hindus, as will appear from the following translations of three passages from three different Sanscrit medical works of great reputation:—

Harita Nighantusar.

(1.) The milky juice of the poppy is called by six different names, i.e., aphenā, ahiphenā, aphukā, aphenakā, nisphenā, and apaphenā. It improves sexual appetite, prevents the accumulation of malignant fluids in the system and helps secretion of the bile, keeps up animation, acts as an astringent, cures cold and cough, relieves difficulty of breathing and other constitutional disorders, and increases vigour and semen. The poppy is of four different kinds (in accordance with the diversity of the colour of its flowers), namely, white, black, yellow, and grey. Opium is accordingly of four kinds. The first kind helps digestion; the second is a poison; the third keeps up the stamina of the body; and the fourth removes constipation. Opium, if taken in moderate doses, acts as a panacea and imparts energy and vigour.

Maṭanpala Nighantu.

(2.) The milk or juice which exudes from the capsules of the poppy is called aphenakā, aphenā, or saphenakā. It keeps the system dry, acts as an astringent, cures cold, helps secretion of the bile, and supports animation.

Rajanighantu.

(3.) There are four kinds of opium, namely, white, black, yellow, and grey (in accordance with the above-mentioned different colours of the poppy flower). The white is a digestive, the black is a deadly poison, the yellow acts as an astringent, and the grey is a laxative. The first helps digestion; the second destroys animal life; the third keeps up vigour; and the fourth removes constipation.

It is manifest from the above ancient records that the use of opium must have prevailed in India from time immemorial; and the manner in which the drug has been recommended in the Pharmacopœia of the Hindus must be the reason why so many seek relief from the use of the drug. I have often noticed that the poppy flower is of various colours, but never heard before that the capsules from the flowers of different colours possess different medicinal properties. I also do not know whether any person interested in the use of opium ever thought of testing the correctness or otherwise of the distinction made in the Pharmacopœia of the Hindus by two different authorities, for whom the natives entertain the highest regard. They would not presumably have made such a distinction, without satisfying themselves on the point by the results of their own experience. However, those who are concerned in the production, traffic, and consumption of opium, from the poppy cultivator up to the consumer, appear to be totally unaware of the distinction. The poppy bearing flowers of different colours are grown intermingled in the same field; and when the flowers disappear, the capsules look all alike. Juice-opium is collected from the capsules without the least regard to the distinction above referred to. If it is true that the capsules from the poppy flower of black colour yield nothing but a

deadly poison, the fact ought to startle all opium consumers, whether habitual or occasional. As a habitual opium-eater, I will promptly arrange preliminaries for having the matter fully tested by the kind help of of Surgeon Lt. Col. Hendley. The result will be published as soon as it known. If the distinction made in the Sanscrit medical works is borne out by the result, it will, I need scarcely add, be a most important contribution to our knowledge of the drug, while it will confirm the discovery of the two distinguished Hindu Pharmacologists; and I will ascribe the result to the visit of the Royal Commission to Jeypore as having indirectly led to it.

20,180. We have had a good deal of evidence before us from other witnesses to the effect that opium-smoking, even in moderation, is an evil; do you concur in that opinion?—Yes, opium-smoking, even in moderation, which almost always tempts to excess, is an evil. However, opium-smoking in dens is strictly prohibited by the Durbar. Consequently, there are neither any chandu or madak shops, nor any opium-smoking dens in the city. Of course, it is well known to me that opium is smoked in private, although, so far as my information goes, not to any extent. An opium smoker enjoys his smoke more if he has companions with him, and this leads to the formation of smoking parties in their own houses; but, it is patent that it would be an unwarrantable interference with the private rights of the people if the Durbar were to stop these. The number of opium smokers in the city and its environs, with a population of 158,000, does not exceed 200, giving an average of 1·2 per thousand. They prepare and smoke chandu in their own homes. Chandu and madak are altogether unknown in the districts of Jeypore.

20,181. How would you compare alcohol and opium as subjects for restrictive legislation?—Both alcoholic liquor and opium in moderate quantities are, undoubtedly, effectual helps for supporting nature under adverse climatic influences or exhaustion consequent on hard work. It would not, therefore, be reasonable to restrict the sale of alcohol in cold countries to exclusively medical purposes because of the faults of a few; and, seeing that the use of opium in warm countries gives rise to far fewer instances of excess, it would be more unreasonable to limit its sale to medical purposes because of these few. The evil in both the cases lies in excess.

20,182. I will now ask you some subjects which concern you in Jeypore. Can you give us any facts and figures to show the direct and indirect losses which the Jeypore Durbar and its subjects are likely to suffer in case the production and use of opium for other than medical purposes were prohibited in Rajputana?—The cultivation of poppy in the Jeypore territory consists of:—(a.) Poppy which yields opium and is also valued for its seed. The capsules after yielding opium become useless. (b.) Poppy which does not yield opium and is valued only for its seed and capsules. The leaves and other parts of poppy plants in either case are of no use. Taking the average for the past five years, the total area of Khalsa land under cultivation of poppy of the first kind appears to have been 2,000 acres, and the area of Khalsa land under poppy of the second kind 622 acres. The total areas of Jagir and other alienated lands under poppy of the first kind and under poppy of the second kind appear to have been 1,000 acres and 4,000 acres respectively. The above figures have, in the case of Khalsa, been obtained from Tahsil reports, showing the areas actually under cultivation of different crops in each Tahsil, and those appertaining to Jagir and alienated lands are given by approximate appraisement. As greater care was employed in obtaining the above figures, they do not exactly agree with those furnished before by guess. The Raj rent on land under cultivation of poppy of the first kind is Rs. 21 per acre, and the land under cultivation of poppy of the second kind is rented at Rs. 7·8a. per acre. The expenses per acre of cultivation of poppy are shown below:—

(a.) Poppy yielding opium:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Cost of seed for sowing	-	0	6 0
" manure	-	3	0 0
" preparing the soil	-	6	0 0
" weeding	-	1	8 0
" irrigation	-	6	0 0
" labour for collecting opium juice	-	7	2 0
Total cost	-	24	0 0

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(b.) Poppy which does not yield opium:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Cost of seed for sowing -	0	6	0
" manure -	1	2	0
" preparing the soil -	3	0	0
" weeding -	1	8	0
" irrigation -	4	8	0
Total -	10	8	0

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The out-turn per acre of poppy of the first kind:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Opium juice 22½ seers valued at -	90	0	0
Seed -	18	0	0
Total -	108	0	0

The total out-turn per acre of poppy of the 2nd kind:—

Poppy heads together with seed weighing about 12 mds., at Rs. 5 per md., Rs. 60.

Net profit which the cultivator derives from poppy cultivation:—(a.) The total value of the out-turn per acre of poppy yielding opium is Rs. 108, and the total cost of cultivation per acre, inclusive of the Raj rent, is Rs. 45. Deducting the latter from the former, a net profit of Rs. 63 per acre is left to the cultivator. (b.) The total value of the out-turn per acre of poppy which does not yield opium is Rs. 60, and the total cost of cultivation, inclusive of the Raj rent, is Rs. 18. Deducting the latter from the former, a net profit of Rs. 42 per acre is left to the cultivator. If the cultivation of the poppy were prohibited, the irrigated crops of wheat and barley would most likely be raised in its place. The Raj rents per acre on land under wheat and barley are Rs. 9 and Rs. 4 8a. respectively. The expenses per acre of cultivation of the wheat and barley crops are shown below:—

(a.) The wheat crop:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Cost of seed for sowing -	3	12	0
" manure -	1	8	0
" preparing the soil -	4	8	0
" irrigation -	4	8	0
" weeding -	1	8	0
Total -	15	12	0

(b.) The barley crop:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Cost of seed for sowing -	3	0	0
" manure -	1	2	0
" preparing the soil -	3	0	0
" irrigation -	4	8	0
" weeding -	1	8	0
Total -	13	2	0

The out-turn per acre of—

(a.) The wheat crop:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Wheat 15 mds., at Rs. 2 a md -	30	0	0
Khakla (stalks) used as fodder -	4	8	0
Total -	34	8	0

(b.) The barley crop:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Barley 15 mds. at Rs. 1 8a. a md. -	22	8	0
Khakla (stalks) used as fodder -	3	0	0
Total -	25	8	0

Net profit per acre which the cultivator derives from the wheat and the barley crops:—(a.) The total value of the out-turn per acre of the wheat crop is Rs. 34 8a., and the total cost of cultivation per acre, inclusive of the Raj, rent is Rs. 24 12a. Deducting the latter from the former a net profit of Rs. 9 12a. per acre is left to the cultivator. (b.) The total value of the out-turn per acre of the barley crop is Rs. 25 8a., and the total cost of cultivation per acre, inclusive of the Raj rent, is Rs. 17 10a. Deducting the latter from the former a net profit of Rs. 7 14a. is left to the cultivator.

20,183. If poppy cultivation were prohibited what would take place?—If poppy cultivation is prohibited,

wheat is likely to take its place in the areas now under cultivation of the opium-yielding poppy, and barley is likely to take the place of the poppy which yields no opium. The cultivator will suffer a loss of Rs. 53 4a. per acre in case wheat takes the place of poppy which yields opium, and of Rs. 34 2a. per acre in case barley takes the place of poppy which yields no opium; while the Raj land revenue will suffer a diminution of Rs. 12 per acre in the first case, and of Rs. 3 per acre in the second case.

20,184. Have you any figures you can give us with regard to the poppy cultivation of Khalsa and other lands?—The total produce of Khalsa land under poppy cultivation is as follows:—(a.) 2,000 acres of Khalsa land now under cultivation of poppy of the first kind yield 1,125 maunds of juice opium, and 12,000 maunds of poppy seed; (b.) 622 acres of Khalsa land under cultivation of poppy of the second kind yield 7,464 maunds of poppy heads including seed. That of Jagir and other alienated lands under poppy cultivation is:—(a.) 1,000 acres of alienated lands under cultivation of poppy of the first kind yield 562 maunds and 20 seers of juice opium, and 6,000 maunds of seed; (b.) 4,000 acres of Jagir and other alienated lands under cultivation of poppy of the second kind yield 48,000 maunds of poppy heads including seed. Jagirdars and other grant-holders are not allowed to levy customs duty, but they levy *mapa* or inland customs duty on the produce of their respective holdings. The Thekanas of Shek-hawati and Torawati levy *zakat* duty on goods exported from, imported into, or passing through each Thekana. The rates are not uniform. The direct annual losses which the Raj is likely to suffer in the event of prohibition of poppy cultivation and trade in opium, are given below:—

(a.) Loss of land revenue on 2,000 acres of land under cultivation of poppy of the first kind to be replaced by the wheat crop at Rs. 12 per acre - Rs. 24,000

(b.) The lost of land revenue on 622 acres of land under cultivation of poppy of the second kind to be replaced by the barley crop at Rs. 3 per acre Rs. 1,866

(c.) Loss of customs revenue:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Import duties on 64 mds. of juice opium, at Rs. 25 per mds. -	1,600	0	0
Import duties on 113 mds. of cake opium, at Rs. 50 per md. -	5,650	0	0
Import duties on 12 mds. of juice opium at Rs. 25 per md. -	300	0	0
Import duties on 1,200 mds. of poppy heads, at Rs. 1 per md. -	1,200	0	0
<i>Mapa</i> or inland customs duty on 594 mds. of juice opium, at Rs. 25 per md. -	14,850	0	0
On 78 mds. of cake opium, at Rs. 35 per md. -	2,730	0	0
On 4,862 mds. of poppy heads, at 4 ans. per md. -	1,215	8	0
On 10,000 mds. of poppy seed, at 8 ans. per md. -	5,000	0	0
On 5,000 mds. of poppy seed oil, at 8 ans. per md. -	2,500	0	0
Total -	35,045	8	0

20,185. Could any portion of that loss of customs revenue be recouped by a revision of the tariff rates?—It is impossible under the existing circumstances to recoup any portion of the loss. As no excise duty is levied on opium or poppy heads no loss will be suffered under this head.

20,186. What do you calculate to be the total loss which the Durbar would suffer under all the heads named?—The total loss which the Durbar would suffer under all the above heads would amount to Rs. 69,911 8a.

20,187. Is there any further loss which you think would be sustained?—Indirectly the Durbar will suffer further loss in the revision of revenue rates, or virtually in making a new *Jamabandi* or revenue settlement in the districts in which opium is grown. The new revenue settlement is likely to cost the Durbar more than Rs. 20,000. Direct annual losses which Jagirdars, Mamlaguzars, and other grant-holders are likely to suffer in case of prohibition:—

	Rs.		Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.	Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee, C.I.E. (Jeypore State.)
(a.) Total loss of land revenue on 1,000 acres of Jagir and other alienated lands under cultivation of poppy of the first kind to be replaced by the wheat crop, at Rs. 12 per acre - - - -	12,000	Direct annual loss to the Raj in land revenue -	25,866	0	0				
		Direct annual loss to the Raj in customs revenue -	35,045	8	0	60,911	8	0	
(b.) Total loss of land revenue on 4,000 acres of Jagir and other alienated lands under cultivation of poppy of the second kind to be replaced by the barley crop, at Rs. 3 per acre - - - -	12,000	Direct annual loss to the grant-holders in land revenue -	24,000	0	0				29 Jan. 1894.
		Direct annual loss to the grant-holders in <i>zakat</i> or <i>mapa</i> - - - -	15,000	0	0	39,000	0	0	
(c.) Total loss of <i>Zakat</i> to the Shek-hawati Thekanas and that of <i>Mapa</i> levied by Jagirdars are likely to amount to - - - -	15,000	Direct annual loss to the cultivators of Khalsa land - - - -	1,27,725	12	0				
		Direct annual loss to the cultivators of Jagir and other alienated lands - - - -	1,89,750	0	0				
Total - - - -	39,000					3,17,475	12	0	
		Total direct annual loss	4,17,387	4	0				

20,188. Are there any indirect losses which you consider the landholders might be likely to suffer?—Indirectly the grant-holders will suffer heavy loss in making new revenue settlement in their respective holdings, the aggregate cost of which is likely to be twice as much as the Raj will have to meet for the *Khalsa Jamabandi* operations.

20,189. At what figure have you put the direct annual loss which the cultivators will be likely to suffer?—I estimate the direct annual loss which the cultivators are likely to suffer as follows:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
(a.) Cultivators of 2,000 acres of Khalsa land in which poppy of the first kind is grown, will suffer at the rate of Rs. 53 4a. per acre, an aggregate loss of - - - -	1,06,500	0	0
(b.) Cultivators of 622 acres of Khalsa land in which poppy of the second kind is grown, will suffer at the rate of Rs. 34 2a. per acre, an aggregate loss of - - - -	21,225	12	0
Total - - - -	1,27,725	12	0
(c.) Cultivators of 1,000 acres of Jagir and alienated lands in which poppy of the first kind is grown, will suffer at the rate of Rs. 53 4a. per acre, an aggregate loss of - - - -	53,250	0	0
(d.) Cultivators of 4,000 acres of Jagir and other alienated lands in which poppy of the second kind is grown, will suffer at the rate of Rs. 34 2a. per acre, an aggregate loss of - - - -	1,36,500	0	0
Total - - - -	1,89,750	0	0

Indirectly the cultivator will lose his credit, and it will be found beyond his power to make good this loss.

20,190. What would be the loss to the opium traders?—Their direct loss will be in stocks which will remain unsaleable. These stocks will most likely amount to more than 5,000 maunds, which at the rate of Rs. 500 per maund will be of the value of Rs. 25,00,000. The above estimate does not include the unsaleable stocks of retail dealers, which, taken together, must also be considerable. Indirectly they will suffer heavily by their business being disorganised. Moreover, they have to make large money advances to poppy cultivators, which, in the event of prohibition of poppy cultivation, the cultivators will not be in a position to repay regularly or fully. Thus with their capital seriously impaired, it will be extremely difficult for the opium traders to establish themselves in any other business. Their loss in this direction cannot be shown by figures, while the loss of credit, which they are sure to sustain, will seriously affect their position and stand in the way of their retrieving the loss.

20,191. Have you made any calculation of the direct losses to the Raj, to the grant-holders, as well as to the cultivators and the opium traders?—The following is an abstract of the direct losses to the Raj, to the grant-holders, as well as to the cultivators, and to the opium traders:—

Direct loss which opium traders (exclusive of petty dealers) will suffer in their unsaleable stocks, will amount to Rs. 25,000.

20,192. Do you think the village money-lenders would suffer any loss?—The Bohras or village money-lenders carry on a very lucrative business by lending money to poppy cultivators. They as a body are likely to suffer a diminution of incomes amounting to nearly Rs. 12,000 per annum.

20,193. What do you regard as the special advantages which induce the cultivator to prefer the poppy crops to all other crops?—The profit per acre is far greater than what could be obtained from any other crop. The poppy enables the cultivator to spare a portion of his annual gains for the purchase of agricultural implements and plough-cattle, and even to pay rent in cash for the cereal crops instead of paying in kind, in which case he has to give up one-third and sometimes even half of the produce. Besides, the village patels, patwaris, and others entrusted with the business of collecting revenue, often take advantage of the cultivator's illiteracy and deceive him for their own illicit ends. The poppy crop requires comparatively little water. As far as irrigation is concerned, an outlay of Rs. 6 secures for the cultivator a net gain of Rs. 63; while in the case of the wheat crop the same result could not be secured for less than Rs. 27. For this reason the poppy crop is particularly advantageous in years of drought. The poppy crop affords a great amount of light work suited to females and children. One or two acres of land under poppy gives suitable employment and thereby the means of livelihood not only to the young and old of the cultivator's own family, but to many others of the village. It is also to be noted here that the collection of revenue in cash, if agreeable to the cultivator, affords great facilities to the Raj for the effectual prevention of smuggling, which could not be otherwise remedied. It is only by the help of the valuable crops of which poppy is the most important, that the cultivator is able to avoid payment of tribute in kind. If the cultivation of poppy were prohibited, the measure will, no doubt, seriously affect the system of general cash payment, which the Durbar has, with so much care, introduced throughout almost the whole territory.

20,194. Have you any observations to make to us on the risks of smuggling?—The measures adopted for the prevention of opium being smuggled into British territory make the poppy cultivator liable to false charges. This is the reason why the poppy crop, notwithstanding its great value, is not cultivated more extensively in the districts of Jeypore. It scarcely requires mention that unless the surplus produce finds its way to some foreign market the cultivator cannot be expected to extend the cultivation of the poppy. It is also a noteworthy fact that Jagirdars and holders of other alienated lands discourage the cultivation of poppy, because they gain more from the cereal crops for which rent is generally payable in kind.

20,195. (*Sir James Lyall.*) You say that the Raj rent on land under cultivation of poppy of the first kind is Rs. 21 per acre, and on poppy of the second kind, Rs. 7 8a. per acre; are these what used to be called *zapti* rates?—Yes, these are called *zapti* rates.

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20,196. If the poppy is not cultivated that rate is not taken?—The *zabti* rate obtains for all the valuable crops; for poppy, sugar-cane, cotton, &c. the rent is paid in cash, which is called *zabti*.

20,197. But supposing that the field is occupied with wheat one year, what is then taken?—Then rent will be paid in kind. The food grains are paid in kind, and the valuable crops in cash. That is the system that prevails here.

20,198. Again, you said that there would be a loss of customs revenue in import duties; those are import duties on foreign opium passing through the State, are they not?—If the cultivation of opium is prohibited, customs duties on imports, exports, and transits will all be lost.

20,199. Import duty is only paid by opium grown outside Jeypore?—Yes. Opium which opium traders bring in here.

20,200. That pays import duty?—Yes. Opium produced in Jeypore when taken out of Jeypore pays export duty, but not opium passing through Jeypore. For instance, opium taken from Agra to Ajmere will pass through the Jeypore territory, and will have to pay transit duty, except when it goes by rail. We have a treaty with the railway not to charge any transit duties on goods passing through the Jeypore territory by railway.

20,201. The transit duty is lighter than the import duty?—Yes.

20,202. The import duty is payable when opium is brought by some merchant into Jeypore?—Yes, then we charge import duty.

20,203. If it is a merchant travelling through it pays transit duty?—Yes.

20,204. Are there any opium scales in Jeypore?—There are no scales here; they take it to Indore or to Ajmere.

20,205. If the opium is taken away after being weighed at the scales, and paying the duty to the British officer, if it comes through Jeypore again is duty paid then?—If it is covered by a license from Government, it is no longer dutiable.

20,206. Which Government?—The British Government.

20,207. Is there a difference in the various States on that point?—That depends entirely upon the nature and conditions of the treaty with the British Government and each State.

20,208. Has there been any fixed cash settlement made anywhere in Jeypore with the land revenue?—We are gradually introducing it, and it is a better system, because it prevents smuggling.

20,209. Inside the Jagirs of the Thekanas, do they levy their own import and export duty or not?—They levy duty only when the produce is taken out of the limits of the Jagirs. It is virtually a sort of export duty, but there are some Shekhawati States in which it is customary to levy not only export duty, but also charge something on goods passing through their States.

20,210. Those Shekhawati men are tributary to Jeypore?—Yes.

20,211. You say that *post* is much used in this country?—Yes, by the poorer classes.

20,212. That is composed of capsules of poppy squeezed in water?—Steeped, and then squeezed in water.

20,213. The higher classes use *amal pani*?—Opium dissolved and purified and mixed with spices, and formed into pills. They take it in that form. I take it in that form myself.

20,214. At what time in the day do Rajputs generally drink *amal pani*?—Generally once in the morning, and once in the evening.

20,215. You said that of the agricultural and pastoral classes about 10 per cent. are habitual opium-eaters, and more than 30 per cent. use opium occasionally, do you mean 10 per cent. of the adult males?—10 per cent. of the whole population.

20,216. (Mr. Fanshawe.) I understand that the class of petty bankers and traders, Mahajans and Banias, is a numerically large class in this Jeypore State, is that so?—Yes.

20,217. Can you tell me, generally, what the number would be?—I cannot give any idea of the numbers, because I never made out any calculation.

20,218. I find it stated that it is about 200,000; would that be correct for the whole territory?—It may be.

20,219. Is the habit of taking opium in moderation fairly common among that class?—Yes.

20,220. You have referred to a special occasion on which opium is taken as a social custom, Akshay Tij; will you tell us what that festival is?—The only feature of its celebration is opium-eating. Akshay Tij takes place on the third day of the new moon, in the month of Baisak, corresponding to the month of April, and generally friends are invited and retainers assemble together. The head of the family distributes opium, and also pieces of coconut and sugar candy or sugar. Then they congratulate one another, and return to their homes.

20,221. Is it a festival that is generally observed throughout all classes of the community in Jeypore?—It is a peculiar Rajput festival, in which men of other castes, Mahomedans, Kayasths, Brahmins, &c. join, being either dependents of the Rajput noble or in his employ.

20,222. I see you have put the out-turn per acre of opium at 22½ seers; is that in the case of land on which no other crop is grown in the year except the poppy crop?—There is no land on which the poppy crop is grown every year. Certain irrigated crops go by rotation. The field where poppy is grown in the course of one year, in the next agricultural season will not be found fit for poppy. Some other crop will be substituted in place of poppy—some other irrigated crop.

20,223. What I mean is this: during the same year in which the poppy crop is grown, is any other crop grown on the same land?—No other crop is grown, because land yielding poppy will not yield two crops in the course of the same year.

20,224. Then the out-turn per acre is calculated on that understanding, that the crop is a crop on good poppy land, which is used for no other crop during the year?—That is so.

20,225. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) You have said, "persons who take opium moderately are likely to live longer than others;" and in another place you have said that in this district there are no less than 10 per cent. of the population who are habitual opium-eaters and more than 30 per cent. who use opium occasionally; are those people whom you first mentioned as taking opium moderately included in that 10 or 30 per cent.?—The 30 per cent. has nothing to do with the people I mentioned who took opium moderately. I was referring to the effects of moderate opium-eating. As to the 30 per cent., I was referring to the occasional opium-eaters in the district. That is a general remark for the territory including the capital.

20,226. You have said that Rajputs, Meenas, Jats, Gujars, and other warlike races among the Hindus have no religious scruples to face in taking alcohol; have you met with any particular passage of the Shastras which allows Hindus to take liquor?—I cannot quote the particular passage, but I can prove it from texts in their books.

20,227. Do you say that an opium-eater lives to a great age?—Yes, he is likely to do so; but nobody can guarantee that an opium-eater will live long.

20,228. (Mr. Mowbray.) You have referred to the cheapness of opium in Jeypore; could you tell me what the retail price of opium is?—Opium sells here at a rate varying from six tolas to ten tolas for the rupee.

20,229. What arrangements have you between the cultivator who grows the opium and the person who sells it in the bazar; may anybody sell it in the bazar, or does it require any license?—The cultivator is free to sell the drug to anybody he likes. We always realise the rent from the cultivator of opium, and then he is free to sell the produce to anybody. We have no excise system here.

20,230. The cultivator may sell to any person he chooses, and any person may retail in any quantity he likes?—Yes, but the transactions must be confined within the limits of the Jeypore territory. A cultivator cannot sell it to a native of Agra and allow him to take it away.

20,231. When it comes to be exported I understand it has to pay an export duty?—Yes; and it cannot be exported without a license from the British Government, because we are bound by treaty not to allow the export of any intoxicating drug from our territory.

20,232. Could you tell me how much you do export from the Jeypore territory?—I can supply you with the figures afterwards. I have not got it on record here as to the exact quantity, but we have a Customs Department.

20,233. I think it would be important?—I will furnish you with the figures.

20,234. The loss of your export revenue is included in that Rs. 35,000 which you estimate as loss?—Yes, that estimate includes everything. There are no export transactions. We are bound by treaty not to allow the export of any intoxicating drugs from Jeypore.

20,235. Except, of course, under the conditions of the treaty with the British Government?—Yes.

20,236. That which you do export, I suppose, goes to Bombay for export to the China or other foreign markets?—I do not know where they take the opium. Our business is concerned with it so long as it remains within the limits of Jeypore, and when it is taken out, except by way of smuggling, then, of course, we have nothing to do with it afterwards.

20,237. Where do you import your opium from?—Opium sometimes is imported from Malwa into Jeypore.

20,238. Is that in any substantial amount?—I think some opium-eaters prefer Kotah opium or Malwa opium, and it is on their account that the opium traders sometimes bring opium into Jeypore from Kotah or Malwa.

20,239. You say that there are no opium dens in Jeypore. I should be very glad if you could tell me what practical steps you have taken, and how you have been able to succeed in putting down opium dens?—Because we have made efficient police arrangements to see that nobody smokes opium in dens.

20,240. What do you call a den?—A den is a place frequented by opium smokers. Of course they do smoke in their own houses.

20,241. How do you draw the distinction between half a dozen people meeting together in a friend's house and smoking privately, and what you call a den?—If the house is known to belong to a private gentleman, and it is reported to the magistrate that there are some six or eight opium smokers smoking opium there, the magistrate is not allowed to interfere. An opium smoker never enjoys a smoke unless he has companions, and it is a curious fact that an opium smoker sometimes, when there is nobody with him will close his eyes, and hold out his pipe, and name a certain friend, and say, "Now you take it for a moment and enjoy it." After holding it in that way for sometime he will again smoke himself. I know there are men in this city who smoke opium in their own houses; but, of course, I do not know how such practices could be interfered with by the Durbar.

20,242. Do you consider there are greater difficulties in the way of the British Government interfering with social customs than there are in native states?—What the Rajput princes are doing in their respective States to remedy social evils cannot, for obvious reasons, be done by Government in British territory. The monster meetings which met to protest against the "Age of Consent Bill," and the cry of "religion in danger" in the same connexion are too well known to require mention. The duty of initiating such reforms in British territory rather devolves on the enlightened natives of the country.

20,243. (Mr. Wilson.) Do you think opium is a good thing for young men between 20 and 30 years of age, who are in perfect health, and have nothing the matter with them?—Certainly not.

20,244. Would you like to see the consumption of opium in the Jeypore State increase or decrease in amount?—I should neither like to see it increase or decrease. If excessive opium-eating is decreased it will be well for society, but if moderate opium-eating, as it exists, is diminished, many of the fine arts, as I have already said, will suffer.

20,245. Would you like that the total quantity of opium consumed in the Jeypore State should increase or decrease in future years?—In future years it ought to decrease by the quantity which goes under the head "Excess."

20,246. We have been informed that many of the Rajputs both eat opium and drink alcohol; do you think that is correct?—That is correct, not many though; there are rare instances.

20,247. Will you be so good as to tell me again what steps have been taken in reference to the opium dens in this city, because I have been informed that there are a good many places where opium is still smoked and sold?—Opium is sold everywhere in the city.

20,248. What about chandu?—Chandu is not sold here. Those who smoke chandu buy opium and make the preparation in their own homes.

20,249. Is it your opinion that there are not now a good many dens in this city where chandu is sold and smoked?—It is a duty incumbent on me to see that nobody keeps any chandu shops in the city.

20,250. I have no doubt that you try to discharge your duty; but do you think you have been successful in stopping them?—I have been successful. I think there are one or two prisoners in jail at the present time who were punished for contravention.

20,251. We have been told that chandu cannot be conveniently prepared in small quantities, that it requires a considerable quantity of opium to be purchased at one time, I think a few seers?—That chandu cannot be prepared unless one has a few seers of opium is a thing which I hear for the first time.

20,252. Do you think that two or three tolas could be prepared at once?—I do not know. I have never prepared any chandu nor had anything to do with it.

20,253. What is meant by Khalsa land?—Land directly under the management of the Raj.

20,254. In reference to all the figures and calculations you have given us, may I ask whether you are conversant with the system of poppy cultivation, or whether you have obtained these figures from other persons?—I am quite conversant, because the Revenue Department is also under my charge. I have to superintend the revenue business.

20,255. You have prepared these figures yourself?—While I am in the capital I have to depend on the statistics supplied to me by the district officers. It is done in the same way by the British Government. These statistics are always supplied by the British Government, and if I have any doubts I have my own way of checking the correctness of these statements.

20,256. Is the only reason why people do not grow opium because they are afraid they may render themselves liable to false accusations?—I have already said that by our treaty we are bound to see that no intoxicating drug is smuggled from Jeypore, and owing to this condition in the treaty we have to look after our subjects. Our policemen sometimes deceive us. They try to involve a man in a false charge, and bring him to trouble, and for fear of such trouble the cultivator is not disposed to extend the cultivation of opium.

20,257. Is there any other reason besides the fear of the police which prevents cultivators from getting the large profit of Rs. 63 per acre?—Both for the Raj, that is for the Durbar, and for holders of alienated lands it is more advantageous to have revenue in kind than in cash, and consequently both the Durbar and other holders of land in the Jagir have discouraged poppy cultivation.

20,258. In reference to the Raj rents for poppy, for wheat, for barley, and for other crops, do I understand that the rent depends on the crop that is grown in each particular year?—With regard to the value of the crops, the rent is fixed at a cash rate every year, and the value of the crops is as follows:—the most important is poppy, next sugar-cane, and then cotton, for all these valuable crops there is a fixed cash rate per acre, and for the food grains the cereal crops, whether barley, jowar, and bajri, the rent is payable in kind—the cultivator has to pay from one-fifth to a half of the produce. This is the *zabti* rate.

20,259. Do the various officers of the Jeypore State measure these lands every year to ascertain how much

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is wheat and poppy?—Yes; the land has to be measured every year just at the beginning of the agricultural season.

20,260. In some other parts of India we have been told that poppy requires a very large quantity of water, and you tell us here that it requires comparatively little

water; can you explain whether it is owing to difference of climate, or in what way it is that poppy requires much water in one place and little water in another place?—The case ought to be the same all over the world. You are misinformed, I think. I can prove by figures that the poppy crop requires comparatively less water than any other irrigated crop.

The witness withdrew.

Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel T. H. HENDLEY, C.I.E., called in and examined.

Surgeon-
Lieutenant-
Colonel
T.H. Hendley,
C.I.E.

20,261. (Sir W. Roberts.) You are, I believe, Residency Surgeon at Jeypore?—Yes.

20,262. What opportunities have you had of studying the opium question?—My service in India dates from May 1870, and in Rajputana from April 1871. I was in medical charge of the 4th Bengal Cavalry at Segowlee in Behar, where I had some opportunity of seeing the cultivation of opium, and for 15 months was medical officer of the Meywar Bheel Corps. In a monograph on the Bheels (which I contributed to the journal of the Bengal Asiatic Society as far back at 1875) I find that I noted that after a man had been wounded in a quarrel between rival *pals* or settlements, the Jogis, who act as priests, or the Gammaitis or headmen, generally have a solemn administration of opium, thus securing peace, and a grand feast and debauch on mohwa spirit follows. I was afterwards for about 15 months Officiating Residency Surgeon in Marwar, and for a short time did duty with the Erinpura Irregular Force, and in both appointments had opportunities of seeing something of the use of opium amongst the Rahtores and aboriginal tribes. In April 1874 I was appointed Residency Surgeon at Jeypore, and since 1881 have been in charge of all the medical institutions of the State. From 1876 to 1881 I was Consulting Physician to the Mayo Hospital, and began my first inquiries into the use of opium amongst children in 1877, so that my attention was very early directed to the subject. I took so much interest in the matter that in 1891 and 1892, when on furlough in England, I attended most of the more important meetings at which discussions were held, or papers, read on opium, and in this way familiarized myself with the opinions of both those who opposed or were in favour of the use of the drug. In order to ascertain the truth, and to be in a position to substantiate more clearly by facts the opinion which I had already formed, I began a special inquiry on my return to Jeypore in the summer of 1892, and in August of the same year prepared, and issued to a number of my assistants, and to leading men of all classes, a series of questions, based in part on a paper written by Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Crombie of Calcutta, but to a considerable extent on my own experience. I have received a large number of replies from men of all classes in Jeypore. These include the present Minister of the State and his predecessor, the Raja of Khetree, the Rao Raja of Sikar, Rao Bahadur Govind Singh, the first noble of Jeypore, and other members of the council, the President of the Jeypore Municipality, the two United Presbyterian Missionaries at Jeypore, the Superintendent of the gaols, and my two fully qualified assistants (one of whom is a Calcutta graduate), 20 hospital assistants, and seven native doctors, three Mohamedan *Hakims* or practitioners of the *Yunani* system of medicine; Brahmans, Rajputs, Jains, Kayasths, female medical practitioners, Vaidas, &c. In all 55 separate opinions have been obtained, of which I submit a carefully compiled précis as well as a summary.* In considering these opinions most weight must, of course, be attached to those of the older and more experienced men, especially amongst the hospital assistants, some of whom have only recently entered the service. I have given their statements in full, although in some cases their replies are clearly mere guesses, as I wish it to be understood that I have in no way made a selection to suit my own views. I have for many years past had under my care from 50 to 90 in-patients at the Mayo Hospital in Jeypore, and have also seen the most important cases amongst the out-patients. The two large prisons of the State and the lunatic asylum, as regards their medical arrangements, are also under my supervision. There are 27 dispensaries under me, and the hospital assistants in

charge of these send copies of all medical opinions they give in the courts for my information. The whole of the men in the Jeypore army, who are supposed to be fit for pension, come before me, and, when in camp, I have abundant opportunity of meeting men of all classes and castes.

20,263. What opinion have you come to on the basis of this elaborate investigation in regard to the use of opium in Rajputana?—My deliberate opinion, based upon all my investigations and mature experience, is that the prohibition of the growth, manufacture, and sale of opium in native States would be not only unwise, but an act of cruelty. This is quite apart from the economic aspect of the question. Opium, in my opinion, is the best, the safest, and, in this part of the country, the cheapest drug which is available for the relief of pain and of many ailments from which the people, especially the poorer classes, suffer. It is the one which is most under control, the one which, even when taken in excess, is the least injurious, and the one to the use of which, even amongst the most strict, the least blame (if there be any stigma at all) is attached. The inevitable result of any attempt to lessen the facility with which opium is procurable would be the resort to spirits of the strongest and most pernicious kinds (these being the cheapest), or to other articles which would serve to stimulate or relieve pain, but none of which would, I believe, answer the purpose so well as opium. In India there are very many articles which, in emergency, are capable of service as stimulants and narcotics, and all of them are occasionally used. Hindus, and even Brahmans, take *bharg* without sense of shame, but rather glory in its use, as it is offered to *Shiva*, or *Mahadeo*, with whom it is said to be a favourite food. Dhatura seeds are used by a few, arsenic preparations of the *kuohla* nut, or strychnine, by others; many eat *zarda* or coarse tobacco; the richer classes take *pan* or betel with cardamoms, cloves, lime, nutmeg, &c., nearly all day long. All of these, even *pan* to some when taken in excess as it so often is, are, I consider, in most cases worse than opium. Beyond this, however, is the fact that some of them are mere luxuries, and all are incapable of exactly filling the place of opium. Drugs and stimulants are almost necessary if life is not to be a burden to the poor vegetarian, whose food in India is notoriously insipid to a degree which is hardly realised by Europeans. One of my native correspondents says, "Without the poppy the poor would be like the dead." The use of *bharg* or other preparations of Indian hemp, to which many would resort if deprived of opium, would, I think, be a great evil, as it is not unfrequently the cause of much misery, of deterioration of health, and even of certain forms of insanity; but there can be no question that the general use of alcohol would be a fearful calamity. I have seen many families ruined by drink. In the Jeypore State it is well known that, within 30 or 40 years, there have been as many as three or four Thakurs or nobles who have succeeded one after the other to valuable estates, and have all died from drink. I have myself seen several young nobles of less than 20 years of age who have thus come to a premature end.

20,264. Speaking from your personal experience, do you think that the effect of alcohol in Rajputana is different from its effects on the people of Western Europe?—There seems something in the nature of alcohol which the Indian cannot resist. In too many cases nothing can stop him until death puts an end to his life. Since I came to Jeypore the number of shops for the sale of European spirits has enormously increased. In Bengal it is well known that alcohol has done fearful mischief within the last 30 years. My assistant, Babu Jadonath Dé, refers to this with just dread. He thinks it came in with the European Conquest of Bengal, but the vice is an old one. The *Ain-i-Akbari* is full of examples of the premature death of great Moghul nobles from

* For list of persons consulted and summary of their replies, see Appendix I. to this Volume

excessive drinking, and so are works which relate to the history of later monarchs than Akbar. No one ever heard, as far as my knowledge goes, in India of opium doing such terrible mischief. Even if abused at the very worst the opium-eater only does harm or is a nuisance to himself. I should not have the slightest hesitation in substituting opium for alcohol wherever possible in the case of a native of India.

20,265. What objection would you have to the use of opium being prohibited except for medicinal purposes?—It is asked whether the sale should be prohibited except for medical purposes. I reply in the negative, because in this country it would be impossible to give medical sanction for its use in every village. In Jeypore, which is particularly well supplied with dispensaries, many people are a day's journey and in some cases two or three from those institutions. Many villages have neither *Vaid* nor *Hakim*, and what regulations could control a *bania* or common shopkeeper? It is the very facility with which a well-known remedy like opium is procurable that adds to its value. There is another thing, namely, that in Rajputana a poor man can get relief from pain or stimulation in weariness for a very small sum if he uses opium, whereas alcohol would cost much more than he could afford. I have dwelt particularly on eating opium, the use of poppy-heads, and of opium in solution, because I have most knowledge of these modes of using the drug, and opium smoking is rare in Jeypore; but in the districts infusion of poppy heads is still cheaper, and, therefore, much more resorted to by the poor.

20,266. Do you think that any further restrictive measures are desirable?—I do not think any restrictive measures are desirable; moreover, I feel sure that they are impracticable. The Emperor Jahangir in India in 1617, and Shah Abbas in Persia, did their utmost to check by penal enactments the use of tobacco shortly after its introduction into the two countries, but without the slightest effect, and so it would be with opium. As far as I can learn, the Moghuls made no such efforts to stop the use of opium, though in the *Ain-i-Akbari* mention is made of its uses, one man going so far as to eat it like cheese from his mother. A great many men might suffer for a time by anti-opium legislation, but in the end they would have their way or resort to one of the substitutes to which I have advanced such strong objections.

20,267. What do you think with regard to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and their willingness to bear the cost of prohibitive measures?—There are a few men whose minds dwell on the abuse rather than on the use of opium, of *bhāng*, and particularly of alcohol, who see individual cases in which harm has resulted, and who are well fed, healthy, and well cared for themselves, and have their passions and appetites under control, who express a wish that something should be done, and also think that prohibition or restriction might be useful, but nearly all of them are of opinion that any change must be very gradual, otherwise great suffering would be caused, and, almost to a man, they fear that in putting check on one evil, there is the terrible danger of running into another, and that is the use of alcohol. There is, moreover, a great unanimity of opinion that if anything is to be done, the Government should do it, as any odium that might be incurred would not fall on individuals, but on the broad back of the paramount power. The Walter Krit Rajputra Hit Karini Sabha or Rajput Social Reform Committee, and, I believe, the Kayasth Reform Committee also would restrict the use of opium, *bhāng*, &c., but chiefly as a part of ceremonial at feasts, &c., but they do not aim, I think, at interference with personal freedom in the matter. As to the willingness to bear even a part of the cost of prohibitive measures, I am sure the general attitude would be best and most correctly summed up in the words of my friend Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee, that any attempt to make men pay for it would be "*zulm*" or oppression. Even inquiry almost bears this aspect in the eyes of the majority of the people. The Jeypore Durbar aided me in the accumulation of facts regarding the persons who use opium, and my subordinates made their inquiries with the utmost care and tact, and the people were also assured that no tax or interference with them was contemplated, yet the opposition and suspicion were so great in the city of Jeypore amongst the common

people, that I felt that it would be very undesirable to make a similar investigation as to the use of *bhāng*, and, therefore, refrained from collecting cases, when a series of questions was sent to me to fill up for the Commission on Hemp Drugs. Even when the object is beyond cavil a good one, the common people so dread the results of minute personal inquiries, that I consider the frequent making of them a source of political danger both to our own and the native Governments. I submit a letter* from my friend the Rao Raja of Sikar, in which are some important remarks on this subject.

20,268. What information can you give us in regard to the consumption of opium by the different races and in the different districts of India?—As regards the consumption of opium by the different races and in the different districts of India, and the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people. In the Jeypore territory opium is consumed by all classes of the population, and, as far as my information and inquiries go, by about 25 per cent. of the adult males among the Hindus generally, by perhaps half as many of the Mohamedans, and by a still smaller proportion of the Jains, who are Hindus by race, though not orthodox in religion. The last named use more *bhāng*. Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee, C.I.E., gives me a curious reason, but probably the true one, for the lesser consumption amongst Musalmans here, viz., the fact that they are physically stronger than Hindus. Perhaps this is because they are meat-eaters. On the other hand, in large towns in British territory, with a great number of Mohamedan inhabitants, they use the drug much more largely than the Hindus. The Rajputs are the greatest consumers on the western border and in North Jeypore, or the Shekhawati districts. Ninety per cent. of the Shekhawets, who observe some Mohamedan customs also, are said by Thakur Hari Singh to take opium in old age, while in youth 10 per cent. perhaps may do so. Amongst the Rathores of Marwar, the tribe of the Maharaja of Jodhpore, with whom the great majority of the Kachwahas, the ruling clan of Jeypore, are allied in marriage, opium is taken almost without exception by all the guests at feasts of betrothal. It is also offered at visits of condolence, and thus every one personally learns the effects of opium and becomes habituated to its use. The Rajput drinks spirit also, and takes *bhāng*, but, as a ruling chief once said to me, "To take one intoxicant or drug is good, but a man is "unwise who habitually uses several." This was with reference to a prince who had just died from excess of several kinds. Some subsidiary and allied castes take opium in the same way. I have already noticed that it is given to the Bheel to cement peace after quarrels. Rajputs eat it together at the Akha Tij, or anniversary of the beginning of the golden age, and it is said to be generally given in cases of female infanticide. For disease, or as a prophylactic, opium is used to the greatest extent in the Jeypore territory near the fort of Ranthambhor, and in the district in the south-east corner of the State between the rivers Bannas and Chambal, which is very malarious. Almost everyone uses it in these parts in the belief that it protects against the prevailing disease. All through the State, according to my experience, sowars, the Nagas or members of a sect of religious military monks peculiar to Jeypore who are most reliable soldiers of the State, and official servants of all kinds, whose duties necessitate exposure to all weathers, in most instances, sooner or later, use opium. The general history is this: a sowar, for example, has to carry messages at all hours of the day or night; he gets wet, and his clothes dry upon him; this happens over and over again; sometimes he suffers from fever, sometimes from muscular pain, or from chronic rheumatism, or a little diarrhoea, and is always sore and stiff; he takes a little opium, which at once relieves him and enables him to do his work. In my inspection tours such men accompany me and get through their stage at a rapid pace, perhaps an hour before sunrise, without the slightest difficulty. They can always be relied upon to do their work without murmuring, but without opium they would have been fit for nothing, and would not have been able to earn a livelihood for themselves or their families.

20,269. What have you noticed in regard to the effect of opium on old men?—It is really pitiable to see the worn out, crippled old men, who come to me every year by the hundred to be examined as to fitness for pension, who for years have worked on under these

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conditions, and have been kept going in many cases by opium alone. Their pay may be sufficient to keep them well-fed and well clad, and so protect them against disease, but every one has a family or a number of hangers-on to support, who drain him of funds, and thus keep him ill-fed. Everywhere the poor suffer to an enormous extent from malarious fevers, as well as from their sequelæ, from sciatica, enlarged spleen, ulcerated legs, muscular pains, and neuralgia of all kinds, also from chronic rheumatism, asthma, chronic bronchitis, pleurodynia, chronic dyspepsia (due to coarse feeding, exposure, and malaria), dysentery, and chronic diarrhoea. In all such cases, and especially where they are accompanied by aching and pain, opium is the sheet anchor. Everyone knows it, everyone can get it without difficulty, and, in the vast majority of instances, the sufferer obtains relief. It is not, therefore, wonderful that a man flies to the remedy again and again, and at last cannot live without it. It is also taken for rectal fistulæ and hemorrhoids to relieve pain. The rich in the large cities, especially in Jeypore, suffer often for many years from such affections owing to their sedentary habits. They fear to be relieved by surgery, hence resort to opium. I have lately had a case in which a Seth or banker so suffered, without undergoing operation, for six years. I remember another case of a great scholar who died of prolapse of the bowel consequent on the presence of an enormous number of large hemorrhoids, who for some years took opium to relieve fearful suffering rather than adopt reasonable treatment which might end in a surgical operation. Of course he ought to have sought relief and cure in the proper way, but his history is that of many people here, and especially in the districts where no skilled surgical aid is available. Opium, according to most authorities on drugs, checks every secretion in the body except that of the skin and mammary glands, and, some add, the testicles. It is used therefore on this account in certain disorders, as, for example, epiphora or excessive discharge of water from the eyes. My own khansama, or head table-servant, who has been in my employ more than 16 years, and is a most reliable, respectable, and trustworthy man, has taken opium from his seventh year for this cause. He now eats nine and a half ounces of opium every month, or about 147 grains a day, without ill effects, and has taken a great deal more. He is nearly 70 years old, and until last year went regularly into camp with me, riding 20 or even 25 miles every night, and working several hours in the day.

20,270. What further evidence have you had of the usefulness of opium in diseases?—In glaucoma, ulceration of the cornea and injuries or acute diseases of the eye, the pain is very severe, and the only known mode of relieving it in the districts is by giving a narcotic, preferably opium. Opium is the best generally available remedy or palliative for diabetes, the curse of well-to-do people in Bengal.

20,271. Is it not the common household remedy throughout Rajputana?—Yes.

20,272. In what way is it used?—The ignorant and poor only know one really effectual drug for relieving pain in disease and accident, and that is opium. The aged use it to lessen the feeling of weakness and to enable them to bear the trials and infirmities peculiar to their time of life. It is not surprising that a drug, of which a great authority, "Whitla," writes as follows, should be found so valuable in disease in India: "These hypnotic and anodyne qualities of opium render it the most important drug in the Pharmacopœia; and again, as a 'pain reliever,' opium surpasses all others in certainty of action and safety."

20,273. I understand you have got a very large number of answers from individuals to whom you applied in regard to various points bearing on the use of opium. What are some of the reasons given why people begin the opium habit?—My list of the reasons for resorting to the habitual use of opium shows a large number of cases in which grief is stated to be the real cause. This fully bears out my experience. Very many poor hardworking peasants, and specially females, have assured me that opium alone has given them ease when deprived of their sons or bread-winners, or of their means of living in comfort. I do not recollect any case in which such persons have abused the drug. Others take it when cold and worn out by exposure and hard labour, and find it tides them over the difficulty and enables them to return to their daily tasks with renewed

energy. It is taken by a large number of persons in the same way that in Europe wine or beer is used, viz., merely as a stimulant or a slight exhilarant after toil, for the temporary alleviation from the petty worries of life which it affords. No doubt many begin it in this way because others use it, and because they learn its value in these respects at caste feasts, but I do not think that such men often use it in excess. A larger dose is generally used in the wet season than in the dry months, and still more in the cold weather. The regular opium-eater thus becomes indifferent to cold and climatic changes, and is protected from many diseases which are caused thereby, and, as a consequence, does not, as far as my inquiries go, suffer so much as other natives of India from visiting Europe or the hills; of course, it is understood that he must be well fed.

20,274. What is the quantity usually taken by habitual opium-eaters in this neighbourhood?—The quantity taken ranges from 3 to 20 or even 30 grains a day in ordinary cases up to a *tola* or 180 grains, or even to far larger quantities. Those who take it regularly increase the dose, but slowly; those who are irregular and careless in the end take large quantities. In the rains and cold weather, as before stated, the dose is increased to produce the same effect as in the hot season. The tendency is to increase the dose, but in moderation with prudent persons who have command over themselves. Like all drugs and stimulants it is, of course, liable to abuse, but far less so, in my opinion, and in that of all the more reliable and experienced persons whom I have consulted, than with spirits, wines, or *hang*.

20,275. What is the kind of opium used in this district; is it the opium grown here?—For the most part it is grown in Rajputana.

20,276. Can you tell us whether the opium of Rajputana is of the same strength as the Benares and Patna opium?—I believe the pure opium is. It is exported as opium, and pays the ordinary duty on the frontier.

20,277. In your opinion, at any rate, it is about the same strength?—The opium we get in the Bazaars to make our tinctures and other medical preparations, which we use in the dispensaries, answers as well as the ordinary Benares or Patna opium.

20,278. What have you to say in regard to the relation of the opium habit to suicide?—I have never seen a man desire to commit suicide because he was addicted to opium-eating, but I have been called upon for advice in such a case from the excessive use of tea. I have also seen tobacco abused so as to nearly kill its victim. For disease or weariness opium is generally first used in middle life. Younger men take it in company, or as beer or wine are taken at an earlier age in Europe, and a few begin it at puberty or shortly afterwards in the hope of remedying the evil results of dissipation. In a very small number of cases parents continue to give it to their own children from carelessness or on account of disease. Women take the drug less frequently than men, and usually only for disease. My impression is that I have seen more females than males who have assigned grief as the cause for their use of the drug.

20,279. What effect has the use of opium on the moral character?—The most important questions, no doubt, are whether opium tends to degrade those who use it, to deteriorate their health, to cause neglect of business, poverty, gambling, domestic unhappiness, or sensuality. As to degradation, I think it is quite clear that no stigma of any kind attaches to the man who takes opium for disease, or even as a luxury and ordinary stimulant. I have seen many men eat it publicly, even Mohamedans of repute and respectability; but, perhaps, with the exception of eating tobacco and *pan*, the same cannot be said for any other drugs or stimulants. A man who takes a large quantity may sometimes nod in Durbar, and so be the subject of friendly chaff, but his friends do not seem to have the less regard or esteem for him.

20,280. Are habitual opium-eaters good business men?—As regards business, except in case of excess, and even then it will probably be found that other stimulants are used at the same time, I do not think cases of neglect or diminished capacity are common. On the contrary, I have found that opium-eaters are tenacious of purpose, that they may be relied upon to do work conscientiously, and after their regular dose

even show increase of power and mental activity (such increase of power has been made use of not unsuccessfully by those who have to undergo a severe educational test examination). Some of the best soldiers who guard my camp on tour, or the horsemen who show me the road, eat large doses of opium. My khansama, who has been already referred to as a great opium-eater, is a valued servant well known as a most respectable and really good man with unusually good manners. A certain amount of time may be wasted, perhaps, in taking the drug and as the effects are passing off, but, from a business point of view, an opium-eater is as sharp as his neighbours, and, I should say, a better hand at driving a bargain. The present Minister of Jeypore gives his own experience of the use of the drug, which is sufficient as regards the intelligence of opium-eaters, but he and I were once called upon to decide whether a man who was in custody should be allowed to take an enormous dose of the drug as it was feared that he intended to commit suicide. He took the dose, which he weighed against a piece of chalk about two inches long (that he scraped daily in order to diminish the dose imperceptibly) before us, without any ill effects. He was an exceptionally able man of great intellectual power, and was, what is more remarkable, the most enormous man I ever saw.

20,281. Do you think poverty can result from the use of opium?—Poverty can hardly result in this part of India from taking opium or the poppy, as both are very cheap. Many men would not be able to work for their families if they did not use the drug, hence to some extent it may be looked upon as a source of gain rather than loss.

20,282. Has it any effect on family relations?—One of my informants thinks domestic unhappiness might ensue from the want of opium. The prevailing opinion is to the same effect here, and I know of no cases to the contrary. The family of the drunkard are always unhappy and in fear, but the relatives of an opium-eater know that, at the worst, he cannot bring them to open shame or injure them. Those who use *chandu* and *madals* sometimes cause some trouble to their friends, because these articles are taken in public shops, hence may lead to neglect of work, just as in the case with the frequenters of public-houses. When idleness ensues it is from the same causes. Gambling is not a result of using opium. It certainly does not increase sensuality. As regards disease, I think much of the ill-fame which is said by the unexperienced to attach to the use of opium is due to the fact that the natural results, progress, and termination of the diseases for which it is taken are confounded with the supposed evil action of the drug itself. As I have pointed out, men take opium for a definite cause, generally for chronic disease, and it is my firm belief that, in the vast majority of cases, they do so with decided benefit, and with the effect of prolonging life. But opium does not always cure and may only afford partial relief; the disease itself may increase, though less slowly than before, and eventually kill. Sometimes opium may be taken in excess and so become a disease itself, but I think such cases are very rare. I see a few cases every year of obstinate constipation, almost amounting to obstruction of the bowels, in those who take large doses of opium, but they are generally due to irregular dosing, and usually rapidly yield to proper treatment again. Dysentery is often said to be caused by opium, but I think rarely with justice. In his well-known work on poisons, Dr. Murrell asks this question—"Is opium-eating or opium-smoking necessarily and universally pernicious?" and in his answer attributes the prevailing belief to the descriptions of the older writers, especially to De Quincey, whose health only suffered when he took enormous quantities. He instances the Chinese as a nation which proves the contrary, and especially refers to the great age of many habitual opium-eaters. All my experience goes to confirm his views. A short time ago I had an old woman in the Mayo Hospital who had taken large quantities of opium for many years, and finally died when about 100 years old. There are men in Jeypore who are nearly as good examples of the long duration of life of opium-eaters. On the whole, the use of opium in preventing the encroachments or mitigating the ill-effects of disease, and in lessening the effects of worry, must increase the sum of years of human life, and add greatly to the comfort of individuals. Most of my informants think it has nothing to do with the duration of life, and many consider that it lengthens it.

20,283. Have you had any experience with regard to the effect of the opium habit on subjects of surgical operations?—It has been said that opium-eaters are not good subjects for surgical operations, I have not found it so apart from the disease for which it has been taken. Three months ago I removed a large calculus weighing four ounces from the bladder of a man who took opium and poppy (15 grains opium and 5 drachms poppy-heads). He recovered without a single bad symptom.

20,284. What has been your experience of the effect of the opium habit on crime?—Almost without exception my informants agree that opium-eaters are not, as such, guilty of crime. Opium-eaters, like other persons, may commit crimes, but not because they take opium, rather the contrary indeed. A little petty theft, for the sake of procuring the drug, may be traced to them. I do not recollect ever having had to dismiss an opium-eater from service under me or to have had occasion to find serious fault with one, though often I have had to deal seriously with drunkards.

20,285. What experience have you had of opium being given to infants?—Children are given opium in Rajputana from about the third month to the second, third, or even fourth year, chiefly to keep them quiet, and set free the mothers for domestic duties or work, also to prevent pain and crying during dentition, and in the hope of preventing and curing diarrhoea and such like infantile disorders. At one time I thought the practice wholly bad, but my views have somewhat changed, and I am not now prepared to say that a very ancient custom such as this is without justification in a country in which pure milk is most difficult to be had by the poor. Goats and cows act too often as scavengers to make it at all sure that their milk is healthy even when directly drawn from the animal. To the universal practice of boiling the milk, to the prolonged lactation of infants, and to some extent to the use of opium, I am inclined to attribute the fact that any children of the poor in some of the large cities of Rajputana ever survive to grow up at all to be men and women. The children show no desire in after-life to especially resort to opium, nor is the progeny of those who use opium less active or healthy than that of other people. Nearly all my informants agree with me that insanity never follows the use or even abuse of opium. The chief Yunani physician here, Sheikh Buali Sena (Avicenna) and Hakim Ali state that some kinds of mania are cured by opium; one man thinks the want of it leads to foolishness. The general opinion is that it is not disgraceful to take opium in moderation. Some think it an infirmity, and of course all consider the abuse unwise. It is only contrary to the religion of the Musalman, and with him in the same sense, that all intoxicants and stimulants are forbidden even as tobacco is; but, as one of my subordinates says, "precepts are not practice." Mohammedans allow it to be used as a drug, but alcohol is so abhorred that if a drop of it is spilt on a garment the piece of cloth should be cut out. On the question of liability to disease, I think that the opium-eater is protected against many minor ills, and especially against bowel complaints, diabetes, and malarious affections.

20,286. Have you anything to say in regard to opium as an aphrodisiac?—I think that the statement that opium is used for vicious purposes as an aphrodisiac is incorrect. All my evidence goes to show that it does not increase sexual appetite. In cases of failing health, due to excessive and premature use of the sexual organs in the male, it is taken because it is the general impression amongst natives of India that it delays seminal emission, especially if taken with milk. This is a very different thing from employing it as an excitant. In the east, where failure from various causes is very common, many other medicines are used as aphrodisiacs, as, for example, strychnine, musk, Indian hemp, and very many indigenous drugs. The authorities on *Materia Medica* are very uncertain on this point. The majority say nothing on the subject, and others merely that it is used in the East as an aphrodisiac.

20,287. I understand that you have collected the details of some 4,400 opium-eaters in the Jeypore District, and that you have tabulated the results?—Yes.

20,288. Do you think you could supply an analysis* in tabular form which might be put in the Appendix?—I think so.

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20,289. You also obtained 55 reports from persons you applied to, and I understand you have made an analysis of these reports; would you kindly hand it in for printing in the Appendix?—Yes.

20,290. (Mr. Wilson.) In referring to the fact that the people were largely vegetarians, you spoke of opium as almost a necessary of life, but apparently only a small proportion of people get this necessity of life?—I spoke generally there. I said, "Drugs and stimulants of some kind;" in that I was referring to *pan*, and some of the things I had previously mentioned.

20,291. Do you think a very large proportion of the people do take some of these articles you refer to?—They take something always, I think; strong pickles, or something of that sort, strong condiments, chillies, &c. I believe I am correct in stating that all vegetarians here use chillies and assafoetida.

20,292. You also refer to the number of shops for the sale of European spirits, are they pretty freely licensed in this city?—I know nothing of that aspect of the question.

20,293. You know there are a great many?—Yes. I think it is to the increased desire to use European liquor that there are so many more European shops than formerly.

20,294. You referred to the Rathores of Marwar, are they a tribe or clan of the Rajputs?—That is the ruling clan of Jodhpore, of which the Maharajah is the head. It is one of the great divisions of the Rajput races.

20,295. Am I right in believing it is a large and numerous clan?—Yes.

20,296. I do not know whether you are acquainted with the "Annals of Rajasthan," by Lieut.-Col. James Tod?—I am.

20,297. Are you aware that in that book, on page 163 of Vol. 2, he says, "Though debased by one besetting sin, the use of opium, the Rathore is yet a noble animal?"—I have not found him a noble animal, I have found him a very noble individual. I have served in Marwar. I was thoroughly well acquainted with the late Maharajah of Jodhpore and the present one, and many of the Chiefs amongst the Rathores, and am proud to have many of them as my friends.

20,298. Would you agree with Col. Tod that it is this besetting sin which debases them?—I have not said that opium was debasing, nor were the people debased.

20,299. Lieut.-Col. Tod has referred to the use of opium as the besetting sin of these people which debases them; do you agree with that expression of opinion?—I do not agree. I think Col. Tod's experience of Marwar was very small. He was principally in Meywar, and only made a tour, as far as I know, through Marwar. It is well known that Col. Tod was very much prejudiced in favour of Meywar, and against Marwar. In another place Col. Tod writes, with reference to the Rajputs, of *amal pani* being "dearer to them than life."

20,300. You said that almost everyone uses opium in certain districts in the belief that it protects against the prevailing disease, which I understand to mean malarial disease?—Malarial.

20,301. Is it your opinion that it does protect a man against that?—I believe it does; but I believe there are better things. It is the only thing they can resort to under the circumstances.

20,302. I am referring to the expression you used, that they take it in the belief, is that your belief too?—To a limited extent it is. Of course, it does not protect like quinine or other drugs.

20,303. Then you also refer to "worn-out, crippled old men;" but these old men have been crippled by taking opium, have they not?—No, through disease. They have only been kept alive by opium.

20,304. You think they would not have lived at all if it had not been for opium?—They certainly would not have been able to work.

20,305. You do not think the opium had anything to do with their miserable condition?—No. I think they would be better without the disease than the opium.

20,306. You referred also to chandu and Madak as being taken in public shops; I daresay you heard what the last witness said, that there are no chandu shops?

—I have said already I know very little about chandu and madak.

20,307. You said that those who use chandu and madak sometimes cause trouble to their friends, because these articles are taken in public shops. The last witness said there were no such shops, and I want to know whether you can reconcile your statement with his?—His statement is confined to Jeypore, and mine is a general statement.

20,308. You are not referring to this part of the country?—Not generally. Speaking of Jeypore, I have already said that my experience is very small connected with smoking opium.

20,309. Do I understand from your evidence that the general insanitary conditions of Rajputana are extremely unfavourable to child life?—Very unfavourable to life altogether, I should think, but still more so to child life, especially in the larger cities. Sanitation is making some progress, but we are only on the fringe of the subject. It is notorious here that the mortality amongst children is enormous.

20,310. In reference to the use of opium as an aphrodisiac, I do not quite see where the contradiction is. You say that you think it is incorrect to say that it is used for vicious purposes, because you think it does not have that effect; but a thing may be used for the purpose, and yet not have the effect, may it not—it may be taken for a vicious purpose although it may fail to effect that purpose?—Yes, but I do not think it is generally taken in that way. I think it is taken when a man's powers are failing—he takes it as a drug in the hope of keeping himself in good condition.

20,311. Have you known young men take it for that purpose?—Young men are very soon worn out in this country, and they may take it under that impression when they become diseased, but not as a stimulant during health.

20,312. I gather that you distinctly state that one great reason why you would not favour any stringent restriction on the use of opium is the fear that people would fly to the use of alcohol, ganja, and so on?—The great reason is that it is the most available drug for the relief of pain. I do not think any restrictive measures are desirable.

20,313. Would you be in favour of any further restrictions than at present exists on those articles?—I should like to see their use restricted very much indeed. I doubt whether it would be possible, but the evils of drink are so enormous in this country, especially amongst the nobility, that I should be very glad if they could be in any way restricted.

20,314. I think that in the *Medical Journal*, of the 30th of April 1892, you wrote a letter in which this passage occurs, "There is nothing remarkable in this" (that is referring to Rajputs not caring to confess the habit) "as no Rajput would care to acknowledge, especially to a European, that he was not quite so strong as he used to be in his early youth, and that he was compelled to take a little wine or opium for his stomach's sake." Is not that a little contrary to some of the things you have said to us?—I do not think so. In what way?

20,315. That he would not like to confess he took it?—He would not like to confess generally that he was getting a weaker man, and had to take stimulants of any sort.

20,316. What you meant was that he would not like to confess to the weakness; you think he does not mind confessing to opium?—A Rajput always calls himself a Jawan, or young man, until he is 40, and he would not like to confess that he has to take anything in order to strengthen his failing powers. He dyes his whiskers that he may appear to be a young man as long as possible.

20,317. (Mr. Fanshawe.) We have been told before that the non-medical and medical uses of opium very much tend to merge into each other; I rather understand that is your view too?—It is difficult to distinguish the effects of the opium and the disease.

20,318. I mean rather in this way, that many men begin the habit in connexion with disease, and then go on with it as a habit, taking opium as a restorative or stimulant?—It is quite possible. They begin the habit and it is difficult to leave it off. They find certain advantages are derived from it.

20,319. Dr. Rice, of 30 years' experience in the Central Provinces, told us that many men in the lower classes would be unable to do their day's work, and would be practically brought to starvation, if it were

not for taking opium?—That is what I referred to with reference to the Sowars.

20,320. That is the view which you would also take? Yes, certainly.

The witness withdrew.

RAO BAHADUR THAKUR GOBIND SINGH called in and examined.

20,321. (*Sir J. Lyall.*) I believe you are Thakur, or chief, of Chammo in Jeypore?—Yes.

20,322. How big is your country?—It is a large country. The population is about 45,000.

20,323. What opinion have you formed about the opium question?—I wish to show the results that are likely to follow from a stop being put to the growth of opium. If the growth of opium was suppressed there would be a great loss in revenue and in custom duties. It would not be possible by a re-adjustment of rates on cereals and other crops that might take its place to make up for the loss, for the rates have been fixed on cereals and other crops for many years, and any attempt to increase them would cause the utmost dissatisfaction, and would be regarded by the people as a great oppression. And not only would there be a loss in revenue and custom duties, but the Zamindars would also suffer greatly, for, as I shall show further on, there is no crop which gives such a large return to the cultivator as opium, and therefore to suppress its growth would be a severe hardship to the Zamindar. There would be no loss in excise at all, for no excise whatever is derived either from opium or any of its preparations. Furthermore there will, in my opinion, be a loss in credit if the growth of opium is prohibited. The growers will say they have prohibited us from growing the crop that paid us best, and allow us only to grow what gives us a poor return for our labour. If they have stopped the opium they may stop our other crops at any time, or begin to take *hasil* from the *zabti* crop. What assurance have we that they will not? In this way there will be great disquietude, then they will have difficulty in getting advances from the Bohras for their crops. At present they have no difficulty, for the Bohras know that they will get their money back again, but they will hesitate to advance on crops for which a repayment may not be possible. Furthermore, the officials will be thrown into a state of disquietude because of the great difference in income caused by the prohibition. There are two ways in which revenue is derived from the cultivators. First, the cultivator gives a certain portion of his grain crop, such as barley, wheat, &c., to the Jagirdar. Secondly, there are certain crops classed as *zabti*, such as cotton, sugar-cane, chillies, carrots, and opium, &c. Now the cultivator does not give any portion of this crop to the Jagirdars, but instead, he gives money, say, from one to two rupees per bigha according to the crop. The Zamindars prefer to grow this second class of crops, because it is more profitable to them, while the first class of crops is preferred by the Jagirdar for a similar reason. In this way the Jagirdars encourage the Zamindars to grow the cereal crops, while they do what they can to discourage the growth of the *zabti* crops. For this reason the cereal crops are more cultivated than the other. But one article of the *zabti* crop must be exempted from the above description, that article is opium. Opium is a crop which is the most profitable crop both to the Jagirdar and the Zamindar. Naturally, therefore, there is a desire to have as much land as possible under opium cultivation; but for two reasons the growth of opium is restricted, first, opium can only be grown on certain land profitably, and that land is limited in area, and secondly, supposing there was a large area of land suitable for opium cultivation, it would still be restricted, for grain and grass must be grown in sufficient quantities not only to supply present wants, but to enable us to provide against a possible famine in the future. One other point we may mention here, if we were to treat the *zabti* crop as we treat the cereal, and take *hasil* from it, that is, take a certain portion of the crop, then certainly our revenue would be much increased, but that change we cannot make, because this custom has come down to the present time from antiquity, and no change would be tolerated on the part of the Zamindars. It would be considered a wanton invasion of their rights, and they would refuse to cultivate the land at all.

There can be no doubt that our forefathers, with great wisdom and consideration, and with a perfect knowledge of all the circumstances of the case, made this twofold division by which their revenue was derived. And to attempt to change it now would be a disastrous mistake. Again, were the growth of opium prohibited the Zamindars would have the greatest difficulty in paying back the money which has been lent to them by the Bohras. This would be likely to give rise to a good deal of ill-feeling and probably excitement. It would hardly be expected that either of the parties would tamely submit to such a loss, especially as there would be no reasonable prospect of retrieving the loss. A short description of how opium is produced, and the effect the suppression of its growth would have on the labourers producing it, may not be out of place. Opium juice is taken from the head of the poppy plant while it is standing in the field, afterwards the heads are cut off, the seeds inside are taken out, and oil is extracted from them. There is a kind of poppy head out of which opium is not extracted. This is called "*post*." The heads when dry, are steeped in water, and this water, which contains the intoxicating ingredient, is drunk chiefly by the common people, and the seeds of "*post*" are used in medicine. All the other parts of the plant except the head are useless and are usually burned. The Zamindar makes the land ready and waters it, while it is growing the weeds are taken from the land where it is growing. Labourers take the juice from the head of the poppy while it is growing. There is a great deal more labour required for the cultivation of the poppy than any other crop, and therefore were the growth of the poppy stopped it would lessen the sources of income for many a poor family. Those who are addicted to opium take it in different forms. Sometimes it is eaten dry, sometimes it is dissolved in water and drunk. Sometimes spices are mixed with it and it is made into pills. Sometimes it is made into *chandu* and smoked. As far as I have been able to judge about 15 per cent. among Rajputs take opium, and perhaps 10 per cent. among the other castes. Among all castes about 3 per cent. take it to excess. The greater number eat opium twice a day. Some take it thrice a day, while a number take it only once a day. As much as from two grains to 16 grains are taken at one time. Some take as much as one *tola* a day. A man who takes a *tola* daily is considered intemperate, but such instances are rare. Opium is eaten on these special occasions. At the time of betrothal, and marriage, on the occasion of a death, on certain festivals, and on other times of rejoicing. At the time of betrothal it must be taken, a betrothal is not considered complete unless it is eaten. Besides there are many diseases for the curing of which the doctors prescribe opium. From this medicine much benefit is derived. There are many poor people in out of the way places who, when sick, can consult no doctor and are so poor that they cannot go where they might consult a doctor. These derive much benefit from the taking of opium. Besides this, opium is given mixed with spices to elephants, horses, bullocks, and camels. It is my opinion, though I do not take it myself, that those who take opium in moderation get no harm from it but good. In conclusion then, it will be evident from what I have already said, that if opium could not be procured except as a medicine, there would certainly be harm done. Our customs could not be sufficiently observed and injury would be done to men who had been in the habit of taking it.

20,324. You said that you thought about 15 per cent. of the Rajputs take opium; do you mean 15 per cent. of the total population or 15 per cent. of the adult men?—15 per cent. of the men.

20,325. Eighty-five out of 100 do not take it at all?—That is my experience, as far as I can judge.

20,326. Have you made out an estimate of how much poppy is produced per bigha?—No. I cannot give you the exact amount unless I inquire from the Jagirdars and others.

The witness withdrew.

Surgeon-
Lieut.-Col.
T. H. Hendley,
C.I.E.

29 Jan. 1894.

Rao Bahadur
Thakur
Gobind Singh.
(Jeypore
State.)

Thakur Futteh
Singh.
(Jeypore
State.)

29 Jan. 1894.

THAKUR FUTTEH SINGH called in and examined (through an interpreter).

20,327. (Sir J. Lyall.) Of what place are you Thakur ?
—Naela.

20,328. About how many villages are there there ?—
There are about 400 houses. The correct number of
inhabitants will be found in the census return.

20,329. I believe you were formerly vice-president of
the Jeypore Council ?—Yes.

20,330. What is the general custom in this part of the
country with reference to taking opium ?—The general
practice is to take opium twice a day, morning and
evening. A few persons take it only once, while others
take it irregularly several times a day. It is generally
offered to guests on the occasions of the festival of
“Holi,” “Dasserah,” “Akha Tij,” &c.—at betrothals,
marriages, and funerals.

20,331. What are the effects upon the people who take
it habitually day by day ?—If not taken at the usual
hour the person becomes sick and otherwise indisposed.

20,332. If they take it regularly do they remain strong
and active ?—If they take their usual dose they will
remain healthy. When the dose is taken the system is
restored.

The witness withdrew.

Hakim Abdul
Guffur,
Dhanna Lall
Balabun, Chote
Khan Jan
Mohammad,
and Asgar Ali
Hussain.
(Jeypore
State.)

HAKIM ABDUL GUFFUR, DHANNA LALL BALABUN, CHOTE KHAN JAN MOHAMMAD, and ASGAR ALI HUSSAIN called
in and examined (through an interpreter).

20,337. (Mr. Wilson, to Abdul Guffur.) I believe you
are a Hakim, practising in Jeypore ?—Yes.

20,338. How long have you been in practice ?—For
four years.

20,339. Did you before that study under Hakim
Mohammad Assan Khan, of Indore, for nine years ?—
Yes.

20,340. Is it a fact that men begin to take opium in
small quantities from the pleasure it produces, and
that they go on increasing the dose ?—Yes; people
often take little doses of opium, and not being satisfied
with that they increase the dose.

20,341. Does it become at last impossible to stop the
habit ?—He can leave it.

20,342. Is opium often taken to cure coughs and
colds, and also for sensual purposes ?—It is taken for
coughs and colds, and also as an aphrodisiac.

20,343. In the case of a poor man who cannot get
rich food, does opium do him a great deal of harm ?—
It is very dangerous for him.

20,344. Are you of opinion that the people of Jeypore
would be benefited if the authorities would stop all the
opium shops ?—It would be to the benefit of those
people who use opium.

20,345. Do you think that the people of Jeypore
would be glad to be delivered from the evils of opium,
and would say nothing against such action on the part
of the Government ?—They are not able to make any
opposition.

20,346. What do you mean when you say that they
are not able to make any opposition ?—I mean that
they would be very thankful if the authorities would
close the shops, and then those who are opium-eaters
will live long. I have a patient who is an opium-eater
now under my treatment. I have stopped his opium,
and he is now much better.

20,347. (Mr. Wilson, to Dhanna Lall Balabun.) Are
you a teacher in a private school ?—Yes. My father
was a teacher, and I am a private teacher also in a
private school.

20,348. (Mr. Wilson, to Chote Khan Jan Mohammad.)
Are you a chuprasi in the Tahsil Office ?—Yes, I am.

20,349. (Mr. Wilson, to Asgar Ali Hussain.) I believe
you are a merchant and trader ?—Yes.

20,350. (Mr. Wilson.) Do you all agree with the
hakim Abdul Guffur that the people of Jeypore would
be much benefited if the authorities would stop all the
opium shops ?

(The Interpreter.) They say they all agree.

20,351. (Mr. Wilson.) Do they also think that the
people of Jeypore would approve of the authorities
stopping the common sale of opium ?

20,333. Some people have proposed that the use of
opium except for medicinal purposes should be pro-
hibited; what would the people in this country think of
that ?—It would cause pecuniary loss both to the ruler
and to the ruled. If a person habitually accustomed to
take opium does not get his usual dose he will not
remain in health and be able to discharge his usual
duties.

20,334. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Would it not be regarded as
an interference with local habits and customs, and on
that ground cause discontent ?—As it is customary, and
all persons are bound by custom to observe it, a man
not following the custom would be looked down upon.
All persons use opium at festivals and ceremonies, and
if one did not use it he would be looked down upon.

20,335. (Mr. Wilson.) Do you think it is good for
young men who have no disease to take opium ?—When
young men are not suffering from any disease it is not
useful for them to take opium.

20,336. Do you approve of any change or restriction
in the mode of selling opium ?—Do you desire any
restriction yourself ?—I do not desire any.

(The Interpreter.) They say they would be very glad
for the authorities to stop the opium shops.

(Dhanna Lall Balabun.) I got into bad company and
took to the habit of eating opium. I have given it up
now for three months.

20,352. (Mr. Wilson.) Are you better or worse now
that you have given it up ?—

(Dhanna Lall Balabun.) I was in bad health, but
now that I have left it off I feel a little strength in my
body.

(Asgar Ali Hussain.) I also take opium.

20,353. (Sir W. Roberts to Asgar Ali Hussain.) Have
you ever known opium-eaters live to an old age ?—Men
who eat opium live to an old age, but they become a
little weak.

20,354. (Sir J. Lyall to Abdul Guffur.) What is your
age ?—I am 20 years old.

20,355. Where is your father's home ?—Agra.

20,356. You say you have been here four years; I
suppose you have lived in the city ?—Yes.

20,357. How can you answer for the people of
Jeypore when you are an Agra man, age 24, and
have only lived four years in the city ?—I am a
Hakim, and several people have come under my treat-
ment, asking and begging me to treat them and to give
them medicine so that they can leave the opium.

20,358. What made you come to Jeypore ?—I was
called to Rajputana by the Nawab of Tonk, but I was
not appointed there. I am now serving one of the gentry
of Jeypore who is Nazir in the Maharaja's court.

20,359. Now you are a servant of the Nazir ?—Yes.

20,360. What pay do you get ?—Thirty rupees a month.

20,361. What have you to do for that ?—I am a private
physician.

20,362. Who suggested that you should come here to
give evidence ?—No one suggested it.

20,363. (To Dhanna Lall Balabun.) What is your
age ?—20.

20,364. What work do you do ?—First my father used
to teach at a Missionary school; now he has his own
private school.

20,365. Have you a schoolhouse, or do you sit in the
verandah in some place ?—I have a house.

20,366. What rents do you pay for your house ?—It is
my own house.

20,367. How many pupils have you ?—About 50.

20,368. You are 20 years of age, and do you manage
the whole thing yourself ?—There is my father as well.

20,369. Was your father very angry with you when
you began to take opium ?—I used to take opium
privately. My father did not know of it.

20,370. (*To Chote Khan Jan Mohammad.*) How old are you?—I am 21.

20,371. What made you think about opium?—People were talking about opium and saying that it was very bad, and was not to be eaten or given to children and so on.

20,372. Did anybody particularly tell you this?—Yes.

20,373. Who?—A neighbour of mine.

20,374. Do you belong to a temperance society?—Yes.

20,375. What is the name of the society?—There are a few persons who neither smoke nor drink, and neither smoke nor eat opium.

20,376. Did any person ask you to give evidence?—No.

20,377. What is your pay?—Four rupees a month.

20,378. (*To Asgar Ali Hussain.*) I believe you said you are a merchant?—Yes.

20,379. What kind of merchant are you?—I deal in kerosine oil, broken things, broken plates and dishes and saucers, matches, and buttons.

20,380. Are you an opium-eater?—Yes.

20,381. Do you eat in excess?—I eat one anna's worth three times a day; I take opium three times a day.

20,382. What do you make a month in your shop?—I make three or four, or five annas a day.

20,383. (*Mr. Pease.*) How much opium do you get for one anna?—About four mashas.

20,384. (*Sir J. Lyall.*) Has the habit done you much harm?—I took opium before the Mutiny. I used to go into bad company and so I got into the habit; I am still using it.

20,385. Has it done your health much harm?—My health is the same as before. My sons' children are in good health, and I am also in the same state of health.

20,386. (*Chairman to Abdul Guffur.*) Is it your desire that the authorities should close the liquor shops?—I cannot say anything about alcohol.

20,387. Do you think it an evil thing?—It is an evil, and it is a good, both.

20,388. Do you think that it is as evil a thing as opium?—No; I think opium is worse.

Hakim Abdul Guffur, Dhannu Lall Balabek, Chote Khan Jan Mohammad, and Asgar Ali Hussain. (Jeypore State.)

29 Jan. 1894.

The witnesses withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow at Ajmere.

At the Daulat Bagh, Ajmere.

FIFTY-NINTH DAY.

Tuesday, 30th January 1894.

PRESENT:

THE RIGHT HON. LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B., CHAIRMAN, PRESIDING.

Sir JAMES B. LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.
Sir WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.
Mr. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P.
Mr. A. U. FANSHAW.

Mr. ARTHUR PEASE.
Mr. HARIDAS VEHARIDAS DESAI.
Mr. H. J. WILSON, M.P.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT, C.I.E., *Secretary.*

Lieutenant-Colonel H. B. ABBOTT called in and examined.

20,389. (*Chairman.*) You are resident for the Western Rajputana States, on special duty?—Yes.

20,390. Will you tell us the particulars of your political service in Rajputana?—Having passed more than 24 years of my political service in Rajputana, during which time I have had direct relations with nearly all the States, including the whole of the more important ones, and having lived for over 13 years in the opium-producing State of Jhallawar, where I supervised the Revenue Settlement, and had therefore unusual opportunities for observing the vital importance of poppy cultivation to that native State, its agricultural population and its traders, as well as of seeing the result of almost universal consumption of opium by its people, I have been appointed to represent Rajputana before the Royal Commission.

20,391. I understand you are prepared to lay before this Commission information obtained from the different States of Rajputana, to introduce their witnesses for examination, to state your opinion regarding the claims for compensation, and to give the results of your personal experience?—Yes.

20,392. Will you give us the leading statistics of the province of Rajputana?—The province of Rajputana has within its boundaries 19 States, ruled mostly by the Rajput race, and differing in population and revenue as noted in the table I now hand in.

—	Name of State.	Ruler.	Population.	Revenue.
1	Jeypore - - -	Rajput -	2,832,276	61,90,069
2	Marwar or Jodhpur -	Do. -	2,519,868	41,57,000
3	Meywar or Oodeypur -	Do. -	1,863,126	37,50,000
4	Bikanir - - -	Do. -	831,955	18,00,000
5	Ulwar - - -	Do. -	767,786	26,58,792
6	Bhartpore - - -	Jat - - -	640,303	27,13,501
7	Kotah - - -	Rajput -	526,267	24,00,000
8	Tonk - - -	Mussalman -	379,944	12,00,000
9	Jhallawar - - -	Rajput -	343,601	15,00,000
10	Bundi - - -	Do. -	295,675	8,00,000
11	Dholpur - - -	Jat - - -	279,890	9,25,342
12	Banswara - - -	Rajput -	211,641	2,59,873
13	Sirohi - - -	Do. -	190,836	1,75,000
14	Dungarpore - - -	Do. -	165,400	1,45,869
15	Karauli - - -	Do. -	156,587	4,77,729
16	Kishengarh - - -	Do. -	125,516	3,57,478
17	Jaisalmir - - -	Do. -	115,701	1,58,700
18	Pertabgarh - - -	Do. -	87,975	2,67,640
19	Shahpura - - -	Do. -	63,646	2,89,009

Note.—The small estate of Lawa, which appears in the census returns, is excluded for the purposes of this statement. The population of the Tonk districts situated in Central India are included, as they are the opium-producing districts of this State.

Lieut.-Col. H. B. Abbott.

30 Jan. 1894.

Lieut.-Col.
H. B. Abbott.

30 Jan. 1894.

As regards opium the Rajputana States may be grouped into those which produce and export it and those which import it. The former, which are situated in the south-east, border on Central India, and are geographically a part of Malwa, form part of a country in which long experience has shown the soil, water-supply, and climate are all better suited to raising the poppy than to the cultivation of any other irrigated crop. Their interests in opium greatly exceed those of the rest as it provides a large portion of their revenue, is the main source of profit to their agricultural classes and traders, and is more generally in use by all the inhabitants. The table I now produce, which places the Rajputana States in the order in which opium is of the greatest revenue value to them, and showing proportion the poppy crop bears to the total irrigated area, exhibits their varied interests to some extent :—

—	States.	Proportion of Opium Revenue to the Total Revenue of the State.	Proportion of the Poppy Crop to the Total Irrigated Area.
1	Pertabgarh -	74	Information wanting.
2	Tonk -	31	*20 per cent.
3	Dungarpore -	29	Information wanting.
4	Jhallawar -	29	61 per cent.
5	Jaisalmir -	20	No cultivation.
6	Sirohi -	17	Information wanting.
7	Kotah -	15	Ditto.
8	Meywar -	12	21 per cent.
9	Bundi -	10	Information wanting.
10	Marwar -	5	No cultivation.
11	Shahpura -	4	Information wanting.
12	Kishengarh -	4	Ditto.
13	Bikanir -	4	No cultivation.
14	Karauli -	3	Information wanting.
15	Jeypore -	1	Ditto.
16	Dholpur -	*8	Ditto.
17	Ulwar -	*6	Ditto.
18	Bhartpore -	No statistics	Ditto.
19	†Banswara -	Ditto.	Ditto.

* In some districts rising to 50.

† The Banswara statistics were subsequently received, and are included in Appendix V. to this Volume.

In some States, namely, Bundi, Shahpura, Kishengarh, Jeypore, Karauli, Dholpur, Bhartpore, Ulwar, Bikanir, Jaisalmir, Marwar, and Sirohi opium is either not produced at all or only in comparatively small quantities, such as in Jeypore where the area under poppy, though seemingly large, is relatively to the whole of its cultivated area very small.

20,393. What statistics are you able to put before us from the several States :—The statistics collected from the States and to be now placed before the Commission, are composed of those relating to :—*I.—The production of opium, that is to say,*—(a.) The area under poppy growth and its yield. (b.) The amount of opium exported through British India for foreign trade. (c.) The amount of opium exported from one part of Rajputana to another, or to other parts of India. (d.) The amount of opium remaining for local consumption to provide for wastage in manufacture, or to be added to the stocks.—*II.—The uses and value of opium, which comprise*—(a.) The uses the poppy plant is put to by the cultivator and others. (b.) The value of the poppy crop to cultivators, that is to say, the profit they annually derive from it after deducting the expenses of cultivation and payment of revenue. (c.) Its value to the money-lending classes which support them, that is, their annual profit. (d.) The value of poppy cultivation to field labourers and village servants in wages received in cash, or perquisites in kind, to oil-pressers and workmen employed in manufacture. (e.) The States in the shape of revenue at present derived. (f.) The holders of alienated lands within them, in the shape of income at present received. (g.) Traders, consisting of their annual profits. (h.) The manner in which opium is consumed. (i.) The extent to which it is taken. (j.) The purposes for which it is taken. (k.) The occasions on which it is taken. (l.) Public opinion as to the results of the habit and the consequence of prohi-

bition. (m.) The opinions of Durbars, i.e., States and political officers as to the possibility of prohibiting production, export, and consumption except as medicine, and as to the consequences of such prohibition.—*III.—Estimated compensation to*—(a.) The States. For loss of revenue from—(i.) The land revenue, customs, and excise. (ii.) For cost of expenses connected with revision of rates. (iii.) For the cost of prohibitive measures. (b.) The holders of alienated lands. (i.) For loss of income from the land and customs collections. (ii.) For cost of revision rates. (iii.) For cost of prohibitive measures. (c.) Cultivators. (i.) For the difference in profit obtained from the poppy crop, and that obtainable from the crops likely to be substituted for it. (ii.) For loss of credit. (d.) The money-lending classes supporting cultivators. (i.) For loss of yearly business. (ii.) For loss by bad debts. (iii.) For loss in credit. (e.) Field labourers and village servants, workmen employed in the manufacture of opium. (i.) For loss in wages, oil-pressers, loss of income. (f.) Traders. (i.) For loss in annual profit by the termination of opium traffic. (ii.) For loss by unsaleable stocks. (iii.) For loss by disorganisation of business. (iv.) For loss in credit. (g.) Consumers For the extra cost of living.

20,394. How do you propose to deal with this information, and in what order will you place it before the Commission ?—The opium-producing States being the most interested in this inquiry, I will begin with the information received from them, and will continue with the others in their geographical order, passing up by the north and round by the west to the south again.

20,395. What arrangement have you made with reference to the witnesses ?—As time does not permit of all the witnesses nominated by the States being examined, those of the smaller or less interested States have been either reduced to a few or dispensed with. In the latter case one State (Karauli) has submitted a "Kharita" or *official communication to the Commission, giving the best information available, and expressing its views; this will be presented by me at the end of my evidence. In both the cases the information given in my statement will be more full than in the case of the larger and more interested States, whose witnesses are present to enter into details. The smaller and less interested States referred to are : 1, Dungarpore. 2, Banswara. 3, Shahpura. 4, Bundi. 5, Karauli. 6, Dholpur. 7, Bhartpore. 8, Ulwar. 9, Kishengarh. 10, Sirohi. The Karauli State has sent a Kharita. There remain the following nine large or more important States : 1, Meywar. 2, Pertabgarh. 3, Tonk. 4, Jhallawar. 5, Kotah. 6, Jeypore. 7, Bikanir. 8, Marwar. 9, Jaisalmir.

20,396. You are prepared to give us the detailed statistics of each of the principal States you have named ?—Yes.

20,397. We will place those statistics in our †Appendix. They are given as provided by the States themselves ?—Yes.

20,397a. (Mr. Wilson.) You do not adopt or vouch for the accuracy of the calculations ?—In the summary I give my opinion about them.

20,398. (Chairman.) As Karauli is not represented before us by a witness, I believe you wish to call more particular attention to the *official communication which you have received from that State ?—Yes. (The witness read the communication from Karauli.)

20,399. (Sir J. Lyall.) May I ask if the traders and money-lenders are generally the same persons ?—No. The traders are the larger merchants; the money lenders are small men who deal directly with the cultivators and take their produce.

20,400. They sell it again to the traders ?—They sell again to the larger traders.

20,401. Are the traders resident in the State, or people coming from outside, from Bombay ?—I believe they are resident in the State.

20,402. (Mr. Mowbray.) I wish to ask one question particularly about Karauli, but it may probably apply to some others. I see that the total land revenue on opium land is at present Rs. 11,312, and it is estimated that if opium were abolished the loss to the State on account of such revenue would be Rs. 11,200 ?—Yes.

20,403. That is practically the whole amount of the land revenue on the opium-producing lands ?—Yes.

* See Appendix V. to this Volume.

† See Appendix VI. to this Volume.

20,404. Is it your opinion that that is a fair basis for calculating compensation?—That will come into my general summary with regard to this State and all the others.

20,405. (*Sir J. Lyall.*) Is the land revenue in Karauli on the same basis as it was said to be in Jeypore, that is if there was a grain crop a division was made, and if it was one of the superior crops cash rates were taken per acre?—I am not aware; I expect it is the same.

20,406. The land revenue is said to be Rs. 11,312?—That would be on a money rate.

20,407. On 1,180 acres?—Yes.

20,408. That is something less than Rs. 10 per acre. Do they work the loss out by putting the whole land revenue down, or do they take the special rate on poppy and the rate of some other crop that would be substituted, and put down the difference?—That is what I think they have done, and they have brought up the amount pretty nearly to the present revenue. I fancy in this instance they have considered that nothing can replace the opium crop.

20,409. In Jeypore they said that the land revenue was Rs. 21 per acre; here they have only put down Rs. 10 per acre?—It varies considerably.

20,410. It may be that they have only put down half the actual land revenue?—I think they have taken the net revenue they get.

20,411. (*Chairman.*) These tables will be taken for what they are worth as sent in by the several States. Turning now to your own summary of Rajputana, will you give us the general leading statistics?—The total area under poppy cultivation is 137,948 acres; of this 4,818 acres were cultivated only for poppy heads, the remaining 133,130 acres give a yearly yield of 37,524 maunds of opium juice. This is exclusive of the States of Banswara and Bhartpore, which have not furnished statistics. Of the above yield 19,635 maunds are exported to Bombay for foreign trade; 2,133 maunds are exported from the producing States into the importing ones, and there remains a balance of 13,372 maunds for wastage in manufacture, for addition to the stocks and for local consumption within the producing States, but the opium of the Pertabgarh State is not included, as it has not given information about export. The Banswara and Bhartpore States are outside these calculations.

20,412. (*Sir J. Lyall.*) Is the number of maunds exported to Bombay obtained from the States or from the Opium Agents?—The amount of opium produced within Rajputana going through the scales to Bombay.

20,413. Are the figures got from the States?—Yes.

20,414a. (*Chairman.*) What are the advantages of the poppy plant to the cultivator?—The poppy plant provides the cultivator with vegetable food for himself, fodder for his cattle, and fuel and manure, in addition to its opium juice or milk and seed. The seed also provides nourishing food for his cattle, and is of use to oil-pressers, while the juice finds employment for many persons engaged in the manufacture of opium. The annual value of the poppy crop to the States and the different classes interested in it has been estimated at Rs. 107,99,056.

	Rs.
To cultivators - - -	46,66,095
To the money-lending classes - - -	4,31,068
To field labourers - - -	13,61,588
To village servants - - -	
To oil-pressers - - -	
To workmen engaged in opium manufacture - - -	
Total annual value - - -	64,58,751

But this does not represent the whole amount for Rajputana, as in many instances the profit to one or another of the different classes has been under-estimated, while the figures for Banswara and Bhartpore are again wanting. From the opium yearly produced, exported, and imported the Rajputana States (leaving Banswara and Bhartpore out of account) obtain revenues amounting to 24,90,900, and the holders of alienated lands within these States derive an income of Rs. 4,59,717, or altogether Rs. 29,50,617. The traders or merchants as distinguished from the smaller dealers, who are associated with the cultivators, state their annual

profit from opium to be Rs. 13,89,688; in this the profits of the Jeypore traders have not been calculated. The three figures Rs. 64,58,751, Rs. 29,50,617, and Rs. 13,89,688 make up the total of the estimated Rs. 107,99,056.

20,414. (*Chairman.*) In what form is opium generally consumed in Rajputana?—Taking Rajputana as a whole, opium seems to be more generally consumed in the dry form, but it is common enough to take it, or poppy heads mixed with water, which is more suited to the means of the poor, and the rich make a spiced mixture; but smoking is very rare.

20,415. What is the usual consumption?—Witnesses have different ideas of what constitutes a moderate daily allowance; but the more general opinions seem to be that the moderate habit means two doses a day, which together may range from 4 to 20 grains.

20,416. Have you any estimate of the extent to which the consumption takes place in different classes of the population?—Again, in the matter of estimating to what extent the population generally, the different castes, and men, women, and children are consumers, and what proportion of those who take it do so to excess, opinions are not all the same. This is not to be wondered at, as they are the result of conjectures which vary with the experience of, and the faculty of observation possessed by, each witness, and with the standard he sets up concerning excess. But, once more, taking the more general opinion, it seems that for the population generally consumers vary from 75 per cent. in Kotah and Jhallawar, to 6 per cent. in Marwar.

20,417. Is the 75 per cent. a per-centage of the adult males or of the whole population?—I believe it to be of the whole population.

20,418. (*Sir J. Lyall.*) Is it not probable that in the different States they may have differed in the way of treating the per-centages, some taking the adult males and some the total population?—I think it is possible that there may have been misunderstandings on that point. Among the castes who are the greatest consumers the per-centages are:—

For.	From per Cent. in State.	To per Cent. in State.
(1.) Rajputs -	6 Sirohi -	80 Kotah.
(2.) Miscellaneous -	2 Jaisalmir -	80 Kotah.
(3.) Forest tribes -	10 Marwar -	70 Kotah.
(4.) Kayasths -	2 Ulwar -	70 Kotah.
(5.) Mahajans -	5 Jaisalmir -	60 Bundi.
(6.) Charans -	8 Sirohi -	50 Pertabgarh.
(7.) Brahmins -	12 Bikanir -	30 Shahpura.
(8.) Mussalmans -	5 Jeypore -	25 Dholpur.
(9.) Cultivating classes.	20 Meywar -	Not given for other States.

20,419. (*Chairman.*) Is this a per-centage of adult males or of the whole population?—It is supposed to be the whole population. They do not always distinctly state it, but I am obliged to take it so.

20,420. How would you distinguish the consumption as between the sexes and the different ages?—Men consume generally in the proportion of from 75 per cent. in Jhallawar and Kotah to 15 per cent. in Durgapur to their total number. The per-centage of women consumers generally is very small, ranging from 15 per cent. in Kishengarh to 2 per cent. in three States, though in some of the producing States women seem to use the drug to a greater extent.

20,421. What do you say as to children?—The greater number of children (more so among the cultivating castes) are given very small doses up to two or three years of age, and in some parts until they are five years of age. Opium is given to children to assist in rearing them, to ward off infantile complaints, and to afford time to their mothers to carry on their daily duties. The last reason refers in particular to the cultivating and labouring classes. Its use in youth is confined speaking generally to the sickly, except, of course, on special occasions. When middle age is reached, it is resorted to for the purposes of sustaining energy, bodily and mental, as a restorative from fatigue or for failing powers, and a general preserver of health.

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Its use among women seems to be mostly as a medicine for ailments, or a tonic in advancing age. It must not be forgotten that its use is extended to animals when extra exertion is demanded of them.

20,422. You say that opium is frequently used in Rajputana, especially on ceremonial occasions?—Among the occasions which require the consumption of opium are all the important epochs of life, some festivals, festive occasions, and reconciliations.

20,423. What is the general opinion of the habit of taking opium?—The general opinion is that the habit when kept within proper bounds is of the greatest advantage, answering all the purposes for which it is taken, and thereby conferring an inestimable boon with special reference to the cultivating and labouring castes. It is further looked upon not only as preserving from liquor, but also as a reclaiming agent from drink. Many castes, the Rajput and its allied castes chiefly, look upon opium consumption at births, betrothals, marriages, deaths, the Diwali, Holi and Akha Tij (Hindu new year) festivals, and all reconciliations as absolutely indispensable, the custom rising to the level of a consecration at betrothals and reconciliations.

20,424. What is the view taken of the habit of smoking opium?—Smoking seems everywhere to be looked down upon as disgraceful, and the besotted consumer has no admirers.

20,425. How do you think the proposal to limit the sale of opium to medical use would be received?—The prospect of opium being unobtainable except as a medicine is viewed with alarm. Witnesses from every part speak of dire results, such as great increase of sickness, and an appalling death-rate. The climax is reached in Jaisalmir, where consumers expect the country to be depopulated within a few years after prohibition. To save themselves as much as possible, consumers are expected to rush to drink, or to take arsenic or other poisons. The opinions of Chiefs and political officers as to the possibility of prohibition and its consequences have only been advanced in a few instances. The general result seems to be that the bare possibility is not altogether doubted, but the difficulty of prohibition is recognised as very great; the abstention from offering opinions and the many omissions to estimate for the cost of prohibitive measures, however, would seem to show that the possibility of prohibition is not realised.

20,426. (Sir J. Lyall.) Were the Chiefs specially invited to give opinions or not?—They were asked what they would think of such measures.

20,427. And they have not replied?—Very few.

20,428. (Sir W. Roberts.) Is this ceremonial use of opium in Rajputana confined to Rajputs and allied castes, or does it penetrate widely through different strata?—It is more common among those castes than others.

20,429. Do they form the bulk of the population of the country?—Charans, Bhats, and even Jats consider themselves allied, and so they make up a goodly number. I could not tell the exact number without reference to the census.

20,430. Do the cultivators use opium ceremonially?—I believe they do. The Jats, for instance, are a large cultivating caste, and they use it as much as the Rajputs.

20,431. So that it is not confined to select families?—No.

20,431a. (Mr. Mowbray.) You mention that it is looked down upon not only as preserving from liquor but also as reclaiming from drink. I do not know whether anything has come under your personal observation in confirmation of that?—No; it is taken from the statements of the witnesses.

20,432. (Chairman.) I understand that you have a table to put in summarising the claims for compensation which have been sent in by the several States, and in certain cases the political officer has expressed an opinion that the estimate is quite an outside figure?—Yes.

20,433. In other cases he has stated the figure to be reasonable?—Yes.

20,434. And in other cases under the mark?—Yes.

The claim under main heads are—

	Rs.
(1.) To the States - - -	30,55,170
(2.) The holders of alienated lands -	2,40,861
(3.) Cultivators - - -	44,93,376
(4.) Money-lending classes - - -	34,85,187
(5.) Field labourers, village servants, oil-pressers, workmen employed in opium manufacture -	13,12,026
(6.) Traders - - -	166,25,798
(7.) Consumers - - -	5,65,473
Total - - -	297,77,890

Of the total Rs. 297,77,890, Rs. 128,59,796 is for annual losses, and Rs. 169,18,094 is a non-recurring loss. Here again the States of Banswara and Bhartpore are not taken into account. The question of compensation is sure to prove a difficult and complicated matter; how difficult and complicated the claims now put forward to some extent reveal. To begin with the loss in revenue and income to the States and alienated land holders, some have calculated it on the loss on the poppy area alone, while others have extended the calculations to expected losses in other areas which will be affected. Some have calculated on prospective losses in customs, others have not. To estimate the loss to cultivators leaves room for diversity of opinion as to the profits and expenses of cultivation which are not absent in the present calculations, and some will be found to have over-estimated, while others have done the contrary. In some cases the losses to money-lenders have been forgotten. The item of losses to field labourers, village servants, oil-pressers, and workmen employed in manufacture of opium, has hardly been treated the same in two instances, and has been altogether overlooked in three or four cases. The loss to traders is a very big question, not as regards their annual profit from the trade itself, or the value of stocks, but as to the loss they would incur in all directions, and in many ways by the total disorganisation of their business relations; this portion of their losses has hardly been touched in the present calculations. The last item of losses to consumers consists of what it is expected they would have to pay for the increased cost of the drug, which is, of course, a misapprehension, as, if only to be had as a medicine it would be unobtainable at any cost to the mass of consumers, but for that reason it need not be put aside, for it represents, only in an improper form, the idea that consumers will be worth much less without the use of opium. One State had originally put it in the form of so much lessened ability to earn wages which was valued at so much a month, and if, as is evident, it is the rooted belief that opium makes a man more capable of work, consumers (cultivators and labourers especially so) will expect the wherewithal to provide themselves with something to replace the drug, or else compensation for deterioration in their chief capital, i.e., mental or bodily capacity for work. The returns of area and yield in the producing States, at least the large ones, may be considered accurate, as also those of revenue from all; the other items are less so, but as most officers have remarked, the calculations are the nearest approach to correctness at present obtainable. Altogether, I am of opinion the claims are sufficiently correct to afford a fair basis for the negotiations which would have to be conducted by a special joint committee proceeding on pre-arranged lines, should prohibition ever become a reality.

20,435. I understand that you wish to close your evidence-in-chief by giving us the results of your personal experience?—Before this inquiry was started I noted on the question of opium prohibition with special reference to Jhallawar, that poppy cultivation cannot be prohibited without serious loss of revenue to the State and landholders, great hardship to the agricultural population, incalculable loss to the trading community, and an uncalculated interference in the habits and customs of the population generally, which would create a discontent it is not easy to set bounds to. The cultivation of the poppy has engaged the time and attention of the agricultural population for at least a century, the plant is useful to them in many ways, it provides them with occupation greater than

any other crop, and its profits are such that the cultivator's credit rests almost entirely upon it. The town of Jhalrapatan and other centres of trade in Jhallawar have risen and prospered on the traffic in opium. I cannot venture to say what ruin would be brought on these traders and those associated with them in supporting the agricultural classes, if the traffic were stopped. Opium in one form or another might be said to be taken generally. I can recall a very few instances of persons who exceeded; as for the rest, I can only say I was not aware from their appearance or behaviour whether they were consumers or not, and that the population of Jhallawar is by no means less robust than that of other parts of the province. As an instance that opium need not do harm to the intellect and will, I may mention a former minister of Jhallawar, the late Seth Harak Chand, who was noted for his ability and strength of character, though a habitual consumer. In many religious festivals and joyous occasions opium is the symbol looked for, how could any interference with such customs be made without great difficulty and unknown trouble? To what I then wrote I would now add that prohibition would upset the entire economy of the producing States, cause a wide spread agrarian rising, and probably convulse the greater part of Rajputana, which would heartily sympathise with the movement.

20,436. What arrangement have you made as to witnesses?—Before introducing the witnesses I should mention that originally the number of witnesses selected by the States were of the following number:—

State.	No. of Witnesses.	State.	No. of Witnesses.
Meywar -	12	Shahpura -	13
Banswara -	—	Kishengarh -	16
Pertabgarh -	14	Jeypore -	8
Tonk -	14	Dholpur -	2
Jhallawar -	21	Jaisalmir -	3
Kotah -	25	Marwar -	7
Ulwar -	8	Sirohi -	7
Bikanir -	8		
Dungarpore -	13	Total -	187
Bundi -	16		

But as the time at the disposal of the Royal Commission could not possibly admit of all the above being heard, their numbers are now reduced to—

The witness withdrew.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT called in.

20,444. (Chairman.) I believe you desire to hand in two petitions?—Yes. One was handed to me by Mr. Wilson. It is signed by Godhau Mallah and Bodhi Mallah, of Rasulpur Sanda, and is dated January 11th. It represents that they are compelled to grow poppy in their fields, against their will, and under the threat of Government. The other was received at Agra,

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow at 10.30.

No. of Witnesses selected.	No. of Witnesses selected.
Meywar - - - 7	Kishengarh - - - 7
Dungarpore - - 1	Jeypore - - - 6
Pertabgarh - - 8	Dholpur - - - 1
Tonk - - - 9	Ulwar - - - 5
Jhallawar - - 14	Bikanir - - - 5
Kotah - - - 8	Jesalmir - - 3
Bundi - - - 7	Marwar - - - 5
Shahpura - - 9	Sirohi - - - 5
	Total - - 100

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20,437. What steps were taken in the selection of witnesses?—These witnesses were locally examined on the points of the subject with which they were best acquainted; their statements were then recorded, and copies sent to the head-quarters office, where they have been compiled and forwarded to the press.

20,438. (Sir J. Lyall.) Have you ever studied the subject of when the opium cultivation began in these States?—When I was supervising the settlement of Jhallawar I made inquiries among the cultivators, and the particular period I have mentioned (a century) was taken from their answers.

20,439. Are you aware that so long ago as the time of Akbar, in the middle of the 16th century, opium is recorded in the "Ain-i-Akhbari" to have been a staple crop in the province of Malwa, which apparently in those days included a part of Rajputana?—I am aware of it, but I did not think of it at the time.

20,440. I see that I made a mistake, and that you were referring only to your personal experience of Jhallawar?—Yes, that is the case.

20,441. (Mr. Fanshawe.) With regard to the use of the poppy plant as a vegetable, is that at all a common use?—I can speak for what I have called the producing States, the southern ones. It is used in the same way among all the cultivating classes there. As I have said, every portion of the plant is used except the roots.

20,442. Does it form a substantial part of their diet, or a casual part?—Under cultivation they pick the young leaves for vegetables as the crop grows up; I have seen them eat it.

20,442a. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) That is only when the plants are young?—Yes.

20,443. When they grow big they cannot eat it?—No.

20,443a. (Mr. Fanshawe.) The leaves are in ordinary use while the thinning is going on?—Yes.

J. P. Hewett.

At Daulat Bagh, Ajmere.

SIXTIETH DAY.

Wednesday, 31st January 1894.

PRESENT :

SIR JAMES LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., IN THE CHAIR.

The Right Hon. LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B.
 Sir WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.
 Mr. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P.
 Mr. A. U. FANSHAWE.

Mr. ARTHUR PEASE.
 Mr. HARIDAS VE HARIDAS DESAI.
 Mr. H. J. WILSON, M.P.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT, C.I.E., *Secretary*.

MEHTA BHOPAL SINGH called in and examined.

Mehta Bhopal
 Singh.
 (Meywar
 State.)

31 Jan. 1894.

20,445 (*Chairman*.) You are the chief revenue officer of Meywar?—Yes.

20,446. What are you by caste?—A Mahajan.

20,447. What have you to tell us with regard to the cultivation of opium in Meywar?—I am at the head of the Revenue Department. In Meywar the Khalsa portion has been surveyed, but the Jagir estates and the lands given in charity have not yet been surveyed. The land given in Jagir and charity is double the land in Khalsa, i.e., of the whole State land one-third is in Khalsa and the remaining two-thirds have been alienated. It is therefore impossible to state what the whole area in acres is. But as the area of the Khalsa portion has been ascertained, it is not impossible to form an estimate of the total area of the State. According to the settlement completed by Mr. A. Wingate in 1886, the total irrigated land in Khalsa was 93,734 acres; of this 33,114 acres were under poppy cultivation. But I submit that price of opium having fallen in late years, and the rainfall of Sambat years 1947 and 1948 having proved insufficient, the area brought under poppy cultivation has since been reduced. A correct estimate cannot therefore be formed by taking into consideration the area brought under cultivation in one year only. But according to an average, it can be said that in Khalsa the total area brought under poppy cultivation annually is 20,000 acres. But as there is less irrigation in Jagir and alienated estates, the land brought under poppy cultivation in them is in my estimate $1\frac{1}{2}$ times greater than the land brought under such cultivation in Khalsa (although the total area of the Jagir and alienated estates is believed to be double the Khalsa area as stated before). Thus the poppy area in Jagir and alienated estates comes to 30,000; adding to this the Khalsa area 20,000, the total area on which poppy is grown in Meywar can be put down at 50,000 acres. An average of the annual statements furnished during the last five years also comes to 49,013 acres.

20,448. You say that in 1886, according to Mr. Wingate's settlement, there were 33,114 acres of Khalsa land under poppy cultivation. Why have you, therefore, put the Khalsa land under poppy cultivation at only 20,000 acres. You seem to say that the poppy cultivation has fallen off owing to deficient rainfall and low prices since Mr. Wingate settled the country, and you put the Khalsa area as 20,000 instead of 33,114. Why have you reduced it?—On account of the fall in prices and the low rainfall.

20,449. But the poppy is cultivated on irrigated land, is it not?—Yes.

20,450. Does the rainfall affect that very much?—When the rainfall is scarce the wells are not sufficiently filled.

20,451. They cannot irrigate so much land from the wells?—No.

20,452. What years do the "Sambat years 1947 and 1948" correspond with in English years?—1947 corresponds with 1889–90, and 1948 with 1890–91.

20,453. Will you give an estimate of the yield of opium land?—After taking into consideration the results of four years of good harvest and of one or two years of unfavourable harvests in which the rainfall

was insufficient, and also keeping in view the fluctuation in price and the annual average export of opium, my estimate is that during the last 10 years an acre must have produced 13 seers opium-juice per annum. According to this mode of calculation the total opium-producing area of 50,000 acres in Meywar must have brought forward an aggregate produce of 16,250 maunds of juice every year.

20,454. Supposing the cultivation were prohibited, what crops would be likely to take their place?—If the cultivation of the poppy were prohibited, the probability is that wheat and barley crops would take its place. These two crops are such as can be raised by irrigation. No wonder if sugar-cane be also grown in parts. But it is feared that the last-named crop will be grown on a very small scale, as more labour and care are necessary in raising it.

20,455. What would be the result on the revenue demand if wheat and barley were substituted for poppy?—An approximately correct answer to the question as to what would be the diminution in the revenue demand, consequent on the substitution of the wheat and barley crops for the poppy, could be given only so far as the Khalsa portion is concerned. It seems probable that the ryot will claim reduction in the present rate of assessment from Rs. 1 8a. to Rs. 2 8a. per acre. This claim will have to be admitted in respect of the entire area now under irrigation, as in Meywar poppy cultivation is not separately assessed. By this mode of calculation it is feared that the total assessment will be reduced in Khalsa by Rs. 1,87,468, because the total Khalsa area under irrigation is returned to be 93,734 acres. It is not possible to form a correct estimate as regards the Jagir and alienated estates, as it is uncertain what the total area in them is. But as the loss in the Khalsa territory is estimated at Rs. 1,87,468, in case the production of poppy in poppy-producing area of 26,000 acres be stopped, it will not, in my opinion, be incorrect to estimate an annual loss of Rs. 2,81,202 in Jagir and alienated estates.

20,456. Is there a fixed settlement of land revenue in the Khalsa part of Meywar?—Yes.

20,457. When was it introduced?—It was not done everywhere at once. It commenced in the Sambat year of 1942 in one district and in the next district in 1943, and so on.

20,458. What other crops are grown at present on the irrigated lands in Meywar?—Barley, wheat, and sugar-cane are the winter crops.

20,459. What are the summer crops?—Cotton and Indian corn. The vegetables are grown in the vicinity of the cities. They are not included. They are grown about the district of Ajmere.

20,460. Would the stopping of poppy cultivation involve an alteration of the revenue rates?—The stopping of poppy cultivation would necessitate a revision of revenue rates at least of irrigated rates. The net amount of expenditure incurred on the last settlement has not yet been ascertained. But so far as can be seen the cost of the settlement has been six lakhs of rupees. The regular settlement has never

yet been revised in Meywar. The cost of revision cannot, therefore, be estimated without difficulty. If it is correct that the cost of a revision is one-fourth of that of settlement, then the cost of revising the assessment on irrigated land in Meywar can be put down at Rs. 40,000.

20,461. What do you consider the out-turn of an acre of poppy land?—So far as can be ascertained I am of opinion that the value of the out-turn of an acre of poppy land is Rs. 93, inclusive of the value of poppy, poppy leaves, garlic, coriander, and zira (cumin seed), &c., which are also grown with poppy. In order to raise this produce worth Rs. 93, it is necessary to expend Rs. 60, and the profit can, therefore, be put down at Rs. 33 per acre. But there is one more point to be borne in mind in this connexion, namely, that a Kharif crop can also be raised in the land in which poppy is grown; the value of this "Kharif" crop is Rs. 24 per acre, the cost of raising it being about Rs. 12. Adding the margin of Rs. 12 thus effected to the profit of Rs. 33 on account of poppy produce, &c., as mentioned before, the aggregate profit comes to Rs. 45 per acre of land which produces opium. If wheat be sown instead of poppy, the profit will be Rs. 8 per acre. The value of the produce of an acre of a wheat field, including the value of Bhusa (chaff), &c. is Rs. 40, and the cost of raising such produce is Rs. 32. The profit per acre is, therefore, Rs. 8, as stated before. But it should be at the same time brought to notice here that in order to be able to raise a wheat crop the land must remain fallow during the preceding "Kharif" season. The effect of this would be that the land in which poppy is now grown will be "Yek Fasli" (one crop land) instead of "Du Fasli" (two crop land) land as at present. Moreover, some agriculturists will sow wheat, others might prefer to sow barley, and a few might elect to sow a mixture of wheat and barley locally known as "Guji." From an estimate made it appears that the cultivation of barley leaves no margin. But in the same extent of land the produce of barley is larger than that of wheat, besides the "Khakla" (straw) of barley is also used as fodder. For this reason an agriculturist who has a larger number of dependants and cattle, and who has little hope of being able to sell the surplus produce of his land, prefers the cultivation of barley to that of wheat, although the cultivation of the former leaves no margin. After fully taking into consideration all the circumstances, I am of opinion that the aggregate loss which will be inflicted on Meywar cultivators producing opium will amount to Rs. 21,16,672 per annum in case the cultivation of poppy be stopped. In arriving at this conclusion it has been anticipated that of the area which is now brought under poppy cultivation one-third will be sown with wheat and two-thirds with barley and "Guji." I also submit* three statements to illustrate how the value and the cost of the out-turn of an acre has been calculated, and how the figure of the aggregate loss has been arrived at.

20,462. In calculating the expense of a crop of poppy, including garlic, coriander, and zira, at Rs. 60, have you put a money value on all the labour employed?—Yes; everything is included.

20,463. Do you only charge that labour which has to be paid for, or do you charge for the labour of the men, women, and children of the family at money rates as well?—I have calculated the whole of them.

20,464. As a rule, I suppose, the labour is not paid for in poppy cultivation; I mean, in cultivating poppy it is generally the man's own family that does the labour, is it not?—Yes, generally the members of the family do the labour.

20,465. That is the reason why barley is made to give no profit, the labour has all been charged for, I suppose?—The labour has all been charged for in the barley.

20,465a. But in reality there is a profit. If you do not charge for the household labour expended on the barley then there would be a profit?—Yes. There would be a profit then.

20,466. In Jeypore, we were told by one witness, that poppy there was generally cultivated on land which had been fallow in the Kharif harvest. You say that there is generally a Kharif crop before the poppy; but in Jeypore we were told that poppy was the only crop during the year?—It may be so in Jeypore, but it is not so in Meywar.

20,467. You mean as a rule?—Yes.

20,468. What damage would result to the cultivator if poppy cultivation were stopped?—If poppy cultivation was stopped, there is no doubt that the credit of the agriculturist would be greatly reduced. In a field in which he now raises a produce worth Rs. 200, he will be able to raise a produce worth only Rs. 90 by sowing wheat, or worth only from Rs. 18 to Rs. 25 by sowing barley, in the same field. This way his credit will be in proportion to the value of the produce of his land, and it does not appear probable that his credit will be restored to the present extent.

20,469. To what extent is sugar-cane cultivated?—To a very small extent. They cannot collect the sugar-cane crop until a year and a half or so. It occupies the land for that time. So that they cannot cultivate it instead of poppy.

20,470. Is there much profit from the sugar-cane?—There is no profit from sugar-cane.

20,471. (Mr. Wilson.) You have said that the cost of the settlement has been six lakhs of rupees, who pays that?—The State pays it.

20,472. You have made some calculations showing the extent of poppy cultivation, and the estimated value and cost of the produce of an acre of poppy land, at what rate of labour per day are these calculations made? I want to know how many annas per day a man gets?—He gets about 3 annas at the beginning when the crop is small, but they also employ women and children.

20,473. What rate of pay do you charge them?—1 anna to a boy, 2 annas to a woman, and 3 annas to a man.

20,474. What do you mean by "at the beginning"?—That is when the opium plant is small, when the boys can do the work.

20,475. Are they paid more afterwards?—It is nearly the same afterwards. If the women are employed they get 2 annas. Generally they employ their own families, and when a cultivator cannot help calling in other labourers—which is very seldom—he calls them in and pays them at this rate.

20,476. What is the meaning of makka?—Indian corn.

20,477. In the estimated cost per acre of makka, you charge for watering, cutting, &c. I want to know whether "etcetera" means all the operations except those which are mentioned?—It includes all charges.

20,478. Is it correct that watering and cutting of poppy cost Rs. 8, and that the watering and all other charges for Indian corn cost only Rs. 3 8a.?—"Watering" ought to be struck out. In growing makka they do not need so much water.

20,479. (Mr. Fanshawe.) I suppose they do use a little water here?—Yes; but not nearly so much as for other crops.

20,480. (Mr. Wilson.) In your estimate of the cost of watering wheat do you put it down at Rs. 5?—Yes.

20,481. Is it correct that poppy costs Rs. 8 for watering, and wheat only Rs. 5?—As far as I know it is correct.

20,482. Do I understand you correctly that in growing this mixture of wheat and barley there is no profit; that the produce is equal to the cost and that no profit remains?—From wheat there is a profit of 8 annas, but from barley there is no profit.

20,483. It is a mixture?—Generally the barley will be grown and the guji will be grown, but not so much. Even in guji there is no profit.

20,484. Are there any other crops which require more watering than poppy?—Sugar-cane.

20,485. Anything else?—No.

20,486. (Mr. Mowbray.) Is it the case that there is no special rate upon poppy land in Meywar?—There is no special rate.

20,487. How is it that if the poppy crop is so much more valuable than any other crop no special rate is put upon poppy lands?—Formerly there was a special rate for poppy lands, which was put on when poppy was cultivated, but when the settlement was introduced the settlement officer took it into consideration and put a general rate upon all irrigated lands. It was impossible to put a special rate on poppy lands because poppy is not always cultivated in the same fields. It

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is sometimes in one field and sometimes in another. It was fixed on the understanding that poppy would be grown there as before.

20,488. (Mr. Wilson.) You say "it seems probable that the ryot will claim reduction in the present rate of assessment from Rs. 1 8a. to Rs. 2 8a. per acre?"—Yes.

20,489. You also say that the Khalsa cultivation has fallen from 33,000 acres to 20,000 acres. That is almost half. I want to know whether any reduction or compensation has been made where the poppy has not already been grown?—I have calculated that if the opium cultivation were prohibited altogether, the total loss to cultivators would be Rs. 21,16,672; but if such a loss were inflicted, it would be absolutely necessary to give a compensation by partial reduction, which I propose should be given to the extent of one-fourth or one-fifth. By that reduction, I do not propose to give reduction to the full amount of the loss, but only partial. Besides this, the cultivators are in very bad circumstances at present, so that they must get something in the way of a reduction of the rates.

20,490. (Mr. Fanshawe.) The rate on irrigated land has been fixed on the understanding that poppy should be grown at the will of the cultivators. If poppy cultivation should now be entirely forbidden, the Durbar considers that that would be a reasonable ground for reducing the rate on irrigated land?—Yes, undoubtedly.

20,491. (Chairman.) What rates did Mr. Wingate apply to irrigated land?—From Rs. 6 8a. to Rs. 12 Government coin per acre generally; and in the Sadri district, where poppy is greatly cultivated, up to Rs. 19 per acre.

The witness withdrew.

Sahiwalla
Hamir Singh.
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SAHIWALA HAMIR SINGH called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

20,497. (Chairman.) I believe you are chief officer of the Customs Department, Meywar?—Yes.

20,498. What are the duties of your appointment, and what is the rule of the State as regards the customs?—I am the head of the Customs Department. The Durbar has the exclusive right to the customs in Meywar. Duty is levied on the opium exported from Meywar. One chest contains 70 seers of opium. In Meywar duty is levied at two places only, i.e. (1) Rs. 48 per chest at Chitor on opium exported to Bombay, and (2) at Udaipur on the opium which goes to Marwar. The opium which is too dry to be sent to Bombay in chests goes to Marwar. Under this item the annual income is Rs. 836. From the customs records it appears that during the past decade the average number of chests exported to Bombay was 5,414, the customs levied on them amount to Rs. 2,59,872, while Rs. 836 were received as customs on 40½ maunds exported to Marwar. The aggregate income came to Rs. 2,60,708.

20,499. The opium which goes to Marwar is for consumption in Marwar, I suppose?—Yes, the opium which is too dry to be sent to Bombay.

20,500. Are transit duties levied on opium which goes from one part to another in Meywar?—Transit dues are levied when opium passes through Meywar from one State to another. The Durbar only has the right to take the transit dues. During the last decade the average income under this item has been Rs. 4,133 per annum.

20,501. What is the rate of transit duty?—From Rs. 4 to Rs. 20. It differs at various places.

20,502. Why does it differ so much?—At a place called Tikar the Meywar district is very narrow, so they levy a less amount; but generally they levy Rs. 20.

20,503. Are there any other cesses imposed on opium?—There is another cess also imposed on opium called "mapa." The Durbar and the Jagirdars, both have rights to this source of revenue. Different rates are in force at different places. It is unnecessary to give its details here. During the last 10 years the total revenue from mapa to the Durbar and the Jagirdars amounted to Rs. 48,984 on an average per annum. In short, the total loss to the Meywar State under the three items mentioned above would be Rs. 3,13,825 in case the poppy cultivation and opium trade is stopped in Meywar, and in that case it will be necessary to

20,492. On the makka land you make out that the rate of revenue at Rs. 11, Rs. 7 is put down for revenue on poppy, and Rs. 4 for makka land. That is, Rs. 11 for the year. Why do you put down Rs. 10 in one case and Rs. 11 in the other?—The revenue rates are from Rs. 6½ to Rs. 12, varying according to the land. There are some lands of better qualities, and others are worse. That is the reason why on the lands where they grow opium I have put one rupee more, because the land is of better quality. I should like to make a further remark, which I should like to add to my evidence. I have estimated that there will be about eight lakhs of rupees loss to the labourers which I have not calculated if poppy cultivation is stopped. It is an estimated loss.

20,493. (Mr. Pease.) How do you make up your calculation of eight lakhs of rupees loss to the labourers?—I have estimated Rs. 25 per acre for the labourers. The members of the family do the manuring, ploughing, and watering; but in collecting opium and cutting poppyheads they must have labourers.

20,494. Do you value the labour expended over the poppy at 12 lakhs of rupees, and the labour these people would be able to give to these crops at four lakhs of rupees, thus making the loss to the labourers eight lakhs of rupees?—Yes. In my estimate showing the expenditure of poppy cultivation and the initial value and the cost of the produce of an acre of poppy land, I have stated that weeding cost Rs. 11 and collecting juice Rs. 14. That is also loss to the labourers. It would make Rs. 25 per acre.

20,495. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) You estimate 50,000 acres altogether?—Yes.

20,496. That would be 12½ lakhs of rupees?—Yes.

make a revision in the customs tariff so as to have the revenue the same as it is now. After taking into consideration the present condition of the country, it appears that there is no article left on which customs can be newly levied. Amongst the articles liable to the duty there seems to be none on which the present rates can be enhanced. The introduction of new duties and the increase of the present rates cannot be effected without causing a general discontent. Besides this, the Mahajans and the agriculturists will suffer greatly in case the poppy cultivation be stopped. In that case it will not be fair to subject them to a further loss by raising the duty. In this way the prohibition of the poppy cultivation would inflict a serious loss. The revision of customs tariff does not seem, therefore, to be of any benefit. The loss to be suffered every year has been mentioned in my answer to the previous question.

20,504. Does any opium, after being weighed in the Government scales, pass through Meywar on the road to Bombay?—There is a scale at Chitor, where the opium goes by train. No transit duties are paid, because it goes in the train.

20,505. Is there any excise system on the sale of opium in Meywar?—No.

20,506. Every man is free to cultivate and to sell it to whom he likes?—Yes, everyone is allowed to sell to anyone he likes.

20,507. Is there any excise on liquor?—It is not like the Government excise.

20,508. Is there something on the stills?—Yes.

20,509. Can anybody distil as long as he pays that rate?—No; only the people who have a sort of license can distill—the big Jagirdars, for instance.

20,510. (Mr. Wilson.) Do you know the amount of mapa which the Jagirdars receive?—The opium cultivation has been estimated to be one and a half times greater in the Jagirs than in the State; and on the same calculation I got about 48,000, because the State derives its income, Rs. 5,994, and about one and a half times that will make this.

20,511. Is the mapa levied on the land or on the seers of opium produced. What kind of a cess is mapa?—When the opium is exported from the Jagirdars' villages to any of the Khalsa villages, or imported from the Khalsa villages into the Jagirdars' villages, the Jagirdars levy this due—mapa—on opium.

20,512. (*Chairman.*) Is it a kind of a weighman's due?—No, it is something like transit dues.

20,513. Is it levied on the weight?—Yes.

20,514. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Is the Meywar duty of Rs. 48 a chest on opium exported to Bombay levied at the same time and place as the pass duty of the British Government?—Yes, it is paid at the same time, but it is generally paid at Udaipur by the tradesman, and he

The witness withdrew.

Mr. NATHUJI PUNJAWAT called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

20,516. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are a Mahajan of Meywar?—Yes.

20,517. Where do you live?—I live in Udaipur.

20,518. To what extent is opium an article of trade in Meywar?—In Meywar the principal commodity of trade is opium. The cessation of its trade will lead to an entire loss to the general and rural merchants. The rural merchants who deal with agriculturists will greatly suffer if the production of opium be stopped. The cultivator of opium will lose his credit, and will not be able to purchase anything on credit or to obtain loans. This will lead to impediment and disorder in agriculture. This will also cause obstruction in recovering the debts due to such merchants. The merchants in general will thus heavily suffer. The extent of loss cannot be estimated at once. The rural merchants will not then be able to pay on behalf of the agriculturists the Government dues as at present. The banker will also suffer because at present the rural merchants enable themselves to advance loans to agriculturists from funds previously borrowed from bankers, and receive opium in return, which is afterwards purchased by the bankers, and it thus becomes an article of trade in their hands. The whole country will suffer if the production of opium be stopped.

20,519. Have the rural merchants who deal with the Zamindars long running accounts with them, extending over many years?—Every year a fresh account is made up.

20,520. Is the Zamindar able to clear his account every year, or does a balance go on year after year?—Generally the account is made up clear, but sometimes a balance goes on year after year.

20,521. Can you give us any figures as to the loss you expect?—There is an obvious loss of Rs. 50,00,000, because the opium produced in the Sambat 1949 (1892-93) has now been made into balls, and there are in stock from former years about 10,000 chests. Opium is always exported to foreign countries when it gets old and dry. In Meywar there is no enterprise or business which can satisfactorily replace the trade in opium. When there is no other article of trade in Meywar which can compete with opium, how can we say whether there will be any other kind of trade which will compensate the loss which will accrue in the event of the trade in opium being stopped. But if this be so, wheat and barley can in this country be produced in the land in which opium is at present grown. But the export trade in barley and wheat cannot be expected to bring in a good return or to compensate the loss which would be caused by the opium trade being stopped.

20,522. Do you know how long ago opium cultivation began in Meywar?—My father and grandfather used to

The witness withdrew.

THAKUR MANOHAR SINGHIJI called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

20,532. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are a Jagirdar of Sirdargarh?—Yes.

20,533. What is the size of your jagir?—It yields about Rs. 4,000 a year.

20,534. To what family do you belong?—I am a Dodhia Rajput.

20,535. Will you give us your opinion about the prohibition of the poppy cultivation?—In my opinion the prohibition of the poppy cultivation, and suppression of the trade in opium in the State of Meywar will cause an irreparable loss, not only to the Durbar, but also to its Jagirdars, cultivators, traders, and labourers. It would be a grievous mistake to alter the present system of the growth and cultivation of opium. Such a change would arouse much dissatisfaction among the people. The interests of so many persons are affected in the growth, sale, export, and manufacture of opium that it

gets a receipt from the Durbar officials. That receipt is sent to Chitor. The collector of dues allows the opium to be sent to Bombay.

20,515. It is calculated at the scales at Chitor?—Yes.

20,515a. (*Mr. Haridas Voharidas.*) Is not a mapa a kind of measurement?—No, it is not.

deal in opium. I do not know when it began—perhaps 400 years ago.

20,523. What is the profit to the trader?—Profit in opium trade greatly depends on the price current. But generally speaking the profit of a city banker can be estimated at Rs. 20 per chest, provided the chik (poppy juice) is turned into dry opium and sold to merchants in Bombay the same year in which the juice was purchased. After taking into consideration the average number of chests exported during the last 10 years, it can be said that Meywar exports about 5,500 chests every year, and that the total profit effected thereby to merchants is Rs. 1,10,000 per annum. A rural merchant usually makes a profit of Rs. 30 per chest by purchasing "chik" (poppy juice) from cultivators. Thus the total profit to rural merchants in opium in Meywar comes to Rs. 1,65,000 per annum. If the production of opium be stopped, the total annual loss to the opium merchants of Meywar would, as explained above, come to Rs. 2,75,000.

20,524. (*Mr. Wilson.*) What do you estimate the present stock of opium to be?—10,000 chests.

20,525. Is not that the old stock; this year's stock is now ready, is it not?—The 10,000 chests include the past and present year.

20,526. What is the price of the opium which the rural merchant pays to the cultivator?—The price is Rs. 160 a maund; the rural merchants pay Rs. 3 or Rs. 4 less to the cultivators per maund, and the big merchants have equal rates.

20,527. (*Chairman.*) Who fixes the rates of the big merchants?—The rural merchants and the cultivators meet at a place on Baisakh Sudi Punam—that is some time in the end of April or beginning of May—and then the price is fixed by consent among them.

20,528. (*Mr. Wilson.*) You have told us how much the rural merchant pays for a maund, but no cultivator has so much as a maund to sell, has he?—Many of them have two maunds. If they have less the price is given by that rate.

20,529. (*Chairman.*) Do you mean pakka maunds?—It is Rs. 7 or Rs. 8 less in pakka maunds, instead of Rs. 3 or Rs. 4. With your permission I should like to add something. There is a class of people between the rural merchants and the bankers called beoparis—the people who have the balls made up; they will suffer a loss of Rs. 2,75,000. I have not calculated that before. The loss, therefore, will be altogether Rs. 5,50,000.

20,530. Is the loss of Rs. 1,10,000 to the beoparis or to the kothiwalas?—It is to the bankers.

20,531. By whom is the price fixed?—It is fixed only by the Bohras.

would be a very difficult task to estimate the loss each individual will suffer. 50 per cent. of the population derive their livelihood from the growth and trade of opium. Any interference attempted in this direction will, I am sure, lead to more harm than good. The interests of the opium-growing districts are so large and so intimately connected with the prosperity of the agricultural population of this State that the abandonment of the cultivation is sure to be productive of disastrous consequences. Prohibition will reduce rents and earnings of cultivators, and would thus bring ruin and disaster both upon landholders and cultivators. I know everyone in this State is opposed to the change; and if prohibitory orders were issued, the amount of illicit cultivation would be so large as to paralyze punitive measures. I know of no case in which habitual consumption of opium has affected injuriously the health or the morals of the individuals. Or the

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contrary, its use promotes health and adds to the longevity of the consumers. It is a well-established belief among the people of this State that after 40 years of age, when the body shows signs of decay, and health loses its elasticity, and also when the constitution has been more or less ruined by disease, or by the use of alcohol, the habitual use of opium conduces to renovate the health and give vigour and capacity for work to the consumers. To habitual consumers their daily allowance of opium is a necessary of life. Any attempt to restrict the consumption of opium in individual cases would be an instance of cruelty and tyranny.

20,536. Is there very much opium cultivated in your jagir?—Yes.

20,537. I suppose in your jagir there is not a fixed cash settlement like that of the Khalsa land?—No.

20,538. Is the revenue in your jagir by *batai* on grain, and by *zabti* or cash rates, on other crops?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Mohun Lal
Vishun
Lal Pandia.
(Pertabgarh
State.)

MOHUN LAL VISHUN LAL PANDIA called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

20,546. (Chairman.) I believe you are a Nagar Brahmin?—Yes.

20,547. Are you a Kamdar of Pertabgarh?—Yes.

20,548. Where are you a native of?—I am a native of Muttra, but for the last two years I have been domiciled at Pertabgarh.

20,549. What opportunities have you had of forming an opinion of the opium question?—I have served two years in Pertabgarh, 24 years before that in Rajputana, for four I was agent for Muttra Seths in Kotah, Jhallawar, Bundi, and Tonk, and managed their opium business. I have general supervision over revenue administration in Pertabgarh. My evidence is chiefly taken from records in Durbar Office. The average area under poppy cultivation in Pertabgarh during last five years is about 8,383 acres. Most of the land in Pertabgarh was surveyed some 20 years ago, but no final settlement of land revenue was ever sanctioned. The present calculation, therefore, is based on "andazi" appraisalment. About 95,356 seers or nearly 2,384 maunds of opium are annually produced. The out-turn per acre is calculated at 13 seers raw opium, of which 2 "chataks" per seer are wasted in the final drying process. Total out-turn of raw opium for 8,383 acres = 108,979 seers, deducting wastage 13,622 seers = 95,357 seers or 2,384 maunds.

20,550. What do you mean by "andazi appraisalment"?—Where there is no proper settlement made we make an appraisalment of the land by measurement, and partly by the eye.

20,551. What would replace opium if it was stopped?—Opium, if stopped, would be superseded either by (a) sugar-cane, or (b) wheat, barley, &c. Average rate of opium land is Rs. 32 4a. per acre. Total for 8,383 acres would be Rs. 2,70,380 per annum. Average rate per sugar-cane is Rs. 8 8a. per acre, amounting for same number of acres to Rs. 71,255. Loss, if sugar-cane were substituted, would be Rs. 1,99,125. Average rate for other crops, Rs. 4 per acre. Total for same number of acres, Rs. 33,532. Consequent loss, Rs. 2,36,848 per annum.

20,552. You say that the average rate of opium land is Rs. 32 4a. per acre; that worked out from fixed cash rates on fields?—No, that is our rate of assessment on poppy cultivation.

20,553. Is there a fixed rate?—The rate varies from Rs. 10 to Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 per acre.

20,554. Are these old rates which have come down from olden times?—Yes, they have been in force for a long time in Marwar. In our State the rate is higher than the rate in other States. Our land produces a good deal of opium. The rate depends upon the produce of the land.

20,555. On what kind of lands are rates such as Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 paid?—That is black soil, which produces a good deal of opium.

20,556. How is that land irrigated?—By wells, baeries, and ories.

20,557. What is an "orie"?—A small affluent of a river. Temporary wells are made of ories.

20,539. What is the last cash on poppy?—Rs. 7 per bigha.

20,540. Is it always Rs. 7?—In my jagir it is Rs. 7.

20,541. Is it always Rs. 7?—There is a difference in some places; there are higher rates, and some rates are lower.

20,542. Do you mean in other jagirs or other villages?—In other jagirs.

20,543. In the whole of your jagir is there only one rate?—Yes, it is Rs. 7 everywhere in my own jagir.

20,544. That is rather a low rate, is it not?—In addition to this, the cultivator has to pay all other cesses.

20,545. (Mr. Pease.) You have said that 50 per cent. of the population derive their livelihood from the growth and trade of opium; do you mean in the whole of Meywar or in the villages?—In the whole of Meywar.

20,558. Do they work these ories with a bag?—Yes.

20,559. Why is the sugar-cane rates so low?—Sugar-cane cannot grow well in the soil in which poppy is cultivated. We can cultivate poppy in 20 acres, and that can be irrigated by ories, wells, &c., but if it is replaced by sugar-cane we have learnt by experience that in only three acres we will be able to cultivate sugar-cane.

20,560. I was asking why the revenue rate for sugar-cane was so low; you have put it at Rs. 8 per acre?—The sugar-cane rate in our State is not high. The yield of sugar-cane is not so large as poppy.

20,561. Does the sugar-cane rate also vary very much in different parts of the country?—Yes.

20,562. Is it sometimes lower than Rs. 8?—Yes. On land where sugar-cane grows well the rate is high.

20,563. Can you give any other disadvantages which would follow from substituting other crops for poppy?—Out of 20 acres now cultivated with poppy, only three acres could be cultivated with sugar-cane, and the remaining 17 acres might be cultivated with other crops, because sugar-cane requires to be irrigated for 12 months instead of four months as in case of opium, and the present wells would only irrigate three out of 20 acres all the year round. Opium, again, can be grown on any irrigated land in this part of the country, whereas sugar-cane can only thrive on certain kinds of soil and if irrigated with specially good water.

20,564. If poppy cultivation were abolished, would a revision of rates be necessary?—Yes.

20,565. What would be the cost of a revision of rates?—The cost of preparing a fresh assessment is calculated at Rs. 10 per acre, or a total of Rs. 83,830. Loss in customs to Durbar would be Rs. 30,000 per annum, and to Jagirdars for "Khoont," or transit due, Rs. 1,500. Total loss, Rs. 31,500.

20,566. What is "Khoont"?—"Khoont" is a kind of transit duty.

20,567. Is it the same as "mapa" in Meywar?—No, it is not the same; it is a kind of transit duty.

20,568. Is it a transit duty or an export duty?—As the Jagirdars are not authorised to take customs, they take Rs. 1,500 as what is customs, but under this name of "Khoont."

20,569. Is it on their own opium or opium passing through their territory?—Opium passing through their territory.

20,570. Could the loss incurred in the Customs Department be made up by revision of customs rates?—No.

20,571. Is there any system of excise on opium in Pertabgarh?—No.

20,572. The sale of opium is quite free?—Yes.

20,573. Do people use opium much?—They generally take opium, but not in excess.

20,574. Is there any liquor excise in Pertabgarh; any tax on stills or anything of that sort?—Yes, there is on country liquor.

20,575. Do they pay customs on foreign liquors?—As far as I know, think no duty is levied on them.

20,576. Can you give us your opinion about the profits of opium cultivation?—The profit to Patels, &c. from the cultivation of opium is calculated at Rs. 20 per acre. From cultivation of wheat, &c. the profit is Rs. 3 12a. per acre, that is, if the Patel and his family cultivate themselves, they get Rs. 20, of which Rs. 16 are calculated as remuneration for labour and Rs. 4 are paid as interest. If the Patel employs hired labour, his profit is only Rs. 10, the remaining Rs. 10 going to labourers and in payment of interest. There would be great loss in credit both to cultivators and traders.

20,577. You mean if opium were stopped?—Yes.

20,578. By Patels you mean all the cultivators?—Yes.

20,579. (Mr. Wilson.) Can you tell me how many acres of poppy each cultivator will commonly grow?—One cultivator can cultivate about 50 bighas, or 30 acres of poppy. Those cultivators who are wealthy and rich can cultivate about 50 or 100 bighas of poppy. If they have large families, they all help.

20,580. Can you tell me whether the cultivation of poppy is increasing or decreasing in your country; is it more or less than it was a few years ago?—For the last five years it has been about the same; it is not increasing much.

20,581. Before that?—It depends upon the traffic. When opium is much needed, or there is a good profit, then, of course, much is cultivated.

20,582. Has the price varied much during the last few years?—Yes, it has varied.

20,583. Is it more now than it was a few years ago, or is it less?—For the last two or three years it has been less.

20,584. Do you know what the transit duty now is from Ajmere?—I do not know, but I know the duty on the opium exported from our territory.

20,585. What Government scale does it go to from here?—There is a Government scale at Mandsaur.

20,586. Can each cultivator grow as much as he likes; is there any restriction?—He can grow as much as he likes; there is no restriction.

20,587. (Mr. Mowbray.) Do you know how much is generally exported to Bombay in the year from Pertabgarh State?—Sometimes 800 chests, sometimes 1,000 chests. Sometimes less and sometimes more.

20,588. It all goes to the scales at Mandsaur?—From Pertabgarh it goes to Mandsaur.

20,589. What rate per chest do you charge for your customs duty?—About Rs. 20 per chest, and there are two or three duties more, brokerage, &c.

20,590. Do you export opium from Pertabgarh into other native States?—No.

20,591. Your whole export of opium is to British territory?—Yes.

20,592. (Mr. Fanshawe.) When you say that a cultivator can grow 30 acres or more of poppy, I understand you to mean that that area is sometimes cultivated in the land held by one individual, not that the cultivator can himself cultivate or prepare that amount of poppy?—Yes; a single cultivator or two can grow from 5 to 10 acres; and, if his family is large, then, of course, he can cultivate more.

20,593. When you say his family, do you mean the men in his house?—Yes; they all labour in the field.

20,594. (Mr. Wilson.) What is the meaning of the "Kamdar"?—It means "minister," it is the native word for prime minister. Literally, the meaning is "agent."

20,595. (Chairman.) You are not a native of Pertabgarh?—I am originally a native of Muttra.

20,595a. As an outsider, and a man of great experience in Rajputana, to what extent do you think the habit of eating opium is injurious to the people in Rajputana?—I think a moderate use of opium is not injurious in Rajputana.

20,596. Is excess common?—It is not common.

20,597. Do the common country people use it much?—Yes, the cultivators and labourers generally take a moderate amount.

20,598. Do you think it does them any good?—Yes; they labour hard without clothes in the cold, and endure other hardships.

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20,599. You think it is a useful stimulant for them?—Yes.

20,600. Do they think it protects them from anything, or do they take it as a stimulant, or do they think it improves health; why do they take it?—They take it as a stimulant and a comforter after hard work.

20,601. (Mr. Wilson.) Does everybody take it?—Yes.

20,602. Are there any persons who do not take it?—The labourers generally take it, and about 50 per cent. of the middle class men take it.

20,603. You think the labourers all take it?—Yes, generally.

20,604. (Chairman.) Have you anything more you wish to add?—I ask permission to lay before you the following supplementary evidence which I have prepared. I have to point out some difficulties in substituting other crops for poppy, which are as follows:—(a.) There is a distinction in respect of assessment between land actually producing opium and land capable of producing it. (b.) There are several kinds of Adan land in which poppy can be well cultivated, but other crops can hardly be done so, and if done, no profit will accrue. As, for instance, in Dhuraiti and Dhameri lands sugar-cane can not grow well. (c.) The poppy cultivation is at present being irrigated generally by wells, ories, tanks, and baories, &c. These waters differ each from the other, where there is phika or mora water sugar-cane cannot grow well, and if it does so, no best gur or sugar can be obtained. (d.) The cultivation of poppy in an area of about 20 acres can be well and easily irrigated by its well or ory, but if sugar-cane be grown in that very land the wells mentioned will be no sufficient means of irrigation. For sugar-cane requires a perpetual irrigation all round the year, and so the well which can irrigate 20 acres of land adapted to poppy cultivation will irrigate only three acres of the land adapted to the cultivation of sugar-cane. (e.) In case the substitution of other crops is forced upon us by the circumstances, it would be necessary that out of the aforesaid area of 20 acres the sugar-cane would be cultivated in three acres only, and in the remaining 17 acres such crops as wheat and barley, &c. will be replaced. So the average assessment of this mixed cultivation would be Rs. 8 8a. per acre. And if the cultivation of other crops, exclusive of sugar-cane, would most likely be replaced, then the average assessment of the said amount of land would be Rs. 4 per acre. For the discussion of the question of compensation payable to the Partabgarh State, the most important thing to notice is, that in case we strongly resent the prohibition of opium, how can we be expected to accept it gladly? Because we know well the present value of poppy and of opium in all its forms, and the loss which will be incurred by us and our subjects. Further, we are well aware that the cultivation of poppy is a matter of right or possession of an important landed interest, and the compensation is a matter of so much money allowance. I have shown in my statement how many parties would suffer loss, and what would be their respective losses. In case they consent to accept the compensation the paramount power would have to make good the sum total of them all. Since the prohibition of the cultivation, production, and consumption of opium has been suggested the people in the opium-producing native states have shown their sorrow by refraining from cooking their meals and lighting their houses, &c. It has also become a very hard task for the revenue officials to pacify them, and to have them engaged in their agricultural business. I fear that there may be a diminution in the land revenue this year. In case the Pertabgarh State is asked to extend the edict of prohibiting the growth of opium except for medical purposes, there is no doubt, as far as I believe, that we would come to suffer the consequences of a serious political danger. Consequently, the adoption of preventive measures are also difficult, expensive, and impracticable in the Pertabgarh State. How can we prevent the Bhiels of our hilly tracts from consuming opium? They can be expected to do so when their human nature is altered. For instance, I refer the Commission to the Bhil rising of 1881–82, in Meywar. The census of them is taken still in the rough calculation of four persons a house. The cultivation of poppy seems a very valuable crop. Though other crops can undoubtedly be substituted for the same, yet they would not be so valuable and beneficial to the poorer classes. The poppy plant is

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used variously, from first to last. Its tender leaves are used as vegetables by the cultivators, field labourers, and other poorer classes. I have seen the Rajas and State nobles also using it as vegetable, calling it Amal Ki Bhajee. It is abundantly sold in every street of villages and towns of this part of the country. Its seeds are used for sweetmeats, in preparing, for instance, Dane Ki laddoo and Dane Ki papri, &c., and the superstitious classes take them while they hold fasts, i.e., vrats. Its oil is generally eaten and used in the opium-producing districts, and the heads, after taking out crude opium or ras therefrom, used as post, and their powder and small pieces are thrown in the fields in which all sorts of crops are cultivated to improve the quality of land as well, as it is urgently necessary, in the cultivation of sugar-cane, to save it from the injurious insects and a kind of grass called Adya. The stems of the plant are used in making barhs or fencing walls around fields. Nobody has yet come forward to say that any person is ever said to have been injured by using the said leaves as vegetable, the seeds and the oil, &c. I can therefore say that there is no other crop so valuable and beneficial, which the poorer classes can make various uses of from first to last. I am serving in this opium-producing part of the country from a long time, and I have always to deal freely with people who cultivate, consume, and trade in opium, but I have never seen any evils deserving consideration arising from the consumption of opium. I can safely say that moderate and regular use of opium is not injurious, and never followed by any special evils. I consider alcohol is more harmful than opium. The consumption of opium in Rajputana is neither excessive nor harmful to the population, mentally, morally, and physically. Even if taken in excess it will take years for bad results to follow either on the body or on the mind. There is one of the witnesses with me, named Kirat Singh, who takes two tolas of opium daily without being seriously injured by the use, and if he is pressed, out of hospitality, to take more, I am quite sure he can safely take two tolas in addition. Though he is now 65 years old, yet he is healthy and strong. Opium is commonly given to children to keep them in health till they are four or five years old. It is not considered disreputable to take opium; no doubt *chandu* and *madak* are objectionable. Further, for the sake of argument, it may be observed that not only the excessive use of opium is harmful, but there are many instances where the overeating of even sweetmeats has proved fatal. It is considered absolutely necessary to take it for such special occasions and purposes as betrothals, marriages, birth of children, festivities, hospitalities, breaking mornings, making agreements of peace and amity, establishing friendship between parties at variance, and other like State and social occasions. It is also customary to such an extent in Rajputana that when correspondences are being conducted in purely native forms, it is usual to write on the top of

the letter in the handwriting of the sender, "Manohar-ka-amal levasi," i.e., kindly take opium in hospitality at this my request, and writing this is considered and taken generally as signing the letter by the sender. From all this the Commission can well conclude what would be the result on the habits and customs, and physical condition of the people of this part of the country if opium could not be procured except as medicine. In my opinion the prohibition of opium would therefore turn all things topsy-turvy, and cause a great stir in all communities of the population of Rajputana. Opium is a cheap and accessible drug even to the poorer classes. If it will be placed beyond their reach it is most probable they will have to resort to the worst kind of liquor available either from the country or imported from the continent of Europe. The use of liquor is forbidden by religion to a number of castes both Hindus and non-Hindus, but that of opium is permitted. By the prohibition of opium and the introduction of liquor the people will certainly be induced to break the commandments of their religion, and a race of opium-eaters will be replaced by that of liquor drinkers. In conclusion, I resent, on behalf of the Pertabgarh State, the extension of the edict prohibiting the production of opium except for medical purposes on the above-mentioned grounds.

20,605. (*Chairman.*) Suppose the Government did not ask the Raja or any of the Rajas of Rajputana to prohibit cultivation: suppose the Government merely said "We will not allow opium to pass through our country, you can do as you like, but it must not come into our country"; what would the Durbar think of that?—It is necessary that we should urge now upon the Commission what we want, as the future of the opium industry depends on the conclusions drawn by this Commission.

20,606. Supposing the Government did not ask any of the Rajas to prohibit cultivation, but merely said to them, "You can cultivate as you like, but we will not allow opium to come into our territory or pass through our territory"; what objection would the Durbar have to that?—If the English Government stops opium passing through their territory, what is the use of cultivating opium in our States?

20,607. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Do you eat opium?—I did for about nine months, but now I have left it off.

20,608. If the Government did not allow your opium to go through its territory for export to China or elsewhere, you say the cultivators in your State would not grow opium; but do you not think you have a right to request the Government to allow your opium to go through its territory?—Yes.

20,609. (*Mr. Wilson.*) When did you prepare the supplementary evidence you have just given us?—About a week ago.

The witness withdrew.

RAM CHANDRA MEGRAJ called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

Ram Chandra
Megraj.
(Pertabgarh
State.)

20,610. (*Chairman.*) You are, I believe, an Agarwala Bania, resident in Pertabgarh?—Yes.

20,611. Will you tell us what you know about opium?—I am the Pertabgarh agent for the firm of Thakursidass Suraj Mull. I have been 10 years at Pertabgarh. I trade chiefly in opium and bills of exchange on opium with Bombay, Calcutta, &c. I buy annually about 400 chests of opium, chiefly through Manotidars, Bohras, &c.; sometimes also direct from cultivators. I pay Rs. 600 per chest, i.e., total Rs. 2,40,000. Profit on each chest calculated as follows:—

Rs. 15 as commission.
" 9 average interest.
" 10 profit on sale during last year.

The selling price continually changes. But total profit last year came to Rs. 13,500, or about 17 per cent. on original outlay. If opium trade was suppressed I would also lose profits on bills of exchange now drawn on opium credit, amounting to about Rs. 800 or Rs. 1,000 a year, calculated at 4 annas per cent. on Rs. 2,40,000. No other business would compensate my firm if opium trade were suppressed. I have other business on a comparatively small scale and depending chiefly on opium trade and credit. Immediate loss would amount to Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 12,000 now due to me as arrears.

The witness withdrew.

The firm would not become bankrupt, but would suffer great losses from the certain bankruptcy of smaller traders; and the Pertabgarh branch of the business would no doubt have to be suspended.

20,612. Who are the Manotidars and Bohras?—They are the village bankers.

20,613. You say you pay Rs. 600 per chest, what year was that?—Last year.

20,614. Do you buy at as much as that from the cultivators or from the Bohras?—The Rs. 600 is for the dry balls made out of opium, and not for the juice.

20,615. Do people of your caste ever take opium?—Yes, they take it.

20,616. Do you think it does them any harm?—No, it does good and not harm.

20,617. I suppose you mean if it is taken moderately?—When a man is ill or weak it does him good to take opium.

20,618. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Do you take it yourself?—No, I do not.

20,619. Is all the opium that you buy for export into British territory, or is any of it for consumption in the States?—It is all exported into British territory.

(LORD BRASSEY here took the Chair.)

KIRAT SINGH called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

20,620. (*Sir J. Lyall.*) Are you a Jagirdar of Pertabgarh?—Yes.

20,621. What is your caste?—I am a Charan.

20,622. What is the connexion between the Charans and the Rajputs?—The Rajputs consider the Charans to be like their sons, and whatever the Charans want the Rajputs provide them with.

20,623. What have you to say with reference to the consumption of opium among Charans, and the people in Pertabgarh?—Charans sometimes eat pieces of opium dry, and sometimes drink it dissolved in water (Kasumbha). Others also smoke it in the form of "chandu," and "madak." Children take it from six months to three or four years old. Men and women begin taking it from the age of 25 or 30. Amongst Charans about 50 per cent. of the men, 10 per cent. of the women, and all children without exception take it. About 5 or 6 per cent. of the people in their country take from 1 tola to 2 tolas a day. I have seen as much as 11 tolas taken in one day without any evil effect.

The witness withdrew.

[SETH DAULAT RAM called in and examined (through an Interpreter).]

20,626. (*Chairman.*) I understand you are superintendent of the Customs Department, Jhallawar?—Yes.20,627. What have you to say in regard to the quantity of opium dealt with by the Customs Department of Jhallawar?—I put in a statement* showing the receipts of the last five years in the Customs Department from opium, poppy seeds, and oil, in customs, *bhoom*, *chapa* (fees taken on sealing bags of opium), and *mapa* (fees realised on sales). The average receipts for the last five years have been Rs. 61,624-5a. annually. If the cultivation of the poppy, and the trade in opium were suppressed, the State would lose the whole of this Rs. 61,624-5a., and would also, supposing other crops to be substituted for poppy, lose the duty now realised on grain, &c., imported from outside, which would under the changed conditions be raised within Jhallawar territory, and pay only half an anna per maund, instead of one anna duty. I estimate that this loss would be about Rs. 4,000 per annum, but that is, of course, conjectural. The average annual receipts now from customs on imported grain are Rs. 10,200: the appended statements show details*: if importation of grain ceased entirely the State would lose Rs. 5,100; possibly, however, importation would not cease entirely, and I have therefore estimated the loss at Rs. 4,000 only under this head. Some Jagirdars collect private dues on grain passing through their estates; they would also lose in the same proportion as the State; but I have no means of knowing what their present receipts from this source are. I do not think it would be possible to make good the loss by increasing

The witness withdrew.

MIR MAHMUD HUSSAIN called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

20,634. (*Sir J. Lyall.*)—I understand you are assistant deputy collector at Jhallawar?—Yes.

20,635. What have you to say with reference to the cultivation of poppy in Jhallawar?—The average area under opium during the last five years has been—

Khalsa lands		22,937 acres.
Chowmehla	7,181 acres.	
Wast	15,735 "	
Shahabad	21 "	
Alienated lands		5,688 "
Chowmehla	1,882 "	
Wast	3,788 "	
Shahabad	18 "	
Grand total acres		28,625 "

The area in alienated lands is compiled from returns furnished by Tahsildars; these do not distinguish between jagirs, udak, and other forms of alienation, so I cannot give the details for each of them. The Khalsa

People generally take it twice a day—morning and evening. I take one tola's weight a day. I can take twice as much. Opium is taken on occasions of betrothal, marriage, death, settlement of a feud, and festivals. Even non-eaters take it on these occasions. As a medicine it is universally used for all kinds of disorders. Opium has a most beneficial effect on moderate consumers. If opium were stopped all consumers would become very ill. Everyone in this part of the country recognises its worth.

20,624. How long have you been taking as much as a tola?—For the last three or four years. I began taking opium when I was about 21, but for the last three or four years, since I was very ill, I have taken it up to a tola.

20,625. (*Mr. Wilson.*) You say that 10 per cent. of the women take opium; why do men take it more than women?—Women chiefly take to opium when they get ill, but men in going about the country mix with others who take opium, and thus take to the habit also.

customs duties on articles other than opium. The rates as they stand are already as high as the trade will bear, and any addition to them would, I anticipate, diminish the volume of the trade and the customs receipts.

20,628. You say that the receipts in the Customs Department for the last five years have been Rs. 61,624-5a. annually; if the cultivation of the poppy and the trade in opium were suppressed, the State would lose this money?—Yes.

20,629. If other crops were substituted for the poppy there might be a loss on duty realised on grain imported from outside, and if that loss occurred, as it might occur, you say there would be a further loss to the State of Rs. 4,400 a year?—Yes.

20,630. And you anticipate that there would be losses by private persons, in addition to those which would fall on the State?—Yes; but that account is quite separate, and the Raj records would not contain an account of those losses.

20,631. (*Sir J. Lyall.*) I understand that you have only given an estimate of the losses in customs?—Yes.20,632. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Will you tell us what you mean by the word "bhoom"?—The word "bhoom" simply means earth. If goods pass from one district to another district, over land belonging to the State, the State charges a small duty on it.

20,633. A kind of transit duty?—Yes.

areas are given from the survey measurements; those for alienated lands are only estimates. At the time of the settlement, which was finished in 1886, the area under poppy was considerably larger, viz.:—

Khalsa—	
Chowmehla	8,699 acres.
Wast	22,914 "
Shahabad	223 "
Total acres	31,836 "

Or 8,899 acres more than the existing five years' average; the reduction has been effected from time to time under State pressure, owing to the fall in the price of the opium which made it advisable to encourage the people, as far as possible, to depend more largely upon other crops. The total area of irrigated Khalsa land in the State was in 48 S. (i.e., 1891-92), the last year for which I have complete returns, 39,658 acres, in the—

Chowmehla	11,303 acres.
Wast	26,299 "

and the balance in Shahabad and Kirpapur. In the Chowmehla, if the cultivation of opium were prohibited, it would be necessary, I calculate, to make a reduction

Kirat Singh.
(Pertabgarh State.)

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Seth Daulat
Ram.
(Jhallawar State.)Mir Mahmud
Hussain.
(Jhallawar State.)

*It is considered unnecessary to reproduce these statements.

Mir Mahmud
Hussain.
(Jhallawar
State.)

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in the State demand of, at least, 50 per cent. on first-class irrigated land, and 25 per cent. on second-class ditto. The total demand on first-class irrigated land in the Chowmehla is Rs. 1,34,779, and on second-class land Rs. 36,872; the reductions would therefore be Rs. 67,389 and Rs. 9,218 respectively. In West prohibition of opium cultivation would necessitate a reduction of six annas in the rupee on first-class land, and three annas in the rupee on second-class land. The present demand on first-class land is Rs. 2,33,879, and on second-class land Rs. 59,345; the reductions would therefore be Rs. 87,704 and Rs. 11,127 respectively. Total reductions in Chowmehla and West would be Rs. 1,75,439. The opium cultivation in Shahabad and Kirpapur is so restricted that its suppression there would not entail any reduction in the State demand. Over and above the 39,658 acres of fully assessed irrigated land of which I have given details above, there are 1,088 acres of new irrigated land in the Chowmehla which will be fully assessed on the expiry of existing leases four years hence; there then would be a further loss to the State on this of about Rs. 6,694. It would not be possible to confine the reduction to lands on which opium is actually grown; it would have to be granted on all irrigated land on which opium could be grown. Applying the same principles to the estimated acreage for Jagir and other alienated lands, I calculate that the holders would have to reduce their rents by Rs. 30,457 on the area actually under poppy. There are no statistics in the State offices from which I can estimate the total irrigated area in alienated lands, and I have therefore calculated the reduction on poppy land only. The total reduction would necessarily be a good deal more than Rs. 30,457. Opium is very much the most profitable crop to the cultivator; so much so, that it is popularly estimated to pay two-thirds of the whole revenue of the State; and if it were suppressed cultivators would not have the means to pay the present assessments even on lands not directly affected by the prohibition. The estimated average produce of opium per acre is as follows:—

In the Chowmehla 10 seers 11 chittacks.

„ West 9 seers.

„ Shahabad 4 seers 5 chittacks.

At these rates the opium produced on the average area under that crop amounts to 6,818 maunds, valued at current prices at Rs. 10,99,908. The customs returns on the average of the last four years give the amount of opium produced annually as 6,704 maunds. To this must be added the value of—

Opium seeds, estimated at Rs. 11-2 per acre.

„ leaves, „ Rs. 1-6-3 „

„ stalks, „ Rs. 1-10-8 „

To this again must be added the value of makka, the only crop which can be grown in combination with poppy on the same ground and in the same year, and which cannot be grown in combination with any other crop, so that the abolition of the poppy would practically entail the suppression of makka too. This is estimated at Rs. 13-5-7 in West, and Rs. 19-15-3 in the Chowmehla per acre. The total value of these subsidiary products I have worked out on the average at Rs. 8,50,509. If opium production were suppressed there are only two crops which could really take its place on irrigated land in the Chowmehla and West divisions of this State, viz., cotton and wheat. Sugarcane can never be a general crop here for two reasons, because it exhausts the soil too much, and because it requires watering in the hot weather, at which time the very great majority of the wells here run dry. I estimate the cost and profits of poppy (combined with makka) cultivation as follows:—

In the Chowmehla. Per acre, cost of cultivation Rs. 59-4-5, and value of produce Rs. 77-3; profit, Rs. 17-14-7.

Ditto for cotton, per acre, cost Rs. 38-8-10, value of produce Rs. 25-14-3; loss, Rs. 12-10-7.

Ditto for sugar-cane, cost Rs. 153-4-11, value of produce Rs. 152; loss, Rs. 1-4-11.

Ditto for wheat, cost Rs. 39-1-1, value of produce Rs. 33-11-7; loss, Rs. 5-5-6.

In West. Ditto for opium (combined with makka) Rs. 56-1-1, value of produce Rs. 67-9-5; profit, Rs. 11-8-4.

Ditto for cotton, cost Rs. 31-12-9, value of produce Rs. 26-2-3; loss, Rs. 5-10-6.

Ditto for sugar cane, cost Rs. 96-12-7, value of produce Rs. 89; loss, Rs. 7-12-7.

Ditto for wheat, cost Rs. 32-6-4, value of produce, Rs. 26-11-2; loss, Rs. 5-11-2.

The statements put in give the details of the above calculations.* Hence very little irrigated land is taken up with anything but poppy; it is only on land that cannot be fully manured and irrigated that other crops are grown. The prohibition of poppy cultivation in the Chowmehla and West would, on the above calculation of the profit per acre on opium, cause a direct aggregate loss to the cultivators in those divisions of Rs. 634,204. After allowing for a reduction in the aggregate rents of Rs. 212,591, the cultivators would suffer a net loss of Rs. 428,307 on their irrigated lands, which there would be no possibility of their recouping by the cultivation of other crops. In point of fact, they could not cultivate their irrigated lands except at a loss, even if the rents were reduced to the extent proposed above by me, and the Chowmehla and West would be entirely ruined.

20,636. You say that from the returns lately furnished, the area of Khalsa land under poppy is put at 22,937 acres, and you say that at the time of the settlement of 1886 the area was 31,836 acres; what, in your opinion, is the reason for such a decrease in the area?—As there was a fall in the price of opium the State thought it advisable to encourage the cultivators to produce other crops. But as the soil is stony the other crops did not do well, and did not pay. I produce a specimen of wheat to show the soil is not adapted for it.

20,637. Was there a *pakka* settlement made in 1886?—Yes.

20,638. Before that there was a *batai* and cash settlement?—Before the settlement there was a contract for five years, and before that the States charged something in cash to each cultivator.

20,639. (Chairman.) You have made a calculation of the reductions in the amounts which the State would derive from the land revenue, and it shows that in the district of Chowmehla, if the cultivation of opium were prohibited, the reduction of State revenue would amount to Rs. 67,389 on one class of land and Rs. 9,218 on another class; and in the West district prohibition would imply a reduction on one class of land of Rs. 87,704, and on another class Rs. 11,127?—Yes.

20,640. In Shahabad the loss would be less, as the cultivation of poppy is not extensive. There the loss would amount to Rs. 6,694?—Yes.

20,641. Turning to the Jagir and other alienated lands, you say that the reductions which the holders would have to suffer in their rents would be not less than Rs. 30,457?—Yes.

20,642. (Mr. Fanshawe.) As regards the average produce of opium per acre, is it the case that poppy is grown as the only crop in the year in Jhallawar?—Maize is first sown, and after that poppy, so that they have two crops in the year. Maize cannot be sown with any other crop.

20,643. (Mr. Wilson.) Is it a fact that when the State advised the people to grow other crops, as far as possible, that policy proved unprofitable?—We have to import grain from other States into Jhallawar, and consequently the State tried to get the grain produced in the country. The cultivators tried it, but it proved unsuccessful. The cultivators found it was to their loss rather than to their profit. They were accustomed to grow poppy, and consequently they disliked the order to grow grain, and the State policy did not succeed. The policy was therefore changed.

20,644. You say that the amount of land on which poppy is cultivated is 8,899 acres less than it was at the time the settlement was finished; did the State make any reduction in the land revenue on account of that reduction in the poppy land?—The State proposed to make some reduction, and some papers and returns were prepared. It was proposed that reductions might be made if the cultivators would agree to grow grain in the place of poppy, but as the cultivators showed a disinclination to do this, the State did not make any reduction, and allowed them to sow poppy freely.

20,645. Is all the manure put on the poppy land?—No, they manure other crops.

20,646. You have said that it is only on land that cannot be fully manured and irrigated that other crops are grown?—More manure has to be put on the poppy land than on land upon which other crops grow. They are not inclined to grow other crops, and, therefore, they do not manure them so well. Besides that, they have to irrigate poppy fields up to the very time that the juice is taken, up to the time the incision is made and the scraping is over. Whereas, in the case of the

* Not reprinted.

other crops they have to give water only a certain number of times, and not to the very last.

20,647. If the cultivators spend all the manure, or most of it, on the poppy, then it is not surprising that the wheat is very poor?—It is not for the want of manure that the wheat has been so poor, but the land itself is not suited for wheat growing. Besides that, if

The witness withdrew.

THAKUR BAHADUR SINGH called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

20,648. (Chairman.) You are, I understand, a Rajput, Jagirdar of Motipura, and Tahsil Bakani?—Yes.

20,649. Can you give us any information as to the growth and consumption of opium in the Jhallawar State?—In the Chowmehla and Wast no crop would be a satisfactory substitute for opium. Sugar-cane, wheat, cotton, and barley are the alternatives that suggest themselves. Cane cannot, however, be grown satisfactorily for want of water, and because it exhausts the soil, so that without special care and manuring it cannot recover itself. A man may grow cane for the sake of "gur," but he cannot do it at a profit. Wheat can be grown at intervals of three years in the same land; in the interim hemp has to be sown and ploughed in and then a crop of opium taken. Cotton and barley do not do well either. I cannot give details of agricultural expenses and returns to define the difference between poppy and other crops, but I can say with certainty that if opium is done away with the cultivators will never get a belly-full, and neither the State nor landholders will be able to get their dues, because it is the only crop which can be grown to a profit. It will certainly be necessary to reduce rents and revenue if the poppy is to be prohibited, probably by 50 per cent. In addition to this some Jagirdars would lose their dues on opium; but this would not affect me personally, because I have not the right of "mapa" in my Jagir.

The witness withdrew.

GOVIND RAM called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

20,656. (Sir J. Lyall.) What is your caste?—I am a Mahajan.

20,656-7. What are you?—I am a trader.

20,658. What can you say as to the value of the opium trade in the Jhallawar States?—The value of the opium trade to this State can best be illustrated by detailing the components of the price of a single chest of opium sold here at the average price of Rs. 493:—

	Rs.	a.
1. Price of opium-milk used in manufacture, 2 mds. 7½ seers	370	0
2. Commission above to middleman	6	4
3. Cost of testing quality	1	8
4. Interest on capital sunk in purchase	45	0
5. Miscellaneous charges, carriage, &c.	2	4
6. Dalal's dues	1	0
7. Weighing	1	0
8. Packing, &c.	4	0
9. Oil	1	0
10. Storage	1	8
11. Broken opium leaves used in packing	0	8
12. Earthen utensils used in manufacture	0	8
13. Sewing bags	0	2
14. Opium leaves used to wrap up opium	1	0
15. Contribution to charity	0	8
16. Customs duty on import	2	8
17. Temple dues on import	1	6
18. Merchant's profit	53	0
Total	493	0

If this opium is exported there are, of course, further charges. Of these the following affect the State and people of Jhallawar, viz.:—

	Rs.	a.
Packing cases	2	0
Securing cases in canvas, &c.	2	8
Carriage to Ujain	2	8
Cost of escort on road	2	8
Contribution to temples	2	0
Export duty	12	4
Total	23	12

there is even a small quantity of rainfall in winter the crop is spoiled by that rain, and the leaves get pale and withered. In Jhallawar wheat is grown in dry land, black soil. If there is 25 inches of rain during the rainy season wheat is produced in large quantities in those dry fields, but if there be rain in winter then those fields also are spoilt.

In my caste it would be quite an exception to find anyone who did not take opium. All take it, men, women, and children. Doses vary from half a ratti to nine mashes, and some take more than that. People take as much as suits their constitutions. Perhaps 10 per cent. are large consumers; people take it once or twice or thrice a day, and some people take it whenever they think of it, but the majority only take it once or twice. Galwan is specially given, and is *de rigueur* on occasions of rejoicing. Moderate consumers are all the better for it both mentally and physically, and would deteriorate in every way without it. In fact, opium-consumers would die without their allowance.

20,650. (Sir J. Lyall.) What is the size of your Jagir?—It brings in Rs. 1,000 a year.

20,651. Are you a Rajput of the same clan as the Raja?—I belong to the Bhati Clan.

20,652. Is the irrigation in Jhallawar from wells, or what?—From wells.

20,653. How deep are they?—About 50 or 60 feet.

20,654. I presume it is very expensive to raise the water?—Yes.

20,655. Will you kindly explain what is meant by *Galwan*?—It is a drink prepared by pounding opium. It is put into water and then strained off.

The witness withdrew.

Taking 2,800 chests as the average quantity passing through Jhallawar markets for export in a year, we therefore have Rs. 10,36,000 distributed amongst the agriculturists of the State. Taking 2,400 chests as the average annual quantity passing through Patan, we have distributed among Patan people:—

	Rs.
Among the mercantile classes	2,59,200
weighmen	2,400
oilmen	2,400
broken-leaf sellers, &c.	1,200
carpenters	4,800
leaf sellers	2,400
cartmen and carriers	6,000
temple dues on import	3,300
poor people	1,200
dalals	2,400
packers, porters, &c.	9,600
house-owners for storage	3,600
pottery	1,200
bag-sewers	300
shopkeepers, porters, &c. (item 5)	6,000
escorts	6,000
temples on export	4,800
customs dues, import and export	35,400

If the cultivation of opium were stopped all these sources of income would be closed to the people of the city and neighbourhood, and great numbers of them would be reduced to destitution, since there is no trade possible which would give so much and so well-paid employment. In addition to this the prohibition of the opium trade would entail the loss of lakhs of capital sunk in buildings and plant which could not be utilised for other purposes. There is practically no trade of any magnitude here except in opium, nor is there any other local produce which could take its place as an article of commerce. With the disappearance of opium the importance of Patan as a trading centre would vanish. The injury caused to opium consumers, if the cultivation of the poppy were suppressed, should not be overlooked. 75 per cent. at least of the inhabitants of the State are regular consumers, and people cannot keep their health without it in this country and climate. If they could not get opium they would be no good for anything. I should mention that the figures previously given refer to Patan trade only. Bankers here have firms and branches in Kotah, Agar,

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20,659. You have given the price of a chest of opium at Rs. 493; is that the average price for the last three or four years?—It is for this year only. The rates vary.

20,660. Is the price now much lower than it was formerly?—Yes.

20,661. What is the reason for that?—The demand in China is less.

20,662. You put the price of opium juice at Rs. 370 for two maunds $7\frac{1}{2}$ seers; is that the price paid to the cultivators?—Yes.

20,663. Did all the cultivators get the same price this year, or is that an average?—It is the average.

20,664. One cultivator gets a little more, and one cultivator gets a little less?—Yes.

20,665. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) In your statement you have on various occasions used the word Patan; do you mean by that the people of Jhallawar State?—Jhallawar is the State, Patan is the city, and close to it is a cantonment called Jhallawar Patan. By Patan I mean the city, and by Jhallawar I mean the whole district.

20,666. Wherever you use the word Patan, then, you are speaking of the people of the chief town?—Patan means the chief town, and by the word Jhallawar I mean the whole district.

20,667. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) The chest of opium you speak of is a full chest of 140 lbs., is it not?—Yes, a full chest.

The witness withdrew.

(MR. MOWBRAY here took the Chair during the remainder of the proceedings.)

*Rao Bahadur
Apji Amar
Singh.
(Kotah State.)*

RAO BAHADUR APJI AMAR SINGH called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

20,678. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are a Member of Council of the Kotah State?—Yes.

20,679. Are you a Jagirdar?—Yes.

20,680. Will you kindly give us an account of the poppy cultivation in Kotah?—The average number of acres under poppy cultivation in Kotah during last five years amounts to 50,000 bighas or 22,765 acres. The Khalsa area is known from the revenue records. The Jagirdars alienated area I calculate from the returns submitted by them and by appraisalment from my own personal knowledge. The out-turn of opium is about 6,260 maunds. The calculation is made at the average rate of 5 seers a bigha, or 11 seers an acre.

There is no crop that can compare with opium, but in opium lands, sugar-cane, barley, wheat, cotton, "Mungphali" (pignut), "Kasum" (safflower), and Indian corn can be grown. Gram and Jowar (millet) are not grown on opium lands. Millet is not sown because the opium fields are always close to the village site, where on account of the trees there are multitudes of birds who devour the crop. Gram, if sown, will bear no fruit.

Sugar-cane will be irrigated.

Barley ditto

Wheat ditto

Cotton will not be irrigated.

"Mungphali" (pignut) will be irrigated.

"Kasum" (safflower) will not be irrigated.

Indian corn ditto

Consequent on the substitution of the crops mentioned before for the poppy, there would be a diminution in revenue demand of Rs. 3. 8a. a bigha, which on 50,000 bighas would come to Rs. 175,000.

20,681. Is there any difference between the rate for opium lands and non-opium lands?—The rates for opium fields are higher than those for other crops.

20,682. Is the difference between the rates on opium lands and other lands Rs. 3. 8a. a bigha?—If opium were to be stopped the Raj would have to keep the rates at Rs. 1. 8a.; therefore the loss will be Rs. 3. 8a. The average rate for irrigated land is Rs. 5.

20,683. At present it is Rs. 5; if opium cultivation were stopped it would have to be reduced to Rs. 1. 8a.?—Yes.

20,668. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Where is it that the opium milk is converted into opium?—In the city of Patan.

20,669. Are there many persons engaged in that trade?—Yes.

20,670. How many?—About 25 shops in Patan itself.

20,671. Do you think that all the opium prepared by these 25 firms or persons is of equal, uniform quality?—It is uniform quality.

20,672. One man does not make it better or of more value than another?—No.

20,673. You have said that 75 per cent. of the inhabitants are regular consumers; do you mean of the entire population, men, women, and children; or do you mean men only?—75 per cent. of the males.

20,674. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Where are the scales at which the Jhallawar opium is weighed?—Ujain. In some cases the opium goes to Indore as well.

20,675. (*Chairman.*) You say that Rs. 10,36,000 is distributed amongst the agriculturists of the State; how do you arrive at that figure?—The agriculturists pay customs duty on so many chests, and if the value be calculated on these 2,800 chests at the bazaar market price, it comes up to that figure.

20,676. (*Sir J. Lyall.*) You have taken the market price at Rs. 370 and multiplied that by 2,800?—Yes.

20,677. (*Mr. Wilson.*) You say that the stocks of opium in Patan on the 14th of December 1893 were worth Rs. 22,62,000; is that two years crops, or how do you reckon it?—That does not show the produce for one year or two years. The Raja made inquiry, and all the traders had to give just the quantity they had. The totals of the different quantities given by the different traders comes to that amount.

20,684. That is how you estimate the loss at Rs. 3. 8a. per bigha?—Yes.

20,685. If poppy cultivation is stopped will that necessitate a revision of irrigated rates?—Yes.

20,686. How much do you estimate will be the cost of that revision?—About Rs. 10,000.

20,687. If the production and export of opium were prohibited, at what amount would you calculate the loss to the Durbar?—If the production and export of opium be prohibited, there will be a loss to the Durbar of about Rs. 70,000 or Rs. 75,000, even up to Rs. 80,000, if we calculate on returns for a period preceding the last five years. During this latter period there has been much decrease in the opium trade owing to the high duty on opium levied by the Marwar State. If we calculate on these last five years then there will be a loss of about Rs. 61,000 a year, but the calculation should be taken on a more extended period than these last five years.

20,688. What is that loss on, is it loss on customs duty, or what?—Yes, customs duty.

20,689. Do the Jagirdars levy any taxes on opium besides the custom duties of the Durbar?—The Jagirdars levy taxes on opium styled "Mapa" and "Bhoom." "Mapa" is a kind of weighing tax on all opium (and other produce) sold in the Jagir. All Jagirdars and owners of alienated land levy this tax, "Mapa." I cannot say definitely what loss other Jagirdars would suffer if opium ceased to pay "Mapa," but I can answer for my own Jagir. I should lose about Rs. 200 a year in my five villages on opium "Mapa" alone.

20,690. Does the Durbar levy "Mapa" and "Bhoom"?—"Bhoom" is an ancient tax which certain Jagirdars were entitled to levy on goods passing through their Jagir. All owners of alienated land cannot levy it. Only those who are entitled to do so from ancient times can levy it; I levy "Bhoom." If opium no longer was an article of commerce I should lose about Rs. 250 a year "Bhoom" that opium alone brings in. "Mapa" and "Bhoom" are also levied by the Durbar or State itself. The income on this head will be about Rs. 10,000 a year to the State in respect to opium alone. At a rough calculation I should say that the loss to

Jagirdars and holders of alienated lands would be about Rs. 5,000 a year in respect to "Mapa" and "Bhoom" levied on opium.

20,691. Do the Jagirdars levy customs?—The Jagirdars levy no customs duty, except the Kotris (petty States) which are eight in number.

20,692. Would there be any possibility of revising the customs tariff, and putting a tax on other articles?—In my opinion there would be no use to revise the customs tariff. There is no article of commerce that would take the place of opium on which any customs due could be levied. If customs dues were levied or increased on any produce other than opium it would tend to discourage the growth of that produce.

20,693. Is there any excise in Kotah?—There is only excise for *abkari*,—liquor.

20,694. There is no excise upon opium?—No; there is neither any excise upon opium, nor upon any preparation of opium.

20,695. Have you made any calculations with regard to the profits made by cultivators out of opium compared with other crops?—Yes. If opium is grown, there is an average yield of 5 seers a bigha, which, taking the price at an average of Rs. 4 a seer, would be worth Rs. 20, then there would be 2½ maunds of seed produced worth Rs. 7 8a. Generally cultivators also grow Indian corn as a preliminary crop to opium. After they have prepared the field for opium, the yield of Indian corn would be about 6 maunds of seed worth in all about Rs. 5. The total value of the crops would then be Rs. 32 8a. The cost of cultivation per bigha would be:—

	Rs. a. p.
Indian { Indian corn seed - - - - -	- 0 2 0
{ 2 weedings at 0-2-0 - - - - -	- 0 4 0
Corn. { 1 digging - - - - -	- 0 4 0
{ 3 months' watching - - - - -	- 0 6 0
Ploughing the land for opium seven times, at 0-2-0 - - - - -	- 0 14 0
Cost of rope and leather bucket for watering - - - - -	- 0 9 6
4 weedings at 0-2-0 - - - - -	- 0 8 0
2 diggings at 4 annas - - - - -	- 0 8 0
Manure - - - - -	- 0 8 0
Pricking and gathering milk - - - - -	- 0 12 0
Watching for 20 days - - - - -	- 0 2 6
Seed - - - - -	- 0 0 6
Ploughman's share - - - - -	- 2 0 0
Making beds for plants - - - - -	- 0 2 0
	7 0 6
Revenue demand - - - - -	- 5 0 0
Total cost - - - - -	- 12 0 6
Net profit to cultivator - - - - -	- 20 7 6

If sugar-cane is grown, we may fairly estimate an average crop as yielding 12 maunds of "Gur" (molasses) per bigha, worth Rs. 72, at Rs. 6 a maund; the cost of cultivation per bigha is:—

	Rs. a. p.
10 ploughings, at 0-2-0 - - - - -	- 1 4 0
Seed (2,500 cuttings) - - - - -	- 5 0 0
Fencing - - - - -	- 1 0 0
Rope and bucket for watering - - - - -	- 1 8 0
Irrigation for four winter months - - - - -	- 4 0 0
12 waterings in four hot months - - - - -	- 12 0 0
6 diggings, light, at 0-8-0 - - - - -	- 3 0 0
2 deep diggings, at Rs. 1 - - - - -	- 2 0 0
Watering for 8 months - - - - -	- 3 0 0
Hire of large iron pan for boiling juice - - - - -	- 1 0 0
Preparation of sugar mill for extracting juice - - - - -	- 2 0 0
Hire of bullocks and man to drive mill, at 0-8-0 a day for 10 days - - - - -	- 5 0 0
Man to feed mill - - - - -	- 1 8 0
Man to hand cane to above - - - - -	- 1 4 0
Cutter of sugar-cane - - - - -	- 1 4 0
Man to stir juice - - - - -	- 1 4 0
4 women to remove leaves from sugar-cane - - - - -	- 2 8 0
Stoker of furnace - - - - -	- 1 4 0
Fuel - - - - -	- 2 0 0
4 cloths to bind sugar in - - - - -	- 0 4 0
	57 0 0
2 years' revenue demand - - - - -	- 10 0 0
	67 0 0

Net profit to cultivator Rs. 5 a bigha in two years. Barley would yield about 6 maunds a bigha, worth about Rs. 6. The cost of cultivation would be:—

	Rs. a. p.
5 ploughings - - - - -	- 0 10 0
Seed - - - - -	- 0 12 0
3 waterings - - - - -	- 0 6 0
Rope and bucket for watering - - - - -	- 0 6 0
Ploughman's share - - - - -	- 0 9 0
	2 11 0
Revenue demand - - - - -	- 5 0 0
	7 1 10

If revenue demand is reduced to Rs. 1 8a., then the cost comes to Rs. 4 3a., leaving a net profit of Rs. 1 13a. Wheat would yield 3 maunds a bigha, worth Rs. 4 8a., at Rs. 18 a. a maund. Cost of cultivation:—

	Rs. a. p.
5 ploughings, at 0-2-0 - - - - -	- 0 10 0
Seed - - - - -	- 0 14 0
Watching - - - - -	- 0 12 0
Ploughman's share - - - - -	- 0 9 0
Rope and bucket - - - - -	- 0 6 0
3 waterings - - - - -	- 0 6 0
	3 9 0
Revenue demand - - - - -	- 5 0 0
	8 9 0

Loss to cultivator, Rs. 4 1a.

If revenue demand is only Rs. 1 8a., then the cost comes to Rs. 5. 1a., leaving a loss to cultivators of 9 annas. Cotton will yield 3 maunds worth Rs. 9. Cost of cultivation:—

	Rs. a. p.
5 ploughings - - - - -	- 0 10 0
Seed - - - - -	- 0 1 6
3 weedings - - - - -	- 0 6 0
Gathering cotton - - - - -	- 1 8 0
Watching - - - - -	- 0 12 0
Ploughman's share - - - - -	- 1 8 0
	4 13 6
Add revenue demand - - - - -	- 1 8 0
	6 5 6
Profit to cultivator - - - - -	- 2 10 6

Cotton, however, could not be grown the next year in that field.

"Mungphali" (pignut) will yield 12 maunds in a bigha, worth Rs. 16. Cost of cultivation:—

	Rs. a. p.
4 ploughings - - - - -	- 0 8 0
Seed - - - - -	- 1 8 0
Weeding and digging - - - - -	- 1 0 0
2 waterings - - - - -	- 1 0 0
Watching (pigs give great trouble) - - - - -	- 2 0 0
Digging up nuts - - - - -	- 2 4 0
	8 4 0
Revenue demand - - - - -	- 5 0 0
	13 4 0
Profit to cultivator - - - - -	- 2 12 0

Kasum (safflower) will yield 4 maunds in a bigha, which when dry will weigh only a maund, worth Rs. 10 and Re. 1 seed; total Rs. 11. Cost of cultivation:—

	Rs. a. p.
4 ploughings - - - - -	- 0 8 0
Seed - - - - -	- 0 3 0
Weeding and digging - - - - -	- 0 8 0
Watching - - - - -	- 1 0 0
For picking the flower - - - - -	- 4 0 0
	6 3 0
Revenue demand - - - - -	- 5 0 0
	11 3 0

If revenue demand is taken at Rs. 1-8a., then the profit to cultivator is Rs. 3 5a., otherwise he is a loser on the crop to the extent of 3 annas a bigha. Safflower is not much grown here, as it does not produce a good It is imported as a rule.

20,696. In estimating the cost of cultivation, have you estimated for hired labour, or for a family working for themselves?—In estimating the cost of cultivation

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above the actual cost that would be incurred in each case if labour were employed and paid for, has been given. Where the cultivator and his family themselves perform the field work, or some of it, of course the cultivator would save that part of the cost, whether with regard to opium or any other crop, and would gain that much extra profit.

20,697. Do you consider that there would be any other loss to the people of Kotah if poppy cultivation were stopped?—If poppy cultivation was stopped, most certainly there would be a loss in credit. I can see no way of maintaining it. Money-lenders advance thousands of rupees on the security of the opium crop alone. I am not an opium merchant, but about 100 maunds of opium are annually produced in my Jagir, the value of which at 4 rupees a seer is worth Rs. 16,000. This would be the price in the village. I bring it to Kotah and sell it here, where it fetches Rs. 20,000. If I cannot sell it I make it into cakes and keep it, and by that means I shall obtain a larger profit. I have now about 30 or 32 maunds by me now.

20,698. Can you give us any information with regard to the consumption of opium in your part of Rajputana?—Opium is taken in a dry form and in a diluted form. Some take it in pills, some mix spices with it. No one smokes it. It is not the custom here. If any Rajput were to smoke it, he would be outcasted. Men, women, and children alike take opium. About 75 or 80 per cent. of the men take opium, about 50 per cent. of the women take it. All the children are given it up to about five years of age. Adults begin to take it again from 25 to 30 years of age. I know of no one who takes it to excess. Opium is taken twice a day as a rule. The usual quantity is about two rattis at a time. I take one ratti only once a day. I have taken it for the last 25 years. I took it at first to get rid of intermittent fever which would not leave me. The fever left me after I had taken opium for about a twelvemonth. Since then I have never left it off. It is absolutely necessary to take opium at betrothals, at weddings, birthdays, big festivals, and other occasions of rejoicing. Without opium a betrothal is not considered binding. This is a very old custom, not a new custom at all. People to whom it is offered are considered bound to take it. If a man does not get his opium dose he is rendered useless. After a man takes opium strength comes to his hands and feet. It gives him an appetite, and he can talk well; that is to say, it gives vigour to the body and makes the heart cheerful, and improves the intellect.

The witness withdrew.

CHAUBE RAGHUNATH DASS called in and examined.

Chaube
Raghunath
Dass.
(Kotah State.)

20,708. (Chairman.) I believe you are from Etawah in the North-Western Provinces, a Brahmin, Chaturbedi, age 45 and Superintendent of Revenue of the Kotah State?—Yes.

20,709. You have given us the average number of acres under poppy cultivation as 22,765 and the out-turn of opium as 6,260 maunds?—Yes.

20,710. Can you tell us on what you have based the out-turn per bigha?—Although the out-turn per bigha or per acre varies not only in different localities, but also in different fields of the same locality from four to 12 seers per bigha, we have for all practical purposes fixed it at an average of not more than five seers a bigha or 11 seers an acre. Calculating at this rate 22,765 acres would yield the quantity of opium stated before.

20,711. Supposing poppy cultivation were to be prohibited, have you any suggestions to make as to what crops might take its place?—Considering the great and diverse advantages of poppy cultivation from a pecuniary as well as an economical point of view, it is almost impossible to suggest an efficient substitute for poppy, but if it must be given up, the only crops that seem likely to take its place, if indeed they can ever do so, are sugar-cane, cotton, wheat, and barley. *Sugar-cane* is a wet crop, but is costly in cultivation, and demands a sustained labour and continuous employment for more than a year. The land is prepared in the rains, say, August and following months, the cane is sown in January, it is harvested in February of the following year. So it really takes two years to grow, hence to the majority of cultivators it is prohibitive. It is further liable to disease and its out-turn is un-

20,699. Have you any wish to see the custom of taking opium interfered with in Rajputana?—Our ancient customs would be greatly interfered with that have been handed down from our forefathers, our habits would be interfered with, and hundreds of men would be in danger of death if they were not able to get opium, and bodily health would be lost. We do not smoke it as the Chinese do. Smoking opium, no doubt, may be injurious to health. Whether it is so or not I do not know. If the Commission wish to stop Chinamen from smoking opium, pray do so; but why stop us from eating opium from which we derive so much benefit, and which is with us such an old custom?

20,700. (Mr. Wilson.) You have said that your calculation is made at the rate of 5 seers a bigha, or 11 seers an acre; is that quite correct?—It is quite correct. It is really less than it ought to have been. I have taken an average.

20,701. Is that the right proportion—Rs. 5 for a bigha and Rs. 11 for an acre?—Yes, it is right.

20,702. You have also stated that 75 or 80 per cent. of the men take opium. I should like to know whether those who do not take opium have not intellects so bright? Why should not their intellects be as bright without it?—I do not mean that nobody else but the opium-eater has his intellect brightened.

20,703. With reference to the tables you have given us how many annas a day is reckoned for the labourers?—To every strong labourer 2 annas a day is paid, to women 1 anna; and 4 annas is paid to those who incise the poppy because it is skilled labour.

20,704. Is it correct that watching for 20 days would only cost 2a. 6p.?—That is the average for one bigha of poppy land.

20,705. Then I suppose one man would watch a great many bighas?—Yes; he can watch four bighas.

20,706. That would be about half an anna a day for the man's wages?—A child or woman can do the work. No strength is required. One has simply to throw a stone to send away the birds that come.

20,707. You put down Indian corn seed at 2 annas. Is it correct that you can buy enough Indian corn for 2 annas to sow a bigha of land?—Yes; it is sown very distantly, not close together; it is sown at intervals of 2 feet.

certain. *Cotton*.—Unirrigated or in some cases slightly irrigated, would if it escaped frost and disease yield a good crop the first year, but a very poor one, if at all, the second year. Because an exhausting crop like cotton takes so much out of the soil that it must lie fallow for a year before anything could be grown in it. *Wheat* in this soil, if irrigated, is most liable to the disease called rust. If unirrigated it would burn up the incessant manuring of the opium land for very many years past rendering it too strong for the plant to grow and thrive thereon without water. *Barley* is not a paying crop as it is so cheap. The average irrigated (peewat) rates are taken at Rs. 5 a bigha or about Rs. 11 an acre, the dry rates at Rs. 1 8a. a bigha or Rs. 3 4a. an acre. The land revenue at these irrigated rates on 50,000 bighas or 22,765 acres is Rs. 2,50,000, while at dry rates it will be no more than Rs. 75,000. Since it would be hardly possible to levy more than Rs. 1 8a. a bigha from the land now under poppy when in all probability cotton or wheat would be grown thereon, the result of the substitution would be a clear loss of Rs. 1,75,000 to the State, and that directly in the land revenue alone.

20,712. Do you agree with the last witness that the stopping of the poppy cultivation would necessitate a revision of the irrigated rates and that that would cost about Rs. 9,000?—Yes.

20,713. I believe you have prepared a statement of the details of the expenditure, making up the Rs. 9,000?—Yes. The loss in revenue will amount to Rs. 1,75,000. The revision of the rates would cost about Rs. 9,000 in the preparation of revised village papers and records. The expenditure would be :—

	Rs.	a.	p.
(1.) Preparation of the statement for every village of the revised rates for the now irrigated area comprising 1,65,000 fields -	2,500	0	0
(2.) Three fair copies of the above statements, one in Urdu and two in local Hindi characters -	5,000	0	0
(3.) Paper and stationery -	900	0	0
(4.) A Munsarim to examine the records thus prepared, both original and copies for one year -	360	0	0
(5.) Binding of records -	200	0	0
Total -	8,960	0	0
Or in round numbers -	9,000	0	0

20,714. You have also made calculations as to the relative profit on the growth of opium and of other crops?—We have fixed the produce of opium at 5 seers the bigha.

	Rs.	a.	p.
This at the rate of Rs. 3. 8a. a seer, the present market rate (and mind this is the lowest) is worth -	17	8	0
Poppy seed 2½ maunds at Rs. 3 a maund -	7	8	0
Sale of poppy heads and dry leaves -	2	0	0
Total -	27	0	0

Expense of Cultivation.

Opium land is ploughed 9 times at 2 annas a ploughing, this cost -	1	2	0
Manure 8 or 10 cartloads -	1	0	0
Three weedings and 2 diggings -	1	0	0
The land is watered 7 times -	1	0	0
Extraction of juice -	2	0	0
Watching and miscellaneous -	0	14	0
	7	0	0
Revenue demand -	5	0	0
Grand total -	12	0	0

To the cultivator the net gain is thus Rs.15 a bigha, but considering that almost the whole manual labour in the above-mentioned operations is performed by himself and his family, and the bullocks that draw water out of the well for the opium land serve as well for his entire holding, which consists, besides the irrigated tract, of other lands under different crops, he will be saved the cost of cultivation and so his profits come to about Rs.22 a bigha or about Rs.48 an acre. In addition to poppy the cultivator generally grows with it other wet crops such as "zira" (cummin seed), "dania" (coriander) and vegetables which give him another Rs.3, and when it is remembered that in most places poppy is usually preceded by a crop of Indian corn (maize), and this after paying his expenses gives him another 4 rupees in money or land, his aggregate profits virtually amount to Rs. 29 a bigha, or about Rs.65 an acre.

Now as to substitutes—

Sugar-cane.—For reasons already given very few cultivators would grow sugar-cane, but supposing some do the out-turn at the highest would be 10 maunds of "gur" (molasses) worth Rs.6 a maund or Rs.60 in all.

Expenses of cultivating Sugar-cane.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Seed -	5	0	0
Five ploughings (deep) -	1	4	0
Manure -	1	0	0
10 or 12 weedings -	3	0	0
10 or 12 waterings -	12	0	0
Extracting juice, &c. -	5	0	0
Land revenue for two years -	10	0	0
Total cost -	37	4	0
Profit -	22	12	0
Divided between two years comes to -	11	6	0

If we cultivate *cotton* in place of poppy it would not grow well in a good many places and would generally yield 3 maunds, but I would take the highest average

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and put the out-turn at 5 maunds a bigha. This at the rate of Rs. 3 a maund will give Rs.15.

Expenses of cultivation would be as follows:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Seed -	0	6	0
Three weedings -	2	0	0
Picking cotton -	1	0	0
Watering -	1	0	0
Manuring -	1	0	0
Ploughing -	0	8	0
Total -	5	14	0
Land revenue -	5	0	0
Grand total -	10	14	0
Profit -	4	2	0

Supposing, as in the case of opium, that almost all the labour involved cost the cultivator nothing in hard cash, he will be able to gain Rs.10 a bigha, but the next year the land will lie fallow, and yet the cultivator will have to pay revenue thereon, leaving him only Rs. 5 a bigha profit. Even if we calculate that there has been a revision of settlement and that the revenue payable is only Rs.1 8a. instead of Rs. 5, this will give him a profit of only Rs.12 a bigha in two years.

Take *wheat* as a substitute for opium. The produce is generally 4 maunds a bigha, but even placing it at the highest figure of 6 maunds, the price of the produce at Rs.1 8a. a maund would be Rs.9. Out of this revenue demand would have to be paid Rs.5.

Cost of Cultivation.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Six ploughings -	1	0	0
Seed (25 seers) -	1	2	0
Watering -	0	8	0
	2	10	0

including land revenue is Rs.7 10a. Profit to the cultivator Rs.1 6a., or not taking the manual labour of the cultivator and his family into account his profit would be Rs.2 14a. a bigha.

A comparison of the profits of the crops given above will show that whereas opium gives Rs.29 a bigha, cotton gives only Rs.6, and wheat at the highest Rs.2. 14a., and sugar-cane Rs.11 6a.

20,715. Besides the loss to the cultivators, are you of opinion that there would be a loss to any other sections of the population if poppy cultivation were stopped?—If poppy cultivation is stopped there will be not only a loss but a serious loss in credit. From what I have so long seen no money-lender, I think, would like to run the risk of advancing money on the uncertain security of a grain crop. Opium is the backbone not only of the credit of the cultivator, but also of that of his village money-lender who in turn borrows money from bankers essentially on the security of opium. It will be very difficult to revive credit at least for some years to come if the cultivation and sale of opium be stopped, meanwhile it will entail great hardship if not misery on the population at large.

20,716. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Have you been long in this province?—Yes. I have been in this province for the last 17 years.

20,717. Is the habit of opium-eating in moderation general among the inhabitants of Kotah?—Yes.

20,718. What is your opinion as to its effects upon the health and morals of the people?—Generally speaking, I do not think they have suffered from the use of opium. It is suited to the climate. The majority of the people take opium without injurious effects as you have heard from other witnesses.

20,719. That is your opinion too?—Yes.

20,720. (Mr. Haridas Viharidas.) I suppose the majority of these people take it not for pleasure, but when they get ill or for some pain or disease and afterwards it becomes a habit?—Generally that is so. There are exceptions but they are very few.

20,721. The generality of the people you think take opium to cure disease or pain?—It is sometimes given from childhood after a child is 10 or 12 days old. It is given up to the age of five years and in some cases say up to eight years. It becomes their mother's milk.

20,722. Then the children give up taking it?—Yes. they give it up.

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20,723. In time they sometimes contract the habit of taking it themselves?—In some instances it is disease which compelled people to take to the habit.

20,724. Of course, opium taken in excess is really injurious?—Decidedly it is.

The witness withdrew.

Sirdar Mull.
(Kotah State.)

SIRDAR MULL called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

20,726. (Chairman.) You are a Mahajan and Oswal, 42 years of age and agent of Rajroop Hunsraj of Kotah?—Yes.

20,727. What would the effect upon your business be if the production and export of opium be stopped?—If the production and export of opium were stopped I should suffer great loss. For the last 100 years my firm has dealt in opium and transactions connected with the cultivation and manufacture of opium. I have about 3 lakhs of rupees worth of opium now stored in my godowns. About 700 or 800 maunds of opium are manufactured by my firm every year. The profit on this opium is on an average about Rs. 40 a maund which gives an average profit of from Rs. 28,000 to Rs. 32,000. There are branches of my firm in the outlying districts of Kotah who deal directly with the cultivator in lending him money, so I not only lend the cultivator money but can obtain opium from him at a very favourable rate. About 6½ lakhs of rupees outstanding is to be recovered from cultivators in the districts. The branches in the districts turn this money over as opportunity offers, lending money or buying opium with it. I also get about Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000 commission on buying and selling opium for other firms. I also get a saving on exchange by the sale of my opium in Bombay which obviates my having to purchase hundis to pay for goods, &c., bought in Bombay. The gain on this account amounts to about Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000 a year. Thus, if the production and export of opium were stopped I should lose 3 lakhs worth of opium stored. I should lose 6½ lakhs advanced to cultivators in out districts. I should lose about Rs. 30,000 profit yearly on manufacture of opium and Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000 on commission, besides Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000 in exchange. Total prime loss once and for all 9½ lakhs and yearly loss Rs. 38,000 to Rs. 40,000. I should lose my entire capital and my whole credit as a merchant would disappear. I should be ruined. I should lose 6½ lakhs of rupees that is out in the districts, besides this I should lose about Rs. 40,000 yearly profit I now get through the transactions of opium.

20,728. Is all the opium out of which you make your profit exported to British India?—It is exported to Bombay and into Marwar. I used to get a greater profit than I do now. It is only Rs. 40 a maund now.

20,729. How is it that you get less profit now than you used to get?—There is no demand in China for it.

20,730. How much of your opium goes to Bombay and how much to Marwar?—Altogether I send away about 800 chests, 400 to Bombay and 400 to Marwar.

20,731. Your whole business is about 800 chests, about half of which goes to Bombay and half to Marwar?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Karam
Chand.
(Kotah State.)

KARAM CHAND called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

20,748. (Chairman.) I believe you are a trader of Barrau in Kotah?—Yes.

20,749. What is your caste?—I am a Khattri.

20,750. What do you trade in principally?—In opium.

20,751. If the opium trade were prohibited what would be the result upon your business?—If the opium trade were prohibited I should suffer great loss. I live by this trade. I buy annually about 200 maunds of opium milk, and manufacture at Barrau. I have now about 200 maunds of manufactured opium in large cakes, and about 69 maunds manufactured opium in small cakes. This stock of opium is worth altogether Rs. 95,560. If the sale of opium is stopped I should lose this. My annual profit in dealing in opium comes to about 20,000, but, of course, it depends on the prevailing price of opium. I should be entirely beggared if the trade in opium were stopped. I could not compensate myself by any

20,725. (Chairman.) It is also taken largely as a national custom and on ceremonial occasions?—Yes, it is taken on those occasions among Rajputs and those who are accustomed to Rajput customs. There are a good many other castes that follow Rajput customs on all occasions.

20,732. Does your firm make advances to cultivators for any other crops besides opium?—They only give advances on opium. The grains are always very cheap in Haranti.

20,733. Do you mean that the other crops are not good enough security for you to advance money upon?—They are not a good security as opium.

20,734. Besides merchants like yourself, are there any other classes of the community who would be affected if the cultivation of opium were prohibited?—All the poorer classes who earn wages in connexion with the opium trade would lose those wages, such as persons employed in the manufacture of opium, guards, cartmen, carpenters, coolies, gunny bag makers, basket makers, collectors of dry poppy leaves, not to mention the cultivators who would be ruined altogether. It is through opium alone that they pay their revenue.

20,735. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Is the habitual use of opium in small or moderate quantities common among the people of your caste?—Some people take two rattis and some take four. They take it just as they like. It is a common habit among the people of my caste.

20,736. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) Are you a Jain?—Yes.

20,737. Are there people also of your caste who do not take opium?—Yes.

20,738. How many?—50 per cent.

20,739. Males?—All taken together; men and women 50 per cent.

20,740. Is the excessive use of opium injurious?—No, it is not injurious. Some take a rupee's weight.

20,741. (Mr. Wilson.) Are you agent for your firm? Are you the principal of the firm. What is your position in the business?—I am manager.

20,742. When you speak about all these losses which you would incur, do you mean that you would incur them yourself, or that your firm would incur them?—I mean my firm.

20,743. When you say "I should lose 6½ lakhs of rupees," you do not mean yourself, but the people you manage for?—I am a representative of the firm.

20,744. I suppose you are on a monthly salary?—Yes.

20,745. What do you mean by the term hundis?—Bills of exchange.

20,746. Are you a partner at all in the firm of which you are manager?—No; I have no share in the business, I am only manager.

20,747. You come here to represent the interest of the firm?—Yes.

other business. Other goods, such as grain, deteriorate; opium improves by keeping.

20,752. Do the members of your caste consume opium?—Yes.

20,753. In what form?—They take it in dry pills. Some take one ratti, some two and some four rattis.

20,754. Do they ever smoke opium?—No.

20,755. Do you ever take opium yourself?—Yes I take it myself. I swallow pills.

20,756. What dose do you take?—I take it twice a day, three rattis at a time.

20,757. How many years have you taken it?—I have been taking it from my very childhood.

20,758. About how many men in your caste take opium?—About 15 per cent. and all the children up to five years of age take it.

20,759. Do any of the men of your caste take it to excess?—I know two or three men who do.

20,760. Out of how many?—Out of about 700.

20,761. Do you yourself consider the use of opium to be beneficial?—Yes; I think it is beneficial, because the climate of the country in which I live is cold. If I do not take opium I have pains in my knees and I feel a little cold.

20,762. Can you give me any reason why Europeans in this country do not take opium?—Europeans eat many other hot things which the poor people in India cannot provide themselves with. Besides that the Hindu religion forbids them to take some things, such as meat and liquor.

20,763. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Do the men of your caste who eat opium generally begin about the age of 35 or

40 or do they begin at an earlier age?—Opium is given to children up to five years of age generally. When they become boys and young men they give up eating opium; but afterwards when they feel weak and feel cold, when they are about the age of 35, they generally take to the habit.

20,764. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Is it a good thing for young men who have no disease to take opium regularly?—It is beneficial to them, too.

20,765. Then why do not the other men of your caste take it?—Why should they take it when they are not suffering from any disease?

20,766. Do you recommend young men who have no disease to take opium regularly?—I could not recommend it. If they like to take it they may, but I would not recommend them to take it.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow morning.

At the Daulat Bagh, Ajmere.

SIXTY-FIRST DAY.

Thursday, 1st February 1894.

PRESENT :

THE RIGHT HON. LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B., CHAIRMAN, PRESIDING.

Sir JAMES B. LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.
Sir WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.
Mr. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P.
Mr. A. U. FANSHAWE.

Mr. ARTHUR PEASE.
Mr. HARIDAS VE HARIDAS DESAI.
Mr. H. J. WILSON, M.P.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT, C.I.E., *Secretary.*

COLONEL G. H. TREVOR, C.S.I., called in and examined.

20,767. (*Chairman.*) You are Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana?—Yes.

20,768. Will you give us a general view on the questions submitted to this Commission?—The information placed before the Commission by Lieutenant-Colonel Abbott renders it unnecessary for me to say more than a few words. It appears to me to show that any general prohibition of the use of opium in Rajputana, except for purely medicinal purposes, is wholly impracticable, and would lead to very serious discontent, even if the Government were able and willing to pay the enormous compensation estimated to the different classes that would be affected by such a measure. Supposing the Government desired to see the consumption of opium reduced, the utmost it could hope to achieve, in my opinion, would be gradually to induce native States to increase the price of the drug where it is considered too cheap. Restriction in this form is all that I consider possible or desirable at present. I do not think that the habit of indulging in opium to excess is nearly so prevalent as that of indulging in spirituous liquors to excess, and I doubt if it is as injurious to the community at large, while I feel sure that any sweeping and injudicious attempt to place opium out of the reach of those who have been accustomed to the use of it would lead to increased consumption of liquor or other more dangerous stimulants, such as ganja. So much evidence has been recorded on the point whether the sale of opium under the restrictions hitherto imposed is generally harmful or beneficial, that my individual opinion can have no weight. During 36 years of residence in India, and upwards of eight years in Rajputana, I have seen very few cases of persons who have been pointed out to me as physically shaken from consuming opium. Had I been specially interested in tracing such cases, I should doubtless have seen more of them. What I can say most emphatically is, that

any undue interference with opium, even in the loyal Rajput States, would be politically full of danger to British rule, and the influence hitherto exercised with beneficial results by the Government of India. By our treaties with the States we abstain from interfering with their internal administration, and we could not largely reduce their revenues from opium without trenching upon treaty rights, unless we were prepared to pay full compensation, which seems out of the question. I shall be happy to answer any questions which the Opium Commission may think fit to ask me; but after the full information set forth in Colonel Abbott's memorandum, I do not see that I need trespass upon their time by any further remarks.

20,769. Will you give us your general impression as to the effect of the use of opium in those parts of India with which you are acquainted? Would you be inclined to say that it had been a serious cause of general moral and physical degradation?—I should say not generally, so far as I have seen. In Rajputana most people eat opium, or consume it in some form, and they are a specially healthy race. In Hyderabad, with which I am acquainted, they are Mahomedans, and I think more liquor was taken there than opium. The Nizam's Government never troubled their heads about it. There is a mixture of races there; they have not the hardy physique of the Rajputs, but I never heard that ascribed to opium. I believe that the immoderate use of opium is very harmful indeed; there is no dispute about that.

20,770. Does the use of opium enter largely into the personal habits of the people in Rajputana?—There is no doubt of it.

20,771. Is it much connected with ceremonies and religious observances?—Yes, it enters into most of them. In former days the Rajputs, before going into battle, used to drink the stirrup cup; they considered

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1 Feb. 1894.

Col. G. H. Trevor, C.S.I. that it nerved them to do anything, that it was a stimulant.

1 Feb. 1894.

20,772. Such being the facts, how would you say that the prohibition of the use of opium, as the people of Rajputana have been accustomed to use it, by outside pressure from the British authorities would be regarded?—I think it would be regarded with very serious discontent, and in time of trouble would strain to the utmost the loyalty of the States.

20,773. To what extent do you think we have the power to call upon the native States which you superintend, to deal with opium in the manner which has been proposed?—I do not think we have the power, unless we used it as we did in the case of suttie, which was prohibited in Lord William Bentinck's time; and in that case we should have to declare that it was a crime, and that the British Government would not countenance it any longer. But there is this difference between the two cases. When the British Government prohibited suttie as a crime all the general opinion of the country was leading up to regard it in that light. Although there were a few instances afterwards, still the people were prepared to welcome the prohibition, and when it was laid down by authority. If the opium habit were stamped as a crime, and prohibited on that ground, it would be contrary to the general feeling of the people. I may mention that in the case of salt the Government of India found it necessary to keep the monopoly. There was a good deal of salt in the States (there was a big lake here), and the Government compensated them largely for their rights. That was a matter of negotiation.

20,774. Salt being a very important item in the revenue of the country, it was necessary to deal with it on a comprehensive system throughout the length and breadth of India?—It was. There was a very large compensation paid.

20,775. (*Sir J. Lyall.*) By agreement?—By agreement. The case is not quite analogous. Nor is the prohibition of suttie as a crime, because there is this difference, that the whole sense of public opinion in the country was all converging in favour of the order which was issued.

20,776. The justification of the interference of the British Government must, of course, depend upon the subject matter with which you have to deal?—Precisely. Of course, if it is treated as a question of great Imperial importance, and the States are called upon to give way, that will be our justification.

20,777. If the vital principles of morality or the maintenance of public order were involved, in the interference, the vindication of it would be the immorality to be suppressed, or the necessity for the maintenance of public order, but you would deprecate such interference unless the occasion were sufficiently grave?—Certainly.

20,778. If we came in and interfered in a matter like this, it could only be by paying full compensation?—That would be the first preliminary. But even after paying compensation to the Durbars I do not see how they could prevent the consumption of opium. It would require a very large preventive establishment. That preventive establishment, I suppose, would be kept by the States, and by persons who would always be inclined to wink at any infractions of the rules laid down.

20,779. In order to keep up the salt monopoly in British territory, we had had to maintain an enormous hedge or fence running a thousand miles across India, which was of a very vexatious nature, and it was with the object of getting rid of the necessity of keeping up that hedge and the preventive establishment which would watch the hedge, that we entered into negotiation with the States, was it not?—I believe it was chiefly for that. No doubt the salt cordon was a great nuisance and led to a great deal of oppression. People felt that and were very glad to get rid of it.

20,780. In order to get rid of it we really compensated the States concerned who had salt resources in their territory in an extremely liberal manner?—It was liberal on the whole.

20,781. And we so induced them to agree?—Yes, we did it by agreement.

20,782. Has there ever been, to your knowledge, any precedent for our asserting the right to interfere in an internal matter like the growth of a certain crop or the management of certain produce?—No, I know of no precedent.

20,783. Is it not the case that the excise arrangements of many of the States in India, which joined the British territory, have been exceedingly troublesome to our own excise arrangements?—They are so very imperfect that they must necessarily be troublesome. They cannot guard sufficiently the passage of opium or anything that is contraband. Some of the larger and more civilised States have pretty good establishments, I believe. Still there have been constant complaints of opium being smuggled through, say Jeypore to the Punjab.

20,784. We have had, I believe, to tolerate the inconvenience caused thereby unless we could get the States, after argument and full consideration, to agree to modify their arrangements?—Quite so. We have not been able to prove the fact as far as I know, although it is generally believed. I merely mention that, because, I take it, their excise establishments are imperfect. It must be so for some years to come until they improve in their general administration.

20,785. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) In referring to the suppression of suttie, you recognise, of course, a very marked distinction between suttie considered by itself and the habit of consuming opium?—I do. I stamp the one as a crime, and you must stamp the other as a crime before you can prohibit it.

20,786. We could not, of course, stamp opium consuming as a crime in the same sense as the other?—Certainly not.

20,787. And any attempt to put down a general habit like opium-eating, if not in accordance with the general opinion of the people, would be ineffectual, as you believe?—I believe it would.

20,788. That would be specially the case in a country like Rajputana?—Certainly.

20,789. Will you give us your views as to whether the special use of opium among the Rajputs is attributable to their early military history?—I think you rather suggested this?—It certainly is intimately connected with their early military history. All their great warriors took opium. It is stated by all their bards that they always drank the opium cup before going into action. On leave-taking there is the stirrup cup; they always partake of this cup of opium. It is a social observance.

20,790. Perhaps you have not studied the origin of the habit among the Rajputs?—I do not know how long it has existed. I never heard of a time when the Rajputs did not take opium. The Rajputs have a very ancient and shadowy history, and we do not know much about them until the last 700 or 800 years.

20,791. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Has any State come forward to express its willingness to prohibit the growth of opium?—No, certainly not.

20,792. Would not that be the first thing to decide, whether the State was willing or not, and then go into the question of compensation?—I think so. I do not think any State would be willing. You could only do it by stamping opium-taking as a crime with which the Imperial Government was bound to interfere, unless it was done with a high, strong hand.

20,793. You do not think the Government can use its official pressure on the State to prohibit the growth of opium?—I do not think so.

20,794. Then if the States are allowed to grow, would not it be an injustice not to allow their produce to go through British territory to other countries beyond India?—I do not quite see that. If you think a thing is bad, you are not bound to give a passage through your territory.

20,795. It is only a question of transit?—If you had made up your mind that it was positively spreading immorality, and that it was a thing to be put down with a strong hand, I do not see that you would be bound to give a transit because you do not choose to interfere with the growth.

20,796. Would not the States be at liberty in the same manner not to allow any traffic through their territory?—They would be at liberty according to reason, I suppose.

20,797. Would not the State be at liberty in the same way?—Yes, I think so. I do not think we are bound to give transit. Supposing a thing was declared contraband, suppose a State chose to convey dynamite through British territory, I do not see that you are bound, because you do not choose to interfere with the

production of the article, to give it passage through British territory. That is a mere question of argument.

20,798. Take the case of Kutch. Formerly opium went through Kutch, but we asked Kutch not to allow anything to go, under the impression that the British Government supplied opium as much as the State would require?—Yes.

20,799. Then if one part of the treaty were cancelled ought not the other parts of the treaty to be cancelled also?—I think that would be fair.

20,800. Then, of course, it would go through neutral territory in that way?—Yes, it would.

20,801. You are of opinion that if the opium produced is sent through British territory to a foreign country, Government cannot interfere or prohibit it?—I would not say that they cannot do it.

20,802. The question is whether it would be a fair proceeding or in accordance with the general policy of the British Government to prevent it getting to the sea?—I think it would be very unfair to prevent it getting through to the sea.

20,803. (*Chairman.*) There are examples of agreement having been made with the native States prohibiting the export of excisable articles from such States into the British territories; there are no similar precedent for the prohibition of exports from native States into foreign countries beyond the sea?—There are not.

20,804. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Supposing the British Government in the last resort is entitled to prohibit the export of certain articles from native States into the British territory, I presume you would consider that that power could only be exercised in cases involving great moral issues?—It could only be justified in that way. I would say Imperial issues. Morality is a matter on which opinions always differ. I would rather say great Imperial issues—matters declared to be of the greatest concern to the Empire at large, obliging the Government to override all considerations which ordinarily as between individuals would be considered fair.

20,805. And in your opinion, is the opium question of that character?—No, certainly not.

20,806. Supposing that export were prohibited from the native States, would that involve a large increase in the preventive establishment of British India surrounding a native State?—I think it must—it stands to reason.

20,807. Could you form any estimate with regard to the cost of the necessary preventive measures?—I could not indeed. It must be very large.

20,808. (*Mr. Wilson.*) You have been asked some questions with reference to suttee; can you tell me what was the method by which it was abolished or prohibited in the native States?—I only know generally. It is a very long time ago that the Governor-General published a proclamation saying that anyone who was guilty of it would be deemed guilty of a crime, and that the practice was to be put down.

20,809. In the event of the practice being continued in a native State, what could the Government at that time have done?—It could not have done very much. But public opinion in the States supported the Government. The natives of India constantly grow under the pressure of old custom, and when authority comes in to prohibit it the most willing obedience is paid, because they have not to reckon with their old people who preach the Shastras at them, or with the Zenana. They are obliged to say it is "hukum," or an order of the Government, and then the people cheerfully acquiesce.

20,810. Was a communication sent to each of the native States intimating that the Government of India would henceforth regard it as a crime?—I cannot tell. I always understood that it was abolished by proclamation of the Governor-General.

20,811. (*Sir J. Lyall.*) I am not aware that the proclamation was applied to any but British territory?—I think from time to time agreements were made with the native States as opportunities arose, and that pressure was brought to bear upon them gradually.

20,812. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Can you give us any other illustrations in regard to matters of that kind, or in

regard to similar matters in which we have exercised influence, or pressure, or compulsion in the way of interfering with the native States. I am anxious to ascertain what Lord Brassey has already put to you, the nature of our relations with the native States in regard to matters either of great or of small importance—whether it is anything more than a question of degree?—I can only say that by treaties we undertake to abstain from interference with internal administration. I cannot give you any illustrations of cases in which we have interfered. Of course, we have brought pressure to bear upon the States in getting agreements. We have pointed out what we considered the evil or the good of such and such a course.

20,813. Can you tell us about the Age of Consent Bill? Have similar provisions been extended to the native States?—No.

20,814. Not in any way?—Not that I know of. I know that the Rajputs passed some rules a short time ago for regulating the expenses at marriages and funerals, which were very burdensome to the people. They also went beyond that, and said that the marriageable age of a boy should be 18, and of a girl 14. That was before the Age of Consent Bill was passed. The infraction of those rules is not penal. Society has drawn up those rules for itself.

20,815. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) The Age of Consent Act has no operation in the native States?—The preamble says "British India."

20,816. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Have any negotiations or proposals been made by the British authorities in India to the native States to induce them to enact any similar regulation?—Certainly not in Rajputana. No reference has been made to me from any foreign Government.

20,817. What has taken place in reference to Jeypore in the matter of the age of consent?—All I know is that while the Bill was under consideration the Maharaja sent a letter explaining the rules they had in Jeypore, and stating his opinion that the measure was a very necessary and judicious one, and that the Rajputs themselves had anticipated it by providing that a bride was not to be married before 14 years of age.

20,818. (*Chairman.*) You cite that as an instance in which a step was taken which was commended by the Viceroy's Government, and adopted by certain States of their own free will?—It was never sent to them or commended to them; they were left free.

20,819. It was spontaneously done?—Yes, they had done it before.

20,820. Then it would be more correct to say that the British Government followed the Jeypore Government?—They went beyond. The age of consent is fixed at 12 years, but the Maharaja said they had put it at 14.

20,821. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Do I understand you that when the Maharaja of Jeypore knew what was going on about the Age of Consent Bill in British India he spontaneously wrote intimating that they had already made regulations of a still more stringent character?—As far as I know it was spontaneous. The first that I saw of it was in the papers of the Government of India.

20,822. That they had already done it, and that it went beyond the provisions of the Age of Consent Bill?—Yes.

20,823. (*Sir J. Lyall.*) You are not sure that in Jeypore they have the force of law?—No, they were only social rules.

20,824. (*Mr. Wilson.*) It was not done by authority, but by common consent among the people?—Yes, they passed it. Of course the Darbars, the Maharajas, and the heads of States promulgate these rules, and tell their people they expect them to be followed. They are rules only applying to Rajputs.

20,825. (*Chairman.*) The great point is that the action taken with regard to the Age of Consent Bill is no precedent of an edict going forth from the British Government to be applied to the native States against their consent?—Certainly not. As a matter of fact nothing has been done with regard to the native States about the Age of Consent Bill since it was passed. The existing state of things is exactly as it was before the Bill was brought in.

20,826. Have any steps been taken in any of the native States in Rajputana similar to those taken in British India with reference to the prohibition of

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Col. G. H. Trevor, C.S.I. smoking chandu and madak upon licensed premises?—None that I know of.

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20,827. May we take it as a fact that the British Government, or rather the old Company, made the export trade by its arrangement with China, and caused the development of the cultivation of opium in this part of the world by its Chinese policy?—That I cannot tell you. Every Rajput is bound to take opium. It was to them what I suppose whisky is to the Scotchman.

20,828. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Sir James Lyall has referred to the salt hedge; when was that abolished?—In the time of Lord Lytton and Sir John Strachey.

20,829. A question was put to you as to the effect of any attempt to put down opium-eating in the native States; is it not possible to imagine that the British Government might desire to stop this export trade to China without in the least attempting to interfere with the habit of opium-eating in the native States?—Certainly.

20,830. Would the same objection which you have stated, and the same serious consequences which you have referred to, be likely to ensue in that case?—Certainly not. I do not suppose that there is much opium grown in Rajputana that goes to China.

20,831. (*Sir J. Lyall.*) I believe that nearly all the opium grown in Rajputana and Malwa does go to China?—It is so in Malwa, but I am speaking of Rajputana. Two-thirds of the opium exported from Jeypore goes to Ujjain and Indore. When I asked the Council there what was the reason for it they could not tell me. I made further inquiries, and found that it was exported there because it is sold from thence as Malwa opium, that being considered a better article.

20,832. Malwa is supposed to include Rajputana. Malwa opium is a trade term?—Then, of course, there would be this hardship—if you prohibited, you would stop the market for their opium, and take away the value of the crop.

20,833. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Then we may draw a distinction?—There is a distinction as to the degree of discontent which would be caused.

20,834. You have said that we could not “largely” reduce their revenues. The question of right and wrong would scarcely depend on the amount, would it?—I think so. The States do not haggle about small matters. A small thing you could manage by agreement, that is what I meant. You can induce them. I have myself recommended a State to increase its import duty—to make opium a little dearer—and they have done it. But I could not do it. The Government could say to a State, “You may not get quite so much revenue, but do not you think that opium in your State is too cheap? We think it would be a good thing if you were to raise the duty a little.” The State might say, “We should lose so much revenue”; still, I think they would do it if the Government of India made a great point of it.

20,835. Is the amount of transit duty payable on opium sent to Bombay secured by treaty?—No, not the amount; the duty has varied at different times.

20,836. So that if the British authority were desirous of reducing the amount of export, it might do it by raising that duty without negotiation?—Yes.

20,837. Although it might cause dissatisfaction?—Yes.

20,838. You have given a very strong illustration in referring to dynamite. Suppose any of the native States established a dynamite factory, or anything of the kind, and desired to export the article to any foreign country which the British Government thought undesirable and leading to complications with the foreign country, I gather from you that you would consider that we had a perfect right to say “We will

“not permit this dangerous stuff to pass through this territory at all,” and we should have the right in an extreme case of positively refusing to permit it going over our ground on any terms whatever?—I think so. We should be exercising the Imperial power in a question declared to be of the gravest emergency.

20,839. Therefore it comes back to what Lord Brassey put to you, that it was very much a question of degree, and of the opinion that we have of any particular transaction or trade?—Yes.

20,840. (*Mr. Pease.*) Do you know whether agreements were made in connexion with the salt in all the States that joined British territory?—It was only with those States where there was any salt produced. All the States did not produce salt of any value.

20,841. What are the producing States?—Jeypore, Kishengarh, Ulwar, and Bikanir; there were salt in them. Jeypore and Jodhpore have the greatest supply in the Sambar lake.

20,842. There are other States in the Rajputana agency besides those which adjoin the British territory?—Bhurtpore joins and there is salt there.

20,843. (*Chairman.*) You have referred to the memorandum of Colonel Abbott; have you seen it?—Yes.

20,844. Are you acquainted with the reference that he makes to the claims put forward by the native States and the sums which they think they should be paid in compensation in case the cultivation, sale, and export of opium in the several States were prohibited? He stated that looking at the matter broadly he believed the sum named might be considered a not unreasonable sum. Do you concur in that opinion?—It is a thing that I really cannot say anything about, because I have not been charged with the preparation of these statistics. I only saw the memorandum in the train on my way here a few minutes before I wrote the short note of my evidence.

20,845. We can see, as a Commission, that Colonel Abbott's observation must be a true one, namely, that the only way of verifying all these claims would be to send a committee round, composed of the most competent settlement officers of the several districts, to verify the statements on the spot?—I do not see how it can be done otherwise.

20,846. I thought you might have a general impression on the subject?—My general impression is that the compensation would be quite as large as the sum named by Colonel Abbott. In fact, I have thought from the first that it would be such a tremendous sum that Government could not look at it.

20,847. Your impression would be that if not only the trade with other parts of British India but the trade with China were stopped and compensation not paid, it would cause very considerable discontent?—I am certain that it would.

20,848. (*Sir J. Lyall.*) You are aware that there was a trade in opium beyond the seas from what is now the Bombay coast before any Europeans came to India?—Yes, I have read that, but the extent of it I cannot say.

20,849. To prohibit opium from passing through British territory to the sea would be to ruin an ancient and important industry and trade, I suppose?—I should think it would.

20,850. Have we not in the name of free trade and in common interest of the British territory and the native States of the Indian Empire always tried to induce the native States to abolish all customs duties and transit duties on the borders of their States?—We have.

20,851. Would it not be absolutely inconsistent with this long continued policy if we refused to let opium pass from those States to the sea?—Certainly, I think it would.

The witness withdrew.

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SURGEON-MAJOR A. ADAMS, M.D., called in and examined.

20,852. (*Sir W. Roberts.*) You are Officiating Residency Surgeon and Chief Medical Officer, Rajputana?—I am.

20,853. What opportunities have you had of studying the use of opium in Rajputana?—I have been over 14 years in Rajputana.

20,854. What conclusions have you come to?—It is largely used, and without detriment to the consumers

when taken in moderation. I can recall very few cases where it appeared to me that the constitution had been undermined or life shortened by this drug.

20,855. Is opium a popular household remedy in Rajputana?—It is very popular where there are no dispensaries and the people have not medical aid. It is the people's remedy for all their maladies, and is absolutely essential as a household remedy, where the

masses are so remote from skilled medical aid. It is the best remedy for painful bowel diseases so common in this country; it is the only thing they have got to alleviate their sufferings from painful and spasmodic affections, rheumatisms, coughs, asthma, and other ills. They use it both to cure and prevent malarial fevers, and it is a great prophylactic against many of the diseases common in tropical climates. It gives them powers of endurance, and when they are called upon to make an extra effort they make it under the influence of opium. It is their remedy against all kinds of hardships, cold, hunger, thirst, and fatigue. In a climate like that of Rajputana, with extremes of temperature, it is commonly resorted to to dull the sensation of cold when night marches have to be undertaken, and it is used in the same way to keep off miasmatic influences when people have to remain in their fields all night to protect their crops or watch their cattle. Camel drivers who are exposed on long night marches resort to opium to keep them warm and to keep off malarial fever, and they perform long and fatiguing journeys under its influence. These people are thinly clad, and would suffer terribly in the cold nights if they had not opium. Old people who have to make long and tiring marches in the sun do the last stages under the influence of opium, whereas, if they had not this stimulant, they would often have to lie by the roadside till they recovered from their exhausted condition, and some of them would never move on again. The above classes are not opium-eaters, and only resort to it under exceptional circumstances. It enables them to accomplish what they could not do without it; it stays their hunger and thirst, and it keeps out the cold in a way that nothing else could do.

20,856. These people you have mentioned eat opium?—They are the ordinary people of the desert. If a camel driver has to go a journey he takes a little opium. Perhaps he has no food, and he takes a little opium instead, especially if he has to go a long march. These people do not, as a rule, become opium-eaters unless driven to it by some painful disease; they are the hardest working and the hardiest in the land.

20,857. What is your opinion as to the excessive eating of opium?—Excess of opium in the well fed is not attended with any serious degeneration for a long time, and people who can afford good food will consume the drug in enormous quantities for years. They generally look well nourished, they are mostly capable business men, good artisans or hard-working labourers, so long as they can get enough of the stimulant, which becomes a necessity for their digestion and life. They live to a good round old age, and most of them work to the last.

20,858. What have you to say about the effect of opium on those who are insufficiently fed?—The underfed who exceed in opium suffer more, and they become emaciated and diseased; however, one does not often see such extreme cases in these parts.

20,859. How would you compare the use of opium with the use of alcohol?—When compared with the drunkard the worst opium-eater is a respectable citizen, capable of earning his livelihood, and never a nuisance to his neighbours or a disgrace to his relations; nor does he degenerate mentally, physically, and morally, as the drunkard does, and his life is not shortened to the same extent by his excesses.

20,860. What have you to say with regard to the proposals for the prohibition of the production or sale of opium?—Any interference with the production or sale of opium, which would put it beyond the masses who depend upon it for so much of their comfort in life, would be much to be deprecated. Alcohol would undoubtedly be largely substituted for it; the latter would confer little or none of the benefits derived from opium, and be attended with far greater evils when taken to excess. The degrading effects of the abuse of alcohol can be seen from time to time in this country, although not to the extent that it is visible at home; however, this is sufficient to make one rejoice that the people have a less degenerating and debasing stimulant.

20,861. (Mr. Pease.) Could you give us any information as to how far the taking of opium is a general practice among the labouring classes, male and female?—It is very largely taken by the people in the desert, especially on certain occasions, as when they want an effort. They also take it for pleasure and in times of feasting, and so on.

20,862. How far is it a general habitual practice among the labouring classes?—They take it very commonly; all the villagers take it.

20,863. Day by day all the year round?—Not day by day. They take it when they have a cold or when they are exhausted, and as a sort of refreshment.

20,864. They do not take it regularly, but when they want to put forth some special exertion or for some ailment?—A great many use opium in that way in the western part of Rajputana.

20,865. How far is it habitually used by the women?—The men use it more than the women, but some of the women use it.

20,866. In many places we have been told that it is the practice to take it habitually after 40 years of age, but not among the younger men; do you think that is the case in Rajputana?—The old people undoubtedly take it more. They often take it for asthma, colds, and coughs, and they get to take it regularly.

20,867. I suppose those who take it habitually, morning and evening all the year round, are quite a minority of the population?—It would be a minority of the population, but a great many of the old people take it regularly. Many others take it from time to time, whenever they require it, to keep out the wet, or whenever they have to be exposed. I have known many who used it in that way.

20,868. Any general statement that it is a common practice for all the people of Rajputana to take opium habitually would be very far from the mark?—The whole population do not take it habitually, daily.

20,869. (Sir J. Lyall.) The Rajputs are not the labouring classes.

20,870. (Mr. Pease.) What would you say as to the practice of the middle and upper classes?—A great many of the bania classes take it. They take it more than the Rajputs. A great many of them use it regularly, especially the older men.

20,871. Could you give us a per-centage?—I could not.

20,872. Could you give us your impression as to how far it is the practice to take it habitually, say twice a day all the year round?—A great many of the old people take it among the Rajputs, among the bania and the labouring classes especially.

20,873. Not the young people or the middle-aged?—The young people do not take it as a rule, but it is almost invariably given to children in the western part of the Rajputana States.

20,874. (Mr. Wilson.) Do you think it is a good thing for children?—I have compared them with other children. I could not find that they suffered in any way from mal-nutrition or anything else. They seemed to be just as healthy. I do not consider they were any worse or better. The mothers believe in it, and say they cannot get on without it, and the majority of them get it in these places.

20,875. Are there any kind of statistics as to the number who take it?—Statistics of that kind are very scarce.

20,876. What you tell us is your general impression rather than the result of statistical information?—I am giving you my own experience of the people. I have not been able to collect absolute statistics. I have seen hundreds of children who have had opium regularly.

20,877. You say it is a great prophylactic against many diseases?—Yes, against dysentery and many of the bowel diseases which are common in this country.

20,878. Have you any private practice?—I have had a great deal of practice; I do not call it private; it is among the people, dispensary and hospital practice.

20,879. Do you recommend opium as a prophylactic—do you prescribe it?—I always prescribe it for bowel diseases, but many of them take it themselves as a medicine.

20,880. Have you recommended it habitually as a prophylactic?—When they have a bowel complaint or a chill I recommend a dose.

20,881. Have you noticed a distinct difference between the power of endurance of those who take opium and those who do not?—The habitual consumer must have his opium, but the men I referred to are camel drivers who use it for the cold. They only use it

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occasionally when they have to make a great effort. I have ridden with a camel man myself who only had light clothing on. I was wrapped up, but I felt cold and hungry. The man was able to attend and help me. That was after riding 80 miles on the camel, when I was fatigued and he appeared fresh.

20,882. But they belong to a different race?—Yes, it suits them.

20,883. Have you had any opportunities of observing whether any persons do not take it, and whether they suffer more comparatively?—They suffer more from the cold certainly. I have seen men taken out for shooting, tiger hunting, and so on. They take a little opium, and have no food or water all day perhaps.

20,884. Are there any who do not take it?—I think they all take it under those circumstances. You find the Bhils sitting round, and they all take it at the same time.

20,885. Is the practice so universal that you are unable to institute a comparison as regards endurance between those who do take it and those who do not?—It would be difficult to do so unless one had an opportunity of making experiments.

20,886. The natives themselves believe in it to that extent under these circumstances?—They believe it is useful, and they certainly do not suffer from hunger and cold, as they otherwise would.

20,887. Are there any persons who do not take it?—Yes, there are many people who do not take opium.

20,888. Do they suffer more than the other persons?—They feel the hunger and cold more, I am certain of that.

20,889. You have referred to the use of opium at ceremonies, and so on. What quantity will a person consume on those occasions?—It depends on whether they are accustomed to the use of opium in large quantities or not. Those who take it regularly and habitually will consume much more if they go to a friend to be entertained than those who are not in the habit of taking opium.

20,890. What form is it generally taken in?—It is handed round as opium water, as a rule.

20,891. Dissolved?—Yes, they take it either that way or in the dry condition.

20,892. Is it already cut up, or does each man help himself?—It is passed round. They drink with each other, among the caste people.

20,893. When it is passed round what form is it in? Is it in small quantities, or do people help themselves from a larger mass?—People of the same caste will take it altogether from a small box in that way. They are not very particular about it. They do not weigh it, as a rule. They are not afraid of taking too much.

20,894. The box is passed round?—Yes.

20,895. Like a snuffbox?—Yes, I have seen them hand the box to each other. A little is given to a friend.

20,896. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Among the Rajputs, and the banker or trader class, you say that opium is habitually taken to some extent. Are cases of excess common or not?—It is difficult to say. Some take large quantities, but very few of them suffer, especially among the well fed. I could hardly find anyone who had exceeded to any extent. It is quite different, however, when alcohol is consumed.

20,897. You say, therefore, that taking opium in excess is very rare?—Yes.

20,898. You referred to the Bhils. Is opium taking very common amongst them in Rajputana?—Yes; some of them use opium and some use drink. Opium is cheaper. A gentleman complained to me the other day. He said, "I shall have to entertain my friends with "alcohol, or drink, after this."

The witness withdrew.

Bohra
Meghbahan
and Bohra
Rattan Lal.
(Bundi State.)

BOHRA MEGHBAHAN, Prime Minister of Bundi, and BOHRA RATTAN LAL, Member of Council, Bundi, called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

20,916. (*Sir J. Lyall, to Bohra Meghbahan.*) How long have you been Prime Minister?—Five years.

20,917. And how long in the service of the State?—Five generations.

20,918. You are a native of Bundi?—Yes.

20,919. (*To Bohra Rattan Lal.*) How long have you been a member of Council?—Five years.

20,899. Was that a Bhil?—No; some Bhils use opium and some drink.

20,900. The use in connexion with social customs and habits would be confined to Rajputs and allied castes, I suppose?—The Bhils use it in the same way as well. It is cheaper than alcohol.

20,901. (*Sir W. Roberts.*) I suppose you would divide the opium-eaters into those who use it for certain occasions, and those who use it habitually day by day?—Yes.

20,902. I suppose those who use it occasionally cover nearly the total population?—Most people use it occasionally, in the Western States especially.

20,903. Among these camel drivers I suppose it is universal?—It is practically universal.

20,904. Mr. Wilson asked you whether those camel drivers who did not use opium, even occasionally, were able to accomplish their journeys as well as the other men who take opium on these occasions?—They themselves say they would suffer much more. They take a little opium to keep them warm, and to keep them from feeling hungry when they go long journeys. It is difficult to institute a comparison.

20,905. Would they suffer more?—The man who takes opium suffers less. He would not feel the cold, or hunger, or thirst. He would not suffer so much as the man who refrained. It is experience that teaches him that he derives benefit from it, and therefore he takes it.

20,906. You said the practice of giving opium to children was very common?—Yes.

20,907. You also said you had not noticed that it affected their nutrition?—I was unable to detect any difference whatever, the children are given it to keep them quiet, I think, in the first instance; but now it is believed to be necessary by many mothers to help children over their teething, and its use has become general even among the well-to-do, who could afford to have their children nursed and looked after. They believe it to be the most potent remedy against the diarrhoea and convulsions of teething.

20,908. Have you seen accidents from the practice?—I have not.

20,909. You have heard of some, I suppose?—Yes, but I have not seen anywhere a fatal dose has been given.

20,910. You have seen many hundreds of children in your time who have been given opium?—Yes.

20,911. Can you call to mind any case amongst the well fed where opium did at length produce injurious results?—I have not known life to be shortened by it, but I have known old men to die of diarrhoea, or something of that sort.

20,912. You think they have their lives indirectly shortened?—I have known them to live to a good round old age. Of course the medicine is so much given for that in this country that it probably would not have so much effect.

20,913. In the case of the under fed it is a mixture of semi-starvation and opium?—One hardly sees a case of that. They generally explain that they take opium to excess for a cough, or cold, or rheumatism. They generally excuse themselves in that way.

20,914. Do you think that opium used in malarial districts is a direct or indirect preventive as a prophylactic?—Malarial fever recurs very much from exposure. The people take it very much for exposure, when they have to take jute out of the water, or do any hard work, it keeps off the recurrent attacks of ague, brought on by exposure to the sun, or cold, or damp.

20,915. It is a prophylactic in that sense?—Yes, and the people believe in it to that extent.

20,920. And how long in the service of the State?—For the last 54 years.

20,921. (*To Bohra Meghbahan.*) Will you give us your views on the subject which is before this Commission?—People cannot live in a healthy state on account of the insalubrity of the climate which will be caused to them without the consumption of opium. The chief aim of the State is the welfare of its subjects, and so,

when the peace and health of the subjects are disturbed, they both (State and its subjects) cannot bear the loss and acquiesce in the prohibition of poppy cultivation and consumption of opium. In case of the people being forced to bear the loss, the ruin of the country and insurrection is feared. Further, the State cannot make any separate arrangements for each man, so that he may be watched over and not allowed to consume opium. In the opinion of the State, the prohibition of opium, under the ground that it is prejudicial, and the enforcement of the rules regarding withdrawal from the consumption of opium by the Government, seems to be unadvisable, for the people cannot undergo such pressure because of the following reason. When even the diminution in the usual dose of opium-eaters makes them not only unfit for other works, but render them so weakly that they cannot discharge even their ordinary duties required for keeping up their bodies, then how is it possible that they may manage when the consumption of opium be totally prohibited, which will result in the loss of their lives. The opium-eaters do not become criminals, but now a full certainty of their determination to turn bad characters on account of their being deprived of the use of opium is feared. If the Government of India prohibits the cultivation and use of opium by order, without giving any consideration to the objections now made, the State and its subjects have no option except to submit under protest, and they both will then in every way be entitled to compensation, though, in no way, can the bodily injuries to the people, which will lead to the loss of their lives and the ruin of the country, receive adequate compensation. In the event of the stoppage of the poppy cultivation an additional force of police will have to be recruited for the purpose of making arrangements for prohibition. The expenditure that will have to be incurred by the State annually for this purpose is estimated to be Rs. 50,000 (fifty thousand) according to following details:—

	Rs.
Pay of 800 policemen at Rs. 4 per mensem	38,400
„ 80 jemadars at Rs. 5 „	4,800
„ 4 inspectors at Rs. 30 „	1,440
„ 1 assistant superintendent at Rs. 60 per mensem.	720
Cost of office establishment -	3,600
Miscellaneous expenses -	1,040
Total -	50,000

Owing to the insolvency and poorness caused to the cultivators by prohibition of poppy cultivation, a greater portion of land will remain uncultivated (*Parat*), and the loss that will be entailed by the State in this case can now hardly be estimated. Up to this time Government has never interfered in the internal affairs of the State. The prohibition of opium will interfere with the internal affairs of the State, and the Government has been in friendly connexion with this State up to the present time. I put in a statement showing the total amount of loss both to the State and its subjects.

20,922. (*To Bohra Rattan Lal.*) Will you tell us what you know as to poppy cultivation?—The average annual area under poppy cultivation for the past six years is 1,871 $\frac{3}{5}$ acres, and for the last 12 years is 5,104 $\frac{3}{5}$ acres. I put in a statement* showing details. I have arrived at these figures by average appraisement, which is nearly accurate. With a view to submit statistics for opium to the political agency the information regarding the area under poppy is from time to time ascertained from the Patwaris. The average out-turn of opium for the past six years is maunds 371-10-5 chittaks, and that for the last 12 years is 1,007 maunds. For details, I submit statement.* The calculation is based on the information furnished by the Patwaris, no Jinswar account is kept in the office. If the cultivation of the poppy were prohibited, wheat, barley, Indian-corn (makka), gram, cotton, sugar-cane, and cummin seed would most likely take its place. I submit a statement* showing the profit to the cultivators and to the State on one acre on the cultivation of the poppy and each of the crops replacing it. Another statement* gives details of the loss of Rs. 34,396-15-3 that will be done in the land revenue realised from the cultivation of 1,871 $\frac{3}{5}$ acres, the average annual area for the past six years and of the loss of Rs. 93,790-3-3, which will be done in the revenue realised from the cultivation of 5,104 $\frac{3}{5}$ acres, the average for the past 12 years. There is no commodity of so much value and importance as opium on

which revenue rates be raised. Another table* shows the revenue rates. No rates can be raised to make up the loss in the revenue. The loss in the land revenue has been stated before. If rates are revised, in future a new survey and settlement will be necessary, which will require hard labour and large expenses. The expenses that are to be incurred in the new settlement are estimated to be Rs. 1,00,000 (one lakh). By the stopping of the poppy cultivation the cultivators' credit will be seriously wounded. Opium being a commodity of great value and importance, the Bohras give loans to the cultivators readily, who, in their turn, can pay their creditors easily by the sale proceeds of opium and poppy seeds, &c., and carry on all the expenses of their household. The cultivators, so far as can be judged, will, in the event of the prohibition of the poppy cultivation, commence growing in its place wheat, barley, &c., and these crops which are already cheaper, of little importance and little paying, will, by over production, be again lowered in value, and at certain times will remain unsold, and thus get spoilt to the great loss and ruin of the cultivators. Should the cultivation of sugar-cane be encouraged, it is questionable whether they would be successful in their new attempts, for the crop of sugar-cane requires a greater depth of irrigation, larger suns, and more labour than any other crop would do. The cultivators, who have for ages been using their skill and labour in poppy cultivation, which yields fruits in little labour, would not be able to work as hard as they would be required to work for sugar-cane, &c., because sugar-cane takes about the whole of the year in ripening, and cotton about eight months. On the other hand, poppy takes only four months for being mature, which, in other words, means to pay more in little labour. In the crop of sugar-cane, if any of its requisites, namely, irrigation, expenditure, or labour be in any way deficient or the wells fail to supply sufficient irrigation, the crop would rather prove loss-giving than profitable to the cultivators, and will not yield them even the expenditure incurred by them in its growing. Under such circumstances, the Bohras will be less trustful, and this discredit will result in the insolvency and poverty of the cultivators. This loss can by no means be made up, and the safe payment of the land revenue being feared, owing to the poverty of the cultivators, the rates will have to be lowered again, which will entitle the State for adequate compensation. Again, on account of the poverty and insolvency of the cultivators, a greater portion of the land will remain uncultivated, which will lead to a great loss to the State, the amount of which can now hardly be estimated.

20,923. (*To Bohra Rattan Lal.*) Is there a fixed settlement of revenue in Bundi, or is there a division of produce on grain, and special cash rates on particular crops?—It has been surveyed according to State custom, and this survey has fixed the rates.

20,924. Is the measurement every year with a certain rate levied on particular crops, or is it a fixed settlement, not varying from year to year?—There are fixed rates for lands.

20,925. Without reference to the crops?—The crops are also considered. For instance, if they grow opium they are charged higher rates.

20,926. Is that done for a term of years, or is it a yearly business?—It is a fixed rate for good, not changed year after year.

20,927. (*Mr. Pease to Bohra Meghbahan.*) How have you calculated the loss to the cultivators, Rs. 1,04,176?—The profits from the poppy have been estimated, the poppy revenue has been deducted; then the profits from other crops that might take the place of poppy have been estimated, and the figure given in the table is the difference between the two.

20,928. Has allowance been made for less labour being required for other crops than for poppy?—Poppy requires less labour than the other crops.

20,929. (*Sir J. Lyall.*) What other crops?—Sugar-cane.

20,930. (*Mr. Pease.*) For wheat the labour is less, is it not?—It is greater on wheat, too. Poppy cultivation only takes four months to gather the crops.

20,931. (*Mr. Wilson to Bohra Rattan Lal.*) In your 3rd statement*, how do you get the figure Rs. 5/4/6 in the bottom line?—That is the average of the loss of the seven crops. If he were to grow cotton

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the expenses would be Rs. 5/13/6; if he grew sugar-cane the expenses would be Rs. 15/5/6. Adding all the seven items and then dividing by 7 the average is obtained.

20,932. (Sir J. Lyall.) You mean that the other expenses per acre amount to Rs. 19/13/6, and then you give the expenses for each kind of crop?—Yes.

20,933. The average of all of them is more than that of opium by Rs. 5/4/6?—Yes, more than poppy cultivation—that is, the expenses.

20,934. (Mr. Wilson to Bohra Meghbahan.) Is the habit of taking opium by young men in good health a good habit?—It is not considered a bad habit; on the contrary, it is useful; some people have a liking for it.

20,935. Is it a good habit?—It is not a virtue, but sometimes it does a man good.

20,936. (To Bohra Rattan Lal.) I will ask you the same question?—If a man takes it without any reason it is considered a vice, but generally a man takes it when there is some illness, or when there is any other reason for it, when he has to do some labour or mental work.

20,937. (To Bohra Meghbahan.) How much opium do people take when they visit their friends, habitual opium-eaters, when it is handed to them?—It depends on the dose they usually take. When we do not know what quantity a man takes we offer him two or three rattis at first, and if he is inclined to take more we give him more. Sometimes it is put into the palm of the hand.

20,938. (Mr. Mowbray to Bohra Meghbahan.) Do you wish to see the opium habit interfered with by law?—It is not advisable.

20,939. (To Bohra Rattan Lal.) Do you wish the habit interfered with?—No.

The witnesses withdrew.

PATEL SHEOBAKSH called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

Patel
Sheobaksh.
(Bundi State.)

20,950. (Chairman.) You appear on behalf of the cultivators?—Yes.

20,951. What information have you to give with reference to poppy cultivation?—The uses we make of the poppy plant are as follows:—I.—In the beginning, we cook the young leaves which serve us as vegetable. II.—The poppy heads (*doda*) are fried and eaten. III.—Opium is produced. IV.—Poppy seeds (*danas*) are used in making pottage or "*shira*," "*khichree*," &c. V.—Oil is pressed from the seeds which is used in many useful purposes, such as eating, drinking, and as a liniment. The oil is also used for medical purposes. VI.—Oil cakes (*khol*) that are left after pressing oil from the seeds are best food for cows and buffaloes, &c., which when fed with "*khol*" give more milk from which more butter is pressed. VII.—The shells (*chhikas*) when rubbed into water make a kind of drink. They are also used for medical purposes. Generally we employ ourselves for working in our fields, but when we have not sufficient number of men, we employ others for the purpose, and the wages that we have to pay is average about Rs. 7 8 a. per one bigha. Sometimes we employ more and sometimes fewer men, and the average amount that every man derives from the poppy cultivation is Rs. 2 per mensem. Wheat, barley, gram, cotton, sugar-cane, cummin seed would most likely take its place. Whatever profit or loss will be to us in the event of our discontinuing poppy and growing other crops instead, is detailed in the statement submitted by us which may be seen. The details of the difference in profit on the cultivation of poppy and other crops, which will replace it, have been given in the statement submitted by us which may be seen. Our credit will be seriously disturbed in the event of prohibition of cultivation of poppy. As opium is a commodity of great value to us, the Bohras give us loans very readily, and we can in our turn by sale proceeds of opium, poppy seeds, &c. easily pay them besides being able to carry on the expenses of our houses. We can, however, grow wheat, barley, &c. instead of poppy, but these crops which are already cheaper, will again be lowered into value by over-production, and thus prove loss-giving crops to us, and if these crops will remain unsold they will get spoiled and will thus cause ruin to us. We can also grow sugar-cane, but as it wants a greater depth of irrigation, more expenses, and greater labour we are not confident

20,940. (Mr. Haridas Vekaridas to Bohra Meghbahan.) Do you take opium?—Only on social occasions.

20,941. (To Bohra Rattan Lal.) Do you take opium?—Yes.

20,942. As a habit?—Yes, since six months.

20,943. (To Bohra Meghbahan.) Why do not you take it if it is considered a good thing?—I do not feel inclined to take it. It is no use taking it without any advantage.

20,944. You would take it on account of health?—Yes.

20,945. (Mr. Fanshawe to Bohra Meghbahan.) How has the amount of Rs. 75,000, the estimated loss by traders in the Bundi statistics, been arrived at?—The annual trade in opium is estimated at 2,000 maunds, on each of which a profit of Rs. 50 is made, so that the total loss would amount to Rs. 1,00,000. The capital if not invested in connexion with opium would only realise As. 4 per cent. per month, which would produce only Rs. 25,000, so that the total amount has been taken at Rs. 75,000 loss.

20,946. When opium is handed round on social occasions may the man who is not accustomed to take opium only touch it and leave it?—He must take it.

20,947. (Sir J. Lyall to Bohra Rattan Lal.) Has the cultivation of opium fallen off a great deal during the last six years in Bundi?—Yes, there is a decrease.

20,948. What is the meaning of that?—On account of the fall in price.

20,949. To what scales does the Bundi opium go?—Through Indore to Bombay, and sometimes it goes directly to Bombay. The thin cakes are only sent in the native States, and the big balls go to Indore for Bombay.

whether the profit on sugar-cane will in any way be so much as on poppy crops. Poppy gets mature in about four or five months, while sugar-cane takes about the whole of the year for the purpose, and as we have for ages past been employing our labour in poppy cultivation, which ripens by little labour and pays more, we hope we will not be able, when our skill and labour will be transferred to the new undertaking of the growth of sugar-cane, to work as hard as we would be required to work for sugar-cane. Further, if irrigation, expenditure, or labour be in any way deficient the crops of sugar-cane, instead of being profitable to us, will not yield us even the expenditure incurred by us in growing it. Under these circumstances the Bohras will be less trustful, and we will be reduced to poverty. The loss that will thus befall us can in no way be revived, and we doubt whether we will be able to pay the revenue demand safely.

20,952. (Sir J. Lyall.) Has poppy cultivation existed in Bundi from time immemorial, or is there a tradition when it began?—From time immemorial.

20,953. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Will you tell us whether the habit of eating or drinking opium is common among the cultivators?—They generally take it.

20,954. What is your caste?—Dhakar.

20,955. Is that a caste allied to the Rajputs?—No, it is a cultivating class, they do nothing else but cultivate.

20,956. (Mr. Mowbray.) How many bighas do you cultivate?—11 bighas.

20,957. How many bighas did you have under poppy cultivation last year?—About 8 bighas.

20,958. And this year?—I came from my village to Bundi some time ago, and I do not know how much has been sown this year.

20,959. What is the whole size of your holding, how much have you got altogether, irrigated and not irrigated?—About 175 bighas.

20,960. How much irrigated?—About 36 bighas.

20,961. (Mr. Wilson.) All the cultivators asked you to give evidence?—Altogether about 20 or 25 persons asked me to come here, and there were representatives from nearly all the villages in Bundi.

20,962. Did you write the statement yourself?—I did not write it myself, I dictated it.

20,963. To whom?—A clerk called Karpon.

20,964. What clerk was he?—An official clerk.

20,965. Is the habit of taking opium habitually a good one for young men in good health, from 25 to 30

years of age?—In my country it is thought a good habit.

20,966. Do you think it is a good habit?—Yes.

20,967. Are there many cultivators who have 175 bighas?—There are any amount of them.

The witness withdrew.

PANDIT BRIJ NATH called in and examined.

20,968. (*Chairman.*) You are Chief Revenue Official of the State of Ulwar?—Yes.

20,969. What have you to tell us with reference to the cultivation of poppy in your State?—The average area under poppy in Khalsa and alienated lands is 130 acres and 11 poles, as below:—

Khalsa - - - - 110 acres 1 rod 26 poles.

Jagir and Muafi (alienated)

lands - - - - 19 „ 2 rods 25 „

The average area of Khalsa land is arrived at by Patwaris' papers, and survey records, while the area of alienated lands under poppy shown above has been ascertained by special inquiries through the Tahsildars. If opium were extracted from the poppy cultivated in the above areas, it would come to 20 maunds 32 seers 7 chittacks; but, as a rule, opium is not extracted here. It would appear from the returns for the past few years that the production of opium, taking the average for the past five years, has been 19 seers per year. It has been ascertained from inquiry that a bigha, on an average, yields 3 or 4 maunds of the poppy, from which 4 seers of opium milk could be extracted; at this rate an acre would give 6 seers 6 chittacks and 2 tolas of milk, or, in other words, 130 acres 11 poles would give 20 maunds 32 seers and 7 chittacks of opium. There is no difference in the area and produce under poppy so far as Khalsa land is concerned. The cultivation of the poppy in Jagir and Muafi villages was, however, not included in the returns submitted during the past years. This area has now been ascertained by special inquiries, and is included in the total area under poppy cultivation given in answer No. 1. Hence the difference. If the cultivation of the poppy in above areas were prohibited, wheat, barley, vegetables, indigo, cotton, &c. in irrigated areas, and all kharif crops, such as maize, jowar, bajra, &c. in unirrigated areas would take its place, but wheat and cotton would most likely have a preference. The revenue rates in Khalsa villages generally are fixed according to the quality and growing power of the land, without regard to the kind of crops grown thereon, the cultivators being at liberty to grow any crops they liked. In some of the Jagir and Muafi villages and in a few Khalsa villages, the cultivation of the poppy is charged for at the rate of Rs. 10 per bigha, while that of wheat, barley, &c. at Rs. 4 8 a. only. Thus there would be a diminution in the revenue demand of Rs. 5 8 a. per bigha, or Rs. 1,144-9-4 on the total area under poppy in Khalsa and alienated lands. The State revenue at the settlement was fixed according to the quality and growing power of the land, without regard to the kind of crops grown thereon. The stopping of poppy cultivation would not, therefore, necessitate a revision of revenue or irrigated rates. As already explained, no revision of revenue rates would be necessary, but since the cultivation of poppy would be prohibited by order, the Zamindars would, as a matter of course, suffer a loss in revenue. The difference in the revenue on production of the poppy as compared with cotton, which will replace it, is Rs. 24 per bigha. The annual loss to the Zamindars, Jagirdars, Muafidars, and cultivators on the total area under poppy cultivation would, therefore, amount to Rs. 5,000 annually, and they could reasonably claim compensation for the loss they would be put to by the prohibition. As no revision of revenue rates would be necessary, no expenditure would be incurred. No customs or octroi duty is levied on opium in this State. A mixed contract for all drugs has been given to a contractor for three years, with effect from September last, for Rs. 10,550 per annum. It appears, however, from the examination of private accounts of the present and the late contractors that the State would lose Rs. 9,250, and that the personal loss to the contractors would be about Rs. 1,652 per annum if the consumption of opium and its productions be prohibited. The difference in profit per bigha on the

cultivation of the poppy and the other crops which will replace it is shown below:—

Description of Crops.	Receipts.	Expenditure.	Net Profit.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Poppy cultivation -	63 5 3	31 0 0	32 5 3
Wheat „ -	25 8 0	18 8 0	7 0 0
Cotton „ -	28 0 0	20 0 0	8 0 0

It will thus be seen that the loss which would be caused by the substitution of wheat and cotton for the poppy would be Rs. 25 and Rs. 24 respectively. There would be no loss in credit if poppy cultivation was stopped, as the cultivation of poppy is very limited in this State. Poppy leaves are used as vegetables. Its flowers are used in the preparation of medicine, such as gulkhand. Opium is extracted from poppy heads, which are also used for drinking purposes. Poppy seeds are used as a medicine. They also extract oil from them. The women and the children are employed in rooting out the weeds and watching the crops. The males are employed in doing all the other field work.

20,970. You have shown us that if the cultivation of opium is prohibited in your State there would be a considerable loss of revenue and a serious loss to the cultivators?—Yes.

20,971. (*Sir J. Lyall.*) Is opium imported into the State from other native States?—Yes.

20,972. Is it imported free of duty?—There is no customs duty upon it.

20,973. Is there any excise duty on opium?—There is nothing on the opium.

20,974. Is it included in the contracts for drugs?—It is included in that, there is one contract for all drugs.

20,975. How long has the system of having a monopoly for opium prevailed?—Three years.

20,976. In some of the other Rajputana States we were told that there was no excise or monopoly on opium, that opium is freely sold, but apparently you have a monopoly to licensed vendors—how long has that system prevailed in Ulwar?—Ten years.

20,977. In that respect you follow the example of the British Government?—In some ways, though not wholly upon the Excise Act.

20,978. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Is it a very common custom to offer opium to visitors?—Yes, among certain castes.

20,979. As drink, or as opium itself?—Both ways. They take dry opium mixed with water.

20,980. Do the visitors always take it, or do they sometimes just touch it and leave it?—Those who are not in the habit of taking it do not take it, they only touch it and leave it. I have been asked by the State Council to convey their views also, and I beg to hand in the following memorandum:—

VIEWS OF THE STATE COUNCIL.

Although the production of opium in this State is very limited, there is, however, an appreciable portion of the population which consume it, and they (the members of Council) think it would be very hard for those who take it regularly if the production and import of it is prohibited. Here is a statement of the loss which would be incurred to the State and its subjects in the event of the sale and import of opium being prohibited, and in that case the State would be fairly entitled to a compensation of Rs. 16,577. 6 a. All the consumers would feel the prohibition keenly, and it is quite possible they might claim compensation for the loss sustained by them on account of the prohibition. Those who are accustomed to take it

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regularly would suffer great hardship, so much so that they would become quite unfit to hold up their occupation, and, no doubt, subjected to different kinds of diseases caused by relinquishing the long-acquired habits. The Council is not in a position to estimate the amount of compensation which the consumers would be reasonably entitled to, but they have no doubt that this loss would be very heavy, and beg to bring this point prominently to the notice of the Royal Commission. Although there would be no loss to the State revenue so long as the present arrangement continues, as the new settlement is shortly to commence, it is very probable the profits derived from poppy cultivation will be taken into consideration in fixing the new *jama*.

The witness withdrew.

Thakur
Bridhi Singh.
(Ulwār State.)

THAKUR BRIDHI SINGH called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

20,981. You are a Chauhan Rajput, resident of Ulwar, aged 53 years, and a Jagirdar of Kishanpore?—Yes.

20,982. Will you give us an account of the use of opium among the Rajputs?—Some take poppy mixed with water, some take opium, others dissolve it with water and then drink the solution. Opium is administered to children up to the age of 2 or 2½ years in quantity of half a seed. They are thereby protected from several disorders and look cheerful. Those women only who suffer from asthma, cold, hectic fever, or blood diseases take opium. Men take it ordinarily, because it proves beneficial in every way if taken in moderation after the age of 40 years. It is proved by experience that the use of opium preserves eyesight. Ten per cent. of the Rajputs take it in this State. One or two per cent. only take it to excess. They take up to one chatak of opium daily. Ordinarily the quantity consumed is from a rati to a tola at a time. It is taken twice a day, morning and evening. Some take it thrice a day. It removes fatigue, and is taken to pacify the mind in pain, sorrow, and trouble. When a reconciliation is effected between two antagonists, opium is given to them as a mark that no ill-feeling would henceforth exist between them. It is considered absolutely necessary to use opium at the time of war, because it encourages warriors and soldiers to fight, and keeps the bowels tight at the time of death. The moving of bowels at a time when one is killed at a battle is considered a disgrace. One who does not use it ordinarily takes it at the time of war, because, under its influence, he fights and dies bravely. It is very beneficial in cases of diarrhoea. This is a medicine known to everyone, and can be had everywhere. On the occasion of a betrothal or Tika ceremony, the bride's relatives give opium to the bridegroom, and then the betrothal is considered complete. It is called "Amal Pilana." Among Rajputs opium is presented

The witness withdrew.

Thakur
Bahadur
Singh.
(Bikanir
State.)

THAKUR BAHADUR SINGH called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

20,989. (Chairman.) You are a Rahtor Rajput, late Pattadar of Bidasar?—Yes.

20,990. Will you tell us what you know with regard to the consumption of opium in Bikanir?—I am 39 years of age and was born in Bidasar. With the exception of four and half years, from the end of 1883 to the middle of 1888, I have resided in the Bikanir State. I spent my time till 1883 in Bikanir itself and Bidasar, and since 1888 I have resided at Bikanir. I have, therefore, a full knowledge of the customs and circumstances of Rajputs in this State. I am myself a Rahtor, but I am connected with Bhatīs, Kachwahās, Sesodias, and Chauhāns. The Rajputs consume opium in four forms: (1) they take opium dry, pure and simple; (2) they take it in the form of pills (*tara hura* or cleaned). They pound it in a mortar, mix water with it, strain it, boil the water till only a little is left, and then mix it with spices in the form of pills. The rich mix it with musk, saffron, and gold leaves, and middle-class people mix it with *garm-masala*, such as cinnamon and cloves. Poor people do not take pills in this way. They take it in the form of *amal-pani*, which is simply opium mixed with water and strained. This they drink. They take it in the form of *post*, that is, they mix poppy heads with water, rub them up and strain them, and then drink the liquor. For the most part in Bikanir opium is consumed dry. Some take it in the form of pills, but except for ceremonies it is

STATEMENT showing the Loss which would be incurred by the State and its Subjects if the production and import of Opium were prohibited:—

Loss of Profit to the Cultivator.	Loss in Excise.			Loss in Octroi Duty on Poppy- Heads only.	Grand Total.
	To the State.	To the Con- tractor.	Total.		
Rs. 5,000	Rs. 9,250	Rs. 1,952	Rs. 11,202	Rs. 375	Rs. 16,577

to friends and relatives, &c. on occasions of festivals, and when they go to pay a visit. It is often presented on ordinary days also. It is invigorating and infuses cheerfulness. If they do not make use of it they catch cold and suffer from diarrhoea. Those addicted to the use of opium must take it in regular doses at proper times. If they cannot get it at the usual time they are sure to get ill. The state of their uneasiness can better be imagined than described. If they substitute liquor in place of opium there will be difficulties in the way; firstly, according to religious scruples certain sects are prohibited from taking liquor; secondly, liquor is as much injurious as opium is beneficial to health; thirdly, opium is taken in small quantities, and is useful, while liquor is taken in large quantities, and is injurious.

20,983. (Sir J. Lyalk.) What is the value of your Jagir?—It yields Rs. 5,000 a year.

20,984. Are you of the same family as the Raja?—He belongs to the Naruki clan; I am a Chauhan.

20,985. When does the Jagir date from?—It was given to my ancestors by Maharaja Partab Singh.

20,986. How long ago was that?—116 years ago.

20,987. It is the custom on certain occasions, such as visits, among the Rajputs to give "Amal Pani," would it be considered uncivil for a visitor to refuse it, or can they refuse it if they like?—The host takes it ill if he does not take it.

20,988. Are there not some Rajputs who do not take some Amal Pani?—Liquor is prohibited by religion for certain sects and classes of people. There is no such prohibition for opium and it is offered to all, and the guests are expected to take it. They may take it in any slight quantity, but still they are expected to take it. The host takes it ill if they do not.

rarely taken in the form of *amal-pani*. *Post* is cheaper than the other forms, and along the Shekhawati border people take it to some extent. No one smokes opium in this part of India. To smoke it is considered a vice. It is eaten or drunk for the benefit of the person who takes it. There is no difference among the different tribes of Rajputs in Bikanir in respect of the consumption of opium. Men, women, and children all take it, but men take it more than women and women more than children. To children it is generally given either to stop illness, such as diarrhoea, or to keep them quiet and prevent them from interfering with their parents' pursuits. This goes on till the children are two or three years old, and then it is dropped when the children can take care of themselves a little. Women take it owing to illness, in many of which it is of great benefit to them. They do not take it except for illness, as they do not join on hospitable occasions. It is taken for *badi* (wind) and *sardi* (cold). It is not ordinarily given in confinements, as it makes them slower, unless there is diarrhoea or some special reason. It is sometimes given afterwards when there is great pain. It is given also for asthma, cough, neuralgia. Men, as a rule, take it to give them strength when there is much work to do. One and a half men can with opium do the work of two without it. They also take it to prevent weariness from long journeys or when they have to keep awake all night. They and women also take it

for pneumonia; but the illness is more common among men. It is also taken for restlessness. Perhaps half the people who take it began to take it for this reason. I did so myself. In old age, when breathing is difficult, it is also taken. Besides it being taken for illnesses, people begin to take it on ceremonial occasions, such as marriages, funerals, and betrothals. It is then given to guests. *Pan* does not grow in these parts, so opium, either dry or in pills, is taken instead. It is given on these occasions to all to take it or not as they like. In this way people get into the habit of taking opium. Among Rajputs of all kinds 30 people in a hundred take opium. Taking men only, I should say about 40 out of a hundred take opium, but this is a guess. In the same way I should say about 20 women in a hundred take opium, and perhaps 12 or 15 children in a hundred. Charans, Mirasis and Golas all take opium to a greater extent than Rajputs do. Brahmans, Baniyas, and Jats take it less. Taking the Bikanir State as a whole, I should say 25 per cent. of the people take it. Chamars take it like Jats, but few of them can afford it. Out of 100 opium-eaters about one takes it in excess, *i.e.*, becomes lazy, feeble, and unable to do his work. To the rest it does no harm, and to those who take it in excess it is not dangerous to life. Ordinary opium-eaters take opium twice a day, in the early morning and at 3 o'clock. Some take it only once and a few three times, morning, noon, and evening. One in a thousand may take it more than three times. The ordinary amount taken at a time is from 1 to 6 *ratis*. Perhaps one in a hundred takes as much as 12 *ratis*. So much as this would not be taken more than twice a day. I myself take it three times a day. I take about 3 *ratis* at a time. I have taken it for 18 years. We Rajputs consider it necessary to give it at weddings, funerals, and betrothals,—that is, it is absolutely necessary to offer it to everyone. No one is compelled to take it unless he likes at weddings and funerals, but no betrothal is considered as binding unless the fathers of the parties both take opium. When enemies are reconciled opium is commonly taken, and then everyone who is reconciled has either to take it himself or to get one of his family to take it. It may be only a very little for form's sake. It is the castes

allied with Rajputs, such as Mirasis, Charans, Daroghas, and Golas that take opium on ceremonial occasions. Other castes do not. Opium does no harm to persons who take it in moderation. It gives them strength. It is very good for wounds and lessens the pain. It is of great advantage, as I have said, for many illnesses, and it keeps off fever from cold. It is not taken here as an aphrodisiac, though I have heard it said to be one. I have not noticed any difference in respect of the numbers of their children between those who take and those who do not take opium. Those who take it praise it and those who do not run it down. If opium could not be procured except as medicine, I believe that one-half of the opium-eaters would die; the other half would take to arsenic, datura seed, bhang, liquor, strychnia, and such like substitutes. They would be ruined by these things, as they are all more injurious than opium. As a general rule opium-eaters do not drink liquor to excess. Those who drink and wish to give it up can do so if they take to opium, whereas those who take opium cannot give it up by taking to drink. Excessive opium-eaters do not care about liquor. For those who do not take opium at present the effect of prohibition would be to deprive them of a useful strengthener in old age, and that they would not be equal to as much exertion as if they could get opium. Opium is also given to horses, bullocks, and camels when much work is expected from them. If opium were stopped altogether there would be considerable loss of life; if it were made much more difficult to procure there would be a large increase in the consumption of liquor. Speaking of my own condition I may say that two years ago I rode to Ajmere (160 miles) on a camel in 2½ days. Only last month I went to my own home (80 miles) in three days and am quite ready to go 80 miles in a day now. I am at present a member of the Walterkrit and Brahman marriage committees, the horse and camel committees, and the legislative committee of the State.

20,991. (*Sir J. Lyall.*) What do you mean by "restlessness," do you mean difficulty of sleeping or difficulty of sitting still?—A pain is felt in the limbs, it is uneasiness.

The witness withdrew.

SETH RIKHAB DAS called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

20,992. (*Chairman.*) You are a Bagri of Bikanir, and of the Mahajan caste?—Yes.

20,993. What information have you to give us with reference to the opium traffic in Bikanir?—I am 30 years of age. I have firms at Calcutta (Sheolal Har Dass), Indore (Gambirchand Suraj Mal), Kotah (Kishori Lal Mayalal Das), Ajmere (Hansraj Gambirchand), and here (Damodhar Das Gambirchand). My shops here, at Indore, and at Kotah, deal in opium. Here my business consists in importing opium and selling it in the bazar. At Indore and Kotah the firms purchase opium, sell it and forward it to Bombay. If the cultivation and import of opium were stopped my loss here would be considerable. I import yearly into Bikanir about 75 maunds of opium, the value of which is about Rs. 37,500, my profit on this is 12 per cent., so I should lose Rs. 4,500 a year. I generally have also 250 to 300 pailas of opium, *i.e.*, about 45 maunds in stock, which I value at Rs. 22,000, and which would become unsaleable. This, with the interest for a year, which I should lose also, would be a loss of about Rs. 26,000. The other traders in Bikanir would lose in the same way. The circumstances of the Kotah and Indore firms are the same, and I will show together the loss which I should suffer in regard to them if the production and export of opium were prohibited. I do not give advances to cultivators, but I purchase from them. I buy the juice of the poppy from them at the rate of 6 rupees a seer to the extent of about Rs. 50,000 a year, I then manufacture it with oil. The manufacture costs me Rs. 13 for every five seers of poppy juice. The weight of the opium is the same as that of the juice, as the oil put in makes up for the loss by drying. I thus get about 11,000 seers of opium. This I sell again at Indore or Bombay at an average profit of about 10 per cent. My annual income from Kotah and Indore thus comes to about Rs. 6,500 a year. Besides this, I make a profit by commission on the purchase of opium, which amounts to about Rs. 4,000. I receive commission at varying rates which amount on the average to about 12 annas per cent. I have accounts for three

or four years, but the figures which I have given represent an average over a series of years. Besides the Rs. 10,500 which I should lose in the manner stated, I should also lose about a lakh of rupees, the value of opium which I have in stock, and which I should not be able to sell. This would be a very heavy loss, and I am not prepared to say what the general effect of it on my trade and credit would be. I should incur a further loss also in the way of Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 30,000 a year. The customers who buy opium through me frequently do not send me money in advance. I buy for them with my own money which is considered as a loan to them, on which they pay 8 annas per cent. There are some 25 other shops in Indore which would suffer loss in the same way that I should. There are also eight or ten similar shops in Kotah. There is no way in which I could compensate myself for the loss which would be caused by the stoppage of opium. Mahesris take opium dry and in pills, but not in the form of amal-pani and post. Just as they take it, so Brahmans, Oswals, and Agarwalas take it also. Men, women, and children all alike take opium. It is given only to children under three years. It is given as a remedy for pains in the stomach, diarrhoea, cough, and other illness, and to keep children quiet. Grown up people generally begin to take it again at about 30 years of age. They take it as a remedy for illness only and not for pleasure. Once people begin to take it they do not give it up again. I should say about 20 per cent. of the men of the caste and 10 per cent. of the women take opium and 50 children out of every hundred. I should say that perhaps 5 per cent. of the consumers take enough to weaken them, but that not that proportion is seriously injured by opium. I have never come across a case of a man who has been rendered unfit for his work by opium. People take opium generally twice a day, some once, and some three times a day. None more than three times. People generally take from ½ a rati to three rattis at a time. I do not take opium myself. We have no occasions whatever on which the giving or taking of opium is compulsory. We take it only as a

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Bahadur
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State.)

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(Bikanir
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remedy for illness and for the good which it does us and the strength which it gives us. There is no doubt, in my opinion, that it gives strength. It is certainly good for old people. I should not begin it unless I were weak, then I should. In my opinion, the moderate eating of opium does no harm whatever, on the contrary it does good. If opium were only procurable as a medicine, the effect on present consumers would be very bad. A few would die and the rest would become weak and useless. They would not, I think, take to any other stimulant. In the case of non-consumers, there would be no injury till occasion for taking to opium arise from weakness, illness, or old age, and then they would suffer.

20,994. (Sir J. Lyall.) I understand that, although you are a Bikanir man, yet you have dealings in opium outside Bikanir?—Yes; I have shops in other places, and I deal in opium through my agents.

20,995. Is there any opium produced in Bikanir?—No.

The witness withdrew.

Seth Milap
Chand and
Seth Nemi
Chand.
(Bikanir
State.)

SETH MILAP CHAND and SETH NEMI CHAND called in and (SETH MILAP CHAND examined through an Interpreter).

21,002. (Chairman to Seth Milap Chand.) You are head of the Customs Department of the Bikanir State?—Yes.

21,003. (To Seth Nemi Chand.) You are Nazim of Sujangarh in Bikanir?—Yes.

21,004. (To Seth Milap Chand.) Will you tell us what you know about the import of opium into the Bikanir State?—I am 60 years of age. I have been for 10 years in the service of the Bikanir State, and have been in charge of the Customs Department continuously save for three years when I was a member of the Council. The average import of opium into the Bikanir State has been 355 maunds and 21 seers for the past eight years, i.e.:—

	Mds.	Srs.
1885-86 - - - -	361	32
1886-87 - - - -	209	10
1887-88 - - - -	377	32
1888-89 - - - -	221	18
1889-90 - - - -	365	20
1890-91 - - - -	564	15
1891-92 - - - -	463	8
1892-93 - - - -	280	36
	2,844	11

The average of the first four years of the series is 292 maunds and 39 seers, and that of the last four years is 418 maunds and 19 seers. I attribute the increase in the last four years to the fact that formerly the duty on opium was not more than Rs. 70 a maund. Consequently there were large stocks, and these were consumed in the first four years. Since that it has been necessary to import more largely to meet the demand. When I first came the duty on opium imported was Rs. 70. In 1885 it was raised to Rs. 90. In 1890 it was raised again to Rs. 150, and this year to Rs. 200. Possibly also there was more smuggling formerly than now. Another reason also is that opium has been cheaper lately than formerly. I do not think that there are large stocks of opium at present in the city. In the present year 325 maunds have come up to the present time. As the population increases, there is likely to be an increase in the import, but not, I think, otherwise. I should say that 375 maunds would be about the consumption of the next few years. I arrived at this calculation by taking the average of the past eight years and allowing 25 maunds a year for the previous stocks. I have not made any allowance for future increase in population, in as much as I believe that, as opium gets dearer owing to increase of duty, the number of consumers will become proportionately smaller. I do not think that the price will affect the consumption till it is twice as heavy as at present. I have heard that in Marwar the duty has been raised by another Rs. 50 a maund, i.e., to Rs. 250 a maund. Assuming that it is similarly raised here, and that 375 maunds is the annual import, the annual revenue loss to the Durbar would be Rs. 93,750. The Jagirdars would not suffer at all, as they no longer levy customs dues. In my opinion it would not be possible to make up the loss caused by the prohibition of opium by other customs. As it is the customs dues are higher than

20,996. Does any opium pass through Bikanir into Bhawalpore?—I do not know that it does.

20,997. Who are Mahesris?—It is a caste of Banias. Bagri is a sect of the Mahesri.

20,998. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Do you follow the Jain religion?—I am a Hindu.

20,999. You state that there are occasions on which the giving or taking of opium is compulsory, does that apply to Mahesri Banias?—Yes. Among the Mahesri Banias.

21,000. (Mr. Pease.) When you say 20 per cent. of the men take opium, do you mean 20 per cent. of your own caste?—Among my own caste.

21,001. Do they take more or less than the other people in Bikanir; are there more opium-eaters among them per hundred, or fewer?—Among the Mahesri there is a smaller number of opium-eaters compared with Rajputs.

they used to be. They are high as it is, and could not be raised. If the customs were raised the effect would be to interfere with trade and reduce the revenue instead of raising it. The duty on piece goods is at present Rs. 5 a maund, and on cloth manufactured in India from English thread Rs. 4, that on country cloth Rs. 1 8 a., sugarcane pays 8 annas, gur 9 annas a maund, sugar 12 annas a maund, ghi Rs. 2 a maund, rice 8 annas a maund, corn 3 annas a maund, wool Rs. 2 a maund, oxen exported 10 annas a piece, sheep 2 annas a piece. There would be no loss in excise owing to the prohibition of opium as there is no excise. The actual price of opium in Bikanir to traders is about Rs. 500, and the profit on its sale is 10 or 12 per cent. The whole loss to traders would thus be about Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 25,000. This is merely the direct loss, and does not include the loss which Bikanir traders, who have firms elsewhere, would suffer. It also does not include the injury to their credit, and so to their other trade, which would result from heavy loss in opium. They would also lose enormously by failure to recover advances. It would be impossible for the traders to compensate themselves in any way for the loss which they would suffer by opium. I know all about this matter, because I was Munim to Seth Mal Chand Soni, Rai Bahadur of Ajmere, both at Ajmere and Karaoli, and I am myself a Bania by caste, though I do not trade myself.

21,005. (To Seth Nemi Chand.) Will you tell us from your own personal experience what you know in connexion with the opium trade in Bikanir?—I am 45 years of age, and have been 10 years in the employ of the Bikanir State. I was at the head of the Customs Department from the middle of S. 1941 to the middle of S. 1944 (1883-84), after that I was two or three months in the Council, and then for three years at the head of the Accounts Department, since which I have been for three years a Nazim, first at Surajgarh and since at Sujangarh. I had opportunities of seeing the import of opium when I was in the Customs Department, and I have also seen the replies given by my brother, Seth Milap Chand, yesterday. I have also a knowledge of the opium trade from my own personal experience when I was engaged in it, before I entered the service of the Durbar. With reference to the statement which Seth Milap Chand made, I wish to say that I think he made a mistake in taking an average of eight years. The Customs Department was re-organised in Sambat year 1942, and traders knowing that a re-organisation was about to take place, imported large quantities. In Sambat year 1941 (1883-84) 556 maunds were imported, and nine years is the proper average to take, which gives 378 maunds a year. It is impossible to take a longer series of years, as correct figures are not available prior to Sambat year 1941. If it be assumed that the duty on opium will be kept, as at present, at Rs. 205, the revenue on 378 maunds would be Rs. 77,490. Besides this, there is a prospect of a further increase of revenue in the future. The present duty is very low, and is hardly felt by consumers. It has been gradually raised from Rs. 70 to Rs. 205, and would probably be raised again in future. Also the population of Bikanir is increasing, and if it continues to increase in the future, the revenue from

opium will increase of itself without raising the duty. Without relying too much on the figures of the census of 1881, I should say from my own experience of Bikanir that the population has increased at least 20 per cent. in the past 10 years, and a similar increase may be expected in future. The duty might easily be raised to Rs. 300 a maund, and allowing for an increase of 20 per cent. in the population, the future loss to the State by stopping the consumption of opium would not be less than one and a half lakhs of rupees. Compensation for the customs duty taken by them was given to Jagirdars in S. 1942 and the following years, amounting to Rs. 50,000 or thereabouts a year. A very small portion of this, not more than 0.02 per cent. represented customs duty on opium, as these dues were taken by weight or camel loads, and opium was valuable in proportion to its weight. In my opinion the revenue from opium could not be replaced fairly by additional taxation, because it is a revenue derived from the consumers of the drug and to replace it would be necessary to tax other people. Neither is there any source from which it could be replaced. The customs duties are high already and could not be raised. The only grains free from duty are the common ones which form the staple food of the poor. The customs tariff was carefully considered that taxation should fall on those able to bear it to the extent of their means, and any increase would be injurious.

21,006. (*Sir J. Lyall to Seth Milap Chand.*) Why has the duty on opium been raised so much lately?—They follow the example of Jodhpore. When I first came the duty was Rs. 70.

21,007. What was that duty called?—Mahsul.

21,008. Has there always been a customs duty on opium in the State?—The charge was not so heavy before.

21,009. Now that the duty has gone up to Rs. 200 is it not very difficult in a country like Bikanir to stop smuggling?—They make arrangements as far as possible, but every now and then people are caught.

21,010. Do you not think a great deal must come in like that—who looks after it?—There are police

stations. The inspector goes round in each village and inquires, and if anybody is found to have failed to pay the duty on opium it is put up for auction, and the man is fined for it.

21,011. Are informers used or not?—It is a rule when the opium is put up to auction and sold that the Raj takes only the duty leviable on the quantity, and the rest of the price is given to the informer as a reward.

21,012. (*Mr. Fanshawe to Seth Milap Chand.*) Are there not a large number of Baniyas in the Bikanir State?—A large number.

21,013. Is the habit of taking opium in moderation common amongst them?—A few take opium.

21,014. Can you tell me how many per cent. take it?—Eight or 10 per cent.

21,015. Is it the case among the Baniyas that the use of opium is generally begun in middle life?—They generally take it in old age, but in middle age a person takes it as medicine to remove some illness.

21,016. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas to Seth Milap Chand.*) Do you take it?—No.

21,017. (*Mr. Mowbray to Seth Nemi Chand.*) Where does the opium imported into Bikanir come from?—From Kotah.

21,018. What is the retail price?—Rs. 12 a seer.

21,019. (*Mr. Pease to Seth Nemi Chand.*) When the duty was raised in 1890, and again in 1894, was it in the hope that the consumption of opium would decrease?—Opium in these years has become cheaper on account of its production in China. The increase of duty has had no effect, and the consumption is the same as before.

21,020. The price was raised to increase the revenue without opium becoming any cheaper?—The custom has been raised for revenue certainly, but, as in these years, opium became cheaper on account of the production in China, the tax is not felt by the people—it is felt too little because they pay only about 8 annas per head during the year.

The witnesses withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow.

At Daulat Bagh, Ajmere.

SIXTY-SECOND DAY.

Friday, 2nd February 1894.

PRESENT :

THE RIGHT HON. LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B., CHAIRMAN, PRESIDING.

Sir JAMES LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.
Sir WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.
Mr. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P.
Mr. A. U. FANSHAWE.

Mr. ARTHUR PEASE.
Mr. HARIDAS VEHARIDAS DESAI.
Mr. H. J. WILSON, M.P.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT, C.I.E., *Secretary.*

Surgeon-Major D. FRENCH MULLEN called in and examined.

21,021. (*Sir W. Roberts.*) You are, I believe, Civil Surgeon at Ajmere?—Yes.

21,022?—How long have you served in Rajputana?—I have served 16 years in Rajputana, and the greater part of that time in an opium-growing district (Udaipur).

21,023. What have been your impressions with regard to opium?—I have no prepossession in favour of opium. I do not think its use is necessary as a prophylactic, or for the treatment of malaria in Rajputana. I do not think healthy young people are any the better for taking

opium even in moderation. At the Mayo College, where the young Rajput nobles are educated, no boy is allowed to take opium in any form, and they are as healthy a lot of youngsters as you would see anywhere. I consider that the Mayo College is having and will have a decided effect in bringing up the young Rajputs to do without opium. The people who exceed in the matter of taking opium would take to alcohol or ganja if deprived of it.

21,024. Speaking generally, do you consider opium a harmful stimulant?—If the Rajputs must have a stimulant, I think opium the least harmful.

Seth Milap Chand and Seth Nemi Chand. (Bikanir State.)

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Surgeon-Major D. French Mullen.

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Surgeon-Major
D. French
Mullen.
2 Feb. 1894.

21,025. Does it incite to crime, do you think?—I do not believe it incites to crime. We get very few opium-eating prisoners in the Ajmere Gaol. I consider it would be quite impossible for Government to prohibit opium growing; they must trust to education.

21,026. How long have you been in civil practice in this district?—About 13 years.

21,027. Amongst what classes of people have you practised?—Amongst Rajputs, Bhils, and Baniyas, all classes.

21,028. Have you had dispensaries under your charge?—Yes, from 12 to 15 dispensaries, besides one where I always work myself.

21,029. There you see the patients yourself?—Yes; I have had that under my charge for 16 years.

21,030. Have you noticed the effect of opium as a producer of much disease?—I say it produces very little disease, if any.

21,031. You recognise, I presume, the difference between moderate consumption and excessive consumption?—Yes, there is a decided difference.

21,032. Have you noticed anything in the way of disease produced in moderate opium-eaters?—Never.

21,033. But you have from excess?—Yes.

21,034. Have you noticed the effect of excess on the people who do not get enough to eat, who are poor and insufficiently fed?—It keeps away the feeling of hunger more or less; a man can do with less food if he takes opium.

21,035. You think it enables a man to do with less food?—Yes, it dulls the sensation of hunger.

21,036. What effects have you noticed in well fed people from the excessive use of opium?—I do not think I have ever met a man who ate opium in excess that had not some disease as well.

21,037. You mean some disease independent of opium?—Yes.

21,038. Have you seen them use opium merely as a restorative or comforter?—The people do use it in moderation as a restorative; I was referring to excess.

21,039. You have not seen that class of consumers go to excess?—Except where there was some independent disease.

21,040. The people who have exceeded have generally had some disease?—Yes.

21,041. What is your impression with regard to the use of opium in malarial conditions as a mitigator or as a prophylactic?—Wherever you can get quinine or medical treatment, I consider opium is quite unnecessary.

21,042. But in cases where you cannot get quinine?—Indirectly it will act by preventing chills which lead to fever.

21,043. It prevents recurrent attacks?—It prevents chills.

21,044. In that respect you consider it a prophylactic?—Indirectly only.

21,045. What is your general impression as to the opium habit in Rajputana; is it on the whole a habit that does more harm than good or the other way?—I mean the habit as it is practised in Rajputana?—My position with regard to that is, that a lot of the people

are badly fed, have very insanitary surroundings, and are poorly clothed, and that with these people opium does a certain amount of good. It prevents them getting colds, and stifles the feeling of hunger to a certain extent.

21,046. Do you think that the good does counterbalance the evil?—I think the good does counterbalance the evil in their present state.

21,047. Have you any experience of the practice, which I understand is prevalent here, of giving small quantities of opium to infants?—Yes.

21,048. Have you seen accidents from that practice?—Whenever I attend a case myself I always stop the opium while the child is under my treatment. I have had cases of pneumonia and cases of bronchitis, where if the opium had been continued the child would have probably died.

21,049. If the opium had been continued?—Yes.

21,050. Speaking generally, does the habit appear to you to interfere with the growth and nutrition of infants?—No, the children are a very healthy looking lot.

21,051. Does the practice lead to accidents or fatalities amongst the infants?—I have no doubt it does lead to a certain number of accidents from overdose, but so it does in England.

21,052. Even under medical prescription?—Yes.

21,053. Then you do not think the accidents from the practice here are more frequent than the accidents that occur in England?—I was one and a half years in Wales, and I had quite as many accidents there from these patent medicines containing opium.

21,054. (Mr. Fanshawe.) With reference to what you said about the Rajput nobles at the Mayo College, it would not be usual, would it, for boys of that age to consume opium, even in their own homes?—A lot of them do, just as schoolboys smoke, on the quiet, and sometimes when they want to get into the Zenana they take a dose. It is not a regular habit.

21,055. It would not be a regular habit, but it would be an occasional use at that age?—Yes.

21,056. In your experience are the cases of excessive consumption amongst the Rajput Thakurs common or not; few or many?—I suppose in my experience I have met about six that exceeded.

21,057. Would that be few or many looking at the thing in its totality?—Some 3 per cent.

21,058. Some 3 per cent. of the Thakurs whom you know would take it to excess?—Yes.

21,059. (Mr. Haridas Vehiridas.) You have said that the people who exceed in the matter of taking opium would take alcohol or ganja if deprived of opium; do you mean by that that the habit of taking alcohol or ganja is more injurious than that of taking opium in excess?—What I mean is that the men who take opium in excess feel that they cannot do without a stimulant. They have not strength of mind to deprive themselves of it. If they did not take opium they would take some other stimulant, and alcohol or ganja would be worse for them.

21,060. (Mr. Fease.) You think it a matter of regret that so many of the people here who are in health take opium?—Yes; just as I think a man need not take liquor if he does not require it.

The witness withdrew.

SINGHI SURAJMAL called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

21,061. (Chairman.) You are, I believe, Customs Superintendent at Marwar?—Yes.

21,062. What is your caste?—I am a Mahajan.

21,063. What have you to tell us in reference to the consumption of opium at Marwar?—I have served 11 years in the Customs Department. Comparison of customs returns of the past five years with those of the preceding five years shows an annual decrease of 93 maunds in the annual import of opium, and I can prove thereby that its consumption is decreasing, which decrease, I think, is mainly due to the gradual decrease of immoderate opium-eaters, as also the frugal tendency of the opium-eating rich in the use of opium in festival and courteous hospitalities. In my opinion the annual import of opium cannot go lower than 1,000

maunds a year. From the records of the past five years, for the accuracy of which I can vouch, I find an average of 1,241 maunds opium imported, and this quantity, with the duty at present levied, Rs. 200, would bring in an income of Rs. 2,48,200, but while comparing this figure with that of import of preceding five years, I find an average annual decrease of 93 maunds, and allowing this decrease to continue, the import of opium cannot, as already stated, go lower than 1,000 maunds, which amount in my opinion is essentially necessary for consumption in Marwar. I therefore fairly estimate the Durbar permanent loss (on the reduced quantity of import, maunds 1,000, with the duty at present levied) at Rs. 2,00,000. Besides this, transit duty on opium for Jaisalmir brings to the Durbar an average annual income of about Rs. 500. Taking

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both items together the Durbar loss is estimated by me at Rs. 2,00,500. I believe the import of 1,000 maunds per annum would not decrease even if the import duty were still further raised, a measure which would likely create dissatisfaction in Marwar, as the duty on opium has amply been raised. I consider the above fairly represents the Durbar loss, as it could not be made good by other changes. My experience enables me to judge that loss in excise (mapa) to Jagirdars by the prohibition of opium would be about Rs. 5,000. The average annual import of opium in Marwar is 1,241 maunds, out of which 641 maunds is consumed in Khalsa and other villages where no excise is charged on opium. I consider the average of Jagirdar's charge of excise dues to be three pies on every rupee worth of opium in Marwar. At this rate the total charge of excise on 600 maunds comes to Rs. 5,000.

21,064. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) I understand that there is no poppy cultivation in Marwar?—No.

21,065. Will you kindly tell us from what States the opium is chiefly imported into Marwar?—The juice comes from Tonk, and the balls come from Kotah and Udaipur.

The witness withdrew.

KABIRAJ MURARDHAN called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

21,072. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) You are a Member of Council of Marwar, and a Charan by caste?—Yes.

21,073. Will you tell us what you know about the habit of opium-eating in Marwar?—I have had experience of opium-using classes in Marwar for the last 35 years, during which I have seen almost all the Parganas in Marwar. Opium is mostly used among Rajputs, Charans, and Bhats, who are followed by the criminal and forest tribes, and miscellaneous classes of Dholhis, Nais, Bambis, and Kumars. After them come the Mahomedans (especially Sindhis, Kaimkhanis, and Desi Sipahis), Hindu cultivators, Prohit Brahmins, and last of all the Mahajans. They use opium in four forms:—

1. Dry mostly used by all classes.
2. Opium dissolved in water used by the rich.
3. Opium pills mixed with aromatic spices used by few of the rich.
4. Tejara cold infusion of poppy heads used rarely by the poor when opium is not available.

Men mostly, and women rarely, are habitual opium eaters. Seventy-five per cent. of infants above two months are daily given a dose of $\frac{1}{2}$ rati till they are weaned, and this does not only benefit them in preventing dysentery, chill, and evil effects of unwholesome milk, but also gives time to enable their mothers to work at house and in the fields. Twenty per cent. of opium eaters take it in excess. Its moderate use per day is 4 ratis, but with rich diet and good exercise it may be taken up to 6 ratis a day. More than this is an excess which goes up to $\frac{1}{2}$ tola a day. It is taken moderately by the labouring classes with benefit. The number of moderate opium-eaters in Marwar is about 125,000 and that of immoderate 30,000. About 6 per cent. of the population of Marwar are habitual opium-eaters, taking into consideration only 2 per cent. of the females as habitual eaters. It is mostly taken twice, but a few take it once and thrice. Its use is obligatory among men of almost all creeds and classes in Marwar (with the exception of a few sects of Brahmins, Mahomedans, and Mahajans)—on betrothal, on wedding day, during mourning days, and for reconciliation, and at the first visit of the son-in-law to his father-in-law's house. This usage is binding from a long standing custom. The succession of a Jagirdar is formally recognised by the head man of the village offering opium. To propitiate all festival days its use is customary, particularly the Akhatij (new year), Holi, and Dewali festivals. Moderate use of opium after 40 is useful

The witness withdrew.

(LORD BRASSEY here left the Chair, which was taken by Sir JAMES LYALL.)

PANDIT MADHO PRASAD called in and examined.

21,080. (*Chairman.*) You are Superintendent of Jalore in Marwar?—Yes.

21,081. What is your caste?—I am a Brahmin.

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21,066. Is the quantity of 1,000 maunds, which you mention, intended for actual consumption in Marwar territory?—Yes.

21,067. Is there any excise for opium in force in Marwar?—No.

21,068. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) You say that the present consumption is 1,241 maunds, and you estimate that at some distant date the consumption will fall to 1,000 maunds, but not lower; do you think that next year the consumption will be less than it is now?—Yes, I think that it will be lower.

21,069. But not lower than 1,000 maunds?—No, certainly not, under any circumstances.

21,070. (*Mr. Pease.*) To what do you attribute the gradual decrease of opium-eaters?—They levied extra duty on opium, that is one thing. People who used it in excess gradually decreased the dose. Another thing is that the people used to offer opium when they met, and they do not do it now to the same extent.

21,071. Do you think there has been a reduction in the number of persons who take opium?—From 93 maunds decrease, it seems that there must have been some decrease in the number.

to cultivating and labouring classes. Even its immoderate use is not so bad as the habit of taking alcohol in excess. Few can keep the use of liquor in moderation, and hence that substitute will lead to the moral, material, and physical ruin of the people. If the use of opium is stopped, mothers with infants will not be able to find time, till they are weaned, to share in the field or out-door labours. Those who are already opium-eaters will become useless without it. Cultivators and labourers after 40 will not be able to perform their tiresome duties without it as they do it now. In fact, its prohibition will create discontent if its usage is stopped in confirming and propitiating ceremonies. Moderate use of opium is increasing owing to the increase of cultivation and population in Marwar, whereas the rich are using less opium and the number of immoderate consumers is decreasing.

21,074. In speaking of Mahomedans you refer to Sipahis; are any large number of them in Marwar?—They are not more numerous than Hindus, but still there are thousands of them.

21,075. What class of work are they employed upon?—The greater number of them serve the State. Some of them cultivate, others do carpenters' work, and so on.

21,076. In saying that more than 6 ratis a day is an excessive use, will you kindly explain what you mean by excess; do you mean that this amount causes harm to the health, or merely that you consider it as an excessive use?—I consider it does harm to health.

21,077. Do you wish us to understand that there are 30,000 men in Marwar who are causing harm to their health by taking opium?—It does not affect their health so much, but the people are rendered lazy, some people it does not affect at all, but the greater number of them are rendered lazy.

21,078. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) You say that the number of immoderate consumers is decreasing. Is not one reason for that the fact that those who use it in excess get old and die, and no new people who take opium in excess come in their place?—Yes, that is what I meant.

21,079. (*Mr. Pease.*) You say the moderate use of opium is increasing owing to the increase of cultivation; what do you mean by that?—On account of the increase of cultivation the people have to work harder now, and therefore are inclined to take more opium.

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service of the State in different official capacities. It is mostly used by Rajputs, Charans, Bhats, criminal, forest and miscellaneous tribes of menial labouring classes (Bambis, Kumars, and Nais); the next greatest consumers are Mahomedans (Sindhis and Kaimkhanis); then some Hindu cultivators (Jats and Kablis), Prohit Brahmins, and last of all come Mahajans. Opium is mostly used in the dry crude form, called "kora amal," but a few take opium pills, dissolved opium and tijara (i.e., poppy head) infusion. Men are more generally habitual opium-eaters, but only 2 per cent. of females when old and sick use it as a habit. Seventy-five per cent. of infants, till they are weaned (generally up to three years), are given a dose of $\frac{1}{16}$ th grain daily with no harm to them. On the contrary, it protects them from cold and against the ill-effects of poor milk, while it enables their mothers to continue their labours in the field or elsewhere. I roughly estimate 6 per cent. of the population as habitual opium-eaters in Marwar (not reckoning infants), calculating that about 10 per cent. are men, and 2 per cent. women; 20 per cent. of consumers take immoderate quantities, that is, from 13 grains to sometimes 80 grains a day; they are mostly rich persons, or those brought up in luxury. It is mostly taken twice a day and rarely once or thrice. Its use is essentially necessary in confirming betrothal and reconciliation among all classes, except some classes of the Mahajans, Mahomedans, and Brahmins. The use of opium for the first 12 days of mourning, as also in marriages and on festival days, is customary; it is held socially respectable, and is the symbol of courtesy and hospitality to all. In particular, betrothals and reconciliations cannot be held binding without its use. The use of the drug on marriage festivals and mourning days is of long standing, and people would consider misfortune and degradation had overtaken them if its use were prohibited. The labouring and cultivating classes, deprived of it, would be unable to withstand fatigue and exposure as heretofore. Opium-eaters generally would become miserable and dependent on their neighbours without it. Mothers would not find time to attend to their labours in the house and field, and the people of Marwar would take to liquor and other intoxicants. To my knowledge drunkards have been saved from alcohol by using opium. I am convinced that excess in drinking is worse than the immoderate use of opium. I believe up to 8 grains a day a moderate quantity, which benefits the labouring classes who use it after the age of 40. It helps them to bear the fatigues of their calls, and to prolong their existence. With rich diet it may be taken up to 12 grains a day with little or no harm. If opium were to be prohibited, I believe most of the opium-using classes would take to liquor, which they cannot use moderately, and thus far more fatal and worse consequences than even from the immoderate use of opium will ensue, degrading the morals, physique, and prosperity of the people. Its essential and customary use on ceremonies has taken the form of religious obligation, and hence the prohibition of opium cannot be regarded by the people without great alarm and dissatisfaction. I believe that the lavish expenditure of opium on ceremonies by the rich and the number of immoderate eaters (most of them becoming so by the society of the rich) is decreasing, and that of moderate users, owing to the increase of population, is increasing. As the duty on opium is already sufficiently raised, I do not think it advisable to raise it further, as the object of decreasing its injurious use by the immoderate and the rich is already being attained. On each paila (7 seers) of opium the wholesale dealer makes a profit Rs. 4, and the retail sellers who sell about half of the total import (1,241 maunds) again make the same profit; the total profit to wholesale and retail traders is therefore calculated at Rs. 42,548 per annum. Loss to wholesale traders:—

	Rs.
(a.) Total average import per year, 1,241 maunds, equal to 49,640 seers, at Rs. 4 profit per 7 seers	28,365
(b.) Retail sellers, half of above	14,183
	42,548

All the traders are unanimous in saying that it will be very hard for them to change their hereditary profession of trading in opium.

21,083. Are you a native of Marwar?—No, I am a native of Kashmir.

21,084. You are a Kashmiri Pandit?—Yes.

21,085. How long have you been in Marwar?—This is my 24th year. I was educated in Ajmere College.

21,086. Is the sale of opium for internal consumption free in Marwar?—Yes, anybody can sell opium.

21,087. Do you know at what price it sells?—About five and half or six tolas a rupee.

21,088. It is imported into Marwar?—From Kotah and Malwa, it is not produced in Marwar.

21,089. You say that the number of immoderate consumers is decreasing; what do you think is the cause of that?—At one time the rich people were very much applauded for their liberality in distributing opium in their hospitalities, but they have not such a tendency now to show their extravagance on such occasions.

21,090. Can you explain why you think it does good to the labouring and cultivating classes?—As far as I have seen and heard from these opium-using men I have found them all unanimous in saying that if they did not make use of opium after the age of 40 they would not be able to carry on their work and earn their living as they do now, and I believe it from what I have seen and heard.

21,091. I suppose those labouring and cultivating classes consume very small amounts, do they?—Yes, moderate quantities, because they would be unfit if they used it in excess.

21,092. Is Marwar a very healthy country or a malarious country?—A very healthy country, comparatively far healthier than Patna and the North-Western Provinces. Its dry, healthy climate is well known.

21,093. What is the system as regards liquor in Marwar?—It is under Abkari rules and is well controlled.

21,094. Do licensed vendors get contracts?—Yes, without a license nobody can distil.

21,095. Is the duty upon the still or upon the liquor turned out?—There is one contractor. He is the only person who can distil it, and he can sell liquor from his distillery to retail dealers.

21,096. Is the license for the districts put up to auction?—Yes, public auction.

21,097. Can he establish as many stills as he likes?—No, he can only establish one still, and out of that he can sell liquor through retail dealers.

21,098. What classes drink liquor?—Almost all classes, except Brahmins and Mahomedans and Mahajans. All Rajputs, Charans, criminal tribes and forest tribes use it.

21,099. Do the same people drink liquor and eat opium generally?—They can. Opium is not forbidden in any religion, but very few take both together. Of course, those who are in a very bad condition by the excessive use of liquor and who are on the point of death, are saved by exchanging it for opium, no doubt, and have lived for a good many years.

21,100. Are there many towns in Marwar?—About 22.

21,101. Small towns?—Small towns, from 10,000 to 20,000 inhabitants.

21,102. (Mr. Pease.) Kabiraj Murardhan said he believed that about 6 per cent. of the population take opium habitually; is that your estimate?—Yes.

21,103. Then the great bulk of the population, the labouring and cultivating classes, do not take it habitually?—Yes, they take it habitually, but in moderate quantities.

21,104. By far the largest proportion of the labouring and cultivating classes are not habitual opium-eaters?—Very few use it habitually.

21,105. You estimate also that of the females only 2 per cent. take opium, and another witness, taking the same estimate says that 2 per cent. are very old and sickly?—I agree with that.

21,106. It is not at all taken by healthy women?—Not at all for the sake of pleasure.

21,107. (Chairman.) Is it quite clear that it is 6 per cent. of the population that you mean who are habitual opium consumers, or 6 per cent. of the adult males?—6 per cent. of the total population, including women. If adult males only are taken, 10 per cent. is the rough estimation.

21,208. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) In speaking of the use by the menial classes do you include Minas and Bhils among the menial class?—Yes, criminal classes.

21,109. You have a large class of Banias, generally called "Marwari traders," have you not?—Yes.

21,110. In saying that as regards the consumption of opium Mahajans come last, do you wish to include under Mahajans this Bania or trading class?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

BHATI RAGHUNATH SINGH called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

21,113. (*Chairman.*) You are a Rajput and Jagirdar of Osian in Marwar?—Yes.

21,114. What is the size of your Jagir?—About Rs. 10,000.

21,115. Inside your Jagir you exercise, I suppose, the offices of magistrate and judge?—Yes, to a certain extent.

21,116. What experience have you had of opium in Marwar?—My experience of the last 30 years, during which I have seen all the Parganas of Marwar, enables me to affirm that opium is mostly used in Sheo, Shergarh, Sankra, Malani, and Sanchoore districts, that is, the desert districts; 15 per cent. of the males among Rajputs are habitual opium-eaters, of whom 30 per cent. take it to excess. Opium is used in three forms:—1. Dry mostly used; 2. Solved in water and strained, used by the rich; 3. Opium pills used only by some rich people. Men use it mostly, women rarely. Only 2 per cent. of the females on the whole, *i.e.*, very old and sickly, make a habit of it. Seventy-five per cent. of infants between two months and under three years are given a small dose up to $\frac{1}{4}$ th grain daily with benefit. I roughly calculate the population of Rajputs, including Charans in Marwar to be about 2 lakhs. It is generally taken twice a day, but a few use it once or thrice also. Its use is obligatory, and is considered sacred in confirming betrothal, reconciliation, as also during the first twelve days of mourning, in marriage, and on "Muklawā," *i.e.*, on son-in-law's first visiting father-in-law's house to fetch his wife. Its use is considered propitious:—

1. At Akhatij }
2. " Dewali } festivals.
3. " Holi }
4. When friends meet.

Its daily use up to 8 grains, and with good exercise and rich diet up to 12 grains, is beneficial; over and above 12 grains is excess. The use of opium protects from chills those of the cultivating classes engaged in irrigation. If opium is prohibited, Rajputs would substitute the worse and far more expensive stimulant of alcohol, for it. Immoderate drinkers who have saved themselves by substituting opium must die without it. Mothers with infants will find no time to attend to daily domestic duties as hitherto. Habitual consumers will become useless or die. Betrothal and reconciliation will not be convincing and binding to parties concerned. The number of eaters in excess, and the expenditure of opium by the rich for courteous offices, is diminishing, but owing to the increase of population the number of moderate eaters is increasing.

The witness withdrew.

MEHTA RATAN LAL called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

21,127. (*Chairman.*) What is your occupation?—I am a paymaster of the army, and I keep all the records and the accounts of all revenue and expenditure. I am State Accountant of Jaisalmir.

21,128. Will you give us your views in reference to the importation and consumption of opium in Jaisalmir?—If the import of opium into Jaisalmir were to cease the Durbar's loss (taking the average of past five years only) annually would amount to Rs. 21,340. Import duty at (Rs. 195 Bijeyshahi rupees =) 198. British currency on 107 $\frac{3}{4}$ British maunds (average of past five years), 21,264 plus Rs. 75, on account of import duty on poppy seed = Rs. 21,339. But if the average of the past 10 years be taken, the total loss would be about 50 per cent. more, *i.e.*, about Rs. 32,000. This loss cannot be recouped by any revision of the State customs tariff. I am a moderate consumer of opium since 27 years. I

21,111. Is the use, so far as you know, amongst them generally later in life, do they begin at the age of 35?—Yes, generally later in life. That is my experience.

21,112. (*Chairman.*) Is any customs duty levied on opium when it is imported into Marwar?—Yes, Rs. 200 per maund.

21,117. You say in your evidence that the use of amal-pani is considered sacred at certain ceremonies, like betrothals, reconciliations, &c. Do you know what the origin of that idea is—why people began first to take opium at those times?—It has been for generations the custom among Rajputs to take opium on these occasions, and the betrothal is not considered to be binding until they have taken opium. I cannot give any origin of the custom.

21,118. (*Mr. Pease.*) You say that 15 per cent. of the males among Rajputs are habitual opium-eaters, of whom 30 per cent. take it to excess. Do you mean by excess that they take more than 12 grains a day, or that they take it to the injury of their health?—I estimate those people who take over 12 grains to be immoderate eaters; but it does no harm to their health.

21,119. Why do you call it excess if it does no harm to their health?—I take about 60 grains of opium myself, and it is not injurious to my health at all. It is the custom to call a man an immoderate eater if he takes beyond 12 grains.

21,120. (*Chairman.*) How long have you been taking so much as 4 mashas?—For the last 10 years. I began taking opium 16 years ago.

21,121. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Do you charge any excise duty on opium in your Jagir?—I take "mapa" on opium.

21,122. At what rate do you take "mapa"?—About an anna or so on a seer. It is not sold in large quantities in my Jagir.

21,123. (*Chairman.*) You say it is mostly used in the desert districts in Marwar. Can you give any reason why it should be more used in the desert districts?—They do not take any liquor there, and so they take opium.

21,124. Liquor, perhaps, is not available there?—It is not available, and therefore they take opium.

21,125. You say that 15 per cent. of the males among Rajputs are habitual consumers. How many of the other 85 per cent. are occasional consumers; are they all occasional consumers, or how many?—About 30 or 35 per cent. take it on some occasions, and about 40 or 50 per cent. never take it.

21,126. Do you mean merely on ceremonial occasions, or when they go on journeys, and when they are exposed to fatigue?—They take it when they go on journeys, and when they are fatigued. They also take it at marriages, and on other occasions of rejoicing.

take it in the form known as "māwa" twice a day. Opium is taken in five forms:—

1. Crude, or "māwa," in any quantity up to one tola.
2. "Masaladar" (or spiced) golis, pills weighing up to one "ratti."
3. "Golis," plain pills of same weight.
4. "Bhian," *i.e.*, pounded and strained through cotton soaked in water. When strained through cotton or woollen cloth it is called "Galwan."
5. Smoked (by sick people only) in small bits in "hukka."

The different forms of taking opium are made use of in the following proportions:—Crude, or "māwa," 60 per cent. "Bhian," 20 per cent. "Galwan," 10 per cent. "Golis," 7 per cent. "Masaladar golis," 3 per

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cent. Fifty per cent. of the male population are consumers. Ten per cent. of the female population are consumers; 80 per cent. of children under three, those over that age do not take it. The different castes consume opium to the following extent:—Rajputs and Charans, 65 per cent. Lower castes, 50 per cent. Musalmans, 40 per cent. Mahajans, 25 per cent. Brahmins and the rest, 20 per cent. Of the above consumers the following proportions probably exceed:—Rajputs, Charans, and Musalmans, 10 per cent. Mahajans, 5 per cent. Others, 2 per cent. Children under three years of age are given opium in very small quantities to send them to sleep or to keep them quiet, to enable their mothers to work. Moderate consumers take a morning and evening dose of from 1 to 3 ratis; the dose of those who take to excess varies from 1 "masha" to 1 tola. About 5 per cent. of the consumers take it only once a day, and about 2 per cent. once a week only in small doses. The occasions on which it is obligatory to take opium are:—1. Betrothals. 2. Weddings. 3. The visit of a son-in-law to his father-in-law's house. 4. After a death, for 12 days by Rajputs and Charans, and for the same or lesser periods by other castes. 5. On the birth of a male child among Rajputs and Charans. 6. First removal of hair of a male child among Rajputs and Charans. 7. On the parting (or shaving in the middle) of the beard by Rajputs and Charans. 8. On the Akhatij "festival." 9. On reconciliations. It is also considered the right thing to do at other festivals, friendly greetings, and on fixed days at the temples. When taken moderately opium improves the appetite, invigorates the body, gives courage, removes fatigue, and keeps off cold. If the supply of opium were suddenly stopped nearly all consumers over 50 years of age (moderate included) would be dead within a month; those who survived would perish during the succeeding rains or cold weather; at least 20 per cent. of the younger consumers would die in a year or two, and nearly all the remainder would become impotent or be attacked by consumption and such like diseases. Only recent consumers and robust young people would retain their health, but would be incapacitated for hard work. Liquor would be substituted for opium, but cannot take its place as a stimulant.

21,129. Is any poppy grown in Jaisalmir?—No.

21,130. How long has the import duty on opium been Rs. 198 per maund?—For the last three years.

21,131. What was it before that?—Rs. 150 per maund, and before that Rs. 90 per maund, and before that Rs. 70 per maund.

21,132. When was this duty first imposed?—In 1883.

21,133. Before that was there no duty?—Duty was levied in different forms.

21,134. When Sind was under the Amirs did opium ever go to Karachi through Jaisalmir?—Yes.

21,135. Much?—I cannot say exactly.

21,136. You say that 65 per cent. of the Rajputs and Charans consume opium. You mean the adult males, I suppose?—Yes, men only; women take it but little.

21,137. Does that 65 per cent. include all, whether they take it occasionally or habitually?—It includes all, habitual as well as occasional eaters.

21,138. Do you mean that 35 per cent. never take it?—That is so. 65 per cent. are habitual consumers, and of the remaining 35 per cent. some take it on occasions when it is offered at ceremonies, betrothals, &c.

21,139. (Mr. Wilson.) You say that "only recent consumers and robust young people would retain their health." Does that mean robust young people who have been in the habit of taking opium?—Yes, robust young people amongst the consumers.

21,140. You give nine occasions on which it is obligatory to take opium. Is it not very common with many of them not really to take it, but just to touch it, and profess to take it?—Those who are habitual consumers take it; of the others, some touch it only, and some take a little.

21,141. (Mr. Fanshawe.) In speaking of these obligatory occasions, are you referring to Rajputs and Charans only?—Mostly it is done amongst Rajputs and Charans, but it is also the custom among Mahajans; they offer opium on such occasions.

21,142. (Chairman.) Is liquor much consumed in Jaisalmir?—It is used, but not to a very large extent, because Mahajans and Brahmins are prohibited by their religion from taking liquor. Others do use it, but to a small extent.

21,143. Is there an excise system in Jaisalmir?—Yes, there are two shops, and they get licenses from the Raj.

21,144. By auction?—Yes.

21,145. Do the same people take liquor and opium generally, or different people?—Those that do not take opium drink liquor, and some opium consumers also take liquor.

21,146. (Mr. Wilson.) You have given us a great many per-centages; will you tell us whether those percentages are the result of your own opinion or the result of any definite inquiry or statistics?—It is my own opinion.

The witness withdrew.

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Bulidana.
(Jaisalmi
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THAKUR BULIDANA called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

21,147. (Chairman.) What is your caste?—I am a Bhati Rajput.

21,148. You are, I believe, Jagirdar of Jingali, in Jaisalmir?—Yes.

21,149. What is the size of your Jagir?—I own four villages, and when there is a good rainy season they yield about Rs. 1,200 or 1,300 a year; in other cases they yield less.

21,150. Will you tell us what you know of the opium habit in Jaisalmir?—I have habitually consumed opium in solution and strained through cotton, locally called "Bhian" for the last 20 years, and twice a day. Opium is taken in five different ways:—1. Crude, dose up to one tola, called "mawa." 2. Pills mixed with cream and spices, called "masaladar golis" (taken by the rich only), made of any weight up to a rati. 3. Plain pills called "golis." 4. Pounded and strained through cotton soaked in water called "Bhian." When strained through cotton or woollen cloth it is called "Galwan." 5. Small bits smoked in a hukka, used by sick people. The different ways of taking opium are made use of in the following proportions:—Crude, 60 per cent.; solved and strained through cotton, 20 per cent.; solved and strained through cloth, 10 per cent.; plain pills, 7 per cent.; spiced pills, 3 per cent. Of the male population of Jaisalmir, 50 per cent. are consumers, 10 per cent. of the women take it, and 70 per cent. of children under three years of age are given it in very small quantities to send them to sleep or keep

them quiet while their mothers are at work. It is seldom, if ever, used by children over three years of age. Opium is consumed by the different castes to the following extent:—65 per cent. of Rajputs and Charans; 55 per cent. of Musalmans; 40 per cent. of lower castes; 25 per cent. of Mahajans; 20 per cent. of Brahmins and others. Of the above consumers the following proportion probably exceed:—Musalmans, 15 per cent.; Rajputs and Charans, 10 per cent.; Mahajans, 5 per cent.; others, 2 per cent. Moderate consumers take a morning and evening dose, which may amount to a masha, i.e., two mashas in the day. The doses of those who take to excess vary from two mashas to a tola. Of the consumers, some 5 per cent. take it only once a day, and some 2 per cent. only once a week in small doses. The occasions on which it is obligatory to partake of opium are:—1. Betrothal. 2. Weddings. 3. Visit of a son-in-law to his father-in-law. 4. Birth of a male child. 5. First shaving of a male child's head among Rajputs and Charans. 6. Shaving the parting of a beard by Rajputs and Charans. 7. For 12 days after a death among Rajputs and Charans, and for the same or a lesser time among other castes. 8. The Akhatij festival. 9. At reconciliations. It is also customary at other festivals, at temples on certain days, and at friendly gatherings. The moderate use of opium improves the appetite, invigorates the body, gives courage, removes fatigue, and keeps off cold. If the supply of opium were suddenly stopped nearly all consumers over 50 years of age (moderate

included) would be dead within a month or so; the succeeding rains and cold weather would kill the rest. Of the other consumers, at least 30 per cent. would die in a year or two, and nearly all the remainder would become impotent or be attacked by consumption and such like diseases. Only recent consumers and robust young people would retain their health, though incapacitated for hard work. Liquor would be substituted for opium, but cannot take its place as a stimulant.

The witness withdrew.

MEHTA HAMIRMALL called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

21,154. (*Chairman.*) You are, I believe, an opium trader and money-lender of Bap in Jaisalmir?—Yes.

21,155. And a Mahajan by caste?—Yes.

21,156. Will you tell us what you know of the opium trade and the consumption of opium in Jaisalmir?—I have carried on the opium trade for 15 years. Opium is imported in its crude state known as "Amal-ki-goli" from Kotah, where it costs per British maund about Rs. 245 (British coin); the customs duty is (Rs. 203 (Marwar and Jaisalmir). At Jaisalmir it is sold at about Rs. 570 per maund, which yields us a profit of three annas in the rupee, or Rs. 90 per maund. Our total yearly profit, taking the annual average import at about 150 maunds, comes to Rs. 13,500. Add to this—

	Rs.
Profit on other articles sold to consumers of opium	1,000
Profit derived by accepting payment in kind instead of in cash	500
Profit on other articles bought with opium without much extra cost	1,000
Profit on sale of "Khar Bhanjan" (dry fruit, &c.) necessarily taken after opium	500
Sale of "Panni" or poppy leaves, &c. received with opium	350
Total annual loss, &c.	16,850

The unsaleable stock, about 100 maunds, would put us to a further loss of Rs. 48,000, and Rs. 5,000 more would be lost as unrecoverable debt, total Rs. 53,000. Opium traders of Jaisalmir cannot possibly compensate themselves by any other business. I am a habitual but moderate consumer of opium. I take it in the form "mawa" twice daily since 10 years; I tried to leave the habit off more than once, but could not succeed. Opium is taken in five forms:—1. Crude, from $\frac{1}{2}$ of a "rati" to a tola at a time, called "Mawa"; 2. Spiced pills, "Masaladar Golis," taken by the rich only; and 3. Plain pills, "Golis," weighing 1 or 2 "ratias" each; 4. Pounded and strained through cotton soaked in water, called "Bhian" pounded and strained through wollen or cotton cloth, called "Galwan;" 5. Small bits smoked in a "hukka," used by sick people only. Eighty per cent. take it in the form of "Mawa" or crude. Ten per cent. solved and strained through cotton. Five per cent. solved and strained through cloth. Remained pills. Sixty per cent. of male population are consumers, 15 per cent. of females, and 80 per cent. of children under three. These last are given it in very small quantities to send them to sleep or keep them quiet while their mothers are at work. Children over three are seldom, if ever, given opium. Different castes consume opium to the following extent:—Rajputs and Charans, 60 per cent. Musalmans, 55 per cent. Lower castes, 45 per cent. Mahajans, 35 per cent. Brahmins and the rest, 25 per cent. Of these the following proportions probably exceed:—Rajputs, Charans, and Musalmans, 10 per cent.; Mahajans, 5 per cent.; others 6 per cent. Moderate consumers take a morning and evening dose which may amount to 2 mashas, i.e., 4 mashas in the day; those who take to excess take doses up to 1 tola. About 4 per cent. of the consumers take it only once a day, and 2 per cent. once a week in very small doses. It is obligatory to partake of opium on following occasions:—

1. Betrothals.
2. Weddings.
3. The visit of a son-in-law to his father-in-law's house.
4. After deaths for 12 days by Rajputs and Charans, and for the same or lesser periods by other castes.

21,151. What proportion of the total population of Jaisalmir do you think are Rajputs, and what belong to other castes?—I cannot say.

21,152. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) You say you are a habitual consumer yourself. What amount of opium do you take?—I take 4 grains in the morning and 4 grains in the evening.

21,153. Why did you begin the habit?—As it was the custom of the country, I often took it at ceremonies, and thus got into the habit of eating it.

5. On the birth of a male child amongst Rajputs and Charans.

6. First removal of the hair of a male child among Rajputs and Charans.

7. On the parting (or shaving in the middle) of the beard by Rajputs and Charans.

8. On the "Akhatij" festival.

9. On reconciliations.

It is also considered the right thing to do at other festivals, friendly greetings, and on fixed days at the temples. The moderate use of opium improves the appetite, invigorates the body, gives courage, removes fatigue, and keeps off cold and cough. If the supply of opium were suddenly stopped, nearly all consumers over 50 (moderate included) would die within a month; the succeeding rains and cold weather would kill the rest. Of the other consumers 30 per cent. at least would die in a year or two, and almost all the remainder would become impotent or be attacked by consumption, asthma, and other diseases. Only recent consumers and robust young people would retain their health, though incapacitated for hard work. Liquor would be substituted for opium, but cannot take its place as a stimulant.

21,157. You have said in your evidence that you are an habitual but moderate consumer; do you mind saying how much you take daily?—Two ratias at a time twice a day.

21,158. What is the duty upon opium when it is imported into Jaisalmir?—Rs. 198 per maund. Jodhpore charges Rs. 5 extra on opium passing through their territory.

21,159. Transit duty?—Yes.

21,160. How does it sell to the consumer in Jaisalmir?—They sell to the consumers at an average rate of Rs. 14 4a. a seer, or Rs. 570 a maund.

21,161. Is the sale perfectly free?—Yes, quite free.

21,162. (*Mr. Pease.*) You say "I tried to leave the habit off more than once, but could not succeed"; why did not you succeed?—I could not give it up, because whenever I tried to do so I suffered from diarrhoea or cough, and I felt uneasy.

21,163. Have you tried to reduce the dose?—Yes; but whenever I did that, after a space of three or four months I sometimes suffered from diarrhoea, cough, and so on.

21,164. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Why did you try to leave it off?—Because I commenced at an early age.

21,165. Did you think it was not a good habit?—The proper age for taking opium is about 35 or so. As I commenced it earlier I tried to give it up.

21,166. Then you do not think it was a good habit for a young man, is that so?—It depends upon one's religion.

21,167. Was it against your religion to take it?—No.

21,168. Then why did you want to leave it off?—I tried to give it up because my father reprimanded me for taking it at such an early age.

21,169. Who translated your evidence?—A man known as Kazi.

21,170. Who is this man?—He was at Mount Abu in Government service, and now he is a Raj servant at Jaisalmir.

21,171. Did you write your evidence yourself, or did somebody write it down for you?—Another person took it down.

21,172. Who was that?—It was the head clerk to the political agent.

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21,173. Do you know the name of the clerk?—I do not know.

21,174. Where was it taken down?—At Jaisalmir.

21,175. At the house of the political agent or where?—The Prime Minister of Jaisalmir and Kazi and myself went to the political agent's camp at Jaisalmir, and there it was taken down by the head clerk.

21,176. Are you aware that the language of some parts of your statement of evidence is almost word for word the same as the language of some part of two or three other witnesses' evidence?—I do not know that.

21,177. What do you think would happen to robust young people who have been in the habit of taking opium if the supply were suddenly stopped?—If it be prohibited all at once they will be rendered lazy, they

The witness withdrew.

will not be able to work, and very likely they will suffer from colds, coughs, and other diseases.

21,178. What proportion of the women do you think are consumers of opium?—15 per cent.

21,179. And of the men?—60 per cent.

21,180. And of the children?—80 per cent.

21,181. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) How many opium traders are there in Jaisalmir?—About 30 or 40. The retail dealers are quite separate from these.

21,182. What do you estimate your own profits at?—Rs. 1,000 a year in opium and other things.

21,183. What else do you trade in besides opium?—I deal in cloth and grain as well, but only to a small extent. Opium is the principal thing I deal in.

SINGHJI JOWAN MAL SAYAR called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

*Singhji Jowan
Mal Sayar
(Sirohi State.)*

21,184. (*Chairman.*) Are you a resident of Sirohi?—Yes, I am a native of Sirohi.

21,185. You are Superintendent of Sirohi; what duties have you as superintendent?—I am Superintendent of Customs.

21,186. For the whole territory?—Yes.

21,187. What has been your experience of opium in Sirohi?—Though the cultivation of the poppy is not prohibited, very little is grown, as opium can be easily and cheaply obtained without the trouble of cultivation and preparation. Were it otherwise, opium would certainly be produced as the people consider the use of it at festivals, marriages, and funeral ceremonies so important. In the hilly tracts of this State the climate is so malarious that the inhabitants called Grassias almost all use it with very good effect, and they would greatly dislike the prohibition of its use, which feeling would be shared by the people in general. I submit a statement showing the yearly average amount of opium imported into Sirohi, as nearly 175 maunds, which amount at the present rate of duty of Rs. 175 per maund would yield an income of about Rs. 30,525, to which must be added transit and export duties amounting to Rs. 14, making a total sum of Rs. 30,539. But from former estimates it seems the full consumption within the State is estimated at 200 maunds yearly. The full amount has not been imported lately, as traders have kept extra stocks in order to improve the opium by keeping. As the duty on the drug has risen in the past from Rs. 80 to Rs. 175, it may be assumed the duty would be raised hereafter to Rs. 400 a maund, to increase revenue without diminishing the demand. Two hundred maunds at a duty of Rs. 400 a maund would yield Rs. 80,000, which is the yearly loss the Durbar customs revenue would sustain if opium import into the State ceased. There is no way in which the Durbar could revise its customs tariff so as to compensate itself for this loss. The small amount of dues on opium taken by Jagirdars is included in the above estimate of loss.

21,188. Who are the Girasias you mention?—They are supposed to have descended from Rajputs originally, but they are considered to be low people now, and they live in and cultivate the hilly tracts.

21,189. They are not Bhils?—No.

21,190. Does the opium imported into the State pay anything else besides customs duty?—Nothing else.

21,191. How does it sell to the consumer?—From Rs. 12 to Rs. 15 a seer. The thin cakes are sold at Rs. 12 a seer, and the big balls Rs. 15 a seer.

21,192. Are there any liquor excise arrangements?—Yes; there is excise on liquor in Abu and districts.

21,193. How does liquor sell; at what price per seer or per bottle?—Five bottles a rupee.

21,194. Do these Girasias drink liquor?—Yes, they do drink, but not so much.

21,195. Do the same people who take opium generally take liquor too, or not?—Generally the people who take opium do not take liquor; sometimes they do.

21,196. (*Mr. Pease.*) When was the duty raised from Rs. 80 to Rs. 175?—In the month of Jeth, or May last.

21,197. What effect had that upon the consumption of opium?—In order to check smuggling to Gujarat the duty was raised,

21,198. (*Chairman.*) Is Sirohi under the Raja or under the British Government?—Under the Raja.

21,199. Did the Raja make this change of his own accord, or did anyone suggest it to him?—Some instruction went from the political agent that smuggling ought to be stopped somehow or other, and then the Raja of his own device raised the duty with that object.

21,200. (*Mr. Pease.*) What effect had the raising of the duty on the consumption of opium by the people of Sirohi?—The people who take opium take just the same quantity as they did before. It did not affect them.

21,201. What reason have you to assume that the duty will be hereafter raised to Rs. 400?—Even then there will be no effect on consumers.

21,202. What would be the effect if it was raised to Rs. 1,000?—Even then there would be no difference. Those who do consume it will have it.

21,203. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Is the income of the Durbar from all sources very large indeed?—It is large enough.

21,204. They have no need or desire for more money?—If he can get more it will be all right, but not otherwise.

20,205. Why do you not raise the duty to Rs. 400 at once?—It cannot be raised at once, it would be distasteful to the people.

21,206. Has the Durbar contemplated still further advances in the duty?—There is no contemplation by the Durbar, but I gave my opinion to the Durbar that it could be extended to Rs. 400.

21,207. Are there many offences in connexion with smuggling opium?—There are not many.

21,208. How many in a year?—Four or five cases.

21,209. Are those offences in the State of Sirohi?—Yes.

21,210. What is the difference between cake opium and the big balls you spoke of?—The cakes are covered with dry and rotten leaves, and the balls are pure juice.

21,211. What is the difference in price?—Rs. 3. One is sold at Rs. 12 a seer, and the other at Rs. 15 a seer.

21,212. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Is that the price at present, Rs. 12 and Rs. 15 a seer?—Yes.

21,213. At what price was it sold in the bazars before the duty was raised last year?—Rs. 10 and Rs. 12 respectively.

21,214. Where does the opium imported into Sirohi come from?—It comes from Kotah, through Beawar, from Udaipur, and from Nimahera.

21,215. (*Mr. Haridas Vekharidas.*) When did you give your opinion to the Durbar about raising the duty to Rs. 400?—About two months ago.

21,216. In connexion with this inquiry?—Yes, when the inquiry was being carried on.

21,217. Are there Dungri Bhils as well as Girasia Bhils in Sirohi?—Yes.

21,218. (*Chairman.*) Do you yourself use opium?—No, I do not.

21,219. When Sind was under the Amirs did the trade in opium to Karachi go through Sirohi?—Yes.

21,220. Do you know how big the trade was? Was it a large trade?—It was a big trade.

The witness withdrew.

RAJ PRITHI RAJ called in and examined (through an Interpreter.)

21,221. (Chairman.) What Rajput are you?—Deora Rajput.

21,222. Are you of the same tribe as the Raja of Sirohi?—Yes.

21,223. What have you to say about the consumption of opium among Rajputs?—In my brotherhood and among other Rajputs opium is taken in small pieces, swallowed in a little water. There are some who take it in the form known as "*Amal-pani*" also. Very few of our females take opium; those who do, take it in the same way as the males. Children are given it in a very small quantity mixed with their mother's milk. One-sixteenth of our community are opium-eaters, of whom one-eighth take it to excess. Opium is taken twice a day, morning and evening. Those who take it in excess, take up to $\frac{1}{2}$ of a tola at a time, *i.e.*, $\frac{1}{2}$ tola per day;

others take about $\frac{1}{10}$ of a tola at a time, *i.e.*, about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a tola per day. The occasions on which opium is taken are festival days, births, betrothals, marriages, funerals, reconciliations, and on long journeys. It is also taken by those who suffer from asthma, cough, diarrhoea, dysentery, general debility, &c. Its effects are refreshing and invigorating. Moderate consumers keep healthy, and I know of no case of opium-eating with bad result. Those who take it in excess even keep their health and show no signs of bodily or mental exhaustion; on the contrary, they look stronger and healthier than they actually are. If consumption of opium is stopped, except as medicine, the opium-eaters will suffer greatly and be useless. No treat or feast can be considered complete without opium. If consumption of opium is prohibited all the Rajputs would be dissatisfied, and no betrothal can be regarded as complete without the customary "*Amal-pani*."

The witness withdrew.

RAO BAHADUR VINAYEK RAO GANESH SAMARTH called in and examined.

21,224. (Chairman.) You are, I believe, finance member of the Tonk Council?—Yes.

21,225. How long have you been in the service of the Tonk State?—Seven years.

21,226. Where is your real home?—Poona.

21,227. What caste are you?—I am a Kayasth Prabhu.

21,228. Will you tell us what you know in regard to the cultivation of the poppy in Tonk?—The area under poppy cultivation is acres 14,010. Jagir and other alienated lands are included in this total for the whole State, and form nearly a sixth of it. The districts totals are as follows:—*District in Central India*.—Chhabra, 4,893'33; Pirawa, 3,870'83; Seronje, 413'40. *District in Rajputana*.—Nimbahera, 4,330'33; Tonk, 443'60; Alligarh, 58'83. The area of cultivation stated above is the average of the ascertained area for the last six years, a period which as a whole was under average. The average of production of opium for the same period is 2,548 maunds. The expense of poppy cultivation and its yield in opium both fluctuate very considerably, according to the character of rains and the state of weather, while the crop approaches maturity, ignoring other causes. The maximum area of the poppy land is about 25,000 acres, and the maximum yield about 5,000 maunds. It is solely to secure a share of the foreign opium trade of India that poppy is cultivated on its present scale in the district of Pirawa, Chhabra, and Nimbahera. The average of the State exports for the last six years is 2,542 maunds. Excepting a small quantity taken to Sirohi and Marwar the whole of the exports join the general foreign trade of India after crossing the British India barriers at either Ujjain or Indore, or at one of the minor opium scales in Central India. Any action that may be taken with the opium trade to starve the cultivation of poppy in this State out of its present margin of profit would amount to its actual suppression, and entail on the State a deprivation of its share in the foreign trade and a loss of revenue derived from it. The area occupied by poppy cannot be wholly placed under other crops equally remunerative to both the State and the cultivators. Therefore, where by reason of its extensiveness and relative importance, poppy cultivation has formed the basis of the land revenue settlement of the irrigated lands, as in Chhabra, Pirawa, and Nimbahera districts and parts of Seronje, Tonk, and Alligarh districts, the entire settlement demand on irrigable land will, in case of the stoppage of poppy cultivation, call for a revision and re-adjustment at loss of about Rs. 132,900 per annum. This reduction of Rs. 132,900 should, it is calculated, enable the State and holders of alienated land to take off an area of 25,000 acres, Rs. 5-5-1 or so per acre, leaving the demand at Rs. 6-7-11 or so against present Rs. 12 or so per acre. The reduced assessment is just likely to keep up cultivation of the poppy land for less remunerative crops. The cost of revising the settlement of irrigated area concerned will be about Rs. 19,700. Besides the loss on land revenue, the State and holders of alienated lands will lose in customs collections a sum of about Rs. 59,916. The loss of Jagirdars included in the total is Rs. 5,000. Even after every effort that may be made to turn opium land to

best advantage possible in other ways, the loss to cultivators both as landholders and field labourers, by the stoppage of opium traffic and therefore poppy cultivation is estimated by the local officers to be very considerable. Local traders estimate the loss of their class at Rs. 94,600, the incidence of which per maund exported is about Rs. 37, and the export value of one maund being about Rs. 200, the percentage of profit is about Rs. 18 5a. Bohras or agricultural money-lenders fear that the stoppage of poppy cultivation will entail upon them an annual loss of Rs. 104,050, besides placing in jeopardy their debts and investments of capital to the value of Rs. 3,000,000. Though considerably larger than the present state of poppy cultivation can warrant, the Durbars are naturally reluctant to reduce the estimates of the local officials, traders, and Bohras without possessing the means of scrutinizing them with the aid of special inquiries. It is impossible to estimate beforehand what influence will the large accession of rich area to food crops, which must follow the withdrawal of it from poppy, exercise on the market for those commodities. Should the influence of over-production be to trench permanently on the cultivators' profits from growing food-grains, and thus to disturb the basis of the settlement made with them, the revision of the entire settlement affecting both the irrigated and unirrigated lands will become necessary at a further heavy loss of annual revenue to the State, and the holders of alienated lands, and a further charge for a revision of the settlement. A further loss on the customs collections is also apprehended for when opium and poppy-seed cease to be exported and are no longer available to sustain the present foreign imports, these must fall off leading to a loss of customs collections on foreign imports. Unless the cultivation of poppy be replaced by some other irrigated crop the wells provided for the irrigation of the land would become useless, and the capital spent in sinking and constructing them prove a dead loss. The ownership of the wells sustains the credit of the landholder, but when they cease to be useful their hypothecation cannot support the owner's credit, whether poppy cultivation can be replaced by other irrigated crops is therefore a very important question. In the Tonk and Alligarh districts, which have the least area under poppy growth and where this crop is not the most paying, sugar-cane and early cotton as single crops, or cummin seed and barley after Indian corn may take place of poppy, but it is not likely that in all cases the wells would prove equal to the demand of sugar-cane for a greater depth of irrigation, a longer duration of it, and at a time when the water level is at its lowest, *i.e.*, during the hot weather. In Sironje sugar-cane or vegetables may take place of poppy—as in Central Provinces, Khandesh, and Gujarat cotton does here without irrigation and therefore cannot replace poppy. In Nimbahera, sugar-cane or early cotton as single crops and barley or wheat after Indian corn may replace poppy, but for reasons stated in the case Peerawa, further on a contraction of the irrigated cultivation is probable. In Chhabra and Pirawa to replace the staple crop of poppy by sugar-cane or early cotton as single crops, the irrigated cultivation may have to be seriously contracted, because the majority of wells which now irrigate poppy cultivation would fail

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Vinayek Rao
Ganesh
Samarth.
(Tonk State.)

Rao Bahadur
Vijayek Rao
Ganesh
Sav arth.
(Tonk State.)

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to irrigate even a third of the poppy area when placed under sugar-cane, which not only requires a greater depth of waterings but some of them during hot months when the loss of water level is at its highest. In these districts irrigated cotton is more liable to damage from excessive rainfall, and yet irrigation must be available during June for the sowing operations when all wells cannot afford it. Barley is not a staple food crop of the Parganas. Wheat is not generally irrigated, and when irrigated it is more susceptible to the attack of rust. Cummin seed, tobacco, ground nuts, and other crops can be grown on the poppy land, but more as experimental than as established cultivation. Not to seriously reduce the cultivator's means of earning wages, which even now are far from adequate to their wants, every effort will have to be made to keep up cultivation, occupying as large an area as possible for poorer crops in the absence of poppy. The stoppage of poppy cultivation will produce at first a complete dislocation of the monetary relations subsisting between the cultivator and his money-lender on the one hand, and the money-lender and his banker on the other; and unless the State is able to advance funds liberally to the cultivators to keep them in work, a wide-spread distress must ensue in districts as such Pirawa, Chhabra and Nimbahera. Large sums will have to be spent on the construction of tanks and carrying out of agricultural improvements before any approach can be made to the existence of normal economic conditions. Local consumption being under no control whatever, and the consumption of the cultivators, Bohras, large landholders, taking place out of what they retain for that purpose out of the quantity they handle, without in most cases including the quantity so retained in the returns they make of the production, the quantity actually consumed cannot be stated except very roughly. It is estimated to be about maunds 174. This is not fully covered by the difference between the amount of production and that of export as stated before; the discrepancy being due to causes already indicated. Should the action which it may ultimately be decided to take with poppy cultivation and opium trade result in raising the price of the drug required for local consumption, the consumers in the State will be placed under a new form of taxation, and correspondingly their capacity to pay existing taxes would be curtailed, for where the use has been long there would be little option left in the use of opium. It will be very very long if at all that it will be completely withdrawn from infant life. On the whole, compulsion will be exceedingly difficult to enforce, and would be too irritating. In the case of grown-up men actually in work, the sudden withdrawal of opium wholly or in part is likely to paralyze industry, and unless they secure the drug at about its present price they are more likely to go without it than possess the means of purchasing it.

21,229. What is your system of land revenue in regard to Khalsa lands?—The revenue is collected in cash rates.

21,230. Is it a fixed settlement?—20 years settlement introduced last year. Before that in part of the State the revenue was collected in kind; but now it is a cash rate, and it is fixed for 20 years.

21,231. When you say it was taken in kind, was that on grain crops?—Yes, even then there were some cash crops and some grain crops. Opium was a cash crop.

21,232. What was the rate on opium in those days?—From Rs. 26 to Rs. 4 per bigha.

21,233. What sort of poppy cultivation would pay only Rs. 4?—It depended upon the soil and the water supply, and upon the yield of opium. In an area where the production was only about 3 or 4 seers per bigha less was paid; and where it exceeded 10 or 15 seers, more was paid.

21,234. These rates were fixed for the Taluka?—Yes. They were the local rates according to the physical conditions of the area.

21,235. Does the old system still exist in Jagirs or do the Jagirs still have a fixed settlement?—The Jagirs still adhere to the old system and collect in kind on all grain crops, especially food grain crops; and collect cash rates on cotton and opium and Indian corn. Indian corn goes before opium. The first crop on poppy land is Indian corn, and opium is the second crop.

21,236. Do you remember what cash rates were taken on the Indian corn?—About Rs. 6 an acre.

21,237. At that same time poppy fields paid from Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 per acre?—Yes.

21,238. The Indian corn was about Rs. 6 an acre?—Yes.

21,239. Do you know what it is on cotton?—About Rs. 6 an acre, the same as Indian corn.

21,240. That is an immense difference between the rate on opium and the other crops?—Yes, because the price of opium was very high then 5 seers cost very nearly Rs. 50, and 10 seers nearly Rs. 100., now the price of opium has fallen. It has gone down 50 per cent. That makes all the difference.

21,241. Is poppy grown only in irrigated land?—Yes.

21,242. Is it changed about?—Yes, there is a rotation. For instance, if the total area irrigated by a well is 20 bighas it is not necessary that the whole 20 bighas should be placed under poppy cultivation every year. It depends upon the conditions of the water supply. In a very good year, when the rains close with a heavy fall it is possible to put the whole area irrigated by a well under poppy. The rain may be very heavy in August, but if it closes with very light showers, or no showers, in September, that would not help. It must close with a heavy rainfall. The actual cultivation is generally less than the total poppy area, because by rotation the poppy is grown on a larger area than the actual cultivation of any one year.

21,243. In making the fixed assessment now in force, would the whole of the well land be assessed at one rate?—Yes, because in an area where poppy cultivation is the largest the settlement demand is based upon the profits of poppy. All irrigated land is valued according to what it will yield in poppy.

21,244. Do you know what is the general rate used in assessing poppy land; does it vary very much?—Yes, because the produce varies very much.

21,245. You said "any action that may be taken with the opium trade to starve the cultivation of poppy in this State out of its present margin of profit would amount to its actual suppression"; what do you mean by that?—Starve it out of profit; that is to say, a part of the profit has been intercepted by raising the Imperial duty. For instance, when the price of a chest was Rs. 700, and the Imperial duty was Rs. 600, the profit gained by the cultivator was Rs. 100. If the duty was still increased it would be starving the cultivator out of his profit.

21,246. (Mr. Pease.) What do you estimate the weekly expenditure of a consumer of opium at the present prices?—I am not prepared to say anything on that. I have not given much attention to that.

21,247. What is the present retail price of opium?—It varies from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10. Where it is grown very largely, and there is absence of any control, the retail price and the wholesale price does not vary much.

21,248. What do you think is the average consumption of an opium consumer?—I have not given any attention to that subject.

21,249. You say that if the price of opium was increased the consumers would not be able to pay their taxes; if a person takes 8 grains a day it would not come to 1 pie per day?—I have said the total consumption is 174 maunds. At Rs. 200, taking the lowest price, Rs. 5 a seer, that means opium worth Rs. 40,000. The total consumption comes to Rs. 34,000. If the price goes up because the cultivation is under restriction, the price would be twice that. It would mean that people would have to buy the same quantity of opium and pay nearly a lakh of rupees instead of what they pay now. Instead of Rs. 34,000, they would pay 1 lakh. Sixty thousand rupees would be the additional burden placed on them.

21,250. (Mr. Wilson.) I understood you to say that you think the local officials and traders and Bohras have put their figures rather too high?—Yes, because their private interests are so much concerned, and it is quite natural that when a man estimates the sum which he is to receive he is liable to over-estimate. Not having the means of checking those calculations, I could only say what I said.

21,251. Do you think the habit of taking opium every day is a good habit for a young man who is in good health?—As I said before, I have never given any attention to that subject, and I am not prepared to say anything about that.

21,252. But you have a large acquaintance with the people, and you can tell me whether you think the habit is a good habit?—I can only look upon the habit by comparison. I have not compared it with the liquor habit, and cannot say whether it is a better or worse habit than the liquor habit. I have no personal opinion that can be serviceable to you.

21,253. Would you be glad for your son, or any young man in whom you are interested, to begin the habit of taking opium?—It depends on circumstances. If I found he was suffering from anything, and was likely to find relief, under proper advice I would not object to his taking opium.

21,254. I was asking you about young men in perfect health; would you like your son, or any young friend who is in perfect health to commence the habit of taking opium?—I would not wish him to take opium, simply because I would not wish anyone in whom I take interest to be addicted to a habit which he cannot give up at a moment's notice.

21,255. (Mr. Mowbray.) You say that for the last six years the area under poppy cultivation has been under the average; can you give us any reason why poppy cultivation seems to have been falling off during the last six years?—First, owing to the deficient supply of water; secondly, owing to the falling off of the prices; thirdly, the falling off of the prices has so affected the condition of the people, their means of manuring the land, their credit, &c. that even the same supply of water and the same character of soil sometimes produces more or less according to whether it is manured fully or partially. These three things have affected poppy cultivation.

21,256. You think that the falling off in prices, which I understand you attribute to a diminished demand in China, has already affected the condition of your cultivators?—It has already reduced their profits, and a further reduction of profits would simply make their condition worse.

21,257. Do you import opium into Tonk?—There are no imports which are officially recognised as such, but where the frontiers are so mixed up that the agriculturists of one State do business with the cultivators of other States, a certain quantity is exchanged. It all depends upon their export rates. If the neighbouring State levies a large export duty, it is likely that a small

quantity is smuggled into the State where the duty is less. There is a heavier duty in Marwar State, and from my personal inquiries I find that some quantity is exported; but it does not enter into the official records as imported.

21,258. What is your customs duty on export; is it steady?—No, it varies from Rs. 25 to Rs. 29 a chest of opium.

21,259. Is that a full chest or half a chest?—A full trade chest of 70 seers of opium or 140 lbs.; full consistency.

21,260. Is it 140 lbs?—Yes, 140 lbs. of the fullest consistency.

21,261. It is the same for which the British pass duty is Rs. 600?—Yes.

21,262. Has your export duty been altered at all of recent years?—It has. In 1877 the prices went very high, and just about that time, I think, the Imperial duty was increased, and the native States took advantage to intercept a part of the cultivators' profits by increasing their own export duty. 1877 was the famine year. There was a small rainfall and a great scarcity of water, and the produce being less than the demand the prices went up.

21,263. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Am I right in understanding that you would not have allowed the cultivation of poppy in your territory had it not been for the sake of foreign trade?—Quite so.

21,264. As the cultivation paid, it was really not so much for the benefit of the foreign trade as for your own benefit?—The benefit we derived from foreign trade.

21,265. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Can you tell me how long the foreign export trade to China from your State has been going on?—Ever since the opium trade between India and China began, the Tonk territory has had a share in it.

21,266. Can you say anything more definite in regard to it?—I can go back to 1830. I have been looking into the matter to find out whether there was any mention of the opium trade. Before the advent of the British in India there existed some trade; but from 1834 there is evidence to show that the whole of Central India has shared in that part of the trade, including Tonk.

The witness withdrew.

SETH NAND RAM called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

21,267. (Chairman.) I believe you are a Manotidar?—Yes.

21,268. That is an agricultural money-lender or banker, is it not?—Yes.

21,269. You are a resident of Semla, in the Pargana of Piarwa?—Yes.

21,270. What have you to say with regard to the opium question?—Out of my former capital about Rs. 20,000 are in arrears. I at present deal in money lending with a capital of Rs. 9,000. Out of this, Rs. 4,000 are paid to the State on behalf of the cultivators as Manoti, and Rs. 5,000 are advanced to cultivators for seed, manure, and implements. If the poppy growth were forbidden, the recovery of the above sum would be impossible. It was given in hope of opium. Opium alone would enable the cultivators to repay the debt. In case of growing other commodities in place of poppy, they would not be able to pay even taxes to the Raj. How, then, can they pay our debts? Our annual income, exclusive of expenses, amounts to Rs. 2,000. We shall lose this sum annually should poppy cultivation be stopped. Besides this, our great loss, consequent on stoppage of opium, will be the loss of greater portion of our capital; while, on the other hand, we shall have to pay the debts we owe to our bankers. When we suffer loss in our trade, our credit with our sahukars or bankers will be ruined. In such a case our creditors will try to recover their debts at once. Whether they realise their money from us or not we shall be ruined in a year or two. When the opium trade is gone we cannot take up any other trade, because the bankers lend money to us on the security of opium. When its production is forbidden they will not trust us with their money. There are 29 Bohras, and their invested amounts are as shown below:—

	Rs.
1. Seth Sameer Mall Raj Mal of Ajmere	12,000
2. Govind Das Lachman Das of Mathura	4,000
3. Sheo Buksh Girdhari Lal	10,000
4. Hans Raj Hameer Mal	5,000
5. Bachh Raj Ghameer Mal	10,000
6. Ram Lal Sheo Lal	3,000
7. Har Bishna Ganga Bishna	6,000
8. Uttam Chand Kashi Ram	10,000
9. Hira Lal Kanwar Lal	2,000
10. Ram Rakh Ram Narain	2,000
11. Nathu Ram Nanak Chand	2,000
12. Kalloo Ram Kanwar Lal	3,000
13. Kaloo Patel	1,000
14. Hans Raj Bakhtawar Mal	2,000
15. Sujan Mal Umed Mal	1,000
16. Ram Chandar Ram Ratan	2,000
17. Oonkar Mohan Lal	1,000
18. Ram Lal Panna Lal	1,000
19. Chanth Mal Girdhari Mal	20,000
20. Boolidan	2,000
21. Nand Ram Patwari	4,000
22. Har Lal Lakhman	2,000
23. Chunni Lal	1,000
24. Behroon Brahmin	1,000
25. Amra Ram	1,000
26. Goodar Patel	3,000
27. Baldeo Mani Ram	1,000
28. Dunga Sah	1,000
29. Bhajan Lal	1,000
Total	1,14,000

Besides the above-named persons there are about 25 Bohras whose investment exceeds Rs. 100, but does not exceed 1,000. The loss of their arrears as well as their annual income will be like mine.

Rao Bahadur
Vinayek Rao
Ganesh
Samarth.
(Tonk State.)

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Seth
Nand Ram.
(Tonk State.)

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21,271. Have you capital of your own, or do you borrow capital for your business from the Sahukars?—I borrow money from the Sahukars.

21,272. Is that the general way in which the Manotidars carry on business?—Some of them have their own capital, and others borrow money from the Sahukars.

21,273. What other agricultural produce is there in Tonk which is exported besides opium?—Cotton is the only thing produced.

21,274. Where does that go to?—It goes from Tonk to Indore. I do not know where it goes afterwards.

21,275. Is cotton dear or cheap now?—Last year it was dear, but it is cheaper this year.

21,276. Has opium become very cheap?—It is just the same as it was last year.

21,277. Has there been less profit lately in the opium trade than there used to be, or is it much about the same?—It has been less during the last two years.

21,278. (Mr. Pease.) Do the Bohras lend money on other crops besides opium?—They only lend their money on opium in my particular district.

21,279. Do the cultivators who do not grow opium borrow money from anyone?—They do borrow, but they get very little.

The witness withdrew.

Seth
Ratan Lall.
(Tonk State.)

SETH RATAN LALL called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

21,288. (Chairman.) I believe you are an agent of Ram Lall Chattr Bhuj?—Yes.

21,289. And you are a Mahajan and a resident of Chhabra?—Yes.

21,290. Is Chhabra the name of a pargana or the name of a town?—It is both the name of a town and of a pargana.

21,291. What have you to tell us?—My master's agency at Chhabra deals in opium since 40 years, and the average dealings are about 40 bags, weighing 120 maunds, valued at Rs. 25,000, at Rs. 575 to Rs. 600 per bag. We purchase at Rs. 200 per maund; we get a net profit of Rs. 75 per bag. This gives a net profit of Rs. 3,000 according to the average of the last five years. We export opium juice (crude opium) to Indore, where it is manufactured into trade opium. Three maunds of crude opium yields 2 maunds and 10 seers of trade opium, and after payment of the Imperial duty fetches the following price:—

	Rs.
One year old opium	1,125
Two years' old opium	1,165
Three years' old opium	1,210
Four years, or sting hard	1,300

Our firm suffered a loss of about Rs. 4,000 in Sambat 1946, or 1890 A.D., but as long as I was the firm's agent there was no loss at all. The profit I have stated already is the average of fluctuating profits. As we deal in actual quantity in hand, and not in time or speculation bargains, we do not lose like the speculators. There is no other trade more secure than the opium. We have no trust in bankers to keep out our money at 6 per cent., and therefore there is no other way but to invest in 4 per cent. securities, thus incurring a loss of Rs. 2,000 annually. The names of the other traders in the pagana, as far as I know, are given below:—

The witness withdrew.

21,280. (Mr. Wilson.) Is a Manotidar the same as a Bohra?—Yes, the same.

21,281. Is your own name in the list you have given?—Yes.

21,282. Why do you speak of your capital as Rs. 9,000, and then of your invested amount as Rs. 4,000?—The Rs. 4,000 which I have mentioned are paid to the Tonk Durbar on behalf of the cultivators; the Rs. 9,000 includes that and the money lent to the cultivators for seed, &c.

21,283. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Are the 29 Bohras, including your own firm, which you have mentioned, Bohras of the pargana of Pirawa?—Yes.

21,284. Besides those, do the other 25 Bohras which you have mentioned also belong to the same pargana?—Yes.

21,285. (Chairman.) How many parganas are there in Tonk?—Five.

21,286. Are the other four parganas about the same size as Pirawa?—I do not know.

21,287. When a Manotidar advances money to the cultivator, is the crop of that year pledged to him?—Yes. The cultivator must give as much produce as would cover the amount advanced.

Traders.	No. of Bags.	Value.
		Rs.
Prohit Chaman Lall, son of Baldeo	15	9,000
Jot Mall Jatan Lall	7	4,200
Ram Ratan, Ram Partap	20	12,000
Poorun Mall, Babcha	10	6,000
Bholoo Bighodia	1	600
Balabuksh Dhonrora	1	600
Jagan Nath Pardhan	1	600
Baij Raj Balot	4	2,400
Goti Lall	2	1,200
Duli Chand Maheshri	1	600
Govind Ram	1	600
Buchi Lall Bajja	2	1,200
Govind Ram Motporya	2	1,200
Shankar Halvai	2	1,200
Kala Ram	2	1,200
Mangi Lali Porwal	1	600
Ram Chandar Jowahir Mal	65	39,000
Total	137	82,200

21,292. What was the reason of the loss of about Rs. 4,000 in Sambat 1946?—When I purchased the opium it was very dear, and when I got to Indore the price fell very suddenly.

21,293. (Mr. Wilson.) What is the ordinary rate of interest that cultivators pay for borrowed money?—24 per cent. sometimes, and sometimes 12 per cent., and sometimes 18 per cent., in accordance with the cultivator's circumstances.

21,294. What does "sting hard" mean?—It means that it is hard enough to break a stone.

21,295. (Chairman.) Do the other traders you have mentioned in the parganas trade in nothing else but in opium?—They trade only in opium.

21,296. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Is it a fact that in the Tonk territory opium is chiefly cultivated in the two parganas of Chhabra and Pirawa?—Opium is also cultivated to a great extent in Nimahera.

The witness withdrew.

Dr. W.
Huntly.

Dr. WILLIAM HUNTLY called in and examined.

21,297. (Chairman.) I believe you are a medical missionary?—Yes.

21,298. Will you give us your opinion generally upon the opium question?—In a question such as the opium one the value of personal investigation depends greatly on being friendly and in touch with the natives. A close acquaintance with the home and bazar life of the people must be gained. The sources available for information rest among the common people, the opium consumers and their relatives, the sayings extant on the

subject, and the existing customs and institutions related to the habit. During my seven years' Indian residence, chiefly spent in Nussereabad and Jodhpore, Marwar, I have taken an active interest in every phase of this question. The general impressions of my first year in India, before I knew the language, were, if anything, not unfavourable to opium. One missed the reeling drunkard so common at home. Yet, when an occasional opium-eater came before me, I began to see that the opium-eater fills that gap in the estimation of

the native. This condemnation of the habit expressed openly in my hearing led me to undertake a special investigation of each case. In my hospital experience in India, with the exception of one Englishman, I have not been consulted by opium-eaters for the cure of the habit, but amongst my ordinary patients I have had many who were addicted to it, and these I was soon able to recognise at a glance. The universal belief of the incurability of the habit, and the sufferings that ensue on an attempt to quit the drug, keep the opium-eater from even thinking of a cure; though, when suggested, each would gladly submit were it not for the agony he knows will follow the process of cure. After a brief experience, the hang of the head, and the look about the eyes and face, made it possible for me in many cases to tell the man, without asking, that he was an opium-eater. That a confirmed opium-eater is recognisable is borne witness to by the native proverb which runs thus, "Afimchi tin manzil se pahchána játá hai."—"The opium-eater is known or can be known three stages off." Diet, constitution, habit, or disease may modify this more or less; yet this was the first clear conclusion forced in on me during my investigation. To each opium-eater were put questions regarding the age, quantity eaten daily, the duration of the habit, the reasons for beginning it, &c. As the opium-eater carries his supply with him, the amount in each case was weighed. The data up to the hundredth case were duly written down. While the hundred were recorded with the view of finding the per-centages, a less number would have sufficed to establish the general results; and in examination of many more since, I have not found subsequent evidence conflict to any material extent with the conclusions then reached. These conclusions appeared as an article some four years ago in the "United Presbyterian Magazine," along with an article on opium smoking as seen in the Nusseerabad opium den. The habit of opium-smoking is, I believe, with the exception of one or two extremists, on all sides condemned, and on it I need not enter. I simply add my condemnation. *The figures of the investigation into the hundred cases of opium-eating are given in an appendix. In my present evidence, for a clearer understanding of the subject, I purpose taking up the points to be considered in the following order:—

- (I.)—The Habit in Infancy.
- (II.)—The Habit in Youth and Manhood.
- (III.)—The Habit in Old Age.
- (IV.)—The Habit as related to certain prevalent diseases.
- (V.)—The Habit as related to Crime.
- (VI.)—The Habit and the Customs of the People.
- (VII.)—The Opium and Alcoholic Habits compared.

Before taking up these points *seriatim*, I would here remark that it seems to me that the present agitation exemplifies the gregarious nature of man. A certain section, in their zeal for reform, has indulged in somewhat incautious and to the reader exaggerated language, and this has provoked a spirit of opposition, and we see one man after another, like sheep leaping in succession through a hole in the hedge, going to the extreme in minimising the evils, and even in seeing no evil in it at all. Reasons condoning a habit ought never to be adduced as proofs of its harmlessness, and while they may influence our attitude towards it, they should not be allowed to bias our judgment. (I.) The Habit in Infancy.—The merest speck is rubbed by the mother on the gums or tongue of the infant to stop its crying or put it to sleep while she does her work. This practice may begin as early as the first month, and is generally continued till the child is over two years. The dose is increased a little as time goes on, and specially so during the teething period. Crying from any cause becomes an indication for exhibiting the drug. The people also know its value in diarrhoea, and very often in cases of stone the pain and irritation are assuaged by the drug. Far above all other reasons, however, the mother begins the practice, not for the child's sake, but to save herself the worry which children give. Now the medical uses of opium in the case of infants is guarded by warnings of their susceptibility and their liability to be poisoned from even a small dose. Deaths from overdose are extremely common, and short of an immediate fatal effect the practice leads to infantile marasmus in a large number of cases. The child becomes stunted and emaciated, the face becomes pinched, the skin withered and dry, the bones protrude, and the whole appearance is that of the decay of age rather

than dimpled childhood. When this becomes advanced the fatal end may come either from inanition, fever, or an attack of diarrhoea. The stoppage of the drug in time is often followed with an astonishingly rapid return to health and plumpness. When diarrhoea attacks an opium-fed child its chances of recovery are less than ordinary. While we can excuse its use in stone cases, those who get no opium, as I have seen, appear healthy in spite of the disease; and my only death in 80 stone cases occurred in a child who had been dosed with the drug for over four years. Opium-fed children generally fare worse when disease comes; and when the opium complication is met with in acute ailments, I am always more anxious and less hopeful of the termination. (II.) The Habit in Youth and Manhood.—When we pass from the habit in childhood to the habit in youth and manhood, we enter on a totally different phase of the question. The drug, as is well known, differs in its action according to the difference in development of the nervous system. Differing in animals as compared with man, its effects will also in man differ in degree in infancy, manhood, and old age, and in different types of men. This point has, I think, been overlooked. It follows, then, that in the embryonic state of the nerve elements in childhood, the habit will be fraught with more immediate risks to life and health. And in old age, on the other hand, with the retrogression of the nervous system, the practice may be adopted with less harmful effects than in youth. If, for example, there is rapid wasting in childhood, consequent on the opium habit, we may expect less rapidity of emaciation in those who begin the habit later in life, and we may also look for a greater toleration of larger doses. My experience bears out this reputed action of the drug, that its influence is more marked in youth than in manhood, and in manhood than in old age. The craving for excipients which distinguishes youth and manhood from old age also leads to the excessive users of the drug being found in their ranks. The earlier the habit is acquired the more likely is a man to crave for larger doses, when toleration of the smaller has been established, and, in a short time, become an excessive consumer of the drug. And this in actual experience is what happens. From this class are furnished the wrecks we hear of, about whose existence doubts have been expressed. Natives themselves use the term "posti" to mean a worthless, lazy, good-for-nothing fellow, the derivation of the word showing that the cause of the worthlessness is the opium habit. In this class, too, we find those who have lost their position or situation, and been reduced to poverty. The beginning of the habit at this period of life is connected with the temporary aid it gives to the sexual powers. From my own investigations about 40 per cent. admitted this as a reason. A native gentleman who had looked into this, without any promptings on my part, stated that 50 per cent. began the habit on this account, and over and over again have natives informed me that sexual excess and the beginning of the opium habit in youth are intimately associated. Temporary stimulation paves the way for sexual debility and impotence, and among other effects these hold a prominent place. In a country where sexual excess due to premature marriage leads to debility, it would not be just to attribute all sexual debility to the use of opium, or to say that impotence and the loss of the sexual appetite must inevitably follow the habit; yet it so often follows the habit that it is confessed to by the opium-eaters themselves, and is noted in the proverbial sayings and rhymes of Marwar. One of the rhymes runs thus: "I should not blame God for having made me a woman, nor ought I to blame Bidhata for having destined such a husband to my lot . . . may the friend die an untimely death who has taught my husband to drink opium"; the whole purport of this and several other songs being confirmatory of this opinion. The consequences of the opium habit are summed up in the old Persian proverb, "Afim khud marz o marzhara dawast,"—"Opium, which is a remedy for many diseases, is itself a disease." This disease may be summed up in the phrase—deterioration, physical, mental, moral. (III.) The Habit in Old Age.—The growing decay of the nervous system brings with it an inability to respond and react as in youth to excipients of all kinds, and this decay in a measure somewhat preserves old age from the full influence of the drug. Hence neither the response nor the consequent reaction is so marked. This is well known in the case of alcohol. A glass of spirits stimulates to intoxication the youth, whereas it only produces a sense of comfort in an old man. In this way we can understand how the

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* For these data, see Appendix IX. to this Volume.

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opium habit is credited by the natives with supplying to old age the vital warmth and energy lost by natural decay. Those who are inclined to hold that old age requires some excitant, and who are willing to pay the penalty of the depression which in youth, manhood, and old age characterises opium much more than alcohol, will approve the habit in old age; those who, like myself, believe that the penalties incurred far outweigh the comforts derived from it, will yet condone where they cannot approve. Many old men are met with, consumers for 30 or 40 years, who look as if they had suffered little; in the same way, there are thousands in England who have with seeming impunity drunk alcoholic liquors for a like number of years. In both cases the deduction is the same, namely, that both habits may be continued for many years without loss of life; but they prove nothing more. (IV.) Opium as related to certain prevalent Diseases.—Among diseases its reputed prophylactic powers in malaria first call for notice. During the present opium agitation some of those who have spoken in defence of the habit have adopted this line of excuse for it. Now it would be interesting to see the hospital records and prescriptions of those medical men who have taken up this position, and to note how many of them have prescribed the habitual use of opium to those patients who are liable to malarial attacks. Further, if it be good for natives, the presumption is that it would benefit Europeans in like circumstances. I have only been seven years in India, but have talked on this subject with other medical men of much longer Indian experience, and I have never heard or read of any European doctor prescribing the opium habit to either European or native for this purpose. Moreover, in all who have come before me, no native ever urged malaria as the reason for beginning or continuing the opium habit. The habit exists in districts like Marwar and Meywar, where malaria in ordinary years is not very prevalent, and during the last two seasons of excessive rain when malaria was unusually severe in Marwar, the opium-eaters suffered equally with the non-eaters. Even if it were a preventive, of which I have seen absolutely no evidence, the fact that it so enslaves its consumers would render its adoption indefensible so long as we have in quinine a drug which is admitted by all to be the best prophylactic in malaria, and can be discontinued at pleasure without discomfort. The grain of truth underlying all this talk of the beneficial use of opium in malaria is its power of lessening the discomfort felt in the cold stage of the attack. In the case of asthma the habit, after producing a brief amelioration, very often produced in patients who came before me a state of matters much worse than before. Guided and guarded by medical skill, the drug is serviceable in asthma; as used by the natives in asthmatic cases the habit often wrecks the patient. As with alcohol, the rule may be laid down that the presence of the opium habit constitutes a grave complication in many illnesses; this to me is a matter of strong conviction, the result of close observation of every case of disease complicated with the habit which has come before me, and this conviction is corroborated by native testimony and belief. (V.) The Habit as related to Crime.—It will be readily admitted that the brutal assaults and crimes traceable to drink cannot be laid at the door of the opium-eater. Crime by opium-eaters I have seen little of. All that can be said is that the facilities for procuring opium are such that it adapts itself as a vehicle in poisoning and suicide cases, and is largely employed in India for these purposes. The opium and not the opium eater must here bear the blame. (VI.) The Habit as related to the Customs of the People.—It is needless to go into the details of the customs of the Rajputs. Opium is proffered by a host to his guests on occasions; it is used in the settlement of quarrels, and is a seal of reconciliation. It is not a custom among the Rajputs to take opium or smoke the opium pipe after dinner as asserted by Sir William Moore; and social habits which sanction its use are being given up. The above statements are based on reliable native authority. (VII.) The Opium and Alcohol habits compared.—This matter cannot be settled off-hand. We may compare opium in India with alcohol in Britain, or opium in India with alcohol in India, and we would not likely get the same answer in both cases. In any comparison the varying effects of the two habits on the individual, on society, and on the race would require careful deliberation. Opium in moderation would require to be compared, not with alcohol in excess, but with alcohol in moderation, and opium in excess with alcohol in excess, and with the same premises, the conclusion drawn might differ according to the importance placed

by one person on one aspect, and by another on some different aspect of the question. What Britain is, in spite of alcohol, all know; what she would become under opium we might conjecture. Very little is required, in conclusion, to show in what direction the above evidence tells. Some 50 years ago, long before this agitation was thought of, Colonel Tod, in his "Annals of Rajasthan," stigmatised the opium habit among the Rajputs as a "debasement" one. At the present day, as far as my experience goes, the habit is discountenanced. I have never met a single opium-eater who praised it; I have never seen a proverb or song which recommended or approved it; and I have never seen a case in which the habit appeared beneficial. A native authority informed me that as a general rule it might be said that the habit deprived men of one-fourth of their usefulness. This language cannot be styled immoderate, and it gives no support to the habit. As a habit, it is to the healthy man unnecessary, generally injurious, and more or less deteriorating; it leaves no part of a man's nature unaffected; it is unmanly, and in harmony with the effects of the drug on the secretions, its tendency is towards atrophy.

21,299. (Sir W. Roberts.) Do you recognise the difference between the moderate use of alcohol or opium and the excessive use?—Certainly.

21,300. Do your remarks chiefly apply to the excessive use?—No; they apply generally to the use of opium, whether in moderation or in excess. It is a difference of degree. The effects of the opium habit simply vary in degree according to the amount taken and according to the age of the patient.

21,301. And according, I presume, you would agree to the individual tolerance?—Certainly. The idiosyncrasy of the patient has to be taken into account.

21,302. I presume you recognise immense difference in the tolerance?—Yes.

21,303. Have you seen injurious effects from what may be called the moderate use of opium, that is to say, from the use of such a quantity as is well below the tolerance of the individual?—I have certainly found that the effects of moderate doses are not beneficial but rather injurious. The reaction of the opium invariably sets in, as far as my experience goes. I have seen native friends of mine who have taken opium, and I have found that during the period of reaction they were certainly unfit to do their work.

21,304. When they had not the opium?—Yes.

21,305. That is rather a different point. Supposing a moderate opium-eater has his dose regularly night and morning, have you observed any injurious effects on his health?—Yes. The general effects are a tendency towards emaciation. Most of the opium-eaters that I have seen have come to me for some other disease, and I have generally found that the opium habit rendered the treatment of their case to me more difficult than it would otherwise have been.

21,306. Have you had any large acquaintance with opium-eaters who were not patients?—I have met with a number of friends who have become my patients. When they have anything wrong with them they come to me. Of course most of the individuals with whom I come into contact are my patients.

21,307. Your study and knowledge of the opium habit standing by itself (except with regard to patients) would be very limited, would it not?—The patients do not come on account of the opium habit.

21,308. But does a man come to you to treat him for bronchitis or stone in the bladder on account of the opium habit?—They were not patients who came to me on account of opium-eating; they came and consulted me for other diseases. They did not consult me with regard to the opium habit, so that they could not be called patients in that sense. I have only met with those opium-eaters who came as patients on other grounds. Their coming was not connected with their opium habit.

21,309. We have had samples of people here before us this morning, strong, healthy looking men, who told us they had been using opium, some for 10, and some for a longer number of years. Are you able, as a medical man, to say that those persons are suffering from the habit?—I do not see how anyone can say so. My judgment may be flatly contradicted by their own statement. It is a matter of their own statement whether they are suffering or not. I venture to say, and I hold that they are suffering.

21,310. Do not you think that a man knows when he is well?—No, I do not think a man does always know when he is well.

21,311. Unless you can find some organic disease, I presume, the sense of feeling well is the best evidence that a man is well?—A man addicted to the alcohol habit may feel quite well only a few minutes before he has a paralytic attack.

21,312. You can find evidence of that by physical examination?—I do not think we can say that a man is well because he simply feels well.

21,313. Are you justified as a medical man in saying that a man in whom you can find no organic disease whatever is not well simply because he is in the habit of taking opium?—I never said he had organic disease. How are we to know that a man has no organic disease from his own statement?

21,314. I mean from your own examination?—If I find no organic disease, then I would say that that opium-eater is free from organic disease; but I do not think that that implies that the opium has exercised no injurious effects upon him.

21,315. If he continues living on and on in comfort, what sort of evidence have you that the man is not quite well?—I have met a number of opium eaters who did not come to me specially for any disease, but who were friends, and the more I became acquainted with them they told me that they regretted ever beginning opium habit.

21,316. But they continued well?—No, they did not necessarily continue well. They continued fairly well, we will say; but they often complained to me that this or that was the matter with them, and very often they said it was due or brought about by this habit.

21,317. Could you give any suggestion to the Commission explaining how it is that we have had medical witnesses, skilled observers, who have had three times your experience in this country; and who have told us that they cannot tell an opium-eater who does not go to excess from anybody else, and they cannot tell that he is suffering from any disease?—I think I might explain it in this way. We all know that the habit of taking *ganja* and *bhanga* is also common among the natives. I have also come across many people who are habituated to eating Indian hemp. If I were asked by the Commission whether I knew anything about *ganja* or *bhanga*, although I have met hundreds of cases, I should say, "I cannot tell you anything about it" authoritatively, although I have seen cases, because "I have not paid the same attention or entered into the matter in so exact a manner as I have with regard to the opium habit." We are so far removed from the natives that casual observation, as a rule, can give no very reliable opinion concerning any of their habits unless we lay ourselves out to a painstaking investigation of each individual case.

21,318. With regard to giving opium to children, we have been assured by medical observers who are in a position to know, that this habit is extremely rarely a cause of accident, as rarely as the use of opium under medical prescription. We have also been told that it does not interfere with the nutrition of infants, but that they grow up into healthy children. Could you give us any information which would reconcile those statements with your own?—I have read those statements myself, and I do not see how any medical man with a knowledge of the action of opium on the various secretions, beginning with saliva and going down, and with his eyes open, can say that opium has no effect upon children.

21,319. But that is a theoretical objection?—It naturally follows that opium must have some influence upon the secretions.

21,320. But it is a question of fact?—It must be based upon facts concerning the drug.

21,321. We have been told that as many as 80 per cent. of the infants have opium given to them, and yet that those infants grow into healthy children and healthy men?—That may be, but I know that I have come across many deaths in children owing to an overdose of opium, and still more die from the continuance of the habit. Within a radius of half a mile of Jodhpore Hospital I certainly can produce 20 cases.

21,322. Such deaths in England would require an inquest?—Yes, but it is not known in India. Not having inquests the death escapes notice, and the cremation of the child takes place within a few hours of

death; but I think it is generally recognised that a great deal of wasting and marasmus accompanies the giving of this drug to children.

21,323. You are, of course, aware, or you must have learnt from what you have read, that marasmus in children is common enough in England from faulty digestion. How would you distinguish the marasmus produced by the opium habit in infants from the marasmus with which we are familiar in our own country from digestive disorder?—I think you are aware that marasmus in infants in England has generally a constitutional basis of struma, or of some inherited weakness of the system, but here in India we meet with children, otherwise healthy, who from no other reason than the giving of the drug by their mothers, have been reduced to this state which has only been partially described by me.

21,324. You have said, "The stoppage of the drug in time is often followed with astonishingly rapid return to health and plumpness." That is a good diagnostic mark that it is opium marasmus; but in your experience how often has it been the case that the stoppage of the opium habit has restored the child to health?—I am sorry I could not give you the exact number of cases. I can recall to my memory a dozen, or perhaps a score of instances in which acting on my advice the parents stopped the opium, and the child recovered health and plumpness.

21,325. Why do you think the opium habit produced marasmus in these few children, and not in the mass?—I can only speak of those I have seen; I cannot say as to the mass of children. A great many children do die from it who are never brought before any doctor. Of course, poor parents cannot supply their children with all manner of fattening foods, and those children will necessarily be more liable to marasmus than the children of richer people. It is among the common people of the country that these cases of marasmus generally occur, although I have seen cases where the parents were rich.

21,326. Has it ever struck you that there was an initial difference of tolerance in infants, and that these cases of marasmus were due to a congenital lack of tolerance?—While admitting that there may be a difference of tolerance, that would only necessitate the giving of a larger dose to produce the desired effect by the mother; but, on the other hand, lack of tolerance does not, I hold, explain the marasmus.

21,327. With regard to the effect of opium as a remedy for various ailments in malarial districts, I suppose you are aware of the prevalence of the belief in many parts of the country that opium is effective in some way or other against the various ills incident to those malarial districts?—The first I ever heard of that was when reading the opinions of European medical men. I never heard of it from a native.

21,328. Are you aware that even 50 years ago that opinion was prevalent amongst the professional circles in India, and that narcotine, the most abundant constituent of Bengal opium, was provided for the dispensaries?—I have never heard of it from a native. I have only heard of it from European medical men.

21,329. Have you ever heard of its being used, not as a prophylactic in the strict sense, but that persons who have a little fever about them take it to prevent the chills which bring on recurrent febrile attacks; have you met with that opinion in this neighbourhood?—I would like to say that I had, but I am sorry to say that I have not. I may have heard that some natives who take opium increase their dose during the cold season or when a cold is coming on. As a medical man, I have often prescribed opium myself in cases of chills (not, however, of recurrent febrile attacks), but that does not refer, I think, to the habit lasting on from day to day, or for years.

21,330. I suppose your experience has taught you that opium is a very common household remedy in this part of India?—Yes; it is a very common remedy, there is no doubt about that.

21,331. And it is present in almost every house, is it not?—It is considered as a common remedy, but I would not say that it is present in every house. In all the villages you will find opium in some of its forms.

21,332. (Mr. Wilson.) You have said: "To each opium-eater we put questions regarding the age, quantity eaten daily, duration of the habit, the reasons for beginning it," &c. Do you mean to each

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patient who came to you, or do you mean that you made some other investigation?—The questions were put the patient who was an opium-eater. Later on, in putting the question, I seldom asked the man if he was an opium-eater; I simply asked him: "How many 'grains of opium do you take?' " He then told me the number of grains he took, and frequently he produced the opium from some part of his person. The first thing I did was to weigh it. His age was taken down, the duration of the habit, the reasons for beginning it, and so on.

21,333. Why did you change the form of your question; you said when you get a little further on instead of asking a man if he took opium you asked him how much he took?—There are one or two reasons. One reason was that very often at first the men denied that they took it, more especially if there were one or two others standing around us, as they do stand around in an open dispensary. Another reason was because I was able to recognise that there was a likelihood that the man before me from his appearance was an opium-eater.

21,334. You used the term "marasmus." What is that in plain English?—It means infantile wasting.

21,335. You have referred to a native gentleman who has looked into this matter. I think you got some definite information from him?—I endeavoured to get my information definitely.

21,336. Is he the same gentleman that you have mentioned to me in conversation?—Yes.

21,337. You have also said: "In all who have come 'before me no native ever urged malaria as the 'reason for beginning or continuing the opium habit.' " What do they give as the reason?—There are three or four reasons. Of those whom I examined about 60 per cent. began the habit between the ages of 20 and 40. Sometimes the habit was commenced at a Mela, sometimes at times of fasting, and sometimes because it was supposed to give some aid to sexual powers. Sometimes, also, the habit was begun by taking opium for some little trifling ailment, and then when the ailment passed away the habit was established.

21,338. You say, "The social habits which sanction 'its use are being given up.' " Do you think you have that on distinctly reliable authority?—Yes, I think so. I have it on quite reliable native authority.

21,339. Does your information enable you to say within what period it has been abandoned, whether it is now being abandoned, or whether it has been gradually going on for some years?—I think evidence has already been laid before the Commission that there has been a decrease in the consumption of opium in Marwar, generally speaking, within the last decade. Englishmen are not at the social gatherings, &c. as a rule; but so far as I have heard from native gentlemen, what I have stated is the case.

21,340. A great many witnesses, both here and at other places, have told us that persons who are much exposed, such as night-watchmen, camel-drivers, and others, are in the habit of constantly taking opium, and that it is the greatest possible comfort and advantage to them. Do you know anything about that?—I have seldom come across a camel-driver who took opium, though I believe that several of them do, who say they take it for long marches and when exposed to the night air. As a rule, I do not think they take opium, nor do they give it to their camels. In the times of Nacoity, if a man wanted to get away from his pursuers, he could, by giving a piece of opium to his camel, get more work out of it for that day, his aim being to get as far away from his pursuers as possible. The life or health of his camel would be of no consequence. Now-a-days, the habit is changed. They give their camels alum and coarse brown sugar, &c. These things are now more commonly given than opium in the case of horses and camels that have been fatigued by long journeys, and are required to go on further.

21,341. Have you seen the evidence given by Bishop Thoburn in Calcutta, in which some questions were put to him with reference to the abolition of the tobacco monopoly in Persia?—Yes.

21,342. I believe you wish to make a short statement to the Commission on the subject?—The question has reference to the possibility or feasibility of the British Government taxing the Indian ryot in tobacco. Reference was made to the Shah of Persia taxing tobacco and

a revolt following. The fact is that the Shah of Persia did not tax tobacco.

21,343. Do you know that?—As far as I can gather from those who have been in Persia the facts are these. The Shah of Persia received at first a sum of money from a single gentleman to have control of the cultivation, &c. of tobacco in Persia. The whole affair was transferred by the single individual to a huge company, which launched out with full powers to stop all other cultivation of tobacco save by this company. Then the people rose, practically on account of the affairs of the country being handed over to foreigners, it being an English company. The element of revolt was due to the feeling against the foreigners. The Shah had to pay 500,000*l.* to the company.

21,344. (Chairman.) Are you sure it was a monopoly of cultivation or a monopoly of tobacco, like the monopolies that exist in many foreign countries, monopoly of sale?—It was somewhat similar to the monopoly existing in Turkey; I believe it included cultivation. There were huge buildings put up all over Persia to carry on the business of the company.

22,345. The company might themselves intend to cultivate without having the monopoly of cultivation?—There was a monopoly of cultivation; it had to be sanctioned.

22,346. On what authority do you state this?—On the authority of a medical man who was in Persia for a number of years, and who has quite recently come to Rajputana.

21,347. (Mr. Mowbray.) Is it your suggestion that if opium were prohibited it would be safe to put a tax upon tobacco, is that the point?—Perhaps Mr. Wilson will explain. I must refer you to him.

21,348. You have told us, speaking of the opium habit generally, that "it is to the healthy man unnecessary, generally injurious, and more or less 'deteriorating.' " I suppose you would admit that there are many habits besides the opium habit which are to healthy men unnecessary, very often injurious, and in many cases deteriorating?—Certainly.

21,349. I presume you would hardly propose to prohibit all these habits by law?—As a medical missionary I do not believe that the people of any country can be reformed by law altogether. I think rather, that the regeneration of any company or class of men should begin from within rather than from without.

21,350. I rather gather from what you have told us with regard to the social habits which sanction the use of opium being given up; that, in your opinion, there is something in that direction being done at the present moment?—I do not associate, so to speak, with the people, during their festivals. I can only take this on native authority. It is somewhat similar to the difference in habit with regard to alcohol among the Scotch people now as compared with 50 years ago. Fifty years ago, after Holy Communion in certain churches, there was often practically a debauch in drinking wine and spirits. That habit has changed. A like change is taking place with the use of opium in connexion with the customs of the people here.

21,351. That is to say, in your opinion, there is in Rajputana an influence working in the direction which you yourself wish it to work?—Certainly; it seems to me that the habit is being discontinued.

21,352. As a practical man, with your experience of the habits, customs, and feelings of the people here, are you prepared to advise this Commission to recommend a policy of prohibition by law?—I should prefer to say that I would recommend to the Commission a policy of discouraging the use of opium. If the policy of non-prohibition be based upon the alleged beneficial action of the drug, I would say that the Commission, in recommending such a policy, were committing a moral wrong. The policy I should like to see would be in the direction of discouraging the use of the drug; showing that the habit is discountenanced, and thus helping the people to free themselves from the habit; that is different from prohibition at once by law.

21,353. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You have stated that in this country the opium-eater fills the gap which is occupied by the drunkard at home; are you there referring to the excessive opium-eater?—I am referring to the feeling that seemed to me to be held with regard to the drug in the case of those who have come before me.

21,354. The drunkard at home is the excessive consumer of wine or alcohol; do you mean in the same way the excessive opium-eater?—Yes, certainly.

21,355. You have referred to Sir William Moore, and you say that it is not a custom among Rajputs to take opium after dinner. You are aware that Sir William Moore was speaking of the Thakurs, the Rajput gentlemen, as he calls them?—The Thakurs do not take it after dinner as we take wines or liquors.

21,356. You say not as a habit?—Not as a social habit.

21,357. I suppose in Sir William Moore's own experience there may have been occasions on which he had known this done?—My own experience is that it is given on the occasion of first meeting, together with spices, set on silver plates. It is also given on some other occasions; but it is not taken as a social thing after meals.

21,358. Your information has been that it is not taken as a habit after dinner by any class of Rajputs?—That is so.

21,359. And further, that it is not taken, as wine would be taken at home, after dinner?—No.

21,360. With regard to the social habits; you have stated that the social habits which sanction the use of opium are being given up; what social habits do you mean?—I mean so far as opium is connected with the social habits, that those habits are altered, in that there is not the same necessity for the presence of opium as part of the social function. I do not mean that all the habits are being abandoned, but so far as relates to the opium part of them.

21,361. You mean, I think, not that certain social habits are being given up, but rather that the use of opium on various occasions which has been common in the past is now less common?—Yes. A number of the habits are changed.

21,362. Can you instance any other habits which are being given up?—Alterations have been made in the "holi" festival at Jodhpore. In that case the "mela" has been abandoned, and the opium goes with it.

21,363. In the table of the cases which you have given you have not mentioned the occupation of your patients?—No. In the register of cases we generally put down the caste, whether Hindu or Mussalman. This was kept in the hospital register. I might have put down the occupation, but at the time I did not think it was necessary.

21,364. Were these cases mainly obtained in Nusseerabad?—Yes.

21,365. The proportion of young men who have taken to this habit, from what you have called sexual reasons, is unusually large according to other evidence we have had. Do you think it has anything to do with the class of men to be found at a cantonment like Nusseerabad?—I should say it would refer to the regular inhabitants, taking them as a whole. It was only by accident that I received that statement from a native gentleman as to the percentage being higher than I myself had put it.

21,366. You have made a reference to Tod's Rajasthan, and to his strong views in regard to the opium habit. I think it right to put this before you. It is stated in a book* that has been sent to us that Sir Henry Lawrence, who was agent for the Governor-General in Rajputana for some time, wrote that, in his opinion, there was little, if any, truth in the statement made in Tod's Rajasthan?—I was not aware of that.

21,367. (Lord Brassey.) Looking to the peculiar difficulties which attach to any interference by a foreign Government, such as the government of India by England, with the personal habits and social customs of the people, do you not think that the general arguments which you have recognised in your replies to Mr. Mowbray in favour of accomplishing moral reforms by social and religious agency, have a peculiarly marked application to the case which is before this Commission. If you think that is true generally, is it not particularly true when the interference sought for is interference which must be exercised, as in the case of this Government, by a foreign Government?—I think, certainly, that any reform should be a matter of very careful consideration, and, as far as possible, it is a thing that must be brought about gradually.

21,368. Especially where the Government is constituted as is the government of India by Englishmen, and the case involves interference with personal habits and ancient customs?—It would be more desirable if it were so brought about—if the natives themselves moved first in the matter of legislation—I certainly perfectly agree with you there.

21,369. From what you have said, I gather that you regard the use of stimulants generally, unless when medically prescribed, as of doubtful advantage?—Yes, I certainly do, unless under medical supervision.

21,370. You have made it evident that in your view, whatever Great Britain is in the world, is not because, but in spite of alcohol?—Yes.

21,371. Do you not hold that the remarks which you would apply to the use of alcohol in England apply in so far as alcohol is used at all, even more strongly in the case of India; and is it not the case that alcohol when used in India is used with even a less degree of impunity than in England?—There seems to be a tendency amongst those who take alcohol to be very liable to run into excess.

21,372. That being so, do you think it would be desirable to put the utmost restriction in the case of alcohol as in the case of opium?—Yes; so far as it is possible or feasible.

21,373. In short the arguments that prevail with you in regard to opium apply equally to alcohol?—Yes, generally; but in the habitual moderate consumer of alcohol, there is no experience of the period of re-action which characterises every case of even the moderate use of opium.

21,374. (Chairman.) Do you think it is at all probable that opium smoking has the effect of prolonging life in the case of consumption?—30 or 40 years ago in England there was a feeling that alcohol was valuable in the case of consumptives in prolonging life. That was the opinion held at that time as far as my teaching has gone. My teacher was Professor Gairdner of the Glasgow University, and he taught us that it is of no use.

21,375. When opium is drawn into the lungs of the opium-smoker, do you think the opinion held by the Chinese of the benefit of such smoking in cases of consumption may be right?—I do not think so.

21,376. You say, "all that can be said is that the facilities of procuring opium are such that it adapts itself as a vehicle in poisoning and suicide cases, and is largely employed in India for these purposes." As regards poisoning, that is new to me. Is it not a fact that opium, having a strong taste and smell, is not a good drug for the purpose of poisoning. If a man died from it the cause would be at once apparent, would it not?—Opium is taken along with other pungent condiments used by the natives. The odour might be easily concealed. Moreover, every case of death is not noticed. There is no registration of deaths before disposal of the body, and many deaths escape investigation. There is not the dread of an inquest following as there is at home.

21,377. Is that the result of your experience, or is it merely a theory; it is a new thing to me?—It is a matter of experience in a number of cases that have come under my observation. I happened to visit Tonk Goal three or four years ago, and there were five or six women there who were all concerned with the deaths of their husbands, and opium had been used either by them or by their paramours. Opium had been the vehicle in those cases.*

* The following letter was subsequently addressed by the witness to Sir James Lyall:—

"In my evidence at Ajmere you raised the question of opium being used as a poisoning agent, and held the taste, &c. was against it being thus used. At the time I thought you had missed my point, which was to lay no stress on the poisoning, but to free the opium-eater from the blame of it. From my wording of the sentence, you will see that I was careful not to write Rajputana but India. I was simply accepting what many hold all over India (see Mitra of Cashmere, in "Indian Medical Record," February 1894). While I have seen poisoning by opium in Rajputana, I agree with your contention that the taste should be, and likely is, against it being extensively used. In Rajputana the root of the joar, dhatura, and sometimes arsenic are greater favourites than opium for poisoning purposes. Opium is said to be used more in the case of children, and in poisoning an opium-eater by the administering of an excessive dose. If I had been discussing suicide and homicide comparatively I would not have placed them together, but my wish to be concise, and my purpose, as I say above, being otherwise, I wrote it as it was read. You will see that the sentence begins, "All that can be said." I wish to write to you to say that your contention was a just one, and your question coming in at the end of the questioning did not perhaps at the time receive the consideration it should have done by me. You may use this note before the Commission should you think fit."

* Note by Mr. Fanshawe.—This statement will be found at page 42 of "A Vindication of England's Policy with regard to the Opium Trade," by C. E. Haines; but I have been unable to verify the quotation from Sir H. Lawrence's letter.

Dr. W.
Huntly.

2 Feb. 1894.

21,378. How could a person get a man to take opium without his knowing it?—I have never tried it. It is left to the poisoner to find out the best means to conceal the poison which is given. I have not given any attention to that part of the subject.

21,379. Do you know whether the opinion you have given as to the bad effects of the opium habit is shared, so far as you know, by the other gentlemen who are working in Rajputana as missionaries, or whether there is a difference of opinion?—They might differ in detail, but, as far as the medical men I have met with are concerned, I think their opinion generally accords with what I have said. They discountenance the habit generally.

21,380. (Mr. Pease.) With reference to what passed between you and Mr. Fanshawe, I believe there are

certain occasions when it is obligatory to take opium such as betrothals, shaving, and parting of the beard and other various occasions. Is it not a fact that these are obligations rather in the less enlightened districts of Rajputana?—At some of the lesser ceremonies, as far as I have been informed, opium is not taken so much as it was in the past in the larger towns. In the outlying villages the villagers retain the older customs more rigidly than the people in the towns.

21,381. Do you think that with the spread of education and enlightenment these customs are passing away, and that the obligation is not felt to the same extent as it was in the past?—Those people whom I have met who are educated do not recognise these obligations.

The witness withdrew.

The Rev. C. H. PLOMER called in and examined.

The Rev. C. H.
Plomer.

21,382. (Mr. Wilson.) I believe you are connected with the Methodist Episcopal Mission, Ajmere?—Yes.

21,383. What have you to say with regard to the opium habit?—I am a native of India, and have lived all my life in this country. I have laboured as a missionary in the Central Provinces and the Punjab, and came to Ajmere last year. Wherever I have been I have seen the evil effects of the opium habit. It is almost invariable, especially amongst the poorer classes, for those who begin with small doses to go on increasing the quantity of opium consumed. The effects on the system of taking even a small quantity is such that the consumer is unable to endure fatigue without increasing the quantity taken. The habit often originates in opium being taken for fever or for bowel complaints, but the continuance of its use deprives the patient of the relief which he at first obtained from it. Poor men who have acquired this habit are compelled to spend on opium money that ought to be spent on food. I have conversed on this subject with many in this neighbourhood and in the Punjab, especially amongst the poor. They own the evil of the habit, and would be pleased to see the stoppage of the traffic, except for medicinal use.

21,384. You say, "The consumer is unable to endure fatigue without increasing the quantity taken." We have had a great deal of evidence of exactly the contrary character, namely, that those who have to undergo considerable fatigue take it for the express purpose of enabling them to do so. Can you in any way explain, or reconcile, or add anything to that?—Both from observation and investigation I have found that they must of necessity take opium in order to cope with the task before them. I have seen them myself as they have been pursuing their own avocations resort to opium.

21,385. Would it be right to put it in this way, that a man who has been in the habit of taking regularly four grains a day, and then has to undergo some special fatigue, will increase the quantity to enable him to do his work; is that what you mean?—Yes.

21,386. Do you say that the habit of taking opium in the Central Provinces is looked upon with favour or with disfavour by the people?—It is looked upon with disfavour, most certainly.

21,387. Would you say that it was looked upon as disgraceful?—They do not put it exactly in that form. Those who are habituated to the use of opium very gladly admit the fact that they would rather have it entirely discontinued.

21,388. Would the same reply apply to the Punjab?—Yes, and to these provinces as well.

21,389. (Mr. Mowbray.) Your experience of these provinces, about which you speak so confidently, is a year?—Yes, just a year.

21,390. How long have you been in the Punjab?—Seven years.

21,391. Where?—Lahore.

21,392. Have you been in the city of Lahore all the time?—I did not confine my labours solely to the city; I went to the adjacent villages.

21,393. How long were you in the Central Provinces?—Two and a half years.

21,394. (Mr. Fanshawe.) In what districts of the Central Provinces have you been?—I have been in the Nimar district.

21,395. Was all your time spent there?—I spent some part of my time in the Hoshangabad district.

21,396. Dr. Rice, who was in the Central Provinces for 30 years or so, told us that the poorer classes in that province were in the habit of taking opium very often to enable them to do their daily work, which otherwise, on account of rheumatism and pains, they would be unable to do; have you any experience in the Central Provinces of that sort of use of opium?—That experience obtains almost through every province that I have been in.

21,397. Your own experience would agree with that?—Yes, quite so.

21,398. Have you any idea how opium could be supplied for that kind of use if it were generally prohibited except for medical purposes?—The opium consumers would of necessity have to meet with difficulties, as we might all admit; but the habit which has already grown upon them would naturally have to be fought against from the beginning.

21,399. This is a use among the poorer classes to enable rheumatic men, or men suffering from pain, to do their daily work, without which they practically would have to starve?—They would of necessity have to resort to that agent who might receive sanction from Government to be a drug seller.

21,400. And that would mean that a very large number of drug sellers would have to be provided in each district, would it not?—Not of necessity. They would certainly have to resort to large towns, or towns where such agencies would be appointed by Government.

21,401. That would be a practical prohibition to the people in the districts against obtaining the drug?—That is so.

21,402. (Lord Brassey.) Do you think that the same restriction which you recommend in the case of opium is desirable with reference to alcohol, except for medical use?—I would say that similar restrictions might easily be introduced.

21,403. (Chairman.) You say that you have conversed with many people in this neighbourhood, and that they would be pleased to see the stoppage of the traffic, except for medicinal use. What do you mean by the traffic; do you mean the cultivation; would that imply that cultivation should also be stopped?—Yes, to a great extent, most certainly. They all believe that certain restrictions should be placed upon that. Certain individuals might be given special licenses from Government to devote part of their land to the cultivation of poppy, whereby all these medical stores might be supplied with opium solely for medicinal purposes.

21,404. You are aware that by far the greater part of the opium cultivation in Rajputana and Central India is for supplying opium for export trade beyond the sea. Do you suppose that that would be stopped?—That would of necessity follow.

21,405. Do you mean to say that you are able to state from your one year's experience in the town of Ajmere that popular opinion is in favour of stopping this large trade of opium cultivation?—I think so.

21,406. Will it not be financially a great loss to a large number of people all over the country?—That is universally admitted.

21,407. Yet you think the feeling against the habit is so strong that, notwithstanding the financial loss, they would be glad to see it stopped?—Yes, for the good of the people.

21,408. That is your idea of the popular feeling?—Yes.

21,409. That is a curious state of feeling. It is not often you get people so disinterested?—Those alone are interested in it who are to-day reaping the benefit of the cultivation—and the Government, of course.

21,410. Who are the people you have conversed with?—I have conversed with some influential natives of India in every province where I have been.

The witness withdrew.

Brigade Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel T. FRENCH-MULLEN called in and examined.

21,413. (*Sir W. Roberts.*) I believe you are Officiating Medical Officer, Western States of Rajputana, having headquarters at Jodhpore?—Yes.

21,413a. What opportunities have you had of observing the effect of the opium habit in India?—I have actually lived in this province close on 20 years (all furlough, &c., excluded), and in that time have not seen as much damage done by opium as a month's residence in such towns of England and Ireland as I have happened to stay in has shown me done by alcohol.

21,414. Have you observed whether habitual opium-eaters necessarily increase their dose?—Habitual opium-eaters do not necessarily or even usually increase their daily allowance after the first year or two, and amongst them a man who takes opium in quantity to injure him mentally or physically is looked down on and talked about as would a European who drank to excess be amongst his fellows nowadays. A member of a caste or subdivision of a caste within which the taking of opium is prohibited is, of course, condemned for taking, no matter how small a quantity, habitually as would a teetotaler for taking alcohol. I have never known a death caused by opium save in cases of suicide or misadventure.

21,415. Have you known any connexion between crime and opium?—I know of no crimes due to the taking of opium.

21,416. What has been your experience generally of opium users?—Most of the opium users I know or have known were at all events up to the average in mind and body of their respective castes and classes, so long as they kept to opium only. When they took spirits, or more especially English spirits also, they, in my experience, took both to excess and quickly broke down, and if they did not soon drop the excess died early. The deaths of this kind which I have known of were deaths from alcohol helped by opium, and not from opium helped by alcohol.

21,417. What knowledge have you of the belief of the natives that opium is useful in malarial fever?—I know it is a general belief amongst natives of this province that those who eat opium are less subject to malarial fever than their non-using neighbours. I cannot vouch for the truth of this belief from my own experience, but I certainly do not wish to declare it un- or ill-founded. I know that opium will often avert a fever seizure, and that it is taken to shorten such. I know that from my own personal experience of many years.

21,418. For what other purposes is opium used, is it used as a household remedy?—Opium is largely used in bowel troubles of all kinds, in rheumatic pains and neuralgias of all kinds, asthma, chronic cough, some forms of dyspepsia, and so on. I do not think it is much used as an aphrodisiac, but I have known it employed, it was said successfully, to enable the sexual act to be prolonged. It is, I think, the most widely used household medicine in this province.

21,419. What experience have you had of the opium habit in gaols?—Throughout the 20 years referred to above, I have, as a part of my duties, held executive and medical charge of gaols with a daily average popu-

21,411. With what class of people have you conversed in this neighbourhood?—I have conversed with cultivators, those to whom licenses have been given for the cultivation of poppy. I have also conversed with some of the influential classes.

21,412. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Did I understand you to say, in reply to a question that was put to you, that there is a class of persons suffering from certain pains, and so forth, to whom the use of opium is a practical necessity to enable them to do their daily work, as mentioned by Dr. Rice?—Taking opium for any malady or for any pain is a habit obtaining everywhere. At the same time opium is also resorted to by opium consumers to stimulate them to fulfil their everyday work. Opium is also taken to alleviate pain. That is understood everywhere, simply because there is no other medical aid at hand.

21,420. You mean independent disease, and not disease produced by opium?—Yes. In a large number of cases the opium had been taken owing to disease of some kind or other. In not 1 per cent. of these cases was it necessary, on account of bowel troubles, &c. to give for a short time some opium, and then, of course, it was given in disguised form. I do not think there is so much difficulty in breaking off the opium habit as there is in the case of alcohol; not much more perhaps than there is in the case of tobacco. It depends upon when you catch the opium-user. Many come and ask for assistance to help them to break the habit.

21,421. (*Mr. Wilson.*) You have referred to the question of malarial fever. I do not quite understand whether you yourself have faith in opium as a prophylactic?—No; save, as I have said, used in this limited sense; if a man came to me within three hours of the time he expected his fever attack, I would not consider that I had time enough to stop that attack by giving him quinine alone, and from experience in my own person, I would give him laudanum with the quinine in solution.

21,422. Have you ever known cases in which opium-eaters desiring to free themselves from the habit have sought medical advice?—Yes, hundreds. These cases were chiefly boys and young men who were not entitled by the custom of their castes to take opium at all at this age.

21,423. Do they succeed under medical advice?—It is not very difficult when they put themselves under a medical man. The individuals want assistance, not to the same extent as a confirmed drunkard, but they do need home help to aid them.

21,424. You have hardly known persons to apply to medical men in order to break off the practice of smoking tobacco?—I have known men suffer very much from tobacco, and found it extremely difficult to persuade them to lessen the quantity habitually consumed. I have often been consulted for irregular heart action, and sometimes for failing sight, caused by heavy smoking, and impossible of cure until the smoking was stopped or materially lessened.

21,425. Have you known them have recourse to medical assistance in order to get rid of it?—No; but often to get rid of evils resulting from it they ought to.

21,426. So that from that point of view it is distinctly more difficult to get rid of the opium habit than the tobacco habit?—That I would not say. As a rule a man does not try to give up the tobacco habit unless he is forced to do so owing to trouble with his heart, or something of the sort.

21,427. You have said that there is not much more difficulty in breaking off the opium habit than there is in the case of tobacco?—Not much more.

The Rev. C. H. Plomer.

2 Feb. 1894.

*Brigade Surgeon
Lieut.-Colonel
T. French-Mullen.*

Brigade
Surgeon
Lieut.-Colonel
T. Ffrench-
Mullen.

2 Feb. 1894.

21,428. But you have not known people seek advice with reference to tobacco?—I have known people seek advice for the effects of heavy tobacco smoking.

21,429. But not to give them assistance in breaking it off?—They did not know what the cause of the trouble was.

21,430. (Sir W. Roberts.) I presume the difficulty of giving up the opium habit varies very much according to the quantity which a person has got into the habit of taking. A person in the habit of taking 20 or

30 grains twice a day would find the breaking off of the habit very much more serious than a person who only took three or four grains twice a day?—Certainly.

21,431. Have you been able to verify that by your experience?—Certainly; but the difficulty would not be so very much greater as the difference in quantity would lead you to believe.

21,432. But there is a certain relation?—Yes, certainly—marked.

The witness withdrew.

Surgeon-Captain W. H. NEILSON, M.B., called in and examined.

Surgeon-
Captain W. H.
Neilson, M.B.

21,433. (Sir W. Roberts.) I believe you are in medical charge of the Erinpura irregular force?—Yes.

21,434. And you have been in the service for 11 years, of which 10 have been in Rajputana?—Yes.

21,435. You have also had medical practice in the force and amongst the inhabitants of the surrounding district?—Yes.

21,436. To a certain degree you have been in civil practice?—There is no other medical officer within many miles, so that I get practice in the district. I get both surgical and medical cases.

21,437. Have you dispensaries under your charge?—There are no dispensaries there.

21,438. Will you tell us what your experience has been?—Opium is not grown in the district, but imported; amal and amal-pani are consumed; chandu and madak are not used; the price is from Re. 1 for five to Re. 1 for seven or eight tolas according to the quality.

21,439. What are the men composing the force you are in charge of?—In the cavalry, Sikhs and Mahomedans. In the infantry, Rajputs, Minas, Bhils, Mhairs, Surgaras, Gujars, other Hindus, Mahomedans. With the exception of the Mahomedans, all are occasional eaters; 5 per cent. of Sikhs habitual eaters; women and children of Sikhs occasional eaters. Opium is given to women and children of others as medicine only.

21,440-1. What have you to say in regard to the bazars in the town?—Mahajans, Brahmins, Rajputs, Mahomedans, Minas, Bhils, Kumbars, Ganchis, Gousis, Chamars are, with the exception of Gousis, either occasional or habitual eaters, and amongst them some consumers of enormous amounts.

21,442. What about the country districts?—Rajputs, Minas, Bhils, Rabaris, all occasional, and many large, eaters.

21,443. Have you found the taking of opium very common?—The taking of opium, either occasionally or habitually, is thus almost universal. By occasional eaters it is taken with the object of increasing physical energy and powers of endurance. To guard against results likely to ensue from exposure, e.g., colds, fever: dose usually about one grain. By habitual eaters it is taken with different objects. The habit is acquired at different ages, and the dose varies with the object from one grain two or three times a day to 60 grains, and probably more. By some it is taken as a brain stimulant between the ages of 35 and 40, e.g., by Mahajans; by others it is taken to earlier as an exhilarant, and in these cases the dose is apt eventually to become enormous; by others the habit has been gradually acquired, the drug having, in the first instance, been taken as a medicine for the relief of pain, &c., &c. However acquired the habit is persisted in. As a medicine, it is taken by all for coughs, colds, diarrhoea, rheumatism; by the habitual eater as a preventive and curer of fever; as assisting powers of digestion. It is used as an aphrodisiac. It is used for purposes of conviviality at certain festivals, such as the Holi and Dewali. I have been brought into contact with occasional and habitual eaters. My attention was first drawn to the subject 10 years ago on a stone case, where the patient was in the habit of consuming some 30 grains a day.

21,444. What conclusion have you come to with regard to opium-eating?—I have come to the following

conclusions: That in occasional eaters physical energy and powers of endurance are increased for the time being; that taken with this object, it is of the greatest use; that there are no after ill-effects, such as depression, derangement of appetite, &c., &c.; that no craving for a repetition of the dose is experienced; that in habitual eaters the moderate consumption of the drug is a distinct aid to the brain, stimulating its powers, e.g., the case of the Mahajans; that even in cases where the drug is taken in what might be considered excessive doses—up to even 60 grains—so long as the drug is indulged in there appears to be no deterioration of the mental powers—the physical energies, the working powers, if anything, are increased; the digestive functions are not disturbed, the appetite remains fairly good; disease is not more frequent, fevers distinctly less frequent and severe; that the habit does not in any way interfere with medical or surgical treatment; leads to no disreputable habits, laziness, dirt, or crime; that life does not appear to be shortened. It is an extremely difficult matter to pick out the habitual consumer from his fellows—non-consumers—and I have never come across a man debauched by opium as pictured in medical books. I have never seen any harm, and I have seen good resulting from the habitual use of opium, and am prepared with examples. The results arising from the withdrawal of the drug are too well known to be entered into here. Any attempt to stop the importation of the drug would give rise to general discontent, and would be met by smuggling.

21,445. With regard to habitual eaters, you say that it is taken with different objects: by some it is taken as a brain stimulant between the ages of 35 and 40, and by others it is taken to earlier as an exhilarant. Do you mean for its restorative effect, or as an aphrodisiac?—I do not mean that it is taken for either. I mean that it is taken in the same way as wine is taken and as smoking is taken to in youth by young men who take to it as an experience and so fall into the habit.

21,446. I presume you have been a good deal in touch with opium-eaters?—Yes; I have had a tremendous number of Sikhs and Rajputs in the regiment. My attention was more particularly directed to it when men came in from the outside districts for operations. I found to my astonishment that they took a good deal of opium. I imagined that it would do them harm; and therefore I paid rather more than ordinary attention to these men. I remember the case of one man who took 30 grains a day. I operated upon him for stone, and there were no ill results of any sort whatever. His recovery was as quick as in any ordinary case.

21,447. Is it your experience, broadly, that in cases of operation the fact that a patient is an opium-eater has no influence upon the course of his recovery?—No influence whatever. The opium-eater is in as favourable a condition for operation as the ordinary man.

21,448. Of course you recognise, as a surgeon, that there is an immense difference in individual tolerance?—Yes, presumably; as there is for any other thing, tobacco or alcohol.

21,449. You also recognise, I suppose, that sometimes an opium-eater will exceed his tolerance, and become an opium sot?—I have never come across those cases. I do not know where to draw the line of excess.

21,450. Supposing an opium-eater shows signs of distinct somnolence, that would be a sign that he had exceeded his tolerance?—Yes; but I have never seen a man in that condition.

21,451. Have you seen much of the use of the drug in infants?—No. Infants, as a rule, do not come under my notice.

21,452. (*Mr. Wilson.*) What is about the strength of the Erinpura irregular force?—About 180 cavalry, and 600 infantry.

21,453. Which of the various races that you have mentioned take the most opium?—I should say Rajputs and Bhils; I refer to the infantry portion. Amongst the cavalry the Mahomedans are supposed not to touch it, but the Sikhs all take it occasionally.

21,454. Have you any idea whether the Mahomedans have any religious objection to it?—It is laid down in the "Koran" that they are not to touch anything in the shape of opium, or tobacco, or alcohol. Anything in the shape of a narcotic is forbidden.

21,455. There has been a great deal of discussion about that. Your experience amongst these men is that they regard it as forbidden?—Yes. But on the other hand nearly all the Mahomedans in the bazaar take opium. They are the lower caste—if you can talk of a lower caste of Musalman.

21,456. We have had a good deal of discussion about the use of opium as a preventive of malarial fever; has that come under your notice in any way?—I have never given it with that object, but I have noticed that those men who take opium habitually are not so liable to fever, and they have come under my observation for that complaint far more rarely than those who are non-opium-eaters.

21,457. You think habitual consumers are less liable to fever?—Yes, they are distinctly less liable to fever.

21,458. Can you in any way account for the fact that the habit has not spread. You say that only 5 per cent. of the Sikhs are habitual opium-eaters?—Occasional opium-eaters take a little with the object of warding off fever; they also take opium on cold mornings, and when they are subjected to wet and exposure. You will find the occasional opium-eater under those circumstances will take his little dose of opium, perhaps it will be once a month. There is no tendency for a habit to be formed when thus taken and for these objects.

21,459. You know that this is a habit amongst them, but you have not yourself prescribed it for that purpose?—No.

21,460. You prescribe other things?—I prescribe other things to ward off fever. As a matter of fact men never come to me with that object; they come after they are ill. Occasionally when there is an epidemic about medicine is given as a preventive. As a rule the men come to me after they are feedy.

21,461. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) From what part of the country are your Mahomedans in the cavalry recruited?—Some are Punjabis. The majority of the men in the cavalry are Sikhs. The Mahomedans in the cavalry are few compared with the Sikhs.

21,462. Where did you learn that the Mahomedans are prohibited from taking opium?—I learnt it from my hospital assistant. He simply stated as a fact that the Mahomedans in the cavalry denied that they touch opium, and gave the injunctions laid down in the Koran as the reason. I know as a fact that nearly all the Mahomedans in the bazaar are opium eaters.

*Surgeon-
Captain W.H.
Neilson, M.B.*

2 Feb. 1894.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow.

At the Daulat Bagh, Ajmere.

SIXTY-THIRD DAY.

Saturday, 3rd February 1894.

PRESENT:

The RIGHT HON. LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B., CHAIRMAN, PRESIDING.

Sir JAMES B. LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.
 Sir WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.
 Mr. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P.
 Mr. A. U. FANSHAW.

Mr. ARTHUR PEASE.
 Mr. HARIDAS VECHARIDAS DESAI.
 Mr. H. J. WILSON, M.P.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT, C.I.E., *Secretary*.

The Rev. C. W.
 de Souza.

3 Feb. 1894.

The Rev. C. W. DE SOUZA called in and examined.

21,463. (*Mr. Wilson.*) You are a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Mission?—Yes.

21,464. You have been stationed at Roorkee for 10 years, and have been at Ajmere for about a year?—Yes.

21,465.—What have you to tell us with regard to the use of opium?—In my work as a missionary I have met both opium eaters as well as smokers; in no case was the habit defended, but in every case it was apologised for, and was admitted to be disgraceful by all users as well as non-users. I have no objection to its use as a medicine under proper restrictions, but the habitual use is certainly injurious, especially among the poorer classes. I have never heard of its being used for fever, either as a prophylactic or a remedy. I have visited some of the places a week ago where it is smoked in Ajmere. I have been to five such places in company with others, and found unmistakable evidence of the drug being sold and smoked in these dens. Since the arrival of the Commission in India, I have conversed with natives of all classes on the subject of opium consumption, and almost every one I have spoken to declared the habit to be injurious and disgraceful. In one or two instances when I questioned a regular opium eater as to what would be the effect of all sale and traffic in opium being stopped, he would invariably answer, "I will die immediately;" but when questioned further as to what would happen if he were sent to jail, where his allowance of opium *would have* to stop, he would remain silent.

21,466. I suppose you are quite conversant with the languages or dialects spoken here?—Pretty fairly.

21,467. You have no difficulty in conversing with these people?—I can make myself understood, and I understand them partly.

21,468. We have heard a great deal of evidence to the effect that opium eating is not regarded in any way as disgraceful—are you distinctly of the contrary opinion?—Yes, so far as I know and have heard it from others.

21,469. Do your remarks refer to opium eating chiefly or to smoking?—To both.

21,470. Do you think the people draw any distinction between the two practices as to its propriety or disgraceful character?—Perhaps smoking is regarded as more disgraceful.

21,471. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Where is Roorkee?—In the North-western Provinces in the zilla of Saharanpur.

21,472. Your experience of Rajputana is limited to the year you have been at Ajmere?—No, I was here before I went to Roorkee.

21,473. How long?—Two years.

21,474. In what position?—Ministering.

21,475. Was that your first place as a minister?—Yes.

21,476. You have been 13 years altogether a missionary?—Yes.

21,477.—Two years at Ajmere, 10 years at Roorkee, and now for another year at Ajmere?—Yes. The two years were not spent in Ajmere itself, but in Rajputana.

21,478. What part of Rajputana?—At a railway station a little lower down, Bandakui.

21,479. Where is that?—Between Delhi and Ajmere.

21,480.—With reference to the smoking places you have been to, is it not contrary to law that opium should be sold for the purpose of being smoked on the premises?—I believe it is.

21,481. You say you have unmistakable evidence, have you drawn the attention of the authorities to what you consider to be unmistakable evidence?—Not yet.

21,482. You cannot say whether any action has been taken?—None that I know of.

21,483. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) You know that human nature is inclined to take some stimulant, and, therefore, if opium is prohibited, except for medical purposes, will not the Hindus and Mahomedans take to drink?—As far as I know some of them are given to alcohol already, even opium eaters.

21,484. But if opium is prohibited?—They may take to alcohol.

21,485. Do you consider the habit of taking alcohol more injurious than the habit of taking opium?—I consider it injurious; I am not in a position to say whether it is more or less injurious.

21,486. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Are there other missionaries in Ajmere of the Methodist Episcopal Mission who have had many years' experience in Rajputana?—There is another gentleman who has had, perhaps, about three or four years' experience.

21,487. Is there anyone with longer experience?—No.

21,488. Is the opium habit, even in moderation, regarded as disgraceful among Rajputs?—In some cases it is. The term “afimchi” is applied with a feeling of disgrace.

21,489. Is the opium habit in moderation generally regarded as disgraceful among Rajputs?—I cannot say.

21,490. Do you think your experience entitles you to express a general opinion on the part of the people of Rajputana?—As far as it goes; as far as I have met people I am able to give something of a testimony.

21,491. (*Mr. Pease.*) Are there any of the adherents of your church in the practice of taking opium?—I know of no definite case yet; that is, no case that I have questioned personally.

21,492. Have you any rules in this connection as affecting church membership?—Certainly.

21,493. What is the rule?—No opium eater can be admitted into membership of the church.

21,494. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Is there much malaria at Roorkee?—There is.

21,495. Much?—Not very much—as much as prevails in most parts of the North-west.

21,496. My knowledge of Saharanpur and Roorkee is that they are healthy, is not that so?—Perhaps the stations themselves are, the places where the Europeans reside, but the villages are unhealthy.

21,497. Your experience in connection with the use of opium in fever has been necessarily rather small?—Yes.

Witness withdrew.

Mrs. LOUISE DRYMAN called in and examined.

21,506. (*Mr. Pease.*) What have you to tell us with regard to the opium habit?—I am a zenana missionary of the United Presbyterian Mission, Ajmere, where I have been working for 26 years. Especially during the last six or seven years I have observed the evils of the opium habit; women complain to me of their husbands, brothers, and fathers, who are losing their money, and getting thin, and “drying up,” through taking opium. They also say that it injures the moral character, and makes men inattentive to their duty. The great majority of the men, and a smaller proportion of women, take opium; women take it always for alleviating pain; men from custom and other reasons. It is very common to give opium to children, and deaths frequently occur through an accidental overdose. A number of zenana ladies, whom I have recently questioned on the subject, call it “poison” and “destructive,” and express their great desire that Government should remove it entirely, except for medicine. One woman, an opium eater, said to me, write to the Queen of England, and ask her to give us a medicine which will cure us of the habit.

21,507. Can you explain how it is, working here for 26 years, you did not observe the evils of opium, especially until the last six or seven years?—I did not know that such a thing existed, and the first time I heard about it was when a cook put salt into fruit instead of sugar. In that way I learnt the men were taking opium. I then heard it was a bad thing, but before that I did not know what opium was. This was some 25 years ago; up to that time I had heard of several cases, but I paid no attention to the matter. I thought the people were getting thin on account of the climate.

21,508. Have you seen many cases in which persons have evidently suffered in health from taking opium?—Certainly among the men. I had a cook who ruined his health through it, and his wife died in our mission compound.

21,509. Deaths frequently occur from an accidental overdose. Have you known many cases of that kind?—I heard Dr. Grant, a lady doctor, who went to Kotah. When she was in Ajmere once, she came back from her dispensary and said, “I regret so much, I wanted to save the dear little child, and he died. He was about a year or fifteen months old. I did my best to save him; the mother gave him an overdose of opium.” Miss Grant was two or three hours trying to save the child. I heard other ladies speaking about it, and I know a woman who helped Miss Grant (who afterwards became Mrs. Bonnor), and she said that Mrs. Bonnor told her that women found many ways of giving opium to their children in Kotah, and

21,498. In the parts of India where malarial conditions exist?—Yes.

21,499. Mr. Plomer, who gave evidence yesterday, has lived all his life in this country, and he said the habit of opium taking often originates in cases of fever—your views are different?—Yes, my opinion is based on my experience of the people that I know.

21,500. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Are you a native of India yourself?—I was born in India.

21,501. Have you obtained your evidence from impressions made upon you in places where you have lived, or have you since obtained information more generally over the whole of Rajputana? Does your evidence apply to the whole of Rajputana or more particularly to Ajmere?—To those parts of Rajputana which have come under my notice. My work lies very largely in the district, and I come in contact with the masses of poor people—villagers and others—outside of Ajmere to a very great extent.

21,502. How far do your travels extend from Ajmere?—A radius of about 100 miles.

21,503. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) How do you travel 100 miles out from Ajmere?—By rail in some cases.

21,504. There are only three sets of rails?—I go out for instance in the direction of Jodhpur, and further on sometimes to Bikanir, and then out where the railway does not go.

21,505. How many times have you been to Bikanir within the last year?—Once to Bikanir itself, and about three times in that direction.

that Mrs. Bonnor did her best in trying to prove to the women that it harmed the little ones.

21,510. There have not been many cases come under your notice besides those which you have heard of from friends?—No, because I have nothing to do with medical work.

21,511. Do you think there is much opium taken by the ladies themselves in the zenanas?—I tried to find out the percentage, but I could not exactly. Some people say 20 out of 100, and others say 10 or 15.

21,512. Of the ladies?—Of the women generally speaking, but there are a great many more men who take opium.

21,513. Do you think the strong feeling which they express, calling it poison and other things, arises from what they have seen of the influence of opium on the ladies or upon the other members of the household?—I think it was especially on account of their having their husbands and brothers taking it. Of course it takes a great deal of money away from the family, and the women are often sufferers.

21,514. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Have you anything else to say generally upon this question?—I should like to mention that I talked the matter over with 50 zenana women carefully, and I found 45 who all called it poison, harmful, hurting the human body, and wishing that the Government would take it away. These women had no idea of the conflict which is now going on. They never leave the house, and I only wished that I had had another lady with me to hear them. Five women spoke about opium as very beneficial in great pain, and also in certain diseases. Three out of these five said it was very good, and the two others said it was good if taken moderately in certain diseases.

21,515. As far as your experience goes, and your opportunities of intercourse with these people, you think the great majority of them regard the practice of taking opium as an evil habit?—Most certainly.

21,515a. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Could you tell me how many of these 45 zenana women were themselves opium consumers?—Out of the 45, some might take some opium on the sly, but they did not speak to me as consumers of it.

21,516. Were those the five who rather approved of the use of opium?—No, but the five out of the 50 who told me so.

21,517. The 45 who disapproved, were none of them opium consumers?—I do not think so, I did not ask everyone that question, as they did not like it to be put.

The Rev. C. W. de Souza.

3 Feb. 1894.

Mrs. Louise Dryman.

Mrs. Louise
Dryman.

3 Feb. 1894.

21,518. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Is your 26 years' experience limited to Ajmere itself?—Yes.

21,519. How many families are you in the habit of visiting. Is it some hundreds of zenanas?—Where I teach or superintend the work it is about 60, but there are a great many other houses where I visit.

21,520. You habitually visit some 60 families, and you occasionally visit many others?—Yes, I know a great many women.

21,521. Are you in the habit of visiting the families of Mahajans or Banias?—Yes.

21,522. Were any of these opinions which you have mentioned the opinions of Mahajan or Bania ladies?—The Mahajans are not very much against it because their husbands are engaged in the business, and they are afraid to speak against it, but if I did question them they would say that it is no good.

21,523. That is a general answer. Can you tell me whether any of the 45 ladies were Mahajan or Bania ladies?—There were certainly a few. I think there were two Mahomedan women out of the five in question addicted to it who regretted very much having learnt to take it.

21,524. Would those be Banias?—No.

21,525. Were any of the 45, Banias or Mahajans?—Yes, I know two were Babus' wives, wealthy women. There might have been one Bania or Mahajan woman.

21,526. I am asking whether out of the whole 45 ladies who expressed their views to you, there were any Bania or Mahajan ladies?—Yes, certainly.

21,527. How many?—I could not say.

21,528. Was it a large proportion?—I really could not say. They belonged to all classes and to what is called good castes.

21,529. Among the families which you are in the habit of visiting, are there many belonging to Thakurs or Rajput gentlemen?—Not many, but some.

21,530. One of the great objects of this Commission is to distinguish between moderate and excessive use. Were the opinions generally expressed to you against the excessive use or the moderate use?—It was also expressed against the moderate use, because they all said, when I asked about the quantity, that they took a dhal or little pill, and the dose went on increasing; because the consumers suffer great pain if they do not increase it. That is what all the women said to me.

21,531. As far as you know, it was a general opinion against the use of opium generally?—Certainly it was.

21,532. (*Chairman.*) You have spoken of the strong views expressed by the ladies of the zenanas where you have been visiting in reference to the evils of opium. Does your zenana experience encourage in you the hope that where the women of the families you visit have decided views they are able to exercise an appreciable, valuable moral influence in securing an improvement in their morals or habits in any way?—They cannot exercise it as the men want opium. They all mourn over it; they all grieve that their husbands and brothers take it, because they lose a great deal of money thereby. They also get so careless about their clothes, so untidy, and inattentive to their duties.

21,533. That is the evil which these women deplore?—Yes.

21,534. Do you think the fact that they do deplore the evil, and feel strongly about it, would bring about a moral influence to be exerted by them over the male members of their families?—I think it is absolutely impossible, because the men will have it.

The witness withdrew.

Lieut.-Colonel H. B. ABBOTT recalled and further examined.

Lieut.-Col.
H. B. Abbott.

21,544. (*Chairman.*) I believe you have a document that you desire to place before the Commission?—Yes. I request permission to hand in a kharita* (with translation), addressed by His Highness the Maharawal of Banswara to the address of the Secretary of the Royal Commission, received after my summary had been drawn up, expressing His Highness's views regarding prohibition and forwarding a claim for Rs. 1,69,088 annual loss to the State and subjects of Banswara. I have not had the opportunity of examining the figures and can therefore make no

21,535. You think these women, however strongly they may feel on these subjects, are not able to produce social reforms by their moral and personal influence?—I do not think so, because I have heard many women saying that the men must have it; they suffer so much, and they would rather sell their clothes or their jewels than go without it.

21,536. Since I have been in this country I have been repeatedly told that in so far as alcohol is used it does an even greater harm than opium; there seems to be less ability to resist the temptation to excess in the case of alcohol where people use it. Have you heard anything in your zenana experience in that sense? Have you heard any allusion to the evils resulting from over-indulgence in alcohol?—I have heard that opium is worse than alcohol.

21,537. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You have been working here for 26 years, and you say that you have observed the evils of the opium habit, especially during the last six or seven years. Do you mean to suggest by that that there has been an increase of the use of opium of late years?—I was signing a petition against opium in regard to China, and I went heartily into it. I explained to one of my servants, a Mahomedan woman, that somebody would come to sign the petition. I said to her, "If he is willing to sign, let him sign." She got inquisitive, and asked more particularly about the petition. I said, "It is about opium—a great evil—something that people take in China." The woman knew far more than I did, and she said, "We have got such dens in Ajmere." I told her that she did not understand what I meant, but she maintained that there were opium dens in Ajmere. I did not believe her, and I determined to go and see for myself, and I found in it three opium dens. That was six or seven years ago. I took a native Christian and his wife with me. There were three of us. We went to see the dens, and the men were all lying on the ground. There is no noise in an opium den. It is a very sad sight indeed— young and old lying helpless. The woman was quite right, and since that time I have read a great deal in the papers about it.

21,538. Your attention was called to the subject?—Yes, through my servant. I thought she had made a mistake, but it was true enough I am sorry to say.

21,539. You are talking about opium-smoking? There were three dens.

21,540. Had your attention been called to opium eating before that?—Yes, I knew many men did take it, but I never knew anything so evil as this chandu, because I saw two or three men who looked so sad and who entreated me to write to the Queen of England, and they asked me for a medicine which would take the habit away.

21,541. In the first 20 years of your zenana experience, the opium habit did not intrude itself on your attention?—Not very much, but I certainly saw cases. I did not know it was smoked until six or seven years ago.

21,542. I am speaking of the habit of eating and drinking opium?—I knew it was taken.

21,543. It had not intruded itself on your attention?—I heard several times of children dying from the effects of it. A friend of mine, an English gentleman, lost his baby. The ayah gave his child an overdose. A great many native children are given it. I have heard that, and I have seen many water men and khansamas and servants taking it, but I had no idea it was so hurtful.

remark on the reasonableness of the claim. I also desire to hand in a kharita from the Maharaja of Karauli.

21,545. (*Mr. Wilson.*) With reference to your statements in regard to the Meywar statistics, I should be glad to know whether they are compiled from the statements that have come from the States?—They are compiled from the figures sent by the States.

21,546. In your first statement you have given the value to the money-lending classes at Rs. 1,65,000; in whose evidence does that statement appear?—In the evidence of Nathuji. He stated that there were

* See Appendix V. to this volume.

500 chests at Rs. 330 per chest, bringing the amount up to Rs. 1,65,000.

21,547. That is what you call the rural merchant who advances the money; in the one case you call him a money-lender and in the other a merchant?—I have said, “the money-lending classes.” The small traders are those who deal directly with the cultivators, in contra-distinction to the large merchants who carry on the trade in opium.

21,548. You speak of the money-lending classes as supporting the cultivators?—Yes.

21,549. We have generally regarded the cultivators as supporting the money-lenders; I suppose you mean that it is mutual?—I think the cultivators look to the money-lenders as supporters; they could not get on without them.

21,550. With regard to the figures Rs. 6,98,735 as the value of opium to the State, where does that item occur?—In the Meywar statement.

21,551. May I ask if this is your compilation?—Yes.

21,552. Are we relying on you, or are you quoting from the statements that you have received?—I am quoting their statements entirely.

21,553. From the information furnished to you which is comprised in these papers?—Yes, that is so throughout.

21,554. What is the meaning of the phrase “alienated lands”?—It means land which does not give revenue to the State. It is alienated for some reason or other. Some lands are given in charity, some are given on religious grounds, some are given for service, some belong to members of the ruling family. The revenue of all these lands goes to the holders, and not to the State; they are alienated from the general revenue of the State.

21,555. We have had gentlemen who are called Jagirdars, Talukdars, and other designations; are they the holders of these alienated lands?—They are one class of holders.

21,556. Their estates are included in these alienated lands?—Yes.

21,557. With regard to the Meywar statistics, do I understand that the statements are a summary of information furnished to you, as for instance, when you say, “it is considered necessary”?—I take it from their statements.

21,558. It is rather a summarising of the evidence?—Yes.

21,559. Not so much your own opinion?—It is based entirely on information received from the States. I did not express my opinion on these.

21,560. Your own views are given in your general statement?—My personal views are given at the end.

21,561. I see that you are described as being “on special duty”?—Yes.

21,562. Is that special duty the preparation of evidence for this Commission?—Collecting evidence, compiling it, and putting it into shape.

21,563. Will you tell us in what way it has been obtained?—Questions were framed and sent to the States as a sort of guide for collecting evidence. They collected evidence in ways that I am not acquainted with, because I cannot say what occurred on the spot. I have heard that they mostly formed local committees, and called up persons who were best acquainted with the different parts of the subject, and put questions to them, and their answers were compiled into statements. Those statements are the statements that have been compiled here, and have been read before the Commission.

21,564. I have no doubt you are aware that in several instances the phraseology of different witnesses is absolutely the same?—Very likely.

21,565. Could you explain how that is likely to have occurred?—Probably they said much the same thing. I was not on the spot to see, but I think that is a reasonable explanation.

21,566. You were asked before whether you put in a list of questions that have been submitted to some of these people, and you have handed in a paper with a manuscript list of the questions. I have understood that the list circulated was in print?—Yes.

21,567. May I ask why we did not have the copy in print?—The questions were printed on the same paper as a note which forms part of the demi-official correspondence which I have been directed not to present, as it would be contrary to the standing orders. That is the reason why I had to present it in manuscript.

21,568. (Chairman.) In the papers you have laid before us I observe that you put in a memorandum, which is practically a covering letter, giving us a synopsis of all particulars sent in by the different States, and then with each separate statement there is a notice of the view taken by the Political Officer of the figures submitted by the Governments of these different States. Will you kindly tell me what is the position of this Political Officer, is he an officer of the Civil Service?—Yes, of the Civil and Military Services.

21,569. Is there a Political Officer for each State?—Not for each State. Sometimes for a group of States and sometimes for a single State.

21,570. It appears to me that the Political Officer whoever he is, being an official of the Government, seems, on the whole, to have endeavoured, according to his lights, to take an independent view of the statistics, and to have made remarks not necessarily on one side. I observe in regard to the Meywar statistics it is stated that “the Resident is of opinion that the figures for compensation as detailed above are approximately correct and near the mark.” In the case of Dungarpore statistics there are no remarks. In regard to the Pertabgarh statistics “the Political Officer is of opinion that the loss as estimated for wages of labourers is rather complicated, and does not seem to be clearly expressed.” In reference to the Tonk statistics, “the Political Officer is of opinion that the estimate of compensation is made with great care, and is reasonable, and is as accurate as at present can be ascertained,” and he seems to be advising the Commission when he says: “The claims for loss to cultivators and traders are, however, stated to be exaggerated.” As to the Jhallawar statistics, “the Political Officer considers that it would be difficult to over-estimate the injury to Jhallawar.” In reference to the Kotah statistics, “the Political Officer is of opinion that the immediate and non-recurring loss to States’ subjects is perhaps an over-gloomy estimate.” In regard to the Bundi statistics, “the Political Officer considers the Durbar’s estimates of the loss, direct and indirect, both to itself and its subjects as accurate as it is possible to make them under existing circumstances”; suggesting that we must take whatever is said to us with some considerable reserve. As to the Shahpura statistics, it is stated: “the claim for compensation under the various heads put in by the chiefship has been examined by the Political Officer, and he considers that so far as it refers to direct loss it is in accordance with the best information at present available.” That is, he assumes, that all the indirect losses are hypothesis. In the case of the Kishengurh and Jeypore statistics there are no remarks. In the case of the Karauli and Dholpur it is expressly stated that the Political Officer has not stated his opinion. With reference to the Bikanir statistics, “the Political Officer considers the compensation claimed for the States and on account of internal trade as fair, but that for the foreign trade decidedly under the mark, that the loss altogether would be a very serious one, and unless full compensation was given both the States and its inhabitants would suffer very severely.” As to Jaisalmir, “the Political Officer considers the estimate for compensation to be reasonable.” As to Marwar, “the Political Officer is of opinion that the loss in revenue shown by the Durbar is not only reasonable, but is, if anything, estimated below what it might actually lose under the circumstances contemplated.” With regard to Sirohi, “the Political Officer is of opinion that the Durbar has estimated its loss at quite an outside figure”?—I may say with regard to Marwar that in the item “prospective loss in the customs revenue” the word “prospective” should be omitted.

21,571. May I take it from you that it was your wish, when you put in these figures, that we should take due note of the remarks of the Political Officers, which, in a considerable number of cases, suggest that if this

Lieut.-Col.
H. B. Abbott.
3 Feb. 1894.

* The questions issued by Lieut.-Col. Abbott with the connected correspondence will be found in Appendix IV. to this volume.

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were to be dealt with as a matter of business, you would have to keep a pretty sharp look-out, lest you might be subject to overcharge?—Yes, it is like sending in a claim “errors excepted.”

21,572. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Would you have any objection to state the names of the Political Officers?—None. I will hand in the list. It is as follows:—

Meywar, Lieut.-Col. Wyllie; Pratapgarh, Capt. Pinhey; Tonk, Pundi, Shahpura, Lieut.-Col. Thornton; Jhallawar, Mr. G. Irwin; Kotah, Capt. Herbert; Jaipur and Kishengarh, Col. Peacock; Kerauli and Dholpur, Lieut.-Col. Martelli; Marwar, Jaisalmer and Sirohi, Lieut.-Col. Abbott; Bikanir, Mr. C. Bayley.

The witness withdrew.

(Lord Brassey here vacated the chair, which was taken by Mr. Mowbray.)

Thakur Sawai
Singhji.
(Kishengarh
State.)

THAKUR SAWAI SINGHJI called in and examined (through an interpreter).

21,576. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) You are one of the leading nobles and first class Tazimi Sirdars of the Kishengarh State?—Yes.

21,577. What have you to tell us with regard to the cultivation and use of opium in your State?—If the cultivation of the poppy were stopped barley would take its place. The revenue rate on poppy is Rs. 16 8a. per acre, whereas the equivalent of the Raj or Jagirdar's share of barley is about Rs. 10 or Rs. 11 per acre. There would thus be a loss of revenue of about six rupees per acre. We Jagirdars charge no customs duties. There will be a diminution in the collection of the cess on oil-presses to Jagirdars owing to the disappearance of the poppy seed, which is at present procurable for expressing oil for domestic use. In my caste, more than half the men above 40 years of age and about one-fourth of those below 40 are habitual consumers. As to other castes, there are about one-fourth or one-fifth of them who take opium. About 40 per cent. of Rajput women use opium, and commence using it either when they become widows or have some ailment. Opium is given to children below three years of age as a rule, as it keeps them in good health and softens the severity of small-pox. About 15 per cent. of the consumers use it to excess, but they are not of worst type. Opium is taken twice a day, and an average moderate dose is 15 or 16 grains. The following are the special occasions and purposes for which it is taken:—betrothals, marriages, festive occasions, ber banana or making up of disputes and differences, birth of a male child, holi, dassera, diwali and other festivals, harvest time and half-yearly assessment of revenue demand, mourning ceremonies, H. H.'s condolence visit in recognition of a successor to a deceased, when going on an expedition, in battle or in fatigue, in grief as a sustainer and for cold and other diseases, as a substitute for drinking which is sometimes given up on religious principles, and sometimes on account of its pernicious effects. Opium is absolutely necessary in ceremonies connected with betrothal, reconciliation of enemies, and recognition of succession and before starting on an expedition. The use of opium in moderation produces exhilaration, acts as a tonic, increases energy and power of endurance, and is beneficial. If opium could not be procured except as medicine, it would cause great hardship to consumers.

The witness withdrew.

Rao Bahadur
Syam Sundar
Lall, B.A.
(Kishengarh
State.)

RAO BAHADUR SYAM SUNDAR LALL, B.A., called in and examined.

21,589. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) You are a member of the State Council of Kishengarh, and you appear before us to represent the views of the Durbar of Kishengarh with regard to the opium question?—Yes.

21,590. We shall be glad to hear what you have to say upon the subject?—Judging from the enquiries made from the representatives of the various castes and communities, and from the census of opium consumers of some selected Tahsils, it would appear that the habitual use of opium is more prevalent among Rajputs than others, and that the general average proportion of consumers to the total population of this State may be fairly put down at 20 per cent. From an examination my appended tabular statement of the Rajput, Khas Chauki Irregular Infantry, at Kishengarh, it would appear that:—58 per cent. are below 30 years of age, 25 per cent. are between 30 and 40, and 17 per cent. are above 40. Of these 15 per cent. are consumers

21,573. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) With reference to the remark as to money-lenders supporting cultivators, is not the initial necessity for a loan in this country on the part of the cultivator?—Yes.

21,574. In the conditions in which agriculture is carried on in this country, unless the cultivator, generally speaking, could get a loan he could not cultivate?—In most cases.

21,575. You are not yourself prepared to express any general opinion as to the weight to be given to these claims on the part of the money-lenders?—I would rather not say more than I have said in my summary. It is a matter that requires deep investigation.

Excessive consumers would die in great numbers, and some would take to other intoxicants like liquor, ganja, charas, or arsenic, dhatura, and other poisons. Certain ceremonies would be affected, while above all great general discontent would be caused, as the use of opium is so general in all castes, and is a household remedy both for the people and their cattle. I myself found opium useful in curing me of my piles when I was 30 years of age, and of another severe ailment nine years ago. I am now quite healthy and strong.

21,578. Are you a Jagirdar?—Yes.

21,579. Is the revenue rate on poppy the same on Khalsa land as on Jagir land?—The same rate prevails.

21,580. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Will you tell us what cess is charged on oil-presses by Jagirdars?—Each oil-presser has to pay two chatties of oil and half an anna each time he presses.

21,581. Has the use of opium among the Rajputs in Kishengarh State been increasing or decreasing of late so far as you know?—It has increased lately.

21,582. (*Mr. Pease.*) Is it considered a bad habit for young men to take opium?—We do not approve of a young man taking opium.

21,583. What is the effect of opium upon the 15 per cent. of consumers who use it to excess?—They grow lazy.

21,584. You state that the average moderate dose is 15 or 16 grains—is that the result of enquiry or your own general impression; and is it pure opium?—They take 15 or 16 grains of pure opium. I came to this conclusion after enquiry.

21,585. Is the dose taken twice a day?—Moderate consumers take 15 or 16 grains of opium twice a day.

21,586. Do you consider 32 grains a day a moderate quantity to take?—Excessive consumers are those who take 40 grains a day—three or four mashes?

21,587. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Are you a consumer of opium yourself at the present time?—I am an habitual consumer, I take a grain at a time.

21,588. Is that twice a day?—Yes, altogether two grains a day.

The witness withdrew.

of whom 7 per cent. are below 30 years of age, 41 per cent. are between 30 and 40 years, and 52 per cent. are above 40 years of age. Of the Musalman soldiers 28 per cent. are consumers, and are all above 40. The above results would also bear out the general average of 20 per cent., as in the said Chauki there is a preponderance of young men below 30 years, among whom only one out of 60 is an opium eater. Excess is decidedly injurious, but is fortunately very rare, being found in only about 5 per cent. of the consumers. Opium smoking is both injurious and disreputable; but there are hardly any opium smokers in Kishengarh. The habitual use of opium as a luxury is also harmful; it is, however, limited in extent, and confined to a few young men among Rajputs and some other well-to-do classes—all other consumers using it as a necessity, and with benefit too, whether it be for the sustenance of energy in the decline of life, for the suppression or

prevention of bodily ailments, or for warding off the effects of exposure and for enduring hard work. I have known several instances of the habitual use of opium giving permanent relief from epileptic fits. It is a universal practice in this part of the country to give minute doses of opium to children of all classes and castes up to three years of age. There are many, particularly among the labouring classes, who use it only during the cold weather for the sake of their health and give it up for the rest of the year. The labouring classes regard opium as a great help in their work, and would be rendered less capable of doing hard work or resisting exposure without it. Among them, the harder the nature of their work, the greater and more frequent the resort to opium; e.g., Dhobis, Regars, Chamars, use it more than Malis, Gujars, Khatiks, or Masons. Opium consumers are generally quiet and inoffensive, whilst it is proverbial that liquor is the mother of quarrels and crime. The inoffensiveness of the abuse of opium is also borne out by the fact that of all the criminals admitted into the Kishengarh Jail during the last few years, only six per cent. were opium eaters, the yearly averages ranging between 5·3 and 6·7 per cent. In one respect, opium may be said to increase crime, and that is in cases of suicide among females, in which opium comes very handy. Suicides are, however, very rare. Liquor is prohibited by both the Hindu and Mohamedan religions and is in disrepute. It is, moreover, more expensive, and consequently less accessible to the poorer classes, than opium; whilst excessive indulgence in it is more harmful and fatal than excessive opium eating. Accordingly, in many instances, people give up liquor and take to opium as a substitute on physical, economic, or religious grounds. Ablutions, fasts, and general disregard of the rules of hygiene in the exercise of piety and devotion, are the characteristic features of the present orthodox Hindu religion, and these generally lead the more devout, and those in religious orders, to the use of opium to ward off the effects of exposure and privation. There are many social and political ceremonies in which the use or treat of opium is either customary or essential; e.g., betrothal. This ceremony has come to be called the *amal ka dastur* or opium ceremony, from the fact that the ceremony is not held to be complete unless the bridegroom or his father or guardian has partaken of the opium offered by the bride's father. In fact, opium taking is as essential a part of betrothal as the *phera* or seven perambulations round the sacred fire are for the marriage ceremony. Adoption, succession, mourning, reconciliation of enemies, festivities and festivals. Opium is a household remedy, and is also largely used in the treatment of cattle diseases. It is very commonly given to horses, bullocks, when they are fatigued or making forced marches. The prohibition of the cultivation and trade of opium would mean serious pecuniary loss to the cultivating and manufacturing classes, as well as to the Durbar and Jagirdars (as has been dealt with in detail in the accompanying memorandum). The prohibition of its use would cause great hardship to infants and consumers, and would lead to the use of either liquor or arsenic, dhatura, and such other poisons. Such prohibitive measures would be very difficult to enforce, and involve unduly heavy expenditure. It is, moreover, calculated to give rise to general agitation and grave discontent. Under such circumstances the Durbar would not consider it either expedient or necessary to adopt prohibitive measures.

21,591. Your general conclusion is that the Durbar does not consider it either expedient or necessary to take prohibitive measures?—Yes.

21,592. You wish to hand in a memorandum showing the various heads under which loss will accrue, and also a tabular statement giving the number of opium eaters in the Raj Khas Chauki Irregular Infantry at Kishengarh?—Yes.

21,593. You estimate the loss to the State by diminution of land revenue as Rs. 671 on the Khalsa land and Rs. 455 on the Jagir land?—Yes.

21,594. What would be the loss in customs duties?—Rs. 8,626.

21,595. What would be the loss in excise?—Rs. 1,800.

21,596. You say, "Fees for licences for wholesale and retail vendors of opium," how long has that regulation been in force that licences must be obtained before a person can sell opium?—Nearly two years.

21,597. There is another item of Rs. 3,780 loss from other taxes, how is that made up?—Rs. 2,880 represents

Mapa duties on total quantity of poppy seeds, and Rs. 900 is the moiety of the cess levied on the oil-presses in Kishengarh.

21,598. You estimate the cost of revision of revenue and customs rates at Rs. 1,000?—Yes.

21,599. That is a non-recurring figure?—Yes.

21,600. What do you estimate the expense of prohibitive measures?—Rs. 3,600.

21,601. What do you consider comes under the head of prohibitive measures?—The cost of an establishment to prevent anybody growing poppy, and to see that opium is not smuggled into the State.

21,602. Neither grown in it nor smuggled into it from outside?—That is so.

21,603. What do you estimate the loss to cultivators at?—The loss to cultivators would be Rs. 35,208, and to field labourers Rs. 3,163.

21,604. You state that the loss to oil-presses would be Rs. 6,000, are those the people engaged in the trade apart from the State?—They are the oil manufacturers.

21,605. Apart from the profit which the State derives from the taxation of the industry?—Yes.

21,606. You have estimated the loss to traders at Rs. 131,200, that is a recurring loss, and you estimate the opium stock which would remain unsaleable at Rs. 80,000, so that the total amount would be Rs. 211,203.

21,607. Is there much opium grown in Kishengarh?—Not much.

21,608. Where does the large item for compensation to export traders come from?—Our traders deal in opium; it is not all home produce. They have shops all over the country, and they are engaged in the opium trade. The principal firms are at Kishengarh, and their branches are at Rajputana, Bombay, and Malwa.

21,609. The grand total of loss would amount to Rs. 351,103?—Yes.

21,610. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You state in the memorandum that you have lately had a census of habitual opium eaters of the Sarwar Pargana, what kind of census was that?—It was a census to ascertain the ratio of opium eaters to the whole population, and it was found to be 75 per thousand.

21,611. Do you think you can ascertain the real truth by such a census?—Yes, approximately of course. It was a census to get a rough idea of the proportion.

21,612. Thakur Sawai Singhji told us that in his opinion two daily doses of 15 grains each would be a moderate dose, do you think he meant that, speaking generally, men of his class may take that quantity of opium without doing harm to themselves?—I should think 10 grains would be a moderate dose.

21,613. Twice a day, 10 grains would be a moderate dose among the Rajputs?—Yes.

21,614. You mean by "moderate" a dose such as would be commonly taken among Rajputs?—Yes.

21,615. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) Do all the other castes take the same quantity?—No, lesser quantities.

21,616. What do they take?—I have made enquiries, and find they take six or seven grains at a time.

21,617. You are not willing to adopt prohibitive measures either with regard to the growth of poppy or the consumption of opium?—No.

21,618. If the Government offered you compensation for your losses, would you then adopt prohibition?—No.

21,619. You do not wish to take compensation?—We have not set forth the losses with the view of taking compensation.

21,620. No compensation would satisfy you or induce you to prohibit the growth of poppy and manufacture of opium?—No.

21,621. (Mr. Wilson.) You have referred to the Khas Chauki Irregular Infantry; what do you mean by Khas Chauki?—It is a special body-guard.

21,622. What is their total strength?—Three hundred and thirty-two.

21,623. Altogether 53 men of that body-guard take opium?—Yes.

Rao Bahadur
Syam Sundar
Lall, B.A.
(Kishengarh
State.)

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21,624. Are the remainder of the men, those who do not take opium, any the worse for not taking it?—They are not any the worse.

21,625. Are the men who take it any the better?—These men, I find on enquiry, have taken to opium as a necessity.

21,626. They are chiefly elderly men?—Yes, there are very few young men who take opium, only one out of 60 among the men under 30 years of age.

21,627. You have no wish to see the number increased?—No, in fact, about 25 or 30 years ago His Highness's father issued an order that the men of the Khas Chauki were not to commence taking opium without permission. The permission was generally given to men after the age of 40, or, in case of some ailment, it was given earlier. Since that time there have been fewer opium eaters in the Khas Chauki than formerly. The restriction is not in force now.

The witness withdrew.

PUNDIT JEYSHUNKER NURSI RAM, called and examined (through an interpreter).

Pundit
Jeyshunker
Nursi Ram
(Dungarpur
State.)

21,634. (Mr. Mowbray.) You are a Motamid of H.H. the Maharawal of Dungarpur?—Yes.

21,635. What is a Motamid?—Chief officer.

21,636. You have been deputed to come here and give information with regard to opium in your State?—Yes.

21,637. We shall be glad to hear what you have to tell us?—The land for poppy cultivation is 2,285 acres, 28 gunthas, and 9 annas, equal to 4,000 bighas (khalsa 1,714 acres, 11 gunthas, 9 annas, and jagir 571 acres, 17 gunthas). The land in which $1\frac{1}{2}$ sai (24 seers) of wheat is sown is equal to a bigha. $1\frac{1}{4}$ bighas go to an acre. Expenses for cultivation of opium and wheat per acre are as under :

Item.	Opium.	Wheat.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
(1.) Cultivator's own labour, bullocks, manure, watch, &c.	17 14 0	5 11 2
(2.) Hired labour	13 4 9	2 7 2
(3.) Payment to money lenders on account of interest and seeds.	4 2 0	1 9 2
(4.) Carpenter, &c., menials	0 11 3	0 8 4
(5.) Land revenue	12 0 0	3 6 7
Total	48 0 0	13 10 5

Produce per Year per Acre.	Opium.
	Rs. A. P.
Opium juice, 10½ seers, at Rs. 4 per seer, equal to dry cakes, 7 seers, at Rs. 6 per seer.	42 0 0
Poppy seeds, 2 mds. 52 seers, at Rs. 2 per maund	5 9 7
Leaves	0 6 5
Total	48 0 0

Produce per Year per Acre.	Wheat.
	Rs. A. P.
Wheat 8 mds. 16 seers, at Rs. 1 8a. 8p. per maund	12 15 2
Fodder or bran	0 11 3
Total	13 10 5

In accordance with this calculation the opium produced in the area of 2,285 acres 28 gunthas 9 annas is as shown below :—

Details of the above are as under—	Rs. A. P.
Share of the State at Rs. 12 per acre on 1,714a. 17g. 9a.	20,508 0 0
Share of jagirdar on 571a. 17g.	6,860 0 0

21,628. You do not think it is good for young men?—No.

21,629. That is your individual opinion, and also the opinion of the Durbar?—Yes.

21,630. Do you think it is a good thing to give doses of opium to children?—The practice is universal. I think it need not be given unless it be occasionally given in cold weather. It does good in the cold weather.

21,631. You say the labouring classes are less capable of doing hard work without opium?—Yes.

21,632. Do you think those who do not take it suffer?—Not if they have no hard work to do. If they have to do very hard work they require something of this sort, whether it be opium or some other stimulant.

21,633. Do you mean regularly or occasionally under special circumstances?—Occasionally, under special circumstances, whenever they have to undergo any great strain.

	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Export duty on 193 mds. the yearly average export for the last 10 years at Rs. 12 13a. 6p. per md.	2,485 8 0	
Opium in stock, mds. 1,267 8. 12, if exported	16,081 0 6	
Poppy seeds mds. 2,284 2. 0., at Rs. 0 4a. 9½d. per md.	685 0 0	
Oil 352½ mds. at Rs. 0 6a. 6p. per md.	141 0 0	
Total	—	19,392 8 6
Other taxes levied by State, viz. :—		
Talode on opium juice, 450 mds., at Rs. 0 12a. 0p. per md.	337 8 0	
Brokerage on opium juice, 600 mds., at Rs. 1 per md.	600 0 0	
Vasua on opium, 113 mds., at Rs. 1 8a. per md.	169 8 0	
Lagat on village	1,608 4 0	
Total	—	2,715 4 0
Loss suffered by jagirdars as detailed below :—		
Talode on opium juice, 150 mds., at Rs. 0 12a. per md.	112 8 0	
Vasua, and escort of opium, 50 mds., at Rs. 1 8a.	120 0 0	232 8 0
Total	—	49,708 4 6
Share of cultivators at Rs. 17 14a. per acre, on 2,285a. 28g. 9a.	40,857 2 0	
Share of labour on the area, at Rs. 13 4a. 9 p. per acre.	30,392 13 9	
Share of money lender on the area, at Rs. 4 2a.	9,428 10 0	
The value of opium to trader is	78,240 0 0	
Total	—	158,918 9 9
Grand Total	—	2,08,684 0 0*

Account of produce and export of opium is as under :—

Produce.	Juice.	Opium.	Average.
	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.
Total produce for 10 years at the rate of 400 mds. of opium and 600 mds. of juice per annum. 303 chests in stock on 1st January 1884, each containing 1 md. 28 srs. 4 chs.	6,000 0 0	4,000 0 0	600 0 0
	767 32 8	511 35 0	—
Total	6,768 32 8	4,511 35 0	—
Export—			
782 chests sent to the opium scale at Ahmedabad within the last 10 years, each weighing 1 md. 28 srs. 4 chs. (yearly average, 78½ chests).	2,001 17 4	1,334 11 8	200 0 0
Exported to Malwa and Meywar within the last 10 years.	892 26 15	595 4 10	89 0 0
Total	2,894 4 3	1,929 16 2	289 0

* Omitting fractions of a Rupee.

	Juice.	Opium.	Average.
	M. S. C.	M. S. C.	M. S. C.
Opium consumed for 10 years at the rate of 133 mds. 2 srs. 12 chs. per year.	1,996 2 0	1,330 28 0	200 0 0
Opium in stock found in the houses of merchants on 31st December 1893—			
Dry cakes	1,242 14 3	829 22 12	—
Opium juice, 656 mds. 18 srs. 15 chs.	658 18 15	437 28 0	—
Total	1,900 33 2	1,267 8 12	—
Grand Total	6,790 39 5	4,527 12 14	—
N.B.—The whole population is about 200,000, of which the consumers, numbering 30,000, at average rate of 15 per cent., take every day $\frac{3}{4}$ rattis (7 grains Troy) opium, will require 1,05,000 rattis, which are equal to 35,000 wals = 1,666 tolas 20 wals = 14 seers 46 tolas 20 wals, being the daily consumption of opium.			

If the poppy cultivation is prohibited, His Highness the Maharawalji is of opinion that there will be endless troubles, and it will create general discontent. There is no such other like thing in this country as can be produced in its stead. If wheat is sown at a loss a special loss will be incurred after deducting the wheat produced, as noted below:—

	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Cultivators of 2,285a. 28g. 9a. at Rs. 12. 2a. 10p. per acre.	27,833 4 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Labour, Rs. 10 13a. 7p., carpenters, Rs. 0 11a. 3p., and Money-lender at Rs. 4. 2a. -	26,404 9 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	9,428 10 0	
Loss incurred by the State as under—		
Share in cultivation of 1,714a. 11g. 9a. at Rs. 8. 8a. 5p. per acre.	14,729 0 0	14,729 0 0
Export duty on 133 maunds, the yearly average of opium exported in last 10 years, at Rs. 12 13a. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. per md.	2,485 8 0	
„ 1,267 mds. 8 srs. 12 chs. opium in stock if exported.	16,981 0 6	
„ Poppy seeds, 2,284 mds. 2 srs., at Rs. 0 4a. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. per md.	685 0 0	
„ Oil, 3,524 maunds, at Rs. 0 6a. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p. per md.	141 0 0	
	19,392 8 6	
Other taxes levied by State as under—		
Talode on opium juice, 450 maunds, at Rs. 0 12a. per md.	337 8 0	
Brokerage on 600 maunds at Rs. 1 per md.	600 0 0	
Vasua on opium, 113 maunds, at Rs. 1 8a. per md.	169 8 0	
Lagat on village	1,608 4 0	
	2,715 4 0	
If poppy cultivation is prohibited, the people will feel very uneasy, because the country is hilly and dangerous. For the peaceful arrangement of the country an expense will be entailed		
	12,000 0 0	
	48,836 12 6	
Loss suffered by jagirdars is as detailed below—		
Share in cultivation of 571A. 17g. at Rs. 8 9a. 5p. per acre.	4,906 11 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Talode on opium juice, 150 maunds, at Rs. 0 12a. per md.	112 8 0	
Vasua, and escort of opium, 80 maunds, at Rs. 1 8a.	120 0 0	
	5,139 3 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Loss suffered by merchants is as detailed below—		
Loss of interest at Rs. 0 8a. on Rs. 250, price of one maund opium juice made into cakes, i.e., on Rs. 1,00,000, price of 400 maunds for three years.	18,000 0 0	
Loss of profit on 400 maunds of opium at Rs. 7 per md.	2,800 0 0	
Porterage in manufacturing 400 maunds opium at Rs. 5 8a. per md.	2,200 0 0	
Storage for three years for 400 maunds of opium at Rs. 1 8a.	600 0 0	
Cost of 800 baskets to contain 400 maunds opium at Rs. 0 4a. per each.	200 0 0	
Charity on opium juice, 600 maunds, at Rs. 0 4a. 6p.	168 8 0	
Escort on 193 maunds opium exported at Rs. 0 1a.	11 0 0	
Price of opium in stock Rs. 1,267 8a. 12p. at Rs. 300 per md.	3,80,165 10 0	
Total	4,04,345 2 0	
Grand Total	5,21,985 0 0	

Out of this sum Rs. 3,80,165 represent a non-recurring charge to the State. Besides the above, there are several other losses to be incurred which cannot now be estimated.

21,638. (Mr. Fanshawe.) What kind of taxes are the “Talode” and “Vasua”?—Talode is a tax levied to cover the expenses of employing village accountants, a sort of Patwari cess; Vasua is a tax levied for keeping a guard in the village.

21,639. A police guard?—It is a tax levied for guarding the opium when taking it from one village to another. It is a special tax imposed on villages in which opium is cultivated.

21,640. Then why do you include the Vasua among the losses which the State would incur if poppy cultivation is stopped?—The guard would lose their avocation.

21,641. You say “if poppy cultivation is prohibited, the people will feel very uneasy because the country is hilly and dangerous”; what do you mean by that?—Their only support is the poppy cultivation, and if this is prohibited they will have no occupation, and they will fall back upon their old occupation of robbery and disturbance.

21,642. You refer particularly to the Bhils?—Yes.

21,643. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Am I right in understanding from “lagat” that the Raja, instead of going to every village and using kasumbha, does not go there, but charges it on account of the lagat?—Yes.

21,644. You say there will be a disturbance among the Bhil tribe, would you adopt prohibition if Government offered the State compensation, not only according to the present estimate, but for any other claims hereafter to be brought forward?—Even if compensation be paid in full the State and the people would not agree to stop the cultivation of poppy.

21,645. Your estimate of losses has not been made with a view to accepting compensation?—No.

21,646. (Mr. Wilson.) You have included the escort of opium as one of the losses—if there is no opium trade how would there be that loss?—A man has to accompany the trader carrying opium. He has to guard the opium against dacoits and robbers, and he is paid for it. Vasua is the charge for a village guard, the escort charge is separate.

21,647. If there was no opium there would be no guard and, therefore, no loss?—They would lose their avocation.

21,648. You mean they would have to be pensioned off?—Yes.

21,649. You state that there are several other losses which cannot be estimated at present, what are they?—I have not included the losses which would be suffered by retail dealers and by persons who go from village to village selling these articles of necessity and taking opium instead, which they sell to the traders.

21,650. You also charge Rs. 200 for 800 baskets to hold the opium; would the baskets have to be purchased if there was no opium?—The basket manufacturers would lose that amount; they will not be able to sell so many baskets.

21,651. (Mr. Mowbray.) What do you consider is the value of a chest of opium sent to the scales at Ahmedabad?—Rs. 511 14a.

21,652. Is that what the exporting merchant of Dungarpur realises for it at Ahmedabad?—The traders pay Rs. 511 14a. at Dungarpur, and the person who takes the chest to Ahmedabad gets his profit there.

The witness withdrew.

Umacharan
Mukhyopad-
hya.
(Dholpur
State.)

3 Feb. 1894.

UMACHARAN MUKHYOPADHYA called in examined.

21,653. (Mr. Mowbray.) You are settlement officer of Dholpur?—Yes.

21,654. Are you deputed here to represent the Dholpur State before this Commission?—Yes.

21,655. We shall be glad to hear what you have to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—The nature of my official work has brought me specially during the last five years in contact with all classes of people in this State, from the peasantry and the labouring community to the gentry; Hindus and Muhammadans. I have also been for sometime chief judge of the State, and as such have come across the litigant and criminal sections of the population. As household officer of His Highness the Maharaj Rana, I have for years known also the priestly and personal servant classes. My experience of the eastern parts of Rajputana extends over the last 17 years. I may be allowed to remark in the beginning that opium has been for ages an established institution in the country. It has come to be looked upon as the chief factor in some social customs and usages throughout Rajputana. For instance, it is customary among the Rajputs at the betrothal ceremony technically called Amal ka Beohar, that the bridegroom should eat or drink opium offered by the bride's party. The whole company afterwards drinks the drug by turn out of the palm of the host. The extent to which opium has got itself wound up with the daily avocations of the people as a tradition will be realised from the fact that among the Thakurs and other high castes it is invariably seen that before beginning a letter, a prayer is expressed on top of it, asking the addressee to take on the writer's account, double the quantity of his daily allowance. The words are, if addressed to a superior, "Manohar ki amal mave se duna levasi or arogo." I candidly believe that before the appointment of the Royal Commission the attention of the natives had never been directed to the use of opium, whether for good or for bad as a general question, except its preparations chandu and madak, which have been both regarded always with disrespect. In my humble opinion, apart from a financial view of the question, it would be highly impolitic to prohibit by legislation the production and use of opium for other than medical purposes in Rajputana. There exists no justification for such enactment, nor is it called for by the present conditions of the communities using the drug. No evils on a large scale affecting society or the Government have been traced to the use of opium. Besides, any such prohibition is sure to create discontent and disaffection very largely, and may also be regarded as a prelude to further interference with social customs and individual diet. I will now deal with figures for this State. The area under poppy growth for five years i.e., 1889–1893 for Dholpur is 407 acres and for Sir Muttra (an alienated piece of Dholpur regarding revenue matters) 934 acres, total of both being 1,341 acres. I leave out the decimals. The variations from year to year are very striking. The year 1890 shows 317 acres for Dholpur, the figure for the preceding year being only 16 acres. So with Sir Muttra the areas for 1890 and 1891 being 419 acres and 38 acres respectively. All these figures are arrived at by survey as recorded at land settlement. The total yield of Dholpur including Sir Muttra for these five years is put down at 360 maunds, five seers, two chittaks British weight. The average yield per acre is 10 seers, 11 chittaks. The average yearly income from excise to the State calculating on the aforesaid five years is Rs. 1,180. 3a. 3p. Customs and transit duty average, Rs. 730 0a. 9p. and land revenue average, Rs. 1,206 2a. 10p. The total revenue derived from opium annually by the State is Rs. 3,116 6a. 10p. to which is to be added the revenue realised by Sir Muttra, viz., Rs. 4,185 9a. 7p., the two together amounting to Rs. 7,302 0a. 5p. This represents in round figures the amount of compensation the Government would have to pay to this State yearly if the cultivation of poppy was by law stopped. Of course, accurate figures will be supplied through the proper channel, and the question further gone into in details regarding the actual loss in the land revenue from suppression of opium cultivation, being the difference in assessment rates of poppy and other crops which will take its place, if prohibition is finally decided upon by the Government of India. The five years mentioned above give an average consumption of only 3 maunds, 12 seers, and 3 chittaks

per annum for Dholpur, the male population of which being 153,047 souls gives an average of about 12 grains per head yearly. I have excluded women, as there is no consumption among them to speak of. Sir Muttra is left out, as I have no figures at hand to deal with. In Dholpur the parganas of Bari and Baseri grow poppy now. Rajakhra has given it up owing perhaps to the uncertainty of the profits. All the opium grown in this State is generally bought up by Karauli traders, and along with the quantity grown in Karauli for export finds its way to the Malwa Opium Agency paying transit duty at the Dholpur Customs House. The quantity thus exported during the last five years amounted to 1,322 maunds, 20 seers or an average of 264 maunds, 20 seers per year. Opium is eaten or drunk as a rule, and rarely smoked in this State. I need not enter into the details of how the preparations called chandu and madak are made and smoked. The processes are, I believe, much the same throughout India. No license is given to sell opium for smoking purposes, as the selling of chandu and madak has years since been made penal in this State unlike British territories. Sometimes opium is dissolved in water and drunk as well as the decoction is used of poppy heads the crude opium of which has not been extracted. The tender leaves of the plant are sometimes eaten as vegetable, and the seeds called post-dana are made into a kind of sweet pastry and eaten. The dry stem is used as fuel. Opium eaters come from all classes of the people, high and low, excepting the peasantry in Dholpur; pre-eminently Gujars, Minas, Brahmins (who, unlike the general usage in Bengal, till the soil in Rajputana) Golapurabs, Lodhas, Kachhis, &c. In fact they use no stimulant habitually, barring tobacco. Immoderate consumers of opium in any shape are rare in this State. It is often the custom among Kayasths and other castes as well to give small doses of opium daily to infants until they are six or seven years old, in order, it is alleged, to prevent them catching cold. Among Hindus, I guess, 10 per cent. of the adult male population use opium, and among Thakurs, i.e., Rajputs 20 per cent. The percentage among Musalmans may be slightly higher; young men between 20 and 25 also contracting the habit. Men above 40 years old think it beneficial to take the drug habitually, saying that it dries up the bad humours of the body and prolongs life. It is also said by the consumers to act as a general stimulant to the brain and the muscles. I have often seen kahar classes take opium before beginning a journey with a paliki and passenger on their shoulders. As to crime there is no record in this State to show that it has been attributed solely to opium, not even petty thefts have come to my knowledge. Opium is not considered to affect the morals of the consumer. Those that use chandu and madak show signs of deterioration in the physique. I am strongly of opinion that opium has done no harm whatsoever to the population of Dholpur. The habit is not easy to shake off, and any prohibition of the growth of poppy would be a most difficult task. If opium was prohibited, alcohol would take its place or perhaps the hemp-drugs. As it is, Rajputs are addicted both to opium and alcohol; their women using the latter only. Opium is offered to a visitor as a cigarette or cheroot is in an English family. Hence this drug is looked upon as an article of general consumption.

21,656. There seems to be a very remarkable variation in the area under poppy from year to year, how do you explain that?—I think it is owing to the uncertainty of the profits to the traders that they do not advance money. I have mentioned that Rajakhra has given the cultivation up, perhaps owing to the uncertainty of the profits.

21,657. Do you mean uncertainty of yield?—I mean there is no profit to the traders in the long run.

21,658. What do you attribute that to?—To the fall in price of opium. Traders are not always certain as to the prices they will get, so that they will not advance money to the cultivators as regularly as they otherwise would.

21,659. The cultivators cannot grow without the advances?—They do not care to cultivate without advances.

21,660. You say that there will be a loss of land revenue; is there a special rate on poppy land, or

what?—The rate which prevails in Dholpur differs according to the constitution of the land. The highest rate is Rs. 12 per acre. This includes either poppy cultivation or sugar cane.

21,661. In the particular district you have mentioned, where the cultivation is not now carried on, has the land revenue been reduced?—No.

21,662. Why do you estimate that there would be a great reduction on the land revenue in other parts if in one particular part where it is voluntarily given up, no reduction is made?—The State demand on land where they grow poppy is Rs. 12 on an average per acre. Poppy generally brings in something more than Rs. 12 to the zemindars, the intermediate class of people between the State and the cultivators.

21,663. You say you believe that before the appointment of the Royal Commission the attention of the natives had never been directed to the use of opium whether for good or for bad. We have been told several times by witnesses that they never heard people in Rajputana speak in favour of opium. Do you think that until this question came up it did not occur to them to speak of it either favourably or unfavourably, that they regarded it as a matter of course?—Yes.

21,664. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) You state that the selling of chandu and madak has been made penal for some years past, have you been successful do you think in preventing the use entirely in Dholpur?—Yes, excepting in one or two families where they use it, we have succeeded.

21,665. At any rate, you think the use of it has been largely restricted?—Yes.

21,666. Have you a fixed land revenue settlement?—Yes, we have had one for 12 years.

21,667. What is your revenue demand on poppy land?—The State demand of revenue is regulated according to the class of soil.

21,668. What is the State revenue on the class of soil which you call poppy land?—Rs. 12 an acre.

21,669. What did you mean by saying that the zamindar would lose?—The zamindar is an intermediate man between the State and the cultivators, he collects the rent and is paid 5 per cent. theoretically for the collection.

21,670. The zamindars in your State are not landholders?—No, except the chief one.

21,671. They are a special class who collect rent?—Yes.

21,672. What are they paid?—Theoretically 5 per cent.

21,673. You say you have not reduced the revenue demand in the places where poppy cultivation has stopped; I do not understand how you arrive at the loss?—If poppy cultivation were stopped the zamindars would lose their percentage.

21,674. You mean the money that the State pays for collecting?—No. It is not strictly 5 per cent., the zamindars collect the rent from the cultivators and the cultivators pay Rs. 20 to the zamindars. We have calculated at that rate.

The witness withdrew.

MUNSHI BHOLA NATH KAMDAR called in and examined.

21,698. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) You are chief revenue and administrative officer of Shahpura?—Yes.

21,699. You have a statement to submit to us with reference to the cultivation of poppy in your State?—Yes. The annual statements submitted to the agency will clearly show that the cultivation of poppy during the last five years only was very limited and much less than what has been in the previous years. The reasons assigned for it are as follows. The irregular fall of rain in 1889 which was very unfavourable to the poppy crop which being damaged yielded but a poor produce. In 1890 and 1891 there were drought and famine. The insufficiency of water in wells and the urgent want of fodder for cattle forced the cultivators to sow barley in the irrigated area of poppy cultivation. In 1892 the excessive loss in the preceding two years of cattle, and the want of the advances resulting from the failure of poppy crop during the last three years made the cultivators incapable of cultivating the whole of the poppy

21,675. The rates charged by the zamindars would have to be reduced if poppy cultivation were stopped?—Yes.

21,676. Therefore they could not pay the Rs. 12 revenue to the State?—That is so.

21,677. The State consequently would have to reduce the demand?—Yes, to Rs. 7 or 8.

21,678. Have you any number of Rajputs in Dholpur?—Yes, a large number.

21,679. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Is Dholpur an independent State?—Yes.

21,680. And, therefore, the British laws are not enforceable in that State?—No.

21,681. You say "if the cultivation is stopped by law"; you mean an imperative order?—Yes.

21,682. You mean that unless the British Government issued an imperial order you are not inclined to stop poppy cultivation?—No.

21,683. You are not prepared to accept compensation for the loss unless the British Government issue compulsory orders?—No.

21,684. (*Mr. Pease.*) Do you draw any distinction between the injury done by eating and drinking opium?—It is the same.

21,685. Or between taking opium in these different preparations?—There is no difference, they all have the same effect.

21,686. You have a strong feeling against the smoking of opium?—Yes.

21,687. That is the feeling throughout the State?—Yes.

21,688. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Have you actually imprisoned people for selling madak or chandu?—We have not imprisoned them, but they have been fined.

21,689. Are there many cases?—No. There used to be five or six years ago. There were five or six cases for selling madak or chandu to smoke on the premises.

21,690. (*Sir William Roberts.*) When the practice of smoking chandu was more prevalent, was it confined to the lower classes?—No, some high-class Musalmans used to smoke chandu, and also the Jats, and some Brahmins.

21,691. Did they smoke it in the same way as the Chinamen?—Yes, they have a sort of pipe. They put a flame into the pipe and smoke from it.

21,692. Is there a difference between madak and chandu smoking?—Yes.

21,693. In your remarks just now you referred to chandu smoking?—Yes.

21,694. Have you any personal knowledge of the injurious results from chandu smoking?—There is a clerk in my office who smokes chandu at home. He is very lazy, and altogether looks very haggard.

21,695. Is that the only case you have noticed?—I have noticed three or four cases.

21,696. It makes them lazy?—Yes.

21,697. Much more than eating opium?—Yes, much more.

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soil. The rise in the value of food grain during the years in question, and the sudden successive fall of value of opium. The scarcity of forage during the last three years being an important reason of substituting barley for poppy. In order to give a fair idea of the normal extent of poppy cultivation a larger term of years should have been taken for drawing out a fairly normal average, but for the want of regular records the accounts are taken for six years only. Taking the average for the past six years the area under poppy in khalsa and alienated land was 636 acres as detailed in Appendix A.* The area in khalsa was ascertained from the yearly returns submitted by tahsildars, but that of alienated lands is an estimate or "andazi" made out for every year by the grant holders and tahsildars conjointly. Further enquiries however show that the

* These figures are furnished in the statement prepared by Lieut.-Col. Abbott, see Appendix VI. to this Volume.

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area in alienated lands was under estimated, for the land holders tried to show as little as possible. The out turn of opium of the above area was :—opium juice, 128 mds. 36½ seers; seed, 3,816 mds.; poppy heads, 414 mds. Taking an average for the past six years as shown in Appendix B.* The average out-turn thus taken is very low, for the last two years of famine and scarcity of water are taken into account. If the cultivation of poppy in the above areas were prohibited, the irrigated crops of sugar-cane, wheat and barley can be sown in its place, sugar-cane is the most productive crop as shown in Appendix C.,* but as neither the soil in the pargana of Phulia is suitable nor water is sufficient, the cultivation of sugar-cane is impossible, and consequently wheat and barley crops would most likely be substituted for poppy. The diminution in the revenue demand, consequent on the substitution of wheat and barley crops is estimated to be Rs. 33,064 the poppy crop in pargana Phulia is charged at an average rate of Rs. 10 6a. 8p. per acre, excluding 6a. for patwari cess, while partition system is in use for wheat and barley crops. The value of the Raj share of the latter produce is nearly equal to the assessment for poppy in favorable years but when the latter crops are damaged in any way as is often the case, or the price is too low, the Raj suffers a loss; while no damage to the poppy crop or falling of the value of opium can have effect upon the revenue demands. It is also to be considered that when wheat and barley take the place of poppy crop there is no doubt that the value of the former must fall and also effect the value of jowar, bajra and other food grains on which the rent is charged in kind and not in cash. Consequently the Raj loss under this head will not be limited to the area under poppy but would also extend to the total revenue collected in kind. The details of the direct loss in revenue is therefore given in Appendix D.* The rate of assessment on poppy crop in the pargana Phulia in Shahpura is not so high as elsewhere, because under the custom of the pargana the cultivators are bound to have only ¼ of the irrigated land in each holding under poppy cultivation. As partition system is in use, the stopping of poppy cultivation would not necessitate a revision of revenue rates. In consequence of the above there would likely be no loss or expenditure under this head. The difference in profit on the cultivation of poppy and the crops of wheat and barley which would be substituted is Rs. 45 11a. 4p. and Rs. 46 3a. 4p. respectively per acre of poppy yielding opium and Rs. 32 11a. 4p. and Rs. 33 3a. 4p. respectively per acre of the crop yielding poppy heads as shown in Appendix E.* If poppy cultivation is stopped there would of course be a loss of credit to cultivators as well as to Bohras as, for opium was the best security for money advances. The revival of the credit seems impossible for the present and nothing can be said about it until the cultivators and the bankers attain a satisfactory state and the affairs are brought to a more settled condition.

21,700. You also hand in some appendices, which will appear in our appendix F*—Yes.

21,701. Will you tell us why there is a more perfect security to Bohras for advances on the poppy crop than on other crops?—Poppy is the only thing the value of which is collected in cash. It is given to the Bohra and the Bohra delivers it to the traders who pay cash at once.

21,702. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Have you a fixed land revenue settlement in Shahpura?—No.

21,703. What is the cash rate for the poppy crop?—The cash rate of land revenue of the poppy crop is Rs. 10 6a. per acre.

21,704. You regard wheat and barley as the crops which would be substituted for poppy, if poppy cultivation were prohibited?—Yes.

21,705. Do you charge cash land revenue rates for wheat and barley?—No.

21,706. They are rates in kind?—Yes.

21,707. What money value would you give to these rates in kind on wheat and barley?—About Rs. 10 per acre.

21,708. In estimating your losses therefore if poppy cultivation were prohibited you take the difference between Rs. 10 and Rs. 10 6a. p.—Rs. 10 6a. for the land revenue, and 10 annas more for the patwari cess.

21,709. The difference is between Rs. 10 per acre and Rs. 10 6a. for the land revenue?—Yes.

21,710. What do you mean by the patwari cess; is there a higher cess on poppy cultivation?—No.

21,711. Then will you kindly explain?—It is a cess levied at about 5 or 7 pies per rupee. Crops which are not charged in cash but in kind have to pay grain in quantities. As to the crops on which cash is charged about 7 pies per rupee is charged for the patwari cess.

21,712. Why is the patwari cess reduced if poppy cultivation is given up?—In wheat and barley we get only Rs. 10 per acre, and the patwari cess is only 5 annas. On poppy we get Rs. 11 per acre and then the patwari cess is 6 annas; there is only one anna difference per acre.

21,713. Is the patwari a State servant or is he paid by the village?—He is paid by the village.

21,714. Why would the State have to make up the difference to the patwari?—As a rule it is charged at six pies per rupee, or if in kind a rupee worth of grain—six pies per rupee worth of grain.

21,715. But you say the patwari is paid by the village?—He is paid by the Raj.

21,716. You say you would suffer a loss so far in the wages of the patwari?—Yes.

21,717. (Mr. Mowbray.) I believe you also come here too make a representation on behalf of the Raja Dheraj?—Yes.

21,718. Does this representation express the view of His Highness the Raja himself which he wishes you to lay before the Royal Commission?—Yes. The statement is as follows:—Regarding the proposal for the prohibition of the cultivation and consumption of and trade in opium, Raja Dheraj thinks that it is an interference in the internal administration of the chiefship opposed to the sense of the "sannad" granted to the chiefship, and it is contrary to the usage which has uninterruptedly been followed since the chiefship was formed. 2. In the opinion of the Raja Dheraj no such wide spread or important evils have ever resulted from the cultivation and use of and trade in opium as to call for the strong measures proposed. 3. The prohibition would cause general discontent in every class of people for the following reasons. (a.) Poppy is the crop which affords employment to the cultivator and all members of his family as well as to field labourers and yields the most valuable produce. If it is stopped the field labourers and family members of a cultivator will have a less employment and consequently the earnings of the family would be less. (b.) The valuable produce of poppy crop liquidates the heavy debts of cultivators and is a security for all sorts of advances. If it disappears the cultivators will be reduced to poverty and must suffer a great deal in every respect for want of advances. (c.) To Bohras and traders opium is the only thing of merchandise on which a large amount of capital is invested without any risk of unfavourable market, for its quantity grows better, and its value increases for a certain length of time and is therefore sold only when the price is high and sufficient to pay the costs and the interest on the capital. (d.) To ordinary consumers is an indispensable article of requirement without which they are quite unable to do any work. (e.) To the middle-aged it restores full strength when they are tired, to the weak and old it is the only available drug which strengthens and enables them to work hard. If they are deprived of their occasional or usual doses of opium the impairment of capability for hard work would reduce them to a still poorer state. (f.) Among the rich and the noble it is used as an auspicious thing on all religious and social meetings. As it is generally used by both sexes of all classes of people in all ages and its moderate use is generally known to be beneficial, there is no doubt that the prohibition would create a general loss and grievous discontent. 4. Consequently it would be impossible to enforce any such prohibition by any reasonable means within the power of the chiefship. 5. The prohibition of the cultivation of and trade in opium would also cause a heavy loss to the chiefship by the decrease of land and customs revenue for the imposition of increased transit duties on other articles would not be advisable for Shahpura where the trade is so dull and would consequently injure the existing trade. If the export trade in opium is stopped the loss of revenue would interfere with the administration of the chiefship. 6. The Raja Dheraj is however willing to adopt such rules for controlling the sale and consumption of opium by inhabitants of the chiefship as may be found

* See footnote on preceding page.

desirable and effective in British territories. A memo showing total compensation due to Raj and its subjects is herewith enclosed for favour of consideration.

21,719. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) Shahpura is an independent State?—It is a chiefship.

21,720. It has full powers of jurisdiction?—Yes.

21,721. Life and death?—In consultation with the British Government.

21,722. British laws are not in force?—No.

21,723. You have your own laws?—Yes.

21,724. If the British Government were to prohibit the growth and consumption of opium except for medical purposes, would the order be legally applicable to your State?—No, I think not.

21,725. (Mr. Pease.) What grounds have you for thinking that 50 per cent. of the males in your State take opium?—They are numbered in some of the villages.

21,726. With regard to females we were told that in Dholpur none of them took opium; do 25 per cent. take it in your State?—Yes.

21,727. Some of the opium I suppose is consumed by young men; do you approve of young men taking it?—Yes, some of them. My opinion is that when a man has to work hard and is tired the practice of taking opium is good.

21,728. Is it a good thing for a young man in health to take opium?—Not in large quantities; if it is taken in moderate quantities it is not harmful.

21,729. Do some of your people injure themselves by taking opium?—Some of them.

The witness withdrew.

SAH BADRI LALL called in and examined (through an interpreter).

21,737. (Mr. Mowbray.) You are customs officer of Shahpura?—Yes.

21,738. Have you any statement to lay before the commission?—Yes. If the production and export of opium be prohibited the loss to the chiefship will consist of—(a.) Customs import, export, and transit duties on juice, head, and seed. (b.) Local "mapa" and tulai charges on juice, head, and seed. The cultivators after collecting the produce make it over to their Bohras. Mapa duty is then charged at a rate of Rs. 2 per cent. of the value, at the same time Rs. 1 per cent. is charged on account of tulai. Both of the duties are levied by the Raj in Khalsa and by the jagirdars in alienated villages. Their rates differ in almost all villages the average of these is taken into account. The Bohras then import the articles to Shahpura for delivery to the traders. An import duty is then levied by the Raj at the rate of Rs. 3 2a. per cent. of the value. The juice is then manufactured into opium and exported to Bombay. An export duty including Bhom is then charged at Rs. 3 per cent. of the value. Nearly half of the poppy seed is pressed to make oil and the other half is exported to Ajmere or Beawar and is charged at the said rate of export duty. Besides some opium juice is imported to Shahpura from the neighbouring Meywar, Kishengarh, and Harauti villages by the traders who reside in Shahpura. Taking an average for the last six years the amount of income derived under these heads is Rs. 4713 as detailed in the annexed statement. The prohibition of trade in opium would require a revision of the customs tariff for reducing duties on other articles of trade with a view of encouraging the traders to adopt trade in other articles. No duty can be raised in Shahpura for the existing trade is so dull and the country is greatly suffering for the want of improvement in trade owing to its being situated far away from the railway lines and high roads and to the heavy taxation of duties in the surrounding Meywar districts. Consequently the state will probably have to abolish or reduce duty on grain and reduce the duty on til (oil seeds) and other articles. Thus the amount of Rs. 7,000 derived from duties on grain will be reduced to 4,000, and the amount of Rs. 2000 will be remitted on other articles. The total loss therefore would come to Rs. 5,000. As there is no excise duty in Shahpura there would be no loss of revenue to the chiefship in the prohibition of the consumption of opium. The out-standing advances among the culti-

21,730. Have you made any allowance in your statement for those who have injured themselves by taking opium? You have given a statement of the loss to consumers; would there not be a benefit to consumers if they could not get opium?—To those who take it in moderation it would be a benefit.

21,731. Where have you made any allowance for the Rs. 7,500 which the opium consumers would save by not spending their money upon it?—They would be able to earn a great deal more than they would spend.

21,732. You have said that a certain sum is spent in opium; if the opium is not consumed that amount will be so much in their pockets?—It will not be in their pockets, because they must try to get some other medicine or other things to revive their strength, they will take other intoxicants.

21,733. You have said that some take it who ought not to take it, and that some take it to excess; so far they would be benefited?—Yes.

21,734. (Mr. Mowbray.) What is the amount you export to Bombay?—A hundred and twenty-eight maunds is the whole produce of the pergunnah; some is imported from neighbouring villages, about 50 maunds. Twenty-five maunds is the average consumption, and about a hundred and thirty maunds is exported to Bombay.

21,735. The export duty is Rs. 3 per cent. of the value?—Yes.

21,736. Which you estimate at Rs. 773 per annum?—Yes.

vators amount to Rs. 20,000, of which there is no doubt that Rs. 3,000 will remain irrecoverable, for the advances of cash money made to cultivators for their expenses and for the payment of land rents are always paid by opium and cotton crops. The cultivators generally keep the produce of grain for their use or if given to Bohras is returned to them for their daily use. Out of the out-turn of cotton too, the cultivators keep some portion for their personal use. But opium juice is a substance which is not used unless it is manufactured, nor is required by cultivators in large quantities, the Bohras have a certainty of recovering their money advanced to cultivators. If this cultivation of opium is stopped he will have to stop all advances in cash and consequently will lose an interest at 3 per cent. per month on a capital of Rs. 7,500 which he annually invests in the advances. On the promise of giving opium juice, the Bohras draw money from bankers without interest and support their cultivators and thus carry on their trade. If the cultivation is stopped the credit of the Bohras and of the cultivators will be lost. The Bohras will have no opportunity of investing their own capital, nor will be able to draw money from the bankers. The recovery of existing advances will not be in cash, Bohras will have to accept cattle, furniture, &c., or instalments. The value of Bharna will not be collected just to the amount for which it be accepted. The interest for the amount of instalments would be stopped. Consequently he will have a loss of about Rs. 4,000 under this head.

21,739. What is the amount of opium exported from the Shahpura State into the British territory?—One hundred and thirty or one hundred and thirty-five maunds.

21,740. What is the export duty charged by the Shahpura State?—Three per cent. on the value of the opium.

21,741. How much do you estimate that would come to in the year?—Rs. 4,713 is the average for six years.

21,742. Is that the duty when it is exported into Bombay, or is it all the duties which are charged by the Shahpura State at various places and on different occasions?—It is the total charge for the Shahpura territory.

21,743. I want to know the amount which the three per cent. *ad valorem* duty on opium exported to Bombay comes to?—It is the total export duty on opium and

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poppy seed exported from Shahpura to British territory.

21,744. You have said that the average amount exported is about 130 or 135 maunds; what is the

average value of that on which the 3 per cent. is taken?—Rs. 1,170.

21,745. On opium alone?—Opium alone; poppy seed is an addition to that.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. R. M.
Dane.

Mr. R. M. DANE called in and examined.

21,746. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) I understand you wish to hand in a list of witnesses who have attended here for the purpose of being examined and who have sent in abstracts of their evidence which have been supplied to members of the Commission?—Yes. The names only of those witnesses who, as far as can be ascertained, actually attended and furnished abstracts have been included in the list. They are not here at the present

moment because when the examination of the witnesses from each State was concluded all the witnesses belonging to that State went away.

21,747. I understand you wish to have their names, addresses and descriptions inserted on the minutes of evidence?—Yes. I do not ask that their abstracts may be brought into the appendix, because I do not think it is necessary.

LIST of WITNESSES from Native States in Rajputana who came to Ajmere to give evidence and furnished abstracts of the evidence they were prepared to give, but who were not examined.

Meywar.

1. Mehta Takhat Singh, Mahajan, revenue official.
2. Partabji, Brahmin Kamdar.
3. Partha Patel Kumbi, cultivator.

Partabgarh.

1. Magan Lal, Mahajan, Sadr revenue officer.
2. Oonkar Pema, Kurmi, cultivator.
3. Issar, Borah, manotidar.
4. Futteh Mahomed, labourer.

Jhallawar.

1. Pyari Lal, Mahajan, manotidar.
2. Ruj Mul, Mahajan, manotidar.
3. Sewa, labourer.
4. Dewa, carpenter.
5. Gulab Singh, Sondia, jagirdar.

Kotah.

1. Mor Singh, Rajput, jagirdar.
2. Pandit Uma Shankar, Brahmin superintendent of Customs.
3. Ram Chandra, Kayasth Patel.
4. Oonkar Mina, cultivator.

Bundi.

1. Shah Kesari Lal, Brahmin, Customs superintendent.
2. Ganpat Lal, trader.
3. Sukh Lal, Mahajan.

Ulwcr.

1. Govind Baksh, money lender and drug contractor.
2. Jawahir Lal, Kayasth revenue official.
3. Zabar Khan Lambardar.

Bikanir.

1. Thakar Pani Singh, Rajput Puttadar of Brichawas.

Sirohi.

1. Sobba Chund, Mahajan.
2. Ada Barad Laldanji, Charan jagirdar.
3. Ada Barad Ramdanji, Charan jagirdar.

Tonk.

1. Sahibzada Oobeid Ullah Khan, C.S.I., Minister.*

Marwar.

1. Bhumia Daya Bahadur Singh, Rajput.

* Not examined owing to ill-health.

*The witness withdrew.

CAPTAIN P. J. MELVILL called in and examined.

Captain P.
J. Melvill.

21,748. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) You are Collector of excise, customs and opium for Ajmere-Merwara and Assistant Commissioner of Ajmere?—Yes.

21,749. And in that capacity you hand in a *memo-randum which is in the hands of the Commission and will appear in the appendix?—Yes.

21,750. Will you explain the item with regard to Ploughing, Rs. 5?—The reason of it is this. The cultivators are very poor, and a considerable section of them not having ploughs of their own are obliged to hire them. If they have ploughs of their own and use their own oxen, they have to give them extra food during the time, the work being fairly hard. That is the reason why it is put in. It makes no difference in the calculations because it is on both sides for cereals, cotton and opium.

21,751. Is that the reason why you have put in that item for the expense of ploughing, but not for the other forms of labour?—Yes. You will see at the end that I have put in other forms of labour, because they supply the labour themselves.

21,752. (*Mr Fanshawe.*) You have left out the cost of water for irrigation because they would irrigate

themselves?—Yes, it is entirely well land. Then I may say that the cultivators in Malwa live at an average distance of 50 miles from the nearest market town, and it is a matter of enormous importance to them to have a crop which is portable. Fifty miles would take them about three days.

21,753. (*Mr. Pease.*) Were you present when a statement was made with regard to some chandu smoking places in Ajmere?—I was not.

21,754. Can you give any information on the subject?—Some little time ago we found that there were two illicit chandu shops, but they have been closed. It is exceedingly difficult to detect cases of this kind, because under the law as it at present stands the possession of five tolas of opium or preparations of opium is allowed, and so long as a man has not more than five tolas it is impossible to convict unless you can prove a sale. No doubt it is smoked to a certain limited extent.

21,755. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) The witness stated that there was unmistakable evidence of its having been sold?—I shall only be too delighted if he will furnish me with the evidence; I cannot say more.

* See Appendix VIII. to this Volume.

The witness withdrew.

RAO KESRI SINGH called in and examined.

Rao Kesri Singh.

3 Feb. 1894.

21,756. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) You belong to Bhinae?—Yes, I am uncle to the present Raj, and I hold the village of Bhinae.

21,757. Where is Bhinae?—It is an estate in Ajmere.

21,758. What is the area under poppy in the Bhinae Estate?—The average area is about 16 acres.

21,759. In what form do the members of your caste consume opium?—Rajputs mostly eat it. Some make an infusion of it and drink it. "Post," an infusion made from poppy heads, is used by Rajputs of the poorer classes.

21,760. Do men, women, and children alike take it?—Many Rajput men eat opium. Amongst the women, only widows and old men use it as a rule. It is always given to children till they are about three years old, and then it is discontinued.

21,761. What proportion of the caste take it?—Amongst the men, about 50 per cent.

21,762. What proportion, if any, of the persons whom you have mentioned above as taking opium, take it to excess?—Amongst the men, about 7 per cent. Women very rarely take it to excess.

21,763. How often is it taken a day, and how much at a time?—It is generally taken twice a day, and about 1½ mashas at a time.

21,764. What are the special occasions on which it is taken, and is it considered absolutely necessary to

take it at these times?—Ceremonies connected with births, adoptions, betrothals, marriages, and deaths, religious festivals, and social gatherings. On these occasions it is considered absolutely necessary to take opium.

21,765. What are its usual effects on those who take it in moderation?—Its effects are beneficial. A man who takes it in moderation preserves his health.

21,766. What would be the result on the habits and customs and physical condition of your caste, if opium could not be procured except as medicine?—If the possession and sale of opium were prohibited, the health of consumers would suffer, and amongst Rajputs generally there would be the greatest discontent.

21,767. Do you yourself take opium?—Yes, I have taken it for the last 18 months, and have derived great benefit from it. I take half a ratti of opium twice a day. I have not increased the amount since I commenced taking it.

21,768. What is your age?—Forty-two.

21,769. You say that 7 per cent. amongst the men take opium in excess; will you explain what you mean by that?—Those who take five or seven mashas at a time are excessive eaters.

21,770. Does the opium eating in their case cause harm to their health?—In some cases it does injury to their health; in others the consumers keep their health well.

The witness withdrew.

SUBADAR DALLA called in and examined (through an interpreter).

Subadar Dalla.

21,771. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) You are from Merat, your age is 52, you reside in Chittar, Merwara, and you are a pensioned Subadar of the Merwara battalion?—Yes.

21,772. Are you a cultivator of poppy?—Yes.

21,773. If the cultivation of the poppy crop were prohibited what crops would most likely take its place irrigated or unirrigated?—As a rule in Merwara, poppy is cultivated either on land which is too moist for the cultivation of maize, or on land on which the proprietor has raised a cotton crop. In the former case, cotton is usually sown in the Kharif, and poppy in the Rabi; cotton is not picked till it is too late to sow wheat, barley and other grains, and the only crop which it is possible to sow for the Rabi is poppy. In the latter case, either cotton would not be sown, or no Rabi crop would be obtained. If the cultivation of the poppy were prohibited the results would be (1) that the owners of land not suited for maize and other Kharif crops would be able to raise one crop only (the Rabi) in the year, and the payment of the Government revenue demand would therefore press more hardly on them than at present; and (2) that the owners of other land would be deterred from sowing cotton which is a profitable crop. The prohibition of the cultivation of poppy would create great dissatisfaction amongst the cultivators in Merwara.

21,774. In what form do the members of your caste consume opium?—They mostly eat it, but a few make an infusion of it and drink it. Many people make an infusion of poppy heads, which they drink.

21,775. Do men, women, and children alike take it?—Women very seldom take it, and it is only given to them and to children as a medicine.

21,776. What proportion of the caste take it?—About 30 per cent. of the men take it.

21,777. What proportion if any, of the persons whom you have mentioned above as taking opium, take it to excess?—There are very few who take opium to excess. Perhaps one per cent. of consumers.

21,778. How often is it taken in a day, and how much at a time?—As a rule it is taken twice a day,

and in amounts ranging from one to three ratis. I myself take two ratis twice a day.

21,779. What are the special occasions and purposes for which it is taken, and is it considered absolutely necessary to take it at these times?—Whenever any number of the caste assemblies, opium is always eaten. On such occasions as visits of condolence on the death of a person, opium *must* be eaten.

21,780. What is the effect of the consumption of opium on those who take it in moderation?—Its effects are beneficial, and it enables a man to do more work and endure greater fatigue.

21,781. What would be the result on the habits and customs and physical condition of your caste if opium could not be procured except as medicine?—The result would be that the health of consumers would suffer, and men would probably drink more liquor than they now do, and take to using drugs, such as ganja.

21,782. Have you anything more to say on this subject?—I first ate opium during the Afghan war. At that time about one-third of the regiment ate it, and we found it of the greatest use in enabling us to support the cold and great fatigue. After returning from Afghanistan I gave up eating opium, and did not take it again till about three years ago when my health began to fail. I then took to eating opium again, and have found it of great benefit. If the cultivation and sale of opium is prohibited there will be great dissatisfaction among the people. I have never increased the amount of opium which I take, since I began eating it.

21,783. (*Mr. Pease.*) What age were you when you returned from the Afghan war?—About 40.

21,784. What quantity did you take in the Afghan war?—Four grains twice a day.

21,785. Did you find any difficulty in giving it up?—When I gave it up I felt very uneasy, and had to drink liquor for some time. I suffered from diarrhoea. At last I gave it up.

21,786. Did you find your health after you had given it up as good as it was before?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Seth Sobhag
Mull.

3 Feb. 1894.

SETH SOBHAG MULL called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

21,787. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) I understand you are a merchant of Ajmere?—Yes.

21,788. Do you deal in other things besides opium?—In grain, cotton, silver and gold; I am a banker.

21,789. What would be your loss as an opium merchant, if the production and export of opium was stopped?—Poppy is not cultivated in the Ajmere district. About 5,000 pails, are brought here annually from Kotah, and about 20 maunds of an opium named "nikhalia" from Jawad and Nimbahera. As opium is sold here at an average profit of Rs. 2 per paila, the loss to the merchants of Ajmere would be about Rs. 10,000 per annum. I import opium from Kotah, and sell it to the license-holders in Ajmere at a profit of Re. 1 or Re. 1 8a. per paila. I have a shop at Kotah, and opium is purchased there and forwarded to customers and my shops at other places, Re. 1 per paila, being charged on account of commission and other expenses. I make advances to cultivators, and instead of paying interest they sell me their opium at Re. 1 per paila, less than the market rate. At Indore, in Malwa, I have a third shop which deals in opium only. Malwa owes its prosperity to opium, and if the cultivation of poppy were prohibited there, I would suffer very heavy loss. The details of this loss can be supplied by my principal agent at Indore, if enquiries are made there. They are briefly:—(a.) I deal with the cultivators of opium and make a profit of Rs. 3 on every 5 seers of opium on account of interest, discount, &c. (b.) I make a profit without any risk. The cultivators, to whom advances are made, sell me their opium at Re. 1 less than the market rate for 5 seers. (c.) My customers for whom I procure opium with my own money, pay me Rs. 5 on every 5 seers of opium on account of interest and discount. (d.) I make a profit of Rs. 15 per chest exported by me to Shanghai and Hong Kong.

21,790. Could you to any extent compensate yourself by other business; if so, how and to what extent?—In the Ajmere district, where no opium is produced, a loss of only Rs. 10,000 per annum would be caused, and we could compensate ourselves for this by trading in grain, cotton, gold, silver, cloth, &c. But many other trades depend on opium. In connexion with the opium trade, we deal in hundis for large amounts, and obtain good interest on the money so utilized. As a tank supplies water to wells by percolation, so opium supports other trades. The prohibition of the cultivation of poppy would therefore injure all other trades.

We could not compensate ourselves for the loss which would be caused by the prohibition of the cultivation of poppy by any other business. Suppose the money now invested in opium were invested in grain and cotton; these articles cannot be kept for more than a year or two, and if they are not sold within that period the trader suffers heavy loss or is absolutely ruined. On the other hand, as opium gets older it increases in value. For these reasons we could not compensate ourselves for the loss which would be caused by the suppression of the opium trade by trading in grain or cotton. Only very small profits can be made on cloth, spices, metals, &c., a person who invests his own money in these articles can make a profit, but only a small one. Further, the opium trade gives employment to thousands of people, and if the cultivation of poppy were prohibited we could not compensate ourselves for our loss by any other business.

21,791. You say that in the Ajmere district no opium is produced, but opium is produced, I believe, in Merwara?—Yes.

21,792. (*Mr. Haridas Vekaridas.*) Do you take opium?—No.

21,793. The custom exists in your caste?—Yes.

21,794. Do many of them eat opium?—A few only.

21,795. As a habit or occasionally?—Occasionally.

21,796. What is your caste?—Oswal, and I am a Jain by religion.

21,797. Do the people take it after 40 years of age?—In case of disease.

21,798. Do they take it as a habit in that case?—Yes.

21,799. What would be the dose generally?—Half a ratti twice a day.

21,800. Do you call that a moderate dose?—A moderate dose.

21,801. (*Mr. Pease.*) You state that as opium gets older it increases in value; for how many years?—20 or 25 years.

21,802. Why does it increase in value?—It is more beneficial for eating.

21,803. Is it a matter of flavour?—It causes a difference in the taste.

21,804. Does it become stronger with age?—It is not injurious as far as heat is concerned.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to Tuesday next, at Indore.

At the Residency, Indore.

SIXTY-FOURTH DAY.

Tuesday, 6th February 1894.

[Section A.]

PRESENT :

THE RIGHT HON. LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B., CHAIRMAN, PRESIDING.

Sir WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.

The Hon. Sir LACHHMESWAR SINGH, Bahadur,
K.C.I.E., Maharaja of Dharbhanga.

Mr. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P.

Mr. A. U. FANSHAW.

Mr. H. J. WILSON, M.P.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT, C.I.E., *Secretary.*

Mr. R. J. CROSTWAITE, C.S.I. called in and examined.

21,805. (*Chairman.*) Your position is that of Agent to the Governor-General for Central India?—Yes, I am now in the thirty-first year of my service in India. For the first 15 years I was in the North-Western Provinces

holding ordinary executive and judicial appointments. I then served two years in Burma, and seven years in the Central Provinces as Judicial Commissioner, and I have also held other appointments under the Govern-

Mr. R. J.
Crostwaite,
C.S.I.

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ment of India in the Legislative Department. I have been agent to the Governor-General in Central India since the 1st of January 1891.

21,806. Will you state briefly the position of the States in Central India with reference to the suzerainty of the British Government?—There are numerous States in Central India, some of which are independent, subject to the suzerainty of the British Government, and some have less independence, the authority of the chief being restricted in various particulars. There is also a large number of petty Chiefs who, though they have not the status of a ruling Chief, yet administer the affairs of the local area included in their tenures, subject to a varying amount of control on the part of the British Government or of a superior State. These tenures are usually known as "estates."

21,807. How are these different States and Estates circumstanced with reference to the production of opium?—In about 46 States and Estates, situate for the most part in Malwa, the productions of opium may be said to exceed the demand for local consumption, and from these opium is exported. From some of these 46 the export is considerable, and the Chiefs realise a large amount of revenue from opium. In others the export of, and revenue derived from, opium is not so considerable. There are also States and Estates in which the production of opium is equal to, or less than, the local consumption, and from which there is practically no export. In all the opium-producing tracts the amount derived from the drug forms an important item in the revenue of the Chief. Speaking generally it would not be possible to abandon this source of revenue without involving the States in financial difficulties, as it would not be practicable to raise the necessary amount of revenue by other forms of taxation. The large tracts of country comprised in Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand do not produce enough opium for local consumption. The States in these tracts, as a rule, raise a small amount of revenue by selling the monopoly of the sale of opium, and in some cases by imposing an import duty.

21,808. Can you tell us anything with reference to the history of poppy cultivation?—It is not possible to state when the cultivation of the poppy first commenced; but it must have been in very ancient times, as there appear to be no traditions about it. It is said not to be mentioned in medical works before A.D. 1400. In Sir John Malcolm's time, about 1819, the cultivation was generally carried on. There is a family at Ujjain still called Jahazwala, because their ancestor exported opium in his own ship from Broach, probably about 1800.

21,809. Will you describe to us the steps which the Government of India has from time to time taken in order to secure a control over the production of opium in Malwa?—About 1818, the Government of India first endeavoured to control the production of opium in Malwa, with the object of preventing the Malwa opium from interfering with the Bengal monopoly. Malwa opium was taken to Diu, Daman, and Karachi, and shipped to China, and so competed with the Bengal opium. Agreements were concluded with several States by which the Darbars, in consideration of the payment of compensation by the British Government, were to sell their surplus opium to the British Government, and were to limit the area under poppy cultivation. The first agreement was entered into in the year 1826. Gwalior and several other States had, however, refused to conclude agreements of this nature, and the result was that large quantities of Malwa opium were exported to China without passing through British India. In those States, with which agreements had been concluded, there was general discontent, and smuggling was carried out on an extensive scale. The result was that the British Government decided about 1829 to terminate the agreements, and in 1830 the pass system was adopted, the rate per chest being fixed low (Rs. 175), so as to draw the opium to Bombay, and five years later this rate was lowered by Rs. 50. Afterwards, on the subjugation of Sind in 1843, it was possible to close the route to the other ports, and the rate of pass duty was steadily raised until it was fixed at Rs. 700 in October 1861. The result of the high pass duty has had the effect of decreasing, or at least preventing the increase of, poppy cultivation. The profits of the cultivator are reduced to a minimum, and the export trade has been injured.

21,810. Have there been any applications on the part of those interested in the trade for a reduction of the

pass duty?—In consequence of the injury caused by the high duty to persons interested in the opium trade, the Government of India has been asked to reduce the duty. In 1882 the merchants submitted a memorial, which was supported by the Maharaja Holkar of Indore; in 1883 the merchants of Malwa, and 1890 the leading merchants of Indore submitted a memorial. In June, 1882, the duty had been reduced from Rs. 700 to Rs. 650, and the first two memorials were unsuccessful. In July, 1890, the duty was reduced to Rs. 600. If the price of opium continues to fall, a further reduction of the duties imposed by the British or the Native Governments will be necessary in order to allow of the export of the drug.

21,811. Turning our attention to the treaties with the Rajput States, do you consider there is any ground for saying that they have been of an unduly burdensome character in relation to poppy cultivation?—My attention has been called to a statement made by Mr. St. George Tucker in 1829, to the effect that the Government of India contracted burdensome treaties with the Rajput States, to introduce and extend the cultivation of the poppy. This statement must be erroneous as regards the Central India States, as the treaties or agreements concluded with the Malwa States had for their objects the restriction of the free export of opium from Malwa. The third article of the agreement of 1826 with the Maharaja Holkar provided that the Maharaja's Government should confine the cultivation of poppy in his territories within an extent calculated to yield a quantity not exceeding 6,000 maunds of dry opium. Of this the British Government agreed to buy 5,000 maunds, leaving 1,000 maunds for consumption in Indore territory. The fact that the smuggling of opium assumed such alarming proportions shows that more opium was produced in the States than was required by the British Government. I am not aware that the Native States have ever been pressed to increase the cultivation of poppy. I can find no records in my office to show that they have. It would be useless to use pressure, as no one would cultivate at a loss, and if the cultivation were profitable it would be extended without any pressure. The rent of land is fixed with regard to the quality of the soil, and the tenant of first-class land paying a high rent will of course grow the most profitable crop he can. We have now no agreements with Native States by which they engage to manage their opium cultivation so as to safeguard the British revenue. The cultivation of the poppy is left to the option of the cultivator, who is guided by the market. If the price of opium were high and the cultivation paid well, a State might seek to extend cultivation by spending money on irrigation works, but, as far as I am aware, no direct pressure is, or could be, put on the cultivators. In some cases a tax is levied on the crude opium produced in each field, but in other respects the cultivator can deal with the crop as he does with any other crop, selling it or storing it as he thinks best. Except where the cultivator is well off, he takes advances from a banker or zamindar just as cultivators do generally in India with respect to all crops. The best and most prosperous class of the peasantry cultivate the poppy, and the possession of a poppy field is considered desirable as showing that the cultivator has a good position in the village. The poppy requires good irrigated land, and, as a rule, two crops are raised in the year. Indian corn is generally the first crop, and is grown in the rainy season. It would be difficult to induce the cultivators to give up a system of cultivation which they have followed for generations, especially as there is no crop which matures in so short a time as opium, and which can be so profitably grown after another crop in the same year.

21,812. What has been the result of your inquiries and personal observations with regard to the consumption of opium in Central India?—The result of my inquiries regarding the consumption of opium in Central India is that it is very general. All castes and religions, except perhaps the Bohras, can eat opium. The Jains, whose religion forbids all intoxicants, may eat it. Children are, as a rule, given opium until they are about three years of age, when it is discontinued. The rule is that men do not begin to eat opium until they are over forty. The general opinion of the people is that opium-eating in moderation is beneficial and conducive to health, especially in the case of young children and elderly people. I have heard it said that the moderate use of opium is not good, inasmuch as the daily dose is likely to be increased, but I think

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this is a mistake. The moderate consumption of opium is general, and excessive consumption exceptional, which could not be the case if moderate consumption invariably or even generally led to excessive consumption. I have had to take opium myself in England as a medicine for some time. I did not feel the slightest tendency to increase the dose, nor any disinclination to stop taking opium. Certainly the people do not regard the moderate use of opium as in any way disgraceful. The practice of giving opium to young children prevails even among the upper classes, and amongst the Rajputs, except perhaps in Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand, it is considered a necessary act of courtesy to offer a guest opium, as in Europe he would be offered a glass of wine or a cup of tea. On the other hand, in some parts of Malwa opium-smoking is considered bad, and in some States is prohibited by the Chief. Many persons are of opinion that opium-smoking in the preparation called *chandu* is injurious to health, and I am informed that this is the reason of the prohibition. The fact that opium-smoking is prohibited, while opium-eating is not, goes to show that opium-eating is not believed to be injurious. If opium-eating were distinctly injurious, and the excessive consumption of opium at all common, I should certainly have known, during my residence in India, of cases either among my own servants or among public officials in which a person had become incapacitated by reason of eating opium. I cannot recollect one case, and I believe that, having regard to the climate, the constitution of the people, and the nature of their diet, opium is a valuable drug, preserving them from and curing them of various ailments. If the moderate use of opium led to the excessive use, and so to the ruin of the consumer's health, it is difficult to understand how the population could have increased. It appears from the last census that the increase in the population of 20 opium-producing States amounted to over 500,000, an increase of nearly 9 per cent. Moreover, considering the number of years during which the custom of eating opium has obtained, there would be a general deterioration of the village communities, and the evils of opium-eating would have attracted the attention of the chiefs just as the evils of smoking opium have.

21,813. How do you compare alcohol and opium? Which do you think is the more injurious of the two?—As a rule, people who eat opium abstain from alcohol. The Sikhs are, I believe, an exception. I have no doubt that alcohol is more injurious in every way than opium-eating. I have had considerable experience of the criminal administration as a magistrate in the North-Western Provinces, and as Judicial Commissioner in British Burma and in the Central Provinces. I know that drink leads to crime, but I know of no case in which opium-eating excited a man to commit a crime. From my inspections of jails in the Central Provinces I should say that among criminals opium-eaters are in the minority.

21,814. What have you to say as to the practicability of limiting the sale of opium to medical use?—I do not think that the suggestion, that the cultivation of the poppy and the production of opium should be prohibited, except to the extent required for medical use, is practicable. It would be impossible to ascertain the quantity required for medical use. Opium is the most valuable medicine the people have, and it would be cruel to deprive them of it. There are no chemists, and a supply would have to be kept in every village. The result would be that opium consumption would continue as at present. This proposed partial prohibition of opium would be unpopular, both with the chiefs and people. We have no right to demand the consent of independent chiefs to such a prohibition. They have the right to decide whether their subjects may use opium otherwise than as a medicine. They have also the right to regulate the cultivation of the land in their territories. If by the payment of compensation we induced the principal Chiefs to agree to the prohibition of opium, except to the extent required for medical use, it would still be necessary to arrange for a like prohibition with the numerous petty Chiefs who have a right to manage the cultivation of their tenures without interference from the superior Chiefs. If such an arrangement were made it would be almost impossible to secure that it was properly carried out. The amount of supervision and interference which would be required for that purpose would cause great friction, and, from a political point of view, would be dangerous. It is probable that the

Chiefs would be unable to restrict the production of opium without using their armies to enforce their orders. An attempt to stop the poppy cultivation would involve the risk of throwing the opium-producing country into a state of civil war.

21,815. What about the loss of revenue to the States, the petty Chiefs, jagirdars, and cultivators?—The prohibition of the exports of opium from the Native States through British India would involve a great loss of revenue to the States, the petty Chiefs, and jagirdars, and of profits to the cultivators. It would also ruin a number of merchants. Such a prohibition would, in my opinion, be opposed to the spirit of our treaties of friendship with the States, and would be regarded as an unjustifiable act of oppression. If the States agreed to the arrangement in consideration of the payment of compensation, the prohibition would still be most unpopular. To distribute compensation between the ruling States, subordinate Chiefs, jagirdars, and other landholders, the tenants and the merchants, would be a matter of great difficulty.

21,816. Do you think there is any grave risk of extensive smuggling if the policy of prohibition were attempted to be enforced?—The amount of compensation which would have to be paid for the loss caused by the prohibition of the export of opium cannot be well ascertained. Colonel Robertson will give the amount which, it is calculated, will cover the loss; but the States would, of course, expect that the compensation should be liberal. I have no doubt that, if the export of opium were prohibited, smuggling would become prevalent. The smugglers would have the sympathy of the people generally, and it would be extremely difficult to put a stop to the illicit import of the drug into British India. The expense of the preventive force would be very great, as the frontier to be guarded would be about 2,385 miles in extent. In many parts the border lands are covered with thick jungles, and it is easy to smuggle opium.

21,817. We may gather from your evidence that, in your view, opium is a necessary article of consumption, and in many cases beneficial, and that prohibition would be decidedly unpopular and not called for by any considerations of a moral nature or otherwise?—I do not say that I consider opium necessary and beneficial to health; I am not prepared to say that, but I say that the cultivation is popular and consumption general, and that the people regard the consumption of opium as necessary. I may say that if opium had been like drinking I must have seen cases where men had been ruined by it. I have seen cases where men have been ruined by drink and have committed crime. With regard to the opinion of the people in this part of the country, I have no doubt that they regard it as necessary and beneficial to health; not all, but a large proportion.

21,818. Is there a party in these States, a certain number of persons, favourable to prohibition?—I am not aware of it. In making my inquiries I have spoken to the people that I have thought would be most competent to inform me. I have spoken to Chiefs of States, to their sirdars and officials, and the subhas of districts in Gwalior, and asked them privately their real opinion. In that way I have formed my view as to the opinions of these people. I am of opinion that it would be dangerous to interfere with the cultivation of the poppy in, or the export of opium from, the Native States. There are so many States which have a right to regulate the cultivation of land within their territories that it would be extremely difficult to enforce any limitation of cultivation. The cultivation is popular and the consumption of opium is general, and is, as a rule, regarded as necessary and beneficial to health. As a medicine the drug is most useful, and if the people were deprived of it, mortality would be largely increased. To interfere with the consumption of opium would, I think, be as unpopular as to interfere with the use of tobacco in England, and would give rise to discontent and suspicion, which might result in most dangerous consequences.

21,819. (Mr. Wilson.) You have referred in your evidence to numerous States. I see that in Colonel Robertson's paper there are certain lists mentioned. Do you know whether these lists include all that you have been referring to?—Colonel Robertson will be able to tell you. His list, I should think, would include them; it may not include all the States which are called unguaranteed States.

21,820. You have stated that the rate of pass duty was steadily raised until it reached Rs. 700. Was any objection made, do you know, to that steady increase of the pass duty?—I have not seen any objection previous to that which I have mentioned. The price of opium was then high.

21,821. You state that if the price of opium continues to fall, a further reduction will be necessary to allow the export of the drug. Are you contemplating that the price of opium is likely to continue to fall?—I think there is a possibility of it, but it is impossible to say, owing to the present state of Indian coinage and numerous complications.

21,822. Would you consider that the British Government was in any way bound to reduce the duty by treaty or on moral considerations?—That is a complicated question. There are two parties taxing the drug, the one the Native State and the other the British Government. If the price of opium falls below a certain point it will be necessary to reduce the duty, or the trade of the country and the revenues of the State will be affected injuriously. It would then have to be considered which duty should go and in what proportion the reduction should be made.

21,823. You have said that Mr. Tucker's statement must be erroneous as regards the States of Central India. I have not his statement at hand; can you tell me if it appeared to include the States of Central India?—I think he said that burdensome treaties had been contracted with the Rajput States. There are Rajput States in Central India and there are Rajput States in Rajputana. I suppose what he referred to were the Rajput States with which these agreements were made, some of which were situated in Central India and some in the agency known as the Rajputana agency.

21,824. You have referred to the third article of the agreement of 1826 providing that cultivation should be confined to a certain extent. I do not quite understand whether that restriction still exists?—That restriction went with the agreement. The agreement was put a stop to about 1829 or the beginning of 1830.

21,825. You say that we have no agreement with the Native States by which they engage to manage their cultivation so as to safeguard the revenue. Although we have no agreement, have we no understanding of any kind?—No understanding of any sort I think. The British revenue from opium depends on the export duty. It is protected by the British territory encircling the Native territory. We levy a duty on opium that goes towards the seaboard.

21,826. You say that possession of a poppy field shows that the cultivator has a good position in the village. I do not understand why that should be. Why might not a poor man have a small poppy field as well as a wealthy cultivator a big field?—We usually find that the best land goes to the best and most prosperous cultivators.

21,827. I suppose that is another way of saying that the best land makes the richest man?—You generally find that the house with the most expensive rent goes to the person who has the most money. In the same way if you have land of high value the probabilities are that it will not be let to the man who has got nothing.

21,828. You have stated that the people do not regard the moderate use of opium as in any way disgraceful. I understand your evidence to be rather of a general character. You do not make that statement with reference to any particular district, but as a result of your impression of the district over which you have supervision?—I refer to Central India and other parts of India where I have been. I have given the general result of what I know on the subject, especially with regard to the enquiries which I have made since the Royal Commission was announced. My attention was not directed much to opium in former times. I used to ask about it when I inspected the jails. Sometimes the men were suffering from the want of opium. In British jails opium is stopped directly the prisoner enters. He then becomes ill, and they give him opium again until he gets well. In the Native jails the practice is to ask a man whether he takes opium, and if he says yes, they say "you require it for your health," and they give it to him.

21,829. You say that the fact that opium is not prohibited, goes to show that it is not injurious. You would not go so far as to say that the rulers of all

the Native states attempt to put down what they believe to be injurious?—They forbid opium-smoking. I asked several of them, and they said that if a man smokes opium, he becomes yellow and dries up and is perfectly useless. They did not condemn it on moral grounds; they merely said it destroys the man, and on that ground they felt bound to prohibit the smoking of opium. In the same way I say that if the eating of opium made a man turn yellow, dried him up and made him useless, the Chiefs would probably stop it, just as they stopped opium-smoking.

21,830. You do not go so far as to say that the rulers of these Native States practically stop that which they regard as injurious in reference to other matters?—I could not make a general statement of that kind.

21,831. As one example, is not hook-swinging still common in some of these districts?—I never heard of a case in Central India.

21,832. So far as Central India is concerned, you think it does not exist?—I have not heard of a case since I have been here. It might happen in an out-of-the-way place without my hearing of it. But I think I should have known of it.

21,833. I wish to ask you a general question as to the extent of the control that we profess to exercise over the proceedings of these Native rulers. You say it would not be right to do this and that; but as a matter of fact do we not to a considerable extent interfere with their individual liberty to put down what we consider abuses?—It is rather difficult to answer a question of that kind. The general rule that guides our interference with Native States is this. We have the chief power in India, and we are the main support which these States have at their back. We are therefore bound to see that the ruler of the State does not commit atrocious crimes or acts of gross oppression over his subjects. That would be the rule of our interference.

21,834. To take a case that has been raised before in this connection, what did we do in reference to the practice of suttee?—I should have to read up the history of it to give a satisfactory answer on that point. My recollection is that we did nothing beyond giving advice and pointing out to the chiefs that we considered that suttee was an objectionable practice, and that it was desirable that it should be discontinued. I do not think we did more than that. In the case of Indore we made a treaty stating that the British Government has no concern in the internal administration of the State or with the Maharaja's subjects and servants, over whom he is absolute. Of course, if the Maharaja were to commit atrocities or anything of that kind we should be obliged to interfere; otherwise, ordinarily, we do not interfere at all. He is responsible for the administration.

21,835. (*Chairman.*) In short, it comes to this, that if his rule is of such a character that you can call it gross misrule, you do interfere?—Yes.

21,836. And from time to time the British Government has stepped in and has appointed a council of regency, or a resident or an officer of its own who has taken charge of the Government for the time being. That has been where the misrule has been of such a character as to be described as gross. It is a question of degree?—Government would have to intervene and take the State out of the hands of the ruler if he were utterly incompetent.

21,837. (*Mr. Wilson.*) In the case of the smaller States, what you call Estates, we exercise a great deal more influence and persuasion?—We do not treat them with the same amount of political difference that we do the bigger States. With regard to criminal jurisdiction many of them are in a manner subordinate to the British Government. The evidence is often enquired into by the political agent. The guaranteed Thakur tries petty cases.

21,838. You say that there is a varying amount of control on the part of the British Government?—Yes.

21,839. Without entering into minute details I suppose that covers the ground?—I suppose it would, you might take it in that way. As regards the internal part, the cultivation and management of a petty Chief's estates, we do not interfere more than we do in the case of an important State. We are not bound by treaty in the same way as we are with the big chiefs. It must be recalled, however, that these guaranteed estates are nearly all part and parcel of the big State which covers them all by the treaty. The

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guaranteed estates are very peculiar. We have guaranteed their tenures and in that way to protect them against the Suzerain States. For example, take the state of Indore, because it is one with which we have treaties. Under Indore there is the petty Chief who has perhaps a small estate with an income of R. 25,000. We maintain him in his rights intact, and his jurisdiction in criminal and civil matters is a mere matter of custom which is very often extremely difficult to determine. But with regard to the interior economy of his state he is left perfectly free, and he is included under the Sovereign State in which the estate is situated.

21,840. You have referred to the profits of the cultivator and to cultivation being popular?—Yes.

21,841. Of course you are speaking to us about a great extent of country and a variety of conditions of life. Do I understand that it is your general opinion that on the whole the cultivation is everywhere profitable?—In Central India I think it is, certainly. They like their poppy crop just as a man likes to have an orchard round his cottage at home. They like to have poppy flowers and they like to have the opium.

21,842. You think that it is at present profitable?—It is certainly profitable or they would not grow it.

21,843. Has there not been a considerable falling off in price?—Yes, in price and in profit. The profit is getting very low, but in spite of that they are cultivating it. Last year and the year before the general report I had was that poppy cultivation was being discontinued, that it was decreasing, and that there were complaints that it did not pay, that the people were being ruined, and so on. This year I have not heard those complaints. They say that they have a plentiful supply of water. There have been two good rainy seasons, and the wells are full so that they can cultivate the poppy. They told me in places where I was travelling this year that they were sowing opium to a considerable extent, having plenty of water.

21,844. I suppose there is no inducement in any of these states in the way of advances from the State, as in the case of the Bengal Monopoly advances?—No, I do not think that there are any advances of money directly. The money is advanced by the village money lender or the opium merchants.

21,845. (Mr. Mowbray.) With regard to the question of our interference with native states I rather gathered from you that it was what I may call an executive interference in the case of maladministration rather than an interference in the direction of legislation in those states?—We do not at all interfere with legislation.

21,846. I presume that if such a prohibition as has been proposed were carried out in British India and extended to the native states it would have to be done by legislation in those states?—It would have to be done entirely by the native chiefs themselves. We could not prohibit opium cultivation in a native state any more than we could prohibit it in France.

21,847. To stop it would require legislation rather than executive action on the part of the native state, would it not?—They would simply issue an order saying that opium was not to be cultivated, and afterwards they would have to enforce it, which would be an extremely difficult thing to do.

21,848. Are there any factories in Central India—cotton or paper factories or anything of that kind?—There is a large cotton mill here which belongs to the Maharaja Holkar.

21,849. Has any suggestion ever been made to the Government of his Highness that the recent factory legislation of the Indian Government should be extended to his State?—Yes, I suggested that myself, and he said that it was absolutely unnecessary, that the people were quite happy.

21,850. Is that the only instance in which you suggested the extension of the recent factory legislation?—There was a small State that said they would try to make something like a Factory Act for themselves, and I think the headman of the State drew up a kind of Act modelled on the Indian Factory Act.

21,851. I suppose the factory question is a very infinitesimal one in Central India, that the number of factories is very small?—Yes. In Baghelkhand a big factory has been started employing a great number of

hands and conferring a great benefit on the people. I have been over it myself. It is an immense benefit to the husband, the wife, and the children, all earning money. They are able to take it easy, and there is no pressure upon them to work as there is in European countries. They can always take a holiday, whenever they like.

21,852. With regard to another measure of the Indian Government, the Age of Consent Bill, has any attempt been made to induce the natives to carry out similar legislation?—No, that is beyond the scope of our interference. I do not think we should have a right to ask them to do anything with regard to the marriage laws and things of that kind.

21,853. You think that such a suggestion would be beyond the scope of your authority?—Of course it would be possible to suggest anything, but our ordinary practice would not go so far as that.

21,854. I suppose you would consider the cultivation and consumption of opium to be a matter concerning a common domestic habit and more difficult to deal with?—It is entirely within their jurisdiction. You could not touch it without infringing on their rights.

21,855. I suppose as a matter of argument a distinction can be drawn between prohibiting cultivation in the States, and prohibiting the import through our territory?—Of course we have a perfect right to do as we like in our own territory, but it would be really an extremely unjust and unfair thing to do. With regard to people like the Maharaja of Gwalior and the Maharaja Holkar we fought them in battle and had great difficulties. Then we made treaties which we called treaties of lasting friendship. We were always to be bound by the most friendly relations. It seems to me that if they had known that we were going to reserve the right to stop one of their articles of produce and destroy a portion of their revenue they would rather not have had the treaty, but would have fought it out. I think that with a fair gentlemanly construction of the agreement that we should be friends. It would not be fair to turn round and say, "We are going to put on such an import duty as will prevent your exporting one of your principal articles of commerce."

21,856. I suppose one might go a step farther and say that though, as you have told us, there is no agreement or even understanding, with regard to any assistance on the part of the native Chiefs, so to manage the opium traffic as to safeguard the British revenue, still as a matter of fact our pass duty is levied with comparative ease, owing to our being in cordial relations with the native Chiefs and their regarding us as treating them fairly?—As regards the levying of the pass duty, I do not think that the cordiality of the relations with the native chiefs would affect it very much. The opium simply comes into the scales and goes off by railway. We have the things in our own hands. Where it would affect our cordial relations with the Chiefs would be as regards smuggling. It is so easy to smuggle opium, and the devices are so ingenious, that if you had the native states against you I doubt if you could possibly prevent it.

21,857. (Mr. Fanshawe.) I understand you to say that the prohibition in an independent native State of the growth of the poppy or the opium trade is not a question in which interference would be justifiable, regard being had to treaty rights and obligations and the policy of the Government?—We should have no right whatever to do it.

21,858. Has there been any precedent, so far as you know, which might be relied on as a justification for such an act of interference as the prohibition of the growth of the poppy and the use of opium except for medical purposes would be?—No, there is no precedent for any interference of that kind. I suppose the salt case would come as near as anything, and we concluded that matter by treaty, paying a very high compensation, I do not know of anything else which can be at all taken as a precedent.

21,859. And that was entirely a matter of arrangement with the States on the grounds of fair and full compensation?—Yes, it was a bargain.

21,860. Referring to the antiquity of poppy cultivation you are no doubt aware that in the *Ain-i-Akhbari* the poppy is stated to be a staple product of the Malwa province?—Yes.

21,861. When you except the Bohras from the castes that consume opium, I understand you to be referring to a Shia sect of Mahomedans?—Yes.

21,862. With reference to your remarks about the best and most prosperous class of peasantry cultivating poppy in this part of India, we have heard that both in Behar and in the northern part of India the market gardener, that is the Kachhi or the Koeri, is the chief poppy cultivator, that he generally has a small holding, and that though he is a good cultivator he is not necessarily a large or prosperous man. Are you referring to a different class here?—Yes. Poppy is cultivated by the Kachhis here too. Some of them have large holdings; they have irrigated fields with the best soil, in which they would grow poppy when the circumstances were favourable.

21,863. (*Chairman.*) I gather from you that the question of the expediency of our interference in the government of a Native State in the name of the Queen-Empress, who is the acknowledged suzerain over all India, depends upon the nature of the occasion?—Yes. I think it might generally be said that we have no right to interfere except where we are bound to do so in case of gross misrule. In such cases, in the interests of justice and humanity, and in order to protect the people against a ruler whom they would destroy at once if we were not here, we are bound to interfere.

The witness withdrew.

Lieut.-Colonel ROBERTSON called in and examined.

21,867. (*Chairman.*) What is your present position?—I am the Political Agent of Baghelkhand and Superintendent of the Rewah State, but have recently been engaged under the orders of the Agent to the Governor-General in collecting data for the whole of Central India regarding the production, consumption, export of, and revenue derived from opium, in order that, so far as was possible, reliable information might be presented to the Royal Commission. The Chiefs of Native States are, as a rule, suspicious of interference in their affairs, and dislike the trouble of having to supply any information about administrative questions, and unless special measures had been taken to explain what was required, and to urge upon them the importance of supplying the best information available, the matter would probably have been regarded as an ordinary and unimportant question of routine to be treated with indifference. There is good reason for believing that the annual opium produce statements submitted by the States to Government have been prepared in a perfunctory manner, without any sufficient inquiry, or genuine attempt to obtain reliable figures, such as has been made in the present instance. In order to present the main points of the case for Central India in a comprehensive manner, I have prepared* a statement which shows the States grouped in the order of their importance from the opium revenue point of view; it gives the estimated produce, and revenue arising therefrom, but for reasons which I will subsequently explain it was not found possible to tabulate particulars about consumption. The States comprising the A. and B. groups are all to be found in the tract known as Malwa, of which the district around Indore is roughly the centre. It is in this fertile region, rarely, if ever, visited by famine, that opium is mostly produced. Beyond its limits the conditions of soil and climate are, or by the conservative traditions of the country are supposed to be, less favourable to the cultivation of the poppy. Central India is divided into two unequal parts. The western and more important portion, in which Malwa is situated, contains 100 States, including Gwalior, Indore, Bhopal, and several others largely interested in opium, whilst the eastern division, comprising Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand, with about 33 per cent. of the total population, which is geographically a separate tract, does not grow enough opium for its local consumption, and is consequently much less interested in the questions under consideration than the States in and around Malwa. In submitting my evidence the primary object I have in view is to represent, as dispassionately as possible, what I believe to be the opinions held by the many persons in Native States with whom my enquiries have brought me into contact.

21,868. Did you anticipate that there would be some

21,864. Taking the question before us, suppose that opium was in our judgment an article that ought to be controlled, that we regarded it as inevitably a poison, and could not be taken and never was taken without involving serious moral and physical degradation; if you could take such an extreme view as that of the opium habit, you might feel yourself called upon, on moral grounds, to press upon the native ruler the question of prohibition?—In that extreme case, if the use of opium invariably involved moral degradation and destroyed the people, we should represent that fact to the Native State. We should say to the Chief, "You see that all these people are dying from taking this drug; you ought to make some arrangement to stop it." We should give that advice. But that is a hypothetical case.

21,865. It depends upon your appreciation of the intensity of the evil wrought by the particular article that you were dealing with?—We might advise him and say, "This is doing harm," and he might say, "On the contrary, I think it is doing a great deal of good," and decline to stop it.

21,866. So long as the question was open to any sort of doubt, you would say you could not interfere?—I do not think we ought.

trouble in inducing some of the Native Governments to supply the full information you desired, and did you think it necessary to take special measures to explain what was required, and urge the importance of supplying the best information available?—Yes, I framed and circulated 62 questions* which were sent to the Political Officers of Central India. A copy was sent to each Political Agent with a demi-official letter explaining exactly what was required. The Native States of Central India, as a rule, with the exception of the large States of Indore and Gwalior, are extremely backward in their modes of administration, and unless the matter had been fully explained to them, they would have been unable to supply the full information which the Royal Commission would require. The action I took was merely with a view of explaining what were the points on which information was required, leaving it of course to the people themselves to say what they thought proper. For the sake of convenience, I propose to divide my remarks under the heading of:—(1.) Production; (2.) Consumption; (3.) Export and trade; (4.) The direct revenue derived from opium by Native States, and the interests which would have to be taken into account were it necessary to consider the question of compensation; (5.) The enforcement in Native States of the prohibition of cultivation and production, except for medical purposes, were this measure undertaken by British India; (6.) The prohibition of export through British territory.

21,869. The first great subject that you have had to deal with is that of production?—Yes, the total area under opium in the Native States of Central India is returned as 510,763 bighas. I am afraid that this total can only be accepted as approximate. The practice is to assess for a term of years all irrigated land capable of producing opium, at rates which vary from Rs. 5 to Rs. 25 per bigha. It is assumed, and probably with good reason, that, as opium is, looking to the time, labour, and capital required for its production, undoubtedly the most profitable crop, all holders of land assessed on the irrigated scale will ordinarily grow it, but the fields are not inspected at each harvest to see whether other crops have been grown instead of opium, or whether any land has been allowed to lie fallow. The cultivators pay at the same rate whatever crop they raise, or even whether they cultivate or not. It is evident then, that with such imperfect supervision, there is nothing upon which an entirely reliable estimate of the area of opium cultivation could be based, though, for the purpose of a preliminary inquiry, and a summary estimate of the interests involved, the figures given, being the best information available, may be accepted as approximately correct. Except in such portions of their territories as are

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comprised in jagirs (*i.e.*, alienations of land made for maintenance or in lieu of payment for service) there is no one intermediate between the chiefs and their cultivators. The land revenue is assessed, generally on some fixed scale, according to the class of land, and whether irrigated or not, for a term of years, and is collected either by State officials direct or through contractors. We have no information regarding the relations between the jagirdars and their tenants, as the former furnish none to the Darbars, but in these estates the position is much the same as in the Khalsa, the jagirdar taking the place of the Chief. The yield of poppy milk may on the average be taken to be $5\frac{1}{2}$ seers (11 lbs.) per bigha. The total produce of Central India works out therefore to $510,763 \times 5\frac{1}{2} = 2,809,196$ seers. It takes 16 dharis* of crude opium to make a chest (140 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.) of the manufactured drug; the total out-turn of opium in these States is therefore on this calculation 35,115 chests annually. The figures, however, given by the States, as entered in statements A. B. and C. work out to a total of 35,911 chests. The latter estimate I accept as approximately correct. The average export is shown further on to be 25,082 chests,† the balance of 10,829 chests must therefore be divided between provincial exports, consumption and increase to stocks. There is nothing peculiar about the cultivation in Malwa, except that in the collection of the juice it is put into a vessel full of oil, in order, it is said to retard the process of inspissation. For this reason Malwa opium takes longer to dry, and is regarded with some disfavour by the outside public as having an aperient tendency. The crude opium is, under the custom by which Indian agriculturists have a running account with the village banker, in which they are mostly on the wrong side, usually sold, sometimes before it is gathered, to a middleman or money lender, who disposes of it to a dealer who may or may not be an exporter; the middleman may himself be the dealer. The manufacture requires little or no technical or scientific knowledge, involving merely kneading with the hands and making up the crude opium, which after manipulation becomes of the consistency of dough, into balls of about 1 lb. in weight; these are then covered with a coating of poppy-leaf dust, and allowed to dry and harden. Opium improves by keeping, and is sometimes kept for two years before being exported. It is estimated that there are now 55,000 chests of opium‡ held in stock by the merchants of the chief towns in Malwa, and that, owing to dull trade, stocks are steadily increasing. The profit made by the cultivator on each bigha of opium cultivation§ is variously estimated at from Rs. 22 to Rs. 8, but there are so many different points, either to be taken into account or omitted from the calculation under varying circumstances or contingencies, that it is unprofitable to attempt to frame any exact statement of such profits, which could be held applicable to the whole of Central India. It is, however, admitted on all sides that opium is by far the most valuable crop that could be grown in Malwa, and that any attempt to supersede it by wheat, linseed, cotton, tobacco, or even sugar-cane, must, apart altogether from the dislike with which these extremely conservative people would regard the proposal to change their methods of agriculture, result in widespread loss to the cultivators. The suggestion to substitute indigo for opium, is met at once by the reply that its cultivation is not understood. The two most promising crops which might be raised in place of opium seem to be tobacco and sugar-cane, but really good tobacco of high enough quality to command a market elsewhere, cannot it is said, be produced in Malwa, and the same remark applies to sugar-cane and the juice which could be expressed therefrom. To this crop, moreover, there is the additional objection that it takes quite a twelvemonth to come to maturity, and requires more water than is available as a continuance in Malwa. The cultivation of opium is enhanced in value by the disposal of the seeds and poppyheads, which bring about in about Rs. 8·8 per bigha. Moreover, the same land is available for raising a food-crop (ordinarily maize) during the rains. The young poppy plants, too, when thinned supply a nutritious vegetable, and there is generally room in the irrigation channels for lines of onions.

* One dharī = 5 seers (10 lbs.)

† Deducting the 5,663 chests of Meywar opium weighed at Udaipur and the 5,000 chests of Rajputana opium weighed in Central India. (*vide* remarks under the trade and export.)

‡ The greater portion of which (about 48,000) are in Gwalior and Indore.

§ Including the preceding maize crop.

21,870. Is it possible to make an estimate of the amount of opium consumed in Central India which would be considered accurate?—It is practically impossible, the materials for calculation being so unreliable, to give even an approximate estimate of the amount of opium consumed in Central India. For small tracks rough estimates have been attempted, but these are purely guess work, and to apply such calculations to the whole of the Province would be entirely misleading. In the first place, the produce cannot, as I have explained, be accurately gauged; and in the second place, the system of retail sale is so limited in extent, and at the same time so imperfectly controlled, that no safe deductions can be hazarded as regards either the number of consumers, or the amount they consume. All over Malwa there is no limit to the possession of opium. Cultivators can either sell or keep as much as they please, and except in some of the large towns, the States make no attempt to obtain a revenue from retail sale. The exception to this rule is in the districts of Northern and North-Eastern Gwalior which lie outside Malwa; also in Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand. In these districts the produce of opium merely suffices for local consumption, or the drug has to be imported from outside; the right to sell by retail, mostly in towns, is ordinarily sold by auction, the purchaser being allowed to start shops wherever he pleases. No statistics of consumption are available for these tracts of country, but, except perhaps in Gwalior, Samthar and Rewah, looking to the moderate revenue which the chiefs derive, the consumption can hardly be considerable. In Indore the retail price of opium is, at the rate of Rs. 12 per seer, about 7 tolas weight for one rupee. Throughout Malwa there are undoubtedly a very large number of consumers; indeed, opium eating is so common that it attracts no notice. It is almost invariably given to children from their birth until they are three or four years old, without, so far as is known, any harmful result or difficulty in weaning them from the habit. After middle age, in the case especially of cultivators or those who have to undergo exposure, habitual opium-eating, without any signs of general debauchery, and without any visible detriment to the public health, is the rule rather than the exception. The drug thus taken is regarded as the staff of life, and, rightly or wrongly, believed to be highly beneficial for warding off fatigue or mitigating suffering. It is in most cases impossible for the non-professional eye to detect who is and who is not an opium-eater, unless the drug is taken to excess, and I have met very few of such instances. What constitutes a normal dose is a doubtful point. From my enquiries it varies from 6 to 40 grains per diem. Many consumers do not know the exact weight of their daily allowance, but measure it merely by the eye. They talk of their opium as weighing so many *ratīs* or *mashas*,* but in many cases that have been tested, the weight has been found to be more than was supposed. There is no social disadvantage or disqualification attached to the use (eating) as distinguished from the abuse of the drug. Smoking, on the other hand, is thought to be rather dissipated, probably from the fact that the smoking places are more or less public and frequented by all sorts and conditions of men. Smoking is discouraged by some States. In the two principal States, Gwalior and Indore, for instance, it is a penal offence; in Rutlam and Jaora one shop only is licensed in the capital town. The practice of smoking in Central India is by no means a general one, and such evil effects as arise therefrom must be of very limited extent. In Malwa there are a large number of Rajput Thakurs, some of whom owe their political existence to our mediation and support. Amongst them the *kasumba* custom, which has doubtless been already described, is in full force. Those persons who know them best anticipate that it would be extremely difficult to eradicate this custom. I am now in my twenty-ninth year of Indian service, which comprises over 23 years of civil, magisterial, and political work in various parts of India, *viz.*, in Mysore, Hyderabad, the Central Provinces, Rajputana, and over 11 years of Central India. I was for four years First Assistant Agent to the Governor-General at Indore. During the past five years I have been Superintendent of the Rewah State (about 13,000 square miles in extent with a population of over 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ million)—an appointment necessitating a close acquaintance with

* 1 Rati = about 2 grains.
1 Mashā " 15 "
1 Tola " 180 "
2 $\frac{1}{2}$ tolas " 1 ounce.

the habits and customs of the people. Throughout my service I have mixed very freely with natives of all classes, living often without any European society, but I have never come across, in Central India or elsewhere any evidence of general opium debauchery, nor do I remember to have either seen or heard of a case in which a man was found creating a disturbance on the road, or lying drunk and incapable from opium; nor with a considerable magisterial experience, both in Native States and British India, can I recollect ever having had to deal with a case in which the crime could even remotely be attributed to the effects of this drug. It is, from my experience, as incorrect to say that habitual consumers invariably increase their daily doses, as to assert that a moderate allowance of whisky and soda necessarily leads to drunkenness. If desired I can produce before the Royal Commission a number of moderate opium-eaters at Indore, who will show the amount they take daily now, and depose for how long they have consumed the same dose.

21,871. What have you to say on the subject of trade and export?—The system in force is that all opium for export to Bombay for China, must be brought to one of our scales, where it is weighed, and the duty, which constitutes our Imperial revenue (now Rs. 600 per chest of 140½ lbs.), is levied. There are altogether eight scales at convenient centres under Indore, and in each case, except at the head quarters and one other place, the establishment is paid through us by the State in whose territory the scales are situated. After weighment the opium is sent under guard, and special railway arrangements to Bombay, where it is delivered to the Customs authorities. The amount of opium exported through our scales has, during the past 15 years, averaged 35,345 chests (of 140½ lbs.) per annum, including 1,716 chests weighed at Udaipur and 3,547 chests weighed at Chitor. This is without taking into account the supplies sent to the Punjab (via Ajmere), Hyderabad, Mysore, Madras, Coorg, Berar, or Baroda for local consumption. Such opium is usually of an inferior description, but, in the case of Hyderabad, Madras, and Berar, being intended for excise purposes, it pays a higher duty, viz., Rs. 700 per chest, which is ultimately realised by the State or Province to which the export is made, the Imperial revenue deriving no advantage therefrom. As regards Mysore, Coorg, and Baroda no duty is levied here; the localities make their own arrangements. Under the system in force, it is not possible to determine from what particular State opium weighed at any one of the scales has come. Nor can the States themselves supply this information. I may add that all the opium weighed is not the produce of Central India. Chitor and Udaipur are in Rajputana, and the opium weighed there (about 5,263 chests) is not grown in Central India; whilst Jhallawar, Kotah, and some States in Rajputana also send their opium (about 5,000 chests per annum) to Indore, Ujjain, and Mandisor. It may be mentioned that between 300 and 400 chests of opium grown in Central India are exported to States in Rajputana without passing through any scales. So long as this opium does not enter British territory there is no restriction upon the transport. The native merchants assert that only pure opium is sent to China, but their test, besides that of the feel, is mainly confined to filtering, by which farinaceous adulteration, if slight, cannot be detected. An officer of the Bengal Opium Agency, who came to Indore to buy Malwa opium for Government excise purposes in 1883, ascertained, by means of the tincture of iodine test, that 2½ per cent. of the opium brought for purchase was adulterated with farinaceous matter. Presumably the Chinese do not find this out, as they would refuse to pay a high price for adulterated stuff. If they did discover adulteration it would probably cease, as the same duty is levied on all opium, good or bad, and it would not do to export inferior stuff. It will be seen from the statement* accompanying that there has of late years been a fairly steady decrease in weighments, due to a falling off in the trade, occasioned by prices which have at times ruled so low that rates at Shanghai were about the same or even less than those at Indore. Quotations are now Rs. 39 per dhari for new, to Rs. 42 for old opium, whereas 15 years ago as much as Rs. 85 were realised. Merchants have been obliged, in order to free capital, to export at a loss; and generally speaking the good times which opium exporters formerly enjoyed are gone, probably never to return. A chest of opium now

costs in Indore Rs. 492,* excluding the British Government duty of Rs. 600, or Rs. 1,092 in all. Some merchants with whom I have discussed the situation mentioned that on recent shipments a profit of Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 per chest had been made, but that rates were then falling. At the present time trade is again somewhat brisker, and weighments have in consequence been heavier. The opium export trade, fluctuating and uncertain though it may be, still possesses attractions for local traders. One of the sources of its popularity is the speculative dealing for forward delivery, known locally as *satta* or time-bargains. In these transactions it is not intended that the opium sold shall be delivered, and they are practically wagers on a rise or fall in prices. Settling is effected on rates fixed, generally at the full moon, by a committee of merchants in one of the important trading centres, of which Indore, Rutlam, and Ujjain are the chief. These risky transactions, which are often of immense extent, naturally result occasionally in financial disaster to trading firms, but though spoken of in a deprecatory manner by many persons *satta* still flourishes, and the bargains are taxed by some States. Independent, however, of these speculations there is a large *bonâ fide* trade in opium, the benefits accruing from which are shared by the chiefs and their *ryots* as well as by merchants. A considerable amount of poppy seed is also exported, figures for which I will produce as soon as they are received from the railways with whom I have communicated.† It is impossible to ascertain with any approach to accuracy the amount of capital engaged in the opium trade, as the merchants are not unnaturally reticent about this part of their business, but from common report, and to judge by the yearly weighments and stocks held awaiting export, the total capital can hardly be less than three crores. Any radical change, such as a sudden cessation in the supply, or a diminished value of the drug, would certainly involve many firms in bankruptcy. There would, moreover, be no scope for the profitable employment in Malwa of the capital held by firms who were sufficiently wealthy to weather such a crisis, and were it diverted to another Province the important mercantile towns of Indore, Ujjain, Mandsaur, Rutlam, Jaora, Dhar, and indeed the whole country, would suffer considerably.

21,872. Your next head is the direct revenue derived from opium by Native States, and the interests which would have to be taken into account were it necessary to consider the question of compensation?—The direct revenue realised by the States is derived from :—1. Land revenue. 2. Taxing the crude opium. 3. A local export duty. 4. Various minor imposts, such as taxes upon entering manufacturing towns, on sales, on speculations, &c. 5. Sale of the monopoly of retail sale. In Indore the State has the monopoly of manufacturing rubba opium, an inferior kind prepared by extracting particles of the drug from the cloth bags in which the crude stuff has been brought to the manufacturing centres. The direct revenue from opium under all headings which must be taken into account in estimating the probable losses amounts to Rs. 70,81,252. I have alluded pointedly to the uncertainty which attaches to estimates of opium produce, but the figures about direct revenue enjoyed by the States may, in most cases, be accepted as reliable. To some of the States the loss which a prohibition of cultivation and production must entail would be a very serious matter, not only to the exchequers of the Chiefs, but also to their cultivators. The compensation payable would have to be on a liberal scale, and claims would certainly be made, not only on behalf of cultivators compelled to raise less profitable crops, but also by traders, some of whom would be ruined, whilst others might be obliged to

	Rs.	a.
* Price of crude opium -	368	0
State duty -	37	0
Brokerage -	4	0
Charity -	1	0
Agency and conveyance charges -	5	14
Cost of manufacture -	10	9
Interest on capital Rs. 500 at 6 annas per cent. for 18 months -	45	0
Packing, &c. -	4	8
Export duty -	16	2
Total -	492	1

+ Note by witness : The following figures have since been received, showing the export of poppy seed from stations on
the Rajputana Malwa Railway - " " "
Do., Indian Midland Railway - " " "

Total . . . Mds. 2,201,160

* For this statement, see Appendix XI.

Representing a money value of Rs. 8,80,640.

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*Lieut.-Col. D.
Robertson.*

6 Feb. 1894

Lieut.-Col. D.
Robertson.

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transfer their business elsewhere. None of the important States are prepared to make a definite claim for compensation without an exhaustive inquiry which would probably enhance rather than lessen the present roughly-prepared estimate. This amounts roughly for cultivators to Rs. 66,38,080, for merchants Rs. 23,04,363, or, including the direct losses which would fall upon States, a grand total of Rs. 1,60,23,695, a large portion of which would, for some years at any rate, be required as a yearly payment. This estimate does not include the sums expended on irrigation works, under which the opium cultivation is in ordinary seasons protected from drought, and which, were the growth of opium prohibited, would, it is asserted, yield an insignificant return on the capital expenditure. The Indore authorities assess this outlay at Rs. 33,000,000. The necessary investigation to determine the exact amount of compensation payable under all headings would take several months to complete; it would even then be difficult to check the results arrived at, whilst attempts to curtail exaggerated claims would raise general discontent. Before quitting this section of my evidence I should perhaps allude to the charitable institutions and works of public utility which are maintained, not only by the opium merchants themselves, but also by the British Government out of the cesses levied on each chest. These comprise, on behalf of the merchants, a system of religious charities; and, on the part of Government, a widespread scheme of affording gratuitous medical relief to the people, and of maintaining roads, which are of considerable public advantage, besides the support of schools.

21,873. The next point is the propriety or practicability of enforcing in Native States the prohibition of cultivation and production except for medical purposes. What, in your view, would be the only justification for such a prohibition?—I do not propose to discuss the question whether the British Government would have the right, under existing treaties or usage, to forbid the States to cultivate opium, but I may perhaps be justified in assuming that no such interference would be exercised until it had been conclusively demonstrated that the cultivation of the poppy in British India was, on general grounds, indefensible. In the course of my recent visits to the various States, I have had many opportunities of discussing the question with the chiefs concerned, as well as with their officials, merchants, and cultivators, and can claim to speak with some degree of certainty with respect to the popular feeling. There can be little doubt that any interference at all, even with liberal compensation, would be most unpopular, and the prevailing feeling is an utter inability to understand the *raison d'être* or necessity for the present inquiry.* No reasonable person, whose perception of the proportion of things is not clouded by preconceived notions, can truthfully assert that there is any such general debauchery from the consumption of opium in Central India as might be held to justify special intervention; more specially too, interference which, in the opinion of many people, would tend to ruin the country. There would be much difficulty, and no little danger of exciting a popular outbreak, in carrying prohibition into effect. The qualification about supplies for medical purposes is absolutely impracticable. There are neither licensed chemists, nor, with the exception of those educated under our system of medicine, very few of whom are to be found in Central India, qualified medical practitioners who could be considered competent to judge and certify whether a man took opium for his health's sake or merely as an indulgence. Anyone who can induce people to believe in his skill or occult power may become a medical practitioner, and a Native gentleman of Rewah informed me the other day that one of the most popular children's doctors in that locality was a scavenger, whose *modus operandi*, besides dispensing reputedly efficacious prescriptions, was to make mystic signs before his patients with a broom.

The Nawab of Jaora, a Mahomedan Chief, will, I hope, appear before the Royal Commission; and the evidence recorded by the Minister of Indore, under the heading "Political Danger," may be taken to represent in great part the sentiments of the Native public in reference to the proposal to prohibit the cultivation of opium.

21,874. With regard to your last head, the stoppage of export through British India, our power to maintain the present arrangement rests, does it not, upon the geographical circumstance that we hold the seaboard?—Yes. There are no treaties or engagements now in force to regulate the transport of opium through British India, excepting an incidental reference to opium in the salt agreements with three States* under which they bind themselves to prohibit the export from their States of *bhang*, *ganja*, spirits, opium or other intoxicating drugs or preparations, by all routes, and in all directions heretofore barred by the Inland Customs line. The maintenance of the present arrangements rests mainly upon our possession of the seaboard, to which none of the States can have access, except by crossing our territory. Were we to forbid opium to be transported to Bombay, the result would probably be at first to stimulate consumption not only in the Native States, but also in the surrounding British districts. Opium is very portable, and it would practically be impossible to check smuggling even were the frontier carefully guarded. Sooner or later about two-thirds of the opium-growing land would be thrown out of cultivation, or, if the cultivated area remained unchanged, as opium produced at the present rate would be unsaleable except at a low price, it would be necessary for the chiefs to reduce their assessments all round on irrigated land. In either case the result would be a considerable loss of revenue, which the Chiefs, who, as a rule, live well up to their incomes, could ill afford. They would naturally look to the British Government to compensate them, as well as their cultivators and their merchants. If this claim were rejected on the plea that we were under no engagement to allow opium to pass through our territory, much discontent would inevitably arise. The Chiefs would probably argue that to terminate arbitrarily and without compensation an arrangement which had been in force for many years, and to further which they had, so far as they were able, loyally co-operated, was a harsh measure, altogether at variance with the friendly relations and solicitude for their welfare which the supreme Government had always endeavoured to maintain. Moreover, a large preventive establishment would be necessary; for the Chiefs are now acting with us, in the sense that their interests in opium are intermingled with ours, in recognition of which they pay for the establishments maintained at all scales, except Indore and Rutlam. It is well known even now that smuggling does exist, even though the Chiefs may wish to stop it. We could expect no sympathy or assistance under an altered arrangement, as the position would be entirely different when it came to be a question of hostile interests and our endeavouring to keep their opium out of British India. The dangers of spreading a network of necessarily underpaid subordinate officials, in the shape of a preventive establishment, over the country, to harass and extort money from the people, are too obvious to require elucidation. Of the two evils, viz., prohibiting production in Native States, or stopping the transport of opium through British India, the latter would probably be the lesser, in that it would not give rise to any immediate and serious excitement amongst the people, such as might be caused were they to be deprived of what is practically life to many of them. But the effect as regards the discontent of Native Chiefs, and ultimately of their cultivators and merchants, would be much the same. In neither case would the meddlesome philanthropy which prompted our action be appreciated, or even understood, and the political consequences could hardly fail to be dangerous if not disastrous.

* Gwalior, Datia, and Samthar (in Bundelkhand).

The witness withdrew.

Brigade-Surgeon Lieut.-Colonel D.F. KEEGAN, M.D., F.R.C.S., called in and examined.

Brigade-Surgeon
Lieut.-Col.
D. F. Keegan,
M.D.,
F.R.C.S.

21,875. (Sir William Roberts.) You are Residency Surgeon at Indore?—Yes.

21,876. What opportunities have you had of studying the effect of opium in the Malwa States?—I have had nearly 28 years' Indian service, 25 of which have been

passed in Central India; have been through Afghan war in medical charge of Central India Horse, in which regiment there are a large number of Sikhs, and have superintended the Charitable Hospital, Indore, for 13 years. The daily average number of in-patients in this

hospital, varies between 160 and 190, the number of out-patients is about 150 daily. I have therefore had ample opportunities of becoming intimately acquainted with the customs of the natives of this part of this country, and their prevailing diseases.

21,877. Have you reason to believe that opium eating is common in these districts?—Opium eaters constitute a very considerable percentage of adult males—between 20 and 30 of the population of Malwa and Central India. Amongst the Rajputs opium assumes the position in social life and ceremonials accorded to alcohol in other countries.

21,878. For what purpose is the opium habit generally commenced?—The purposes for which the opium habit is contracted are to alleviate rheumatic pains; to cure chronic dysentery and diarrhoea; to act as a prophylactic against malarial fever; to cure diabetes; and it is often taken as an aphrodisiac.

21,879. What is your own personal impression, as to the effect of the moderate use of opium?—The moderate use of small daily doses of opium, is of benefit in the diseases I have mentioned, and enables men to undergo prolonged muscular exertion on a small allowance of food. Its moderate use is neither immoral, degrading nor injurious; nor does its moderate use cause any mental, general or physical deterioration of those who consume it.

21,880. I suppose it is scarcely possible to define in figures, what is a moderate use?—It is extremely difficult.

21,881. Have you had any experience of opium smoking in this part of India?—It is very uncommon, taking into consideration the vast population.

21,882. Have you observed that there is much difficulty in diminishing the quantity of the opium eaters, daily allowance or in stopping the use altogether?—I find that the reduction of an opium eater's daily allowance is neither difficult nor infrequent. I found that out from my position as Superintendent of the jail at Indore.

21,883. What have you learnt with regard to the giving of opium to infants?—Opium is given to a very large percentage of the infant population of the province of Malwa and Central India generally. In Malwa this practice of giving opium is generally begun when the child is 12 or 14 days old; that between 80 and 90 per cent. of the infant population of Malwa gets opium soon after birth; that it is given to the children of both rich and poor; that the dose of opium thus administered, is at first about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a grain, a bit of opium, the size of a mustard seed, twice or three times daily; that the dose is gradually increased until the child takes about two grains of opium daily; that this practice is continued until the child reaches the age of $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 years, and that then the child is gradually weaned from the use of opium. Opium is thus administered to all castes in Malwa, with the exception of the children of Bohras, i.e., Musalmans of the Shia sect. The parents assert that opium thus administered keeps their children happy and contented, and prevents them from crying, and that it acts as a prophylactic against capillary bronchitis, diarrhoea, and other infantile disorders. In my experience this practice of giving opium to children in Malwa exercises no injurious effects on their health.

21,884. Do you think it would be practicable to prohibit the growth of the poppy and the manufacture of opium?—It would, in my opinion, be quite impracticable to prohibit the growth of the poppy, and manufacture and sale of opium except for medical purposes, among Native States, and such prohibition, even if possible, would entail great hardship and suffering on the inhabitants of Malwa and Central India.

21,885. Have you been led to recognise that there is a difference of tolerance between the natives of India and Europeans with regard to opium?—I think there is a difference, the natives tolerate it better, for climatic reasons.

21,886. You put it down to the climate?—Not only the climate, but the general surroundings, clothing, &c.

21,887. You have stated that the practice of taking opium is almost universal; has it occurred to you that the greater tolerance of the natives of India for opium is partly induced by the giving of opium to infants, that an unusual tolerance is caused in that way, and

that that tolerance survives until they begin to take opium again when they are 25, 35 or 40?—I do not think so, because the child is weaned from the use of opium when he is three years of age.

21,888. You think the taking of opium again has nothing to do with having had it when they were children?—No.

21,889. You do not think there would be any effect left on the constitution?—That would be a very difficult question to answer.

21,890. You have not formed an opinion on that?—No.

21,891. Have you seen any evil results from the practice of giving opium to infants?—No.

21,892. Not single examples?—No.

21,893. Have you seen anything in the nature of an accidental dose being given?—Yes, I have seen children poisoned by being given large doses.

21,894. The mothers gave them too much?—Very likely the mothers left the box containing the opium near the children and they got it and ate it.

21,895. That would be a pure accident?—Yes.

21,896. Are the mothers very skilful in the use of opium?—Yes.

21,897. You have not seen any ill effects from the practice itself?—No.

21,898. You have not seen marasmus caused by the practice?—No.

21,899. Are you in a position to say that you have a sufficiently intimate knowledge of the mothers and children in these parts to detect such examples if they occurred?—I think so. I superintend one of the largest native hospitals out of Bombay or Calcutta. I am at the hospital for many hours during the day, and I see native children brought to the hospital every day. I have had a very large experience.

21,900. Is it a fact that the Musalmans of the Shia sect do not take opium?—I do not think any Bohras take it.

21,901. You think opium does act beneficially and prophylactically in malarial fever?—Yes.

21,902. That is a conviction which has grown up in your mind?—Yes.

21,903. You cannot give us any facts beyond the impression?—No, I cannot.

21,904. Is malaria prevalent in these States?—Yes.

21,905. You think the use of opium as a domestic remedy is practically universal?—Yes.

21,906. You mean that there is a little opium kept in every house?—Yes.

21,907. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You say opium is often taken as an aphrodisiac, I suppose that would be among the younger men?—Not always, sometimes the older men use it for this purpose when their powers are failing.

21,908. Do a large number of consumers take it for that purpose?—No, it is only taken occasionally for that, I think.

21,909. (Sir William Roberts.) Is opium much believed in in this part of India as an aphrodisiac?—Yes.

21,910. There are a great many things taken as aphrodisiacs, and opium is one of them?—Yes.

21,911. (Mr. Mowbray.) Is there much opium consumed by women in this part of India?—Yes, a large quantity, not so much, of course, as amongst the males.

21,912. You say the proportion of adult males who take opium is 20 to 30 per cent., can you give any proportion with regard to the women?—I should say about 10 per cent. of the women take it.

21,913. Do they take it in old age or when?—About 35 years of age.

21,914. Is a woman who takes it regarded as worse than any other woman?—No.

21,915. Do you mean among respectable classes of women?—Among all classes, in this part of Western Malwa, especially.

21,916. When you speak of the population of Malwa what area do you include?—The Western States under the Central Indian Agency.

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21,917. (*Mr Wilson.*) You have referred to opium being taken as a prophylactic against fever, do you believe in it yourself as a prophylactic against fever?—I believe in it, and I know the people take it for that reason.

21,918. Do you prescribe it for that purpose?—I occasionally do, not very often.

21,919. To Europeans or natives?—Only to natives.

21,920. You referred to the taking of opium enabling men to undergo prolonged exertion on a small allowance of food, do you mean that is an occasional or an habitual thing?—Habitual among the old men. The old men take a certain quantity of opium and it enables them to do as hard a day's work as their sons.

21,921. Would you say that the habit of taking opium was a desirable one for a young man who was not suffering from any disease?—No, not for a young man who had no disease.

21,922. You do not think the moderate use causes any deterioration?—No, so far as I have been able to recognise.

22,923. Do you regard it as an insidious drug, tending to cause a desire to increase the dose?—No, excepting in certain cases. Amongst a certain number there will be one or two perhaps who go to excess.

21,924. You would not say there was any danger of it tending to make the consumer increase his dose?—No.

21,925. Under what circumstances do opium eaters reduce their daily allowance?—I referred to compulsory reduction when a man is put in jail.

21,926. You refer particularly to prisoners?—Yes.

21,927. Taking the case of a man at large is it difficult for him, with opium within reach, to give up the habit?—I do not think he would like to give up the habit. It is very rarely he discontinues the habit voluntarily.

21,928. Do you think the children of the Musalmans of the Shia sect suffer in any respect for want of it?—As a matter of fact they happen to be the most unhealthy children in this part of the country. The Bohras as a rule in this part of the country are most unhealthy.

21,929. I refer to children?—The children of the Musalmans of the Shia sect are the most unhealthy children, whether it is through not taking opium. I do

not know, but as a matter of fact the children of the Bohras are very unhealthy.

21,930. You do not say it is because they do not take opium that they are unhealthy?—No.

21,931. Do you have a large number of native children come under your notice?—Yes.

71,932. In what way?—At the hospital which I superintend; it is a very large hospital, the daily average number of in patients is between 160 and 190 and there are a large number of out patients.

21,933. We have heard frequently of this habit of giving opium to children, can you suggest any reason why children in England or any other country should not be given it as well here?—None, except that it is the result of cumulative experience. People find out it is a good thing to give their children opium; it is a habit that has descended for many hundreds of years.

21,934. The fact that it stops crying is not always considered an advantage. You would not like to see it extended in England for that purpose?—I do not know, perhaps it would be a good thing if it prevented the children from crying so much.

21,935. Do you think it would be a good thing?—I would not go so far as that, but I have stated that the natives use it for that purpose. That is only one of the reasons. A peasant woman who has to work in the fields gives her child some opium and puts him in a basket in the corner of the hut, or perhaps she takes the child with her to the field, puts him in a small basket and gives him a little opium to keep him quiet. She also gives the baby opium to ward off certain diseases. The natives in this part of the country believe it is a prophylactic against capillary bronchitis and other diseases.

21,936. You would not like to see it extended to England for that purpose?—I have not considered that.

21,937. What is your opinion?—I should say it would be a good thing to stop a child crying at any time.

21,938. (*Chairman.*) Not by administering opium?—I gathered from an answer to a question put by Mr. Wilson that you did not recommend the giving of opium to children at home?—I do not think it is necessary to give it in Europe.

21,939. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You would require to be assured that the tolerance for opium would be the same as in India, the cases are different?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Surgeon-Major DANE called in and examined.

Surgeon-
Major Dane.

21,940. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You are Agency Surgeon at Bhopal?—Yes.

21,941. What service have you had in India?—I have nearly 19 years' service, of which 13 have been in Central India. I also served in Afghanistan in 1879 and 1880, and saw the effects of opium on Sikh and other sepoys.

21,942. What has been your position for the last 10 years?—For the past 10 years I have been in charge of the Bhopal Battalion, which contains about 170 Sikhs, many of whom take opium daily, without any bad effects; also as agency surgeon I spend some three months in the district every year visiting dispensaries and inspecting vaccination work, and thus have very ample opportunities of conversing with natives of all classes. I have always understood that a very large percentage of the cultivating classes take daily doses of opium without any bad effects; that all classes use it as a prophylactic against fevers and dysentery in the rainy season.

21,943. What impression have you gathered as to the effects of opium?—That opium in small doses acts as a powerful stimulant there is no doubt, and under its use men are able to bear fatigue, and get through an amount of physical exertion they would otherwise never accomplish. It also allays the pangs of hunger, and some say of thirst.

21,944. Have you had any experience of opium smoking in these districts?—Opium is but little smoked by the cultivating classes, but there is no doubt that in Bhopal itself, as in other large cities, many men do smoke, and also take the drug in other

ways in excess; but these persons are only a small percentage of the population, and are usually men who have commenced to take the drug to allay pain, such as they suffer in the tertiary stages of syphilis from rheumatism, &c. They are usually the classes which correspond to the gin-drinking population of England.

21,945. In what other way is opium used in the Rajput States?—Also opium is used in excess by the wealthier Rajputs, whose drink of *amal pani* or *kasumbha* represents the excessive consumption of alcohol by the habitual drunkard. Amongst them the principal effect that I have observed from the abuse of the drug is, that they become sterile, and I have had many applications from such men to ask why they cannot beget children. This fact many persons, considering the over-population of India, would look upon as very much in favour of opium consumption.

21,946. Have you gathered any impression as to the feeling of the people with regard to the prohibition of the growth of poppy?—I am at present touring in my districts, and on every side the people are in a terrible state of mind regarding the idea of the cultivation of opium being stopped, as, letting alone the benefits that they consider accrue from its consumption, it is the crop that pays the cultivator's rent. The land where it usually is cultivated is also damp, low-lying land, with heavy soil and not suited for the growth of other crops.

21,947. What is your general impression as to the good or evil effects of the opium habit in these parts?—From what I know of the general use of opium in these parts, I can confidently state that any evils which

may arise from its abuse are fifty times over compensated for by the benefits it confers, letting alone the disturbing effects that any attempt to interfere with its cultivation would have on the temper of the population, and the enormous pecuniary losses they would sustain.

21,948. May I take it that you have had a sufficiently intimate acquaintance with the opium habit, in regard to children, to enable you to say whether it is commonly given to infants?—Among the people in the Bhopal State it certainly is common. All the people except the Bohras give it to their children in infancy.

21,949. Have you observed any ill effects from the practice?—I have frequently seen children overdosed, and I have also seen children given opium much in the same way as the mothers at home give them gin. Their mothers cannot nourish them and they give them excessive quantities of opium.

21,950. Have you seen the soporific effect of the opium habit?—Yes, and marasmus as well.

21,951. How did you distinguish the cases of marasmus in these children from the marasmus we have at home, from indigestion and so forth?—Generally by the confession of the mothers themselves. On enquiring from them I found they had been giving larger quantities of opium to the children than was the custom of the country.

21,952. You distinguish between the *post hoc* and the *propter hoc*?—I ask the mothers of the children how much opium they give them, whether they give them a rati a day, and the answer will probably be that they give them three or four ratils.

21,953. You came to the conclusion that it was from taking opium because you found the quantity given them was excessive?—Yes, the mother probably had not sufficient milk for the child, and so she gave him an extra dose of opium to keep him quiet.

21,954. Have you found that the diminution or cessation of the practice of giving opium causes the children to recover?—I cannot say. When we have a native child as a patient we only see him once perhaps, and after that lose sight of him altogether or at any rate do not see him for weeks.

21,955. So that you are not able to apply a crucial test?—No.

21,956. You have a great many infants pass under your notice, almost all of whom have been given opium. Can you give me any idea how frequently the cases which you considered were marasmus occurred?—One or two cases in a month.

21,957. Do you call that a large proportion? how many children would come under your notice within a month?—I am only speaking of sick children brought to me for that purpose.

21,958. You could not say whether they have recovered or not?—No, because it is not like an English dispensary where you see your patients every day. Perhaps you might see them a week afterwards, perhaps not all.

21,959. Are these Sikhs very moderate consumers?—The Sikh sepoy who takes it, as a rule takes about three grains as a dose. He only takes one dose unless he has something arduous to do and then he takes two, once at morning and once at night.

21,960. Are they habitual consumers?—Some of them are, but the men I have come across only take it when there is an actual need for it.

21,961. The amal pani of the Rajputs you say is used for the purpose of intoxication only on ceremonial occasions and in a very small quantity?—My experience of the people—I see a great deal of these Rajput chiefs—is that they have regular parties to drink the amal pani. They meet at each other's houses and issue invitations to each other.

21,962. Something like the wine parties at home?—Yes, like a wine party at college.

21,963. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Do I understand you to say that it is common among the wealthier Rajputs to take amal pani to excess?—Yes, among the men I have come across.

21,964. Do you mean the Thakurs?—Yes, large land-holders.

21,965. You think that the habit of taking amal pani to excess is common amongst them?—Yes. My experience of the men I have met leads me to that conclusion.

21,966. (Mr. Wilson.) You have used the expression "I have always understood." Do I gather from that that it is only your general impression, or have you made special inquiries with regard to this method?—I travel in the districts in the cold weather for three months. I know the natives. I converse with them, and they have always led me to understand that it is a common custom.

21,967. You have spoken about opium parties. Do those parties result in intoxication?—I do not say the whole party becomes intoxicated, but the daily drinker of amal pani becomes almost "muzzy" from taking it.

21,968. You would not be surprised to hear that some of these guests become unconscious from taking it?—No, just the same as it happens sometimes with guests at home.

21,969. Do I understand that in the district where you have been touring poppy is regarded as a distinctly profitable crop?—Yes, certainly it is a crop that pays; it is not very difficult to cultivate, and they get their money sooner.

21,970. Has the acreage under poppy in that district fallen off during the last few years?—I do not think so. The cultivation all depends on the tanks from which they irrigate the land.

21,971. It depends upon whether there is plenty of water?—Yes; if there has been a good rainfall you will have an increase of land under poppy. If the tanks are full and there is plenty of water to be obtained the cultivators will put as much land under poppy as they possibly can.

21,972. On the other hand, if there were no water they would not grow poppy?—No. They could not grow it without water.

21,973. Did you say that the Sikh soldiers only took a grain or two of opium at the time?—I think three grains is the dose. The ordinary small dose is about three grains.

21,974. Did I understand you to say that the mothers give their children 3 or 4 ratils?—I said during the day those are the cases where the children have shown that they have had an excessive quantity. In that case they have been given up to 7 or 8 grains in the day.

21,975. How many infants under 2 or 3 years of age would you see at the dispensary during the month?—I only see one or two. They would be brought simply for me to see them. The ordinary routine work of the dispensary is done by the hospital assistant, and these are only cases which he brings to me for consultation. I don't see every case that comes to the hospital. It is only certain cases that the hospital assistants would bring to show me.

21,976. Do you think the habitual taking of opium is a good thing for a man in good health?—I certainly would not take it myself, or recommend any other European to take it, but it has grown up here as a custom. The ordinary moderate consumption has no evil effect, but I would not recommend anybody to commence the habit, nor would I commence it myself.

21,977. You would not recommend either a European or a native to take it?—Except in cases where there are no other drugs available.

21,978. I am not speaking of cases of ill health?—As a custom I would certainly not recommend it.

21,979. (Mr. Mowbray.) We are sometimes told that opium is much worse than alcohol because it is so insidious that people cannot resist going to excess with it. In your opinion is there a greater probability of a person going to excess with opium than with alcohol?—I think a weak-minded man who takes alcohol is more likely to go to excess in that than a weak-minded man who takes opium.

The witness withdrew.

Surgeon-
Major Dane.
6 Feb. 1894.

Surgeon
Lieut.-Col.
R. Caldecott.

6 Feb. 1894.

Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel R. CALDECOTT called in and examined.

21,980. (*Sir William Roberts.*) Will you tell us your present position and what opportunities you have had of studying the effects of taking opium in these parts?—I have had 24½ years' service, 22 of which have been passed in Malwa, the greater part of which time I have been in charge of the Central India Horse, and the Political Agency of Western Malwa. The Central India Horse is largely composed of Sikhs, a large proportion of whom are opium consumers. My civil medical duties have brought me in daily contact with the cultivating classes in Malwa, who are all more or less opium eaters. I have also acted as Residency Surgeon at Indore on odd occasions since 1877, in all for about three and a half to four years, and at those times held charge of the hospital with its constant daily attendance of about 300.

21,981. What has been the result of your experience as to the prevalence of the habit of using opium in these parts?—I know very little about it; of course, I know that there are opium eaters. One hears of such a thing but it has never come under my notice in any way. It is only since I was told I should be called as a witness that I have made inquiries about it.

21,982. How long ago was that?—About four months.

21,983. What have you learnt in that time?—It is very difficult to get any evidence which coincides; you get different evidence from different people. I have found that probably nearly 50 per cent. of the adult males of the population eat opium. A very small percentage smoke it; those who do are mostly fakirs, and people about the temples. It is very generally used by agriculturists and by all those engaged in trades involving exposure. I should say that the average daily consumption of a confirmed consumer is between 30 to 40 grains. The price of 50 grains is two pice, but the poorest of the agriculturist class are able to get opium by working in the fields and being paid in kind, and they are also allowed to go into the fields after the opium has been gathered in the same way as the gleaners at home in England.

21,984. What is a tola in this district?—About three drachms.

21,985. What is the age at which they begin to use opium?—I believe that as a rule the men do not begin to use opium until they reach the age of about 35 or 40. My knowledge has only been gained since I have been told I should be asked to appear before this Commission.

21,986. The matter had not intruded itself upon your notice at all?—Not in any way. It is comparatively rare for young men to use it; rheumatism is often the cause of their commencing to eat opium; and the younger men are not so liable to attacks of rheumatism as the older men are. Malaria and dysentery are also the cause of men taking opium; there is no doubt that all the natives of these parts have a very firm belief in the efficacy of this drug, not only as an alleviating remedy during the disease, but also as a prophylactic. As to its power to promote endurance of great exertion, I can speak with confidence from my own observation. This is the only thing I can speak of from my personal knowledge. During the 22 years of my service in Central India I have known men working as shikaris who have been capable of really wonderful feats of endurance, who in the hot weather months would go out beating in the jungles during all the hottest part of the day, would march 15 to 20 miles that night, and do the same thing day and night during the months of April and May; these men were all confirmed opium eaters; most of these men have lived to a good old age, and, as far as I have seen, have been able to work the same as before, almost up to the end. I am of opinion that all the men who work in the way these do are opium eaters, and that it is by the use of opium alone that they are able to do it for years and years as they do.

21,987. Have you had any practical experience of the kassumba practice?—None at all, except what people have told me. I am told that the practice is very common, but it is not a thing that is taken to any excess as far as I can make out. It is a kind of greeting cup at receptions, or on arrival of guests. Kassumba is prepared by dissolving about one tolah (three drams) of opium in about half an ounce to one ounce of cold water; after dissolving, it is filtered and is generally

distributed by dipping a piece of cotton into the mixture and squeezing it into the palm of the guest's hand.

21,988. What have you been told about the giving of opium to infants?—It is commonly given by all classes except, I believe, the Bohras. It is certainly given by the lower classes, but not, so far as I know, by the upper classes. It is only those who cannot afford to remain with their children or to hire anyone to look after them. Children are generally given it up to one and a half to two grains. About a quarter to a half grain is used ordinarily. I do not know of any case where deleterious effects have been produced by its use. There is no difficulty in weaning the child from the use of opium, as a rule. Sometimes it is done gradually, but, as a rule, at once. It generally causes some diarrhoea, but this only lasts for a few days, and after it ceases, no further trouble occurs.

21,989. It is used externally;—The only decoction made from poppy heads is that made in our own hospitals and used combined with camomile as a local application to relieve pain.

21,990. Is it given to animals?—Certainly not. Opium is not known to be given to horses, camels or bullocks in these parts.

21,991. What is your general view as to the use of opium in these parts?—I am perfectly certain opium staves off the pangs of hunger, and also that it is largely used for this purpose by the poorer classes during their constantly recurring periods of scarcity and want. Opium eating is said at first to increase the appetite; the opium eater is said to live as well as he can; he eats several meals and drinks large quantities of milk, and generally looks no thinner than others. The poorer classes who cannot afford to do so are said to be thinner and to have smaller appetites than others; but even amongst that class it is quite impossible to point out opium eaters by their appearance. I have no reason to think any opium eater dies sooner than any one else. I have known many of great age. If required to I could bring middle aged habitual moderate eaters of opium for inspection. There is one woman who is known as Subadar's widow. She lives at Goona and she eats from six to eight ounces of opium at one time.

21,992. Do you mean solid opium?—Yes.

21,993. She is absolutely insensible to it?—Absolutely. If she had been offered enough of opium to eat on the way she would have come before this Commission for nothing else. The case of eating six ounces occurred in the time of Surgeon-Major Lowdell. I was not there at the time. That is only an occasional thing, but she takes an enormous quantity.

21,994. These are only facts of natural history, and are not really concerned with the opium habit?—No.

21,995. (*Mr. Wilson.*) With regard to the giving of opium to children, why do they stop giving opium to them at the age of two or three?—My acquaintance with this matter is not very intimate, but I suppose it is because they are old enough to be left. I imagine the main reason why they give opium to the children is to enable them to go to work and to keep the child quiet. The women here are quite as much the bread-winners of the family as the men, they work quite as much as the men.

21,996. You say that opium eaters are said to live as well as they can—do not most people?—Yes, but the lower classes do not get much chance in this country.

21,997. What did you mean by the phrase?—They take large quantities of milk and fattening things. They are great sugar-eaters.

21,998. I suppose you mean the same as we have heard in other places, that it is highly desirable for an opium eater to have plenty of nourishment to prevent the effects of opium?—I think so, more or less. It improves their appetite.

21,999. You have mentioned that you could bring opium eaters here for our inspection, I suppose it would be quite possible to bring a great many stout opium eaters and a great many thin ones?—Yes, but I do not think you can pick out opium eaters by their appearance. I am speaking of the men of my regiment whom I know,

22,000. You would not doubt that it is possible to pick out thin ones as well as stout ones?—I do not think opium has any effect one way or the other.

22,001. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Have you any special information to give us with regard to the men of the Central India Horse; have you made any special inquiries?—I have, but it is exceedingly difficult to find out because they tell you what they think you want.

22,002. What class of men form your regiment?—We have six troops of Sikhs and four troops of Rangars in the two regiments.

22,003. Where do the Rangars come from?—From Rohtak and Delhi. They are the converted Rajputs, the Rajputs who became Musalmans. We have also two troops of border men, Pathans, Tewanas, and men like that, and also two troops of Hindus.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

At the Holkar College Hall, Indore.

SIXTY-FIFTH DAY.

Wednesday, 7th February 1894.

(Section A.)

PRESENT:

THE RIGHT HON. LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B., CHAIRMAN, PRESIDING.

Sir WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.

The Hon. Sir LACHHMESWAR SINGH, Bahadur, K.C.I.E.,
Maharaja of Darbhanga.

Mr. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P.

Mr. A. U. FANSHAWE.

Mr. H. J. WILSON, M.P.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT, C.I.E., *Secretary.*

Surgeon-Major GIMLETTE, M.D., called in and examined.

22,007. (*Sir W. Roberts.*) I believe you are tutor to His Highness the Maharaja of Rewa and Agency Surgeon Baghelkhand?—Yes.

22,008. Your experience is derived from five years' service with native regiments either entirely or partly composed of Sikhs and nine years' service in native States?—Yes.

22,009. What was your experience among the Sikh soldiers?—Almost all the Sikhs in infantry regiments, and a smaller proportion in cavalry regiments, are moderate opium-eaters. I never saw a soldier who suffered in the very slightest, either physically or morally, from the drug, or know of a case in which the dose was gradually increased to the stage of excessive consumption. Native soldiers occasionally increase their daily dose when called on to undergo any excessive exertion or privation, but this increase is never, in my experience, permanent, and is discontinued as soon as the occasion for it has passed. Sikhs look on opium as a harmless and necessary stimulant, a substitute for tobacco, which they do not use. In moderation, this is what I believe it to be, and nothing else.

22,010. Is the opium habit widespread amongst the population of the native States of Central India?—Among the population of the native States of Central India opium-eating and smoking is a tolerably widespread habit. The proportion of people who use opium varies greatly in different districts, being much higher in the more malarious and unhealthy parts than in the more fortunately situated villages and towns. Thus, in the city of Rewa, containing 22,000 inhabitants,

22,004. Have you been able to get any facts which you consider worth telling the Commission?—I really have not. As a rule the men do not take to opium in their early service as far as I can make out. Some of the men whom they tell me are confirmed opium-eaters are among the best men in their regiments, but there are very few men who eat any large quantity.

22,005. I suppose it is exceptional to have a man in the ranks after 40 years of age?—Yes, 21 years service is the length as a rule.

22,006. You never have had any difficulty arising from the use of opium?—Never. If it interfered with a man's duty he would be brought up at once. No case has ever come before me.

there are 500 consumers of opium or 2·27 per cent. In Sutna, with 6,760 inhabitants, there are 169 or 2·49 per cent., while in the low hills and intervening valleys the proportion rises to five or six per cent., and higher. In one range of hills inhabited by a scanty population, composed mainly of Kols and Baigas, known as the Maikal Pahar, 90 per cent. of the population are said to use opium.

22,011. How were these different statistics obtained?—The statistics of the population were obtained from the last census taken two years ago.

22,012. How did you ascertain the number of opium-eaters?—I ascertained it by getting the persons who purchased opium counted daily at the licensed shops for a week or ten days at Rewa, Sutna and also in some of the larger villages. In other places I was obliged to go by hearsay, having no opportunities of counting.

22,013. I suppose throughout the percentages mean the percentages of the adult males?—Yes.

22,014. What is your impression as to the effect of opium on the population?—For the greater part of the year the climate of these regions is a very trying one, and diseases due to it, such as malarial fevers, with their sequels of enlarged spleens, rheumatic pains and chronic headaches, dysentery, chronic diarrhoea, colic and disordered digestion, chronic bronchitis and emphysema, are the bane of the ill-nourished and scantily-clothed inhabitants. While their one available antidote is opium, to deprive them of it would be an act of the most cruel inhumanity. The drug is of the highest value in the treatment of the above-named

*Surgeon
Lieut.-Col.
R. Caldecott.*

6 Feb. 1894.

*Surg.-Maj.
Gimlette,
M.D.*

7 Feb. 1894.

*Surg.-Maj.
Gimlette,
M.D.*

7 Feb. 1894.

diseases: on this point there cannot be the smallest possible doubt.

22,015. From what you have told us opium must be regarded as a household medicine?—Yes.

22,016. Have you had any experience of habitual consumers of opium?—I have recently examined upwards of a hundred habitual consumers of opium, and have at hand notes of their cases and appearance. These persons are inhabitants of different parts of the Rewa State. Nine were prisoners, convicted of theft, in the Rewa Gaol, which had on the day I made my observations a strength of 226 prisoners, a proportion of but 3·39 per cent. Of the nine, five only eat opium, four smoke it also. These prisoners' doses had been gradually reduced from the time of their entering the gaol, without injury to their health, any ailments from which they suffered having been treated in the gaol hospital. In a few cases it was found impossible to altogether discontinue the drug, persistent diarrhoea resulting from want of it. Excepting the nine prisoners the remainder were all well-conducted members of society. Of 100 cases 77 eat opium, or swallow it mixed with water; 8 both eat and smoke it; 15 only smoke it. The only persons among them whose appearance led to the conclusion that they had suffered physically were a very small number of the excessive eaters, and perhaps half of the smokers. As regards the rest, with 14 years' almost daily experience of natives of India as hospital patients, I could not have recognized them as consumers of opium.

22,017. Do you mean opium-smokers or opium-eaters?—Both.

22,018. You do not distinguish between the effects of the two forms?—I have not made any distinction, it is a question of degree.

22,019. How is the habit of opium using generally commenced?—In 81 of the whole number of cases the habit was commenced on account of illness, and to relieve suffering; 19 either gave no reason or stated that they were led to commence it by the force of example. The great majority affirmed that they had consumed their present dose for many years; that they were not increasing it. Many declared that they had largely diminished their original dose.

22,020. Have you met with any cases of excessive and injurious effects of opium eating?—I know of a certain number of debauched persons belonging to the higher classes who consume opium in great excess, with lamentable results. I consider, however, their cases exceptional and entirely outside the question.

22,021. Had you intimate knowledge of those persons?—Yes, fairly intimate knowledge.

22,022. What were the results you noted as to the effect of excessive consumption of opium amongst these higher classes?—The results were both physical and mental deterioration, more particularly the latter; they become entirely unfit to carry on their business. These cases are few, but the results are very marked.

22,023. Do they become emaciated?—Yes, thin and dried up.

22,024. Did you notice that there was a somnolence, a dulness and stupidity about them?—Yes, marked.

22,025. Are you aware whether any organic disease arose in them?—None, as far as I know.

22,026. Did you see many of these excessive consumers who were able to throw off the habit and reform?—The cases I refer to are quite a small number. I have not known of any instance in which they have been able to throw off the habit.

22,027. I presume you would compare those cases to the case of drunkards in our own country?—Yes. The comparison would not quite apply, because they form such a small proportion.

22,028. Have you had medical care of cases seeking your aid for the ailments produced by the excessive use of opium?—I have never had under my care a person suffering from over-indulgence in opium, nor do I believe that such excess, although in some cases undoubtedly enfeebling to both mind and body, tends to shorten life. During the last 10 years the population of Rewa has increased, and during the same period the consumption of opium has increased also. The State being under superintendence, the census was accurately taken.

22,029. How was the increased consumption of opium ascertained?—By the accounts opium is a State monopoly.

22,030. Was the increase beyond the increase of the population?—I think not; the total quantity has increased.

22,031. What is your general conclusion with regard to the opium habit in this district?—The general conclusion at which I have arrived is that, to the vast majority of moderate opium-eaters in India, the drug is not only harmless, but, under their circumstances, beneficial and necessary. The great variation in the degree of toleration that is attained, and in susceptibility to the influence of the drug in different persons, makes it impossible to define arbitrarily what moderation is. That must be judged by the effect in individual cases.

22,032. Have you come to any conclusion as to the difference in tolerance to opium or susceptibility to opium between natives of India and the people of Western Europe?—I have not formed any definite conclusion. I am inclined to think that the natives of India are less susceptible, but I am not able to substantiate the opinion; it is merely an impression.

22,033. What is your view with regard to opium-smoking?—Smoking I believe to be, as a rule, harmful; partly because the average smoker uses much more opium than the eater, and partly because the narcotic effect is stronger and more immediate from smoking than from eating. The smoker moreover idles away a considerable portion of his working hours.

22,034. Have you noticed the practice of giving opium to infants?—Yes.

22,035. Is it very prevalent?—Very.

22,036. Almost universal?—I would not say that.

22,037. Is it practised among the better as well as among the lower classes?—Yes.

22,038. What do they give it for?—Simply as an English mother gives her child Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. She sees that there is something wrong with the child, and gives the only medicine she has at hand.

22,039. What would be the consequence if the facilities for obtaining opium were curtailed?—The question naturally arises in an inquiry of this kind: If facilities for obtaining opium were curtailed, would the consumption of alcohol proportionately increase? There can, among rational people with opportunities of judging, be no two opinions on this point; it most certainly would. The native consumer of alcohol, happily not a common object, in this part of India at least, is always a drunkard, always belongs to the lowest classes, and is always despised as a worthless person. Deprived of the sedative and stimulant he finds necessary and uses as a rule in moderation, the opium-consumer would most surely take to alcohol or hemp. It is not necessary to dilate on the consequences to the health and morality of society which would certainly follow.

22,040. (*Mr. Wilson.*) We have had some evidence that the various Sikh regiments do use opium in very small quantities—evidence that does not bear out your statement with regard to almost all the Sikhs. Can you give me the force you particularly refer to?—The 14th Sikhs, the Central Indian Horse, the 7th Bengal Infantry before the organisation of the regiment was altered. At one time they contained a company of Sikhs, also troops of the native States.

22,041. I do not quite understand your reply to Sir William Roberts about the per-centages referring to adults. The population of Rewa is 22,000?—Yes.

22,042. What did you say with regard to adults?—That there were 500 adult consumers of opium.

22,043. In proportion to the total population?—Yes; there are no means of finding out how many children consume opium.

22,044. You speak of it as a widespread habit?—Tolerably widespread.

22,045. Do you call 2½ per cent. tolerably widespread?—That applies to the city of Rewa only.

22,046. Further on you said five or six per cent.?—And higher.

22,047. You would not call five or six per cent. widespread?—At the conclusion I quoted 90 per cent.

22,048. Were you referring generally to these populations?—Yes.

22,049. The figures given hardly bear that out?—Taking all the statements together I think they do.

22,050. What means have you of knowing how much opium the people in an opium-growing State themselves consume?—The only means one has of knowing is to count the number of people who purchase it.

22,051. Do you not think that they keep it themselves?—I do not think they do. The cultivators belong to certain classes called Kumbis and Kachhis. They are people who do not use opium. It is a matter of common report and knowledge that they do not use it.

22,052. You have referred to “cultivators;” what cultivators are they?—The cultivators of opium.

22,053. Do you refer generally to Central India, or to any particular district?—To the district previously mentioned—the one through which I had just gone.

22,054. We have understood generally, that in Central India there is no State monopoly, but there is in that State?—It is so in the State of Rewa.

22,055. You have referred to debauched persons consuming opium in great excess, and to the lamentable results, with deterioration bodily and mental. Do you not think that that state of things must tend to shorten life?—One would imagine so, but as a matter of fact, these people live to a great age, particularly the ones I referred to. I refer particularly to certain Thakurs holding landed property; I know several of them who consume enormous quantities of opium, and who are tolerably advanced in years. I have known others who have died at an advanced age, having consumed opium the greater part of their lives.

22,056. In this debauched manner, with deterioration of mind and body?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Lieutenant-Colonel D. ROBERTSON recalled and further examined.

22,065. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) I should be glad to know how far you hold yourself responsible for the accuracy of the figures which are in these* papers?—I should like it to be distinctly understood that I appear merely as a compiler of information which has reached me from the Native States. I in no way guarantee its accuracy. Nor does the estimate either of production or of compensation purport to be more than an approximate estimate.

22,066. With regard to all these figures, I may take it that you have, so to say, passed them on to us?—Yes. I should like also to make this explanation. As regards the larger Chiefs, I have accepted the figures entirely as they reached me. In the case of a few of the smaller Chiefs, where the amount of compensation appeared to me palpably exaggerated, I took upon myself to reduce the estimate, in order that the return might not be burdened by figures which were *primâ facie* exaggerated.

22,067. I do not know whether you have expressed your own opinion as to the reasonableness of the totals which are here presented?—I think upon the whole they are reasonable; they certainly are as compared with Rajputana.

22,068. You have referred to annual settlements with regard to the opium produced as submitted by the State to the Government—what are those statements?—I have no copies with me. Every year the Finance Department or the Home Department (I forget which) require the States to submit a statement of the opium produced. These statements are prepared very much in the way of routine. Nobody takes much interest in them, so far as I understand, in the States; and I believe that their genuine character is open to question.

22,068a. Therefore if any question arises of variance between the figures in those statements and the figures presented to us you would regard the figures presented to us as unquestionably more trustworthy?—Certainly. This is the first time that any attempt has been made to obtain from these Native States information in such detail regarding opium cultivation and production.

22,069. When you speak of the poppy as being so profitable to the cultivator and by far the most valuable crop that could be grown in Malwa, that is your opinion even now with the bad price obtained from the China market during the last few years?—Yes, up to the present time. My opinion, of course, is merely based on what I have heard in the Native States, witnesses from which will appear before you.

22,057. It sounds contradictory?—I can only say what I have seen.

22,058. What do you mean by the State being under superintendence?—The Maharaja is a minor, the State being managed by a superintendent.

22,059. Do you think that habitually taking opium where there is no disease is a good habit?—I suppose you mean in moderation?

22,060. Yes?—I should not be inclined to say it was either a good or a bad habit. I am not prepared to say that it is a good habit.

22,061. It is a matter of indifference?—Practically, yes. I think it does no harm.

22,062. You do not think it tends to harm?—No, I do not.

22,063. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) With regard to the 14th Sikhs, your conclusions, I understand, are founded on your general knowledge of the men while serving with them?—Yes, I have served with them a very short time—14 years ago. When I first came out to this country.

22,064. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) We are often told that opium is worse than alcohol, because it is much more insidious, and that it is much more difficult to prevent a person going to excess when he once begins the habit. Does your opinion concur in that?—Not as regards the natives of India. In the cases which I took some care in examining I was very much struck by the fact that a large majority of them for many years had not increased their daily dose. They denied it strongly, and many declared that they had decreased their dose very much.

22,070. Are you of opinion that the trade in its present condition is able to bear the present pass duty which the British Government exacts?—I think the trade is a very fluctuating one, but at the present time, I think, there is no doubt it is able to bear the pass duty, because there is every prospect before the end of the present official year of exceeding the estimate of the number of chests which pass the scales.

22,071. That, I presume, depends very much on the season?—Chiefly on the prices in China.

22,072. Also on the amount of rainfall in the year?—Not necessarily, because there are more chests now in stock than are ordinarily required for a year's export?—The out-turn of the present year, for instance, would not affect materially the exports of this year, because they rarely send new opium to China. They send it when it is one or two years' old.

22,073. Is the price in the China market better just now than it has been?—I believe it is.

22,074. Can you tell me the retail price of opium in any of the other States?—I could obtain the information and present a paper showing the rates in the whole of Malwa. I can state the retail prices in the State of Rewa, in which I am Superintendent.

22,075. Will you do so?—The retail price now in Rewa is Rs. 20 per seer.

22,076. That is the price which a man pays when he goes into the bazaar to buy it for his own use?—Yes. In Rewa we have a monopoly in order to keep the price up, because we adjoin the British North-Western Provinces.

22,077. And the State is under British superintendence?—Yes.

22,078. Rs. 20 per seer I understand is the price at which it could be bought at the bazaar?—Yes; the price we pay to the cultivators is Rs. 6 or Rs. 8 per seer according to the quality of the opium. We retail to the contractor at the rate of Rs. 16 per seer. The difference between the purchase price and the price we sell to the contractor constitutes the State's income.

22,079. You require all the opium grown in the State to be brought to the Government?—Yes.

22,080. In fact you have the same sort of system of monopoly as in Bengal?—Roughly it is the same. But we have not any establishment or any factory, because it is so easy to make. There is no chemical laboratory and so on.

*Surg.-Maj.
Gimlette,
M.D.*

7 Feb. 1894.

*Lieut.-Col.
D. Robertson.*

* See Appendix XI. to this volume.

* See Appendix XII. to this volume.

Lieut. Col.
D. Robertson.

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22,081. Do you think you get all the opium from the cultivators or that any is kept back?—I think none is kept back. If we do not get any it is smuggled into the adjoining British districts, where the retail price is high. We do our best to prevent it. The cultivators' names are all registered, and if a man sold no opium to the State he would be called to account as to what he had done with his opium.

22,082. You have made the price high in Rewa, partly because it is so near the British territory that you want to stop the inducement to smuggle as much as possible?—Yes. I found it necessary two years ago to increase the price on that account. We found that the consumption was apparently largely increasing, and there was no evidence to show that the individual consumption was increasing, and we found out as a matter of fact it was being smuggled into the adjoining British districts.

22,083. So that your action is largely based on the interests of the British Government?—Almost entirely.

22,084. With reference to smoking, you say that in the two principal States, Gwalior and Indore, it is a penal offence; does that mean that smoking itself is a penal offence, or the selling of preparations for smoking?—There are no smoking shops allowed, and I have no doubt that anybody found smoking in the public places would be prosecuted and punished criminally.

22,085. I suppose there is no inquisitorial system to interfere with private smoking?—The Minister of Indore will appear here, and I think he will be a better witness on that point. I have no personal knowledge of what they do. I only know that smoking is penalised both in Indore and in what is called Prant Gwalior, and the big city of Gwalior.

22,086. When you say that there are eight scales at convenient centres under Indore, that means under the Indore agency?—Yes. The Agent of the Governor-General is the opium agent, and one of his assistants is the deputy opium agent. These scales are under Indore, in the sense that they send the pass duty they collect here, as well as the *Chalans* or invoices of opium are despatched to Bombay. This is the central office.

22,087. It is Indore in the sense of the agency, and not of the State?—Yes.

22,088. The total export through the scales seems to be 35,345 chests?—Yes.

22,089. If I understand the figures correctly, 25,082 are chests of Malwa opium passing through the scales under Indore?—Yes, passing through the scales not only at Indore, but scales under Indore.

22,090. 5263 chests are really Rajputana opium passing through the scales at Udaipur and Chitor, which are under the Indore agency?—Yes. I separate them, because the opium weighed there is not produced in Central India, but in Rajputana but for administrative purposes the scale at Chitor is under Indore.

22,091. In addition to that, you estimate about 5,000 chests grown in other parts of Rajputana, which also come into the scales under Indore?—Yes.

22,092. And those three things make up the figure 35,345?—Yes.

22,093. Of course comparing that with the figures given by the Prime Minister in his statement, and the export 10,902 chests from Indore, he would refer to the exports of the State of Indore?—Yes.

22,094. You are referring to the exports that pass the scales under the agency of Indore?—When I speak of the scales under Indore, I refer to the British opium agency.

22,095. According to your computations, a chest of opium now costs in Indore Rs. 492, and the British Government pass duty it is Rs. 600, so that the duty amounts to about 120 per cent. addition to the cost of the article itself?—Yes.

22,096. The figures you give us under the fourth head are all the figures which are in these tables?—Yes.

22,097. In your estimate of Rs. 70,81,252 for loss of direct revenue, you include the losses to the Jagirdars as well as the losses to the State?—Yes.

22,098. With regard to charitable institutions and works of public utility, do you refer to works maintained by the British Government in British India?—

No, in the Native States we have, for instance, a large hospital here in which the patients treated are entirely from the Native States. It is supported to this extent out of this fund. There are also other dispensaries in the Native States. The money collected is expended for the benefit of the subjects of the Native States.

22,099. Are these institutions maintained out of the pass duty collected here?—In addition to the pass duty there is a rate, I think of Rs. $\frac{1}{4}$ per chest, taken at all the scales where opium is weighed except in Indore.

22,100. Is that taken by the British Government?—It is taken at the time of weighment by the assistant opium agent at the scales.

22,101. On behalf of the British Government?—The British Government is in the position of a benevolent trustee for this fund. It derives no advantage from it. The British Government do not get anything out of it. A charitable fund is created which is expended in medical relief and education.

22,102. Is that figure in any column of these tables?—No, but the accounts are regularly submitted to the British Accounts Departments.

22,103. It is money which the British Government collects as a trustee and spends for a specific purpose?—Yes.

22,104. With regard to these losses or grounds for compensation is the total which you have given us an annual loss or does it contain any capital loss?—It is difficult to say.

22,105. For instance the loss to merchants can hardly be considered entirely an annual recurring loss?—I am not prepared to say, nor is any Native State prepared to say, what exact annual payment would be required. Probably it would not be much less than the sum named. An accurate estimate would take several months, perhaps a year to prepare. And it would probably be found that the total would be quite that. With regard to the special arrangements with Gwalior, Datia, and Samthar with reference to the export of ganja, spirits and opium, it came into force in 1878-9. I have a copy of the treaty dated March 15th, 1879.

22,106. I understand that there was no new restriction imposed upon the State, but hitherto they had been barred by a Customs line; that that Customs line was done away with and in lieu of it certain arrangements were entered into to prevent exports over where the line had previously been?—Yes, I can read you the article of the Treaty. "His Highness the Maharaja agrees to prohibit the export from the State of Bhang, Ganja, spirits, opium or other intoxicating drug or preparations by all routes and all directions hitherto barred by the inland Customs line."

22,107. It was no new restriction but merely a new way of enforcing the old restriction?—Yes.

22,108. (Mr. Wilson.) You have put in certain tables and lists of States, do they, taken collectively, include all the States under consideration?—I have grouped the States in the order of their importance, and as an Appendix there are a number of States entered from which either unimportant information or no information has been received. There are 80 small States and estates the majority of which grow no opium at all.

22,109. Do these tables include all the States?—Yes.

22,110. I rather gathered from your evidence that there was nothing approaching to restriction or monopoly in the States. I now understand that in the State of Rewa there is such a restriction or monopoly?—Yes. I have already explained that as Rewa marches with the North-Western Provinces, and as the opium-growing tract runs quite close to the border, it was necessary both in the interests of the State and also to avoid complaints from British districts that we should place cultivation under control.

22,111. Is that the only case in which that kind of thing prevails?—So far as I know I am almost sure it is the only one.

22,112. You say that "No statistics of consumption are available for these tracts of country, but except, perhaps, in Gwalior, Samthar, and Rewa, but looking to the moderate revenue which the Chiefs derived, the consumption can hardly be considerable," that implies that in Rewa it is somewhat considerable?—The revenue of Rewa is much smaller than that of any of these big States; the total revenue we derive is Rs. 16,000.

22,113. We understood from Dr. Gimlette that in his opinion the consumption was extremely small, but you put it with two others as the largest?—In all those three places as compared with the other parts of Central India the consumption is not considerable. What I mean is that in the districts outside Malwa the consumption is absolutely inconsiderable. The only exception is that of these three States, Gwalior, Samthar, and Rewa is where the consumption is hardly considerable, but it much more than in the places where there is no opium consumed at all. I mean that, as compared with other tracts out of Malwa, there is more opium consumed in these three places. I divide Central India into two parts. One part comprises Malwa and the other part comprises the large area which stretches across East India and includes Gwalior proper. There the production and consumption of opium are, as compared with Malwa, inconsiderable. The only exception being Gwalior city, Rewa, and Samthar, where there is a little more opium consumed, but it is not excessive. The amount of consumption cannot from the revenue point of view be considered considerable.

22,114. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) You draw a distinction between Gwalior city and Gwalior territory and the Malwa province of Gwalior?—Yes.

22,115. (*Mr. Wilson.*) You suggest that the good times are probably gone, never to return. Does that refer to your general view of the prospects of the China market?—Yes. What I mean is that the prices at one time in China used to be very high and the profits of the cultivators and everybody connected with the opium trade were larger than they are now.

22,116. With reference to the speculative dealing, am I rightly informed that it amounts to a matter of very great excitement at certain periods?—I believe so.

22,117. As bad as anything we have at home?—I am no authority as to anything at home, but there is a good deal of excitement.

22,118. With regard to the question of the possibilities of compensation, has any allowance been made throughout for the cost of collection of all this revenue?—I think not. The estimates, as I have explained, are those that have been received from the Native States. It would be very difficult to make any allowance in the Native States for the cost of collection. They employ officials who are remunerated by grants of land, which in many cases they would get whether they worked or not. There are many States that are obliged to support certain people by grants of land, and they pay them whether they do their work or not. It would be extremely difficult to estimate in the cut-and-dried way that we do it in British India.

22,119. With reference to what you said about charitable institutions and works of public utility—is that a voluntary subscription?—In the case of the merchants themselves it is voluntary in the sense that they all pay it. I do not think any pressure is brought to bear upon them. In the case of money expended under the guidance of British officers it is paid as a usual charge just the same as the pass duty is paid.

22,120. In the case of merchants is it anything more than a voluntary subscription, a voluntary assessment in proportion to their business?—It is an assessment to which I have never heard any objection. They support their private charities in the same way. They pay the money to the charities which are worked under Government officers. There is no such thing as realising by distress or anything of that sort.

22,121. With reference to gratuitous medical relief that I believe is allowed to the State by the British Government?—Yes; there is a dispensary, a large hospital here of that nature, and the Residency surgeon would treat anyone who came to the dispensary free of charge.

22,122. Is this pass duty ear-marked for this purpose, or does this gratuitous medical relief come out of the general funds of the British Administration?—From these realisations a fund is formed called Dharamsala Fund; it is audited by British accounts officers, and a certain proportion is expended under the direction of the agent of the Governor-General on hospitals in the Native States of Central India, and on schools. I believe that a big bridge was built many years ago out of that fund. It has been in existence a great many years.

22,123. Is there a definite proportion of this pass duty applied to it?—It is not a portion of the pass

duty; it is distinct from it. The pass duty is Rs. 600, extra to the Dharamsala fund levy, a man has to pay a few annas on each chest. The amount is funded, and realizes a certain sum per annum. The Dharamsala fund declines of course as the exports decrease. The fund is administered under the orders of the Agent of the Governor-General in Central India, and is distributed in fixed proportions to the objects I have mentioned.

22,124. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) I see that you have "charity" "one rupee" is that the amount?—No, that is the charity which the merchant would pay himself before coming to the scales. There are institutions which the merchants themselves maintain, Hindu temples, institutions to provide doles for indigent persons, and so on.

22,125. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) It is not included under that?—No, it is something beyond that.

22,126. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) But of the same nature?—Yes. The fund forms no portion of the Imperial revenue.

22,127. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Suppose, through the failure of the China trade or any other cause the sales of opium fell off?—They would have to shut up the dispensaries, unless the Native States chose to come forward and support them themselves.

22,128. As far as that fund is concerned?—There is no other fund from which the money could be derived.

22,129. You say there are no Treaties or engagements in force?—No.

22,130. The present rate of pass duty is not the subject of Treaty or engagement?—No.

22,131. If the British authority were to raise or lower it one rupee to-morrow, it would not require the cancellation of any present engagement?—It would merely require an executive order of the British Government.

22,132. You say it is well known even now that smuggling does exist even though the Chiefs "may wish" to stop it. I gather from that expression that some of them are not very anxious to stop it?—I think they would all wish to stop it, because if opium is smuggled out of a Chief's territory he loses the rates that he takes on the crude opium and on the export.

22,133. In some of the papers before us there is a reference to different kinds of opium, different colours?—Yes.

22,134. Generally speaking is the export opium substantially of the same quality and worth the same in the Bombay market?—Yes.

22,135. Is there a very great difference?—The merchants themselves will tell you that only the best opium is exported to China, because it is not worth a man's while to pay the whole amount of our pass duty on inferior opium; he would get a smaller price for it.

22,136. We have before us a considerable number of States and of small manufacturers or merchants or both; is the product tolerably uniform throughout, or does the price vary very much according to the manufacture?—There are certain parts of Malwa where better opium is known to be produced than in others. In the market there is a wide distinction between the best class of opium and the inferior sorts amongst the merchants.

22,137. Do they test it in sample, or is it thought that certain merchants have a reputation?—They always test it.

22,138. Do they test each chest?—I do not know. A man would test according as he trusted the person from whom he bought. It comes to him in the crude state in bags, and I have no doubt that he would test a certain proportion of the bags, as we test for weight in our scales.

22,139. It has been explained and shown to us in the case of the Patna and Ghazipur factories that very great pains are taken by the use of large vats in which a great mixture takes place, by analysis and so on, to produce as far as possible an article of exactly uniform quality; so that it is believed that, to a large extent, the whole out-turn from those factories is uniform?—Yes.

22,140. I assume that there cannot be anything of the kind here?—No, I have referred to it in my evidence.

22,141. Under your method there must be a great variety of qualities?—It is not sent to China without being tested by the merchants. It is tested here and I think again in Bombay. As a matter of fact the opium

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sent to China is believed by the merchants to be the best.

22,142. Were the questions submitted to the various States drawn up by you or furnished to you?—They were drawn up by me.

22,143. (Mr. Fanshawe.) In raising the price of opium in Rewa the interests of the Native States were no doubt taken into consideration as well as the wishes of the North-West Government in regard to the prevention of smuggling?—In raising the price of opium I was guided in some measure by the fact that the consumption appeared to have increased very largely. As there appeared to be no reason from an administrative point of view to account for it, I was led to believe that opium was largely smuggled into British territory, and shortly afterwards a case was found in which a large quantity was being taken by a third-class passenger. We then increased the price of opium to Rs. 14, then to Rs. 15, then to Rs. 16 per seer.

22,144. Both the financial interests of the State as well as the views you held in regard to the prevention of smuggling were taken into consideration?—Certainly.

22,145. Am I correct in understanding that in most of the States of Central India there is a fixed land revenue settlement for a term of years?—In all the large States I believe there is.

22,146. Under that settlement are cash rates paid in all cases on irrigated and unirrigated lands?—I am not quite sure, but I am almost sure that in all the large States nothing except cash is now taken.

22,147. I understand you to say that the rate on irrigated land has been assessed on the direct understanding that poppy has been the most valuable crop grown on the land?—Yes, on that supposition.

22,148. Is poppy grown as a black cotton soil crop in Malwa?—Yes, the land is called black soil.

22,149. In preparing the estimate of the loss of the Native States, what crop or crops have generally been taken as crops that would have to be grown in the place of poppy?—Wheat, I think, or linseed would be the general crop.

22,150. Can you tell me why the substitution of cotton has not been suggested?—Cotton is a very precarious crop, and in my discussions with the people about what crops might be substituted, cotton has been put on one side as a very outside probability.

22,151. On which also the profit derived is probably smaller than on wheat or linseed?—I do not think it would be more, and it is a more precarious crop.

22,152. In stating that the sugar-cane crop requires more water than poppy, will you explain what you mean?—I mean that the reserve of water in the wells would not be sufficient to water a crop that requires to be watered all through the hot weather, such as sugar-cane.

22,153. With regard to tobacco I understand you to say that it would in some circumstances be the crop which could be well substituted for poppy, provided you had a market and provided the people had acquired a sufficient skill to grow tobacco?—Yes.

22,154. In the absence of these it is not regarded as a probable substitute for poppy in this part of the country?—No.

The witness withdrew.

SANTAJIRAO SAHIB TEMAK called in and examined (through an Interpreter).

Santajirao
Sahib Temak.
(Gwalior
State.)

22,166. (Mr. Mowbray.) You are the Revenue Member of the Council of Regency, Gwalior?—Yes.

22,167. What have you to tell us with regard to the cultivation and use of opium in Gwalior, and also with regard to the proposed prohibitory measures?—I have been serving His Highness Maharaja Scindia for the last 32 years. During the first 15 years I served in the Judicial Branch as Naib-Subha, Subha, Naib-Diwan Fouzdari and Diwani, and the remaining period in the Revenue line as Subha, Sir-Subha, Naib-Diwan, and Incharge Diwan. I at present hold the position of the Revenue Member of the Council of Regency, Gwalior. I served for 10 years as Sir-Subha in Malwa itself, which produces good opium, and where it is eaten by more than a third of the whole population. I never

22,155. Dr. Dane told us that the class of Thakurs with whom he was acquainted in Bhopal were in the habit of taking opium in the form of *amal pani* in excess. Can you state from your own experience whether an excessive use of this kind among the Thakurs is general?—My knowledge of this matter is negative, if they do take it to excess it has never come under my observation, and I have a very much larger acquaintance with the Rajputs than Dr. Dane.

22,156. We may take it that you have a large acquaintance with these Thakur noblemen or gentleman, and that an excessive use has never come before your attention?—Not as a general rule.

22,157. With reference to the sum spent on irrigation work by the Indore State, am I right in understanding that this expenditure would have led to an extension of the irrigated area?—I may explain that on this point I am somewhat doubtful. Since submitting my evidence I discussed the point with the Indore Minister. I have no such knowledge of the Indore State as to enable me to say whether the irrigable area is capable of extension.

22,158. This expenditure of Rs. 3, 30,000 must have led to an extension of the irrigated area?—Yes, and contributed largely to the revenue derived from opium.

22,159. Then your argument would be that the prohibition of poppy cultivation would necessitate a reduction of the rates on irrigated land, and would in that way alter the conditions on which the money had been invested, and in fact deprive the State of the interest which it contemplated deriving?—Yes.

22,160. That was your view?—Yes.

22,161. (The Maharajah of Darbhanga.) If poppy cultivation were prohibited, would not people think, as some of the newspapers say, that Government did it in order to encourage the trade in imported liquor?—I have very good reason for knowing that such a rumour was afloat in Central India, and that it gained strength by the insertion of a paragraph in the "Pioneer." People pointed to that paragraph and said, "We thought this was really the intention of the Government of India."

22,162. You think for that reason prohibition would be likely to cause a certain amount of discontent?—A very large amount of discontent.

22,163. (Mr. Mowbray.) Your last table is said to be a return showing the quantities of opium that passed the scales under the Malwa opium agency in each of the past 15 years. It is really an average of the whole 15 years taken together?—Yes.

22,164. One of the questions referred to this Commission is the effect on the finances of India of the prohibition of the sale and export of opium, taking into consideration, among other things the cost of the necessary preventive measures. I do not know whether you consider yourself in a position to give us any information on that point, or to form any estimate?—I am afraid I am not. It would require a great deal of thought and preparation to devise a scheme for protecting the enormous frontier of Central India (I think Mr. Crosthwaite has given the extent of the frontier). I am not prepared to give any opinion as to the extent of the establishment that would be required.

22,165. You will only say that it would be something very large and mischievous?—Yes.

came across a single case in which a man was charged with crime committed under the influence of opium, while, on the other hand, crimes have been committed under the influence of liquor, and the persons charged have received punishment. Opium is considered a blessing in Malwa, Rajputana, Punjab, and other parts of India. Opium eating cures the evil effects of cold and heat, as well as cough, asthma, fever, intestinal maladies, diarrhoea, rheumatism, dysentery, diabetes, &c. Opium is useful to infants, adults, and old men alike. Babies are held dearer than life by their parents. Now thousands of parents give them opium in moderate doses to protect them from the evil effects of heat and cold, as well as croup (*badal*) and derangement of the stomach, caused by indigestion of milk taken by them.

Opium not only serves this purpose, but makes the babies healthy and strong by causing milk to be properly digested. Had opium been productive of evil effects, would these parents have given it to their darling babies? Adults likewise are able to labour and cultivate by eating opium, which protects them from the evil effects caused by inclemencies of weather, such as fever, &c. In old age man is prone to the attacks of rheumatic pains in all parts of his body, which make him unfit for physical labour. He, by taking his moderate dose of opium, is able to labour and earn the livelihood of his families. By eating opium he does not feel physical exhaustion, as opium keeps up his strength. If the cultivation, export, and use of opium be prohibited, the State and cultivators, as well as traders, labourers, and others who get their livelihood by opium will most heavily suffer. For there is no other production so important as opium, which, with a limited outlay and labour, yields a rich and valuable crop, and enables the cultivator to support himself and his family easily after paying the State demand. Opium may almost be called the "black-coloured gold" of Malwa. A greater loss besides the above one is this: thousands of children and old men and adults who keep their health by the use of opium, and who maintain themselves and their family by its cultivation, will suffer from, and fall victims to various diseases caused by the prohibition of opium. This loss is inestimable, and cannot be compensated. People can enjoy the advantages of opium by spending a pice or so. If it be prohibited, the cultivators might take to liquors. Now liquor will cost no less than two or three annas per day. This means starvation to their families. The use of opium is not condemned by any *Shashtra* or religion. Brahmins, Banias, Rajputs, Musalmans, Punjabis, Sikhs, &c., all eat opium, and give it to their

children. In my opinion it is not advisable to stop the cultivation, trade, and export of this beneficial article, which peculiarly suits the climate of India.

22,168. Have you had an opportunity of seeing the statistics which the other Minister has prepared?—Yes.

22,169. Do they in your opinion form a correct basis of what you believe the Gwalior State would lose were the cultivation and export of poppy prohibited?—I have seen the estimate of the loss which would be incurred by the State, and by the merchants and cultivators, and I believe them to be correct.

22,170. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Will you tell us what *paraganas* are included in the Gwalior Province of Malwa, because we have had Malwa used in different senses once or twice?—Ujjain, Shajapur, Agar, Mundisor, Neemuch, and Amjhara. There are six Subats. A Subha is the one in charge, and the Subat is the area of which he is in charge. These six Subats are under a Sir Subha.

22,171. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Can you give us any idea of the per-centage of adult men in the Gwalior State who take opium habitually?—I have not prepared an estimate, but about one-third of the adult men eat opium.

22,172. What would be the probable average consumption of each habitual consumer per day?—From two to five *machis* is taken, but the normal or moderate dose does exceed three *machis*.

22,173. Are you aware that no one has suggested that the use of opium should be denied to those who require it for medical purposes, and for their health?—I am not aware.

The witness withdrew.

Lieutenant-Colonel SIR MICHAEL FILOSE called in and examined.

22,174. (*Chairman.*) What post do you hold in the Malwa State?—I am the Governor of Malwa.

22,175. How long have you been connected with the Maharaja Scindia's service?—Since I was two years old, all my life.

22,176. Will you give us your opinion on the question of opium, which has been submitted to this Commission for inquiry?—During my residence in Malwa for the last 14 years, I have had occasion to come in contact with every class of people, and have not found a single case in which an opium consumer has suffered from the bad effects alleged to the use of opium. On the contrary, I find most of the consumers enjoy good health. The soil and climate of Malwa are extremely favourable to the produce of opium. The excessive moisture in the air unfortunately creates, particularly among the vegetarians, a deal of sickness, such as fevers, rheumatism, and diarrhoea, which in bad weather easily turns into cholera. Nature seems to have provided a remedy at hand for the most prevailing diseases of the country. The poorest villager, tens of miles away from any hospital, finds a remedy for these diseases in opium produced on the spot. I believe there is a deal of truth in the general cry throughout Malwa that all the young children will die if opium be not given them until they attain the third or fourth year of their age. Most young men, who manage to discontinue the use of opium after their childhood, have to take to it again at the decline of their age, say, about 45, to maintain their health and strength. Most of the inhabitants of Malwa are pure vegetarians, and a great number of them abstain strictly from wines or spirituous liquors. Opium has been used by them for centuries, and is looked upon by the people as a necessity. Their requirements cannot be disregarded. If habit be a second nature, how revolting will it be to deny the earnest cravings of a multitude whose customs and habits, as well as their food, are defined and sanctioned by the religion they profess. It will be a heavy responsibility for any one to bear; for it is certain that many deaths must occur owing to the prohibition of opium in Malwa. The vegetarians in this province are not content to observe vegetarianism themselves, but try their utmost to force it on others even at the risk of causing disturbances. Several cases of riots that have occurred testify to the zeal and earnestness with which they stick to their time-honoured customs and habits. Judging from the character of the people of Malwa, I

expect to encounter a stubborn resistance to any prohibition of the produce, export, and consumption of opium. A memorandum of the losses of revenue to the Gwalior State, the cultivators and traders, amounting to about seven millions of rupees per annum, has been made over to Colonel Robertson as the proper amount of compensation if the prohibition of the produce and export of opium be carried out. But the immense loss of life and bloodshed this prohibition may cause is incalculable.

22,177. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Will you tell me why you think the young children would die if they did not take opium?—In the first place, I have often observed that when the women go to work in the fields, they put the children in baskets, and give them a little opium to keep them quiet. They remain comfortable in the baskets, and thus allow their mothers to work. She occasionally goes and nurses them. Without the opium the child would be very restless, and the mother would not be able to work. Sometimes the woman is a widow, and if it were not for opium she would not be able to support either herself or her child. Then, again, in Malwa the climate is so full of moisture that a child easily gets dysentery or diarrhoea, and cannot digest milk. The people say that if opium is not given to the children, they must almost all of them die.

22,178. The reason generally given to us why it is given, is that it is to prevent the children from crying—your reason is that it is to preserve their lives?—To preserve their lives and also to help them to digest milk. In Malwa it is difficult to digest milk unless opium is taken. I have seen many men look really robust who take opium and who drink milk. They cannot drink milk without taking opium.

22,179. I am referring now to children. Your idea is that opium is given not as other witnesses have said, to prevent them from crying, but to save their lives?—Exactly.

22,180. (*Sir William Roberts.*) I presume you mean that opium is very useful to these children, situated as they are, while their mothers are at work, that is to say, the opium keeps them quiet when the mother's care is away from them. I presume you do not mean more than that?—And also that it helps them to digest the milk.

22,181. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) I believe you prepared the figures which Colonel Robertson handed in?—Yes.

*Santajirao
Sahib Temak.
(Gwalior
State.)*

7 Feb. 1894.

*Lieut.-Col.
Sir M. Filose.
(Gwalior
State.)*

Lieut.-Col.
Sir M. Filose.
(Gwalior
State.)

7 Feb. 1894.

22,182. I see you put down the probable loss to the State if the production of opium were prohibited and other crops substituted at Rs. 26, 45,000?—Yes.

22,183. Could you give me any details as to the way in which the figure has been arrived at?—They are prepared from the actual annual papers and the papers which have been got at by the Revenue Survey. I can send any detail to you you like.

22,184. I see that the land revenue derived from the cultivation of opium is put down at 28 lakhs, what do you estimate would be the land revenue supposing opium were put a stop to?—About Rs. 2. 8. per bigha would be the most that could be got. If you substitute wheat for it you will only get about Rs. 2½ or Rs. 3 per bigha.

22,185. What is the present rate?—About Rs. 10.

22,186. You think that the rate of the revised land revenue if poppy were prohibited would be about one quarter of what it is at present?—Yes, about a quarter. Scindia's bigha is about half an acre.

22,187. Altogether the total revenue which the State derives from opium under various heads is nearly 33 lakhs according to the figures I have mentioned?—About 33 lakhs.

22,188. You estimate you would lose four-fifths, about 26½ lakhs out of 33 lakhs?—Yes, about that.

22,189. Is this figure of 26 lakhs loss of State Revenue what you would call an annual loss, or is any portion of it in your opinion a non-recurring loss?—It is all recurring, an annual loss.

22,190. (Mr. Fanshawe.) I understand that you belong to a family the members of which for some generations have held high positions of trust under the Gwalior State, is that so?—Yes.

22,191. What are the chief races or castes in Malwa?—Rajputs, Kumbis, Brahmins, Mahomedans, Anjanas,

and a few Jats and Khatris. The Khatris are very good cultivators.

22,192. I understand your view to be that if the cultivation of poppy were prohibited the only crop which, in the special circumstances of Malwa, could take its place would be wheat?—Just now, under present circumstances, we could only substitute wheat to such a large extent.

22,193. Have you a fixed land revenue settlement in Malwa?—Yes.

22,194. For what term of years is the settlement in force?—The settlement which has just been made is a 12 years' settlement.

22,195. Are the land revenue rates payable in cash under that settlement?—Yes, in cash.

22,196. Will you kindly tell me the present strength of the Gwalior State army?—I have been away from Gwalior for about 14 years, but I think I know the strength pretty correctly.

22,197. Will you give it to us in round numbers?—8,000 infantry, regular troops, 2,000 regular cavalry, 4,000 irregular troops, and 6 batteries of artillery.

22,198. Can you, speaking from your past experience, tell us how far the habit of using opium is prevalent among the men of the army?—Most of them declare they require to take a dose of opium in the decline of their age, say after 40. They are able to move about better if they take it, and it prevents colds, coughs, and rheumatism. I have not seen any man who takes opium intoxicate himself.

22,199. I may take it that this habit is fairly general among the older men serving in the Maharaja's army, that is what you wish to say?—Exactly.

22,200. Are the men of the army at the present day largely Rajputs or do they include Poorbeas?—Excepting the low class Brahmins and Mahomedans all castes represent the army.

The witness withdrew.

RAO BAHADUR K.C. BEDARKAR, Minister Indore State, called in and examined.

Rao Bahadur
K.C.
Bedarkar.
(Indore
State).

(The Witness.) My Lord, before you proceed to examine me, I have to present, under the direction of His Highness the Maharaja Holkar, the following Kharita, to your Lordship and the members of the Commission:—

Indore, 6th February 1894.

The Honorable Members of the Royal Commission on Opium.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I AM very glad to welcome you to Indore.

I have watched with absorbing interest the evidence which has been placed before you since the appointment of the Commission.

I am hopeful that the evidence which has been taken, and which will be taken hereafter, will be the means of dissipating a number of doubts and misconceptions which have gathered round the opium question.

As the head of a State, the population of which grows, sells, and consumes opium extensively, and pays a considerable revenue into the State treasury, and whose interests I have personally watched, I am necessarily familiar with the different aspects of this question, which is of vital importance to my State.

Detailed information on the various points connected with this question will be supplied to the Commission by my Minister and other witnesses, who will appear before the Commission. But I think it my duty to place before the Commission my convictions on the subject. They are as follows:—

- (1) In view of the relations existing between the Paramount Power and my State, the former would not be justified in requiring me to prohibit the cultivation of opium in my State, except for medical purposes, even though it may itself enforce such prohibition in British India.
- (2) No money compensation can properly or adequately compensate the State or the various classes affected by it for the losses which they will sustain.
- (3) The prohibition will be oppressive to my subjects.
- (4) As a rule, the consumption of opium in my State is moderate, and that a moderate use of opium is not prejudicial in any way.

- (5) I have always found my subjects peaceful and law-abiding, and I apprehend that interference with the present state of things will make them discontented.

In conclusion, I beg earnestly that anxious as the British Government is to increase the prosperity of the Native States in India, the Commission will give the utmost consideration possible towards the solution of this question, and be extremely slow to recommend a change calculated to mar that prosperity to increase which is the anxious care and avowed object of Her Majesty the Queen Empress.

(Signed) SHIVAJI RAO HOLKAR.

22,201. (Chairman.) You have been Minister of Indore since 1890?—Yes, I have been Minister of Indore since 25th October, 1890. I am a B.A., LL.B., and Fellow of the Bombay University. I entered the service of the British Government as translator and interpreter of the Bombay High Court on 25th April, 1863. I was appointed deputy registrar, sealer, and reporter of the High Court on its Appellate side in 1867. I acted as chief registrar of the High Court on several occasions, and acted in this capacity for nearly two years before my appointment as Judge of the Court of Small Causes, at Poona in 1885. The following are the terms of the order of reference made to the Royal Commission:—

1. Whether the growth of the poppy and manufacture and sale of opium in British India should be prohibited, except for medical purposes, and whether such prohibition should be extended to the Native States.
2. The nature of the existing arrangements with the Native States in respect of the transit of opium through British territory, and on what terms, if any, these arrangements can be with justice terminated.
3. The effect on the finances of India of the prohibition of the sale and export of opium, taking into consideration (a) the amount of compensation payable; (b) the cost of the necessary preventive measures; (c) the loss of revenue.
4. Whether any change short of total prohibition should be made in the system at present followed

for regulating and restricting the opium trade and for raising the revenue therefrom.

5. The consumption of opium by the different races and in the different districts of India, and the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people.
6. The disposition of the people of India in regard to
 - (a) the use of opium for non-medical purposes;
 - (b) their willingness to bear in whole or in part the costs of prohibitive measures.

I presume the Commission will confine their inquiries, within the scope laid down, in the terms above set forth. It follows that the inquiry of the Royal Commission will be addressed to the Indore State upon the lines specified therein and with special reference to the conditions obtaining in the State. I therefore propose in this memorandum to discuss what those conditions are and their bearing and application on the points laid down in the order of reference. The first branch of inquiry may be stated thus:—If the growth of the poppy and manufacture and sale of opium should be prohibited, except for medical purposes in British India, could such prohibition be extended to the State of Indore; and, if so, whether it should be extended to it? For the discussion of the first part of this question, the most important thing to notice is the relation existing between the Paramount Power and this State. The Statute and proclamation of 1858, which transferred the Government of India to Her Majesty the Queen, declare that all Treaties, made by the Honourable East India Company, shall be binding on Her Majesty. Article 8 of the Treaty of Peace and Amity between the British Government under the Company and Jaswant Rao Holkar, dated 24th of December 1805, says: "The British Government will not interfere in any manner in the concerns of Jaswant Rao Holkar." This provision of the Treaty has been followed up to this day, and the British Government has never interfered with the internal administration of the State and with its fiscal policy in particular. The right of the Paramount Power to interfere with the internal affairs of the State can only arise upon the occurrence of such gross misrule as may lead to internal rebellion, and it is their duty to interfere in the case of foreign aggression. Save and except these occasions, the Paramount Power may advise and persuade, but may go no further. The Treaty engagements and the constitutional usage which has sprung up preclude the interference of the Paramount Power in any matter relating to the raising of the State revenue and the rules and regulations which the State may frame in that behalf. Three principal matters may be mentioned in which the Paramount Power has brought friendly pressure to bear upon the fiscal administration of Native States. They are salt, abkari, and transit duties. In each of these the agreement of the Native States is the essence underlying the adoption of the measures introduced. None of these was a coercive measure. And all were in the interest of the States and their subjects from a general point of view. The Paramount Power did not, for one moment, try to assume a dictatorial power and say to the Indore State: "You shall do this or that." It only said, "It is advisable in the common interests" of the British Government as well as yourself to "adopt a fiscal policy which will result in the interest of all," and the State gave its assent. Thus neither by Treaty engagements nor traditional usage would the Paramount Power be justified in forcing the policy of opium prohibition upon the Indore State. This point of view is not without a precedent. In 1826, the British Government desired to assume the exclusive right of purchasing opium produced in the Native States of Central India, and although they succeeded in persuading the States of Indore, Dewas, Rutlam, Jaora, Kotah, Sailana, Pertabgarh, Amjhera, and Sitamau to enter into engagements with them, their persuasion with the Maharaja Scindia failed; and which failure was one of the principal reasons which actuated the British Government in giving up the monopoly within a very short time. The fact that the Maharaja Scindia did not enter into the general scheme, and, secondly, the fact that it was necessary to enter into formal engagements with Indore and other Native States, establishes the proposition that the British Government would not be justified in coercing a Native State into adopting a fiscal, commercial, or agricultural policy at their pleasure. The political supremacy of Parliament or the Government of India would not justify the enactment of a measure compelling a Native State to join in a policy which they may choose

to adopt, for reasons of their own. A Native State would be perfectly free in the agricultural and commercial interest of its own subjects, or for the protection of its own revenue, or in deference to time-honoured custom, or tradition, or habits of its subjects, or otherwise, to abstain from joining in the policy. Even Mr. Charles Lewis Tupper, with his extreme albeit non-official views in Our Indian Protectorate goes no farther than to say: "If there were any strong political necessity for the application of a particular territorial law in parts of a Native State where jurisdiction is not vested in the British Government, the constitutional course would be to induce the Chief to introduce the law on his own authority" (See page 353 of his work.) It cannot be said that the question of the prohibition of opium, or its extension to Native States, is a political necessity in any sense, much less is it a strong political necessity such as Mr. Tupper speaks of above as a justifying ground for friendly interference. The question has arisen wholly and solely in consequence of the cry of anti-opiumists in the name of morality against the iniquity of poisoning our good Chinese neighbours who refuse to be converted to Christianity by "barbarian poisoners." These agitators charge the Government with having forced opium upon China, and think it iniquitous for a Christian Government to derive a revenue from that immoral trade, and they advocate the prohibition of opium to relieve the national conscience and to remove the obstacles in the way of the spread of Christianity in China. The whole case clearly rests on so-called moral considerations, and has nothing to do with politics. It is not necessary for the purposes of the present discussion to enter into the question whether the grounds put forth by the anti-opiumists are tenable. I will assume that they are moral grounds, and simply say that the argument that upon any moral grounds the Paramount Power, even after prohibiting opium within its own territory, can and ought to bring pressure upon Native States to act likewise, is a *non sequitur*. Whether opium was forced upon the Chinese at the point of the sword, as has been asserted by the anti-opiumists, or whether it was voluntarily introduced into the tariff by the Chinese themselves, as has been asserted by those who ought to know the truth, is not a matter with which the Indore State has any concern. It is enough to say that no plea on moral ground can possibly justify or entitle the British Government in complying with the demand of the anti-opiumists in bringing pressure upon the Native States and seeking to bring about by that means the suppression of the premier crop of Central India. Having thus disposed of the part of the question relating to the right or authority of the Paramount Power to prohibit the growth of the poppy in Indore State, I turn to the second part of the question whether the Paramount Power should do so, even if they had the right.

22,202. You have stated what you conceive to be from a constitutional point of view the relation between the Paramount State and the independent Native State in relation to such a matter as that before the Commission. The powers having been such as you have described them, do you think that it would be expedient, if it were rightful to do so, to bring the powers of the Paramount State into action in relation to this question of the poppy?—My answer to this question is in the negative, and for the following reasons:—

- (1.) The State would suffer a loss of about Rs. 21,000,000 annually, and would gain no benefit for a sum of Rs. 33,000,000 sunk on wells and tanks.
- (2.) The agriculturists would suffer a loss of Rs. 18,56,190 annually, and would get no proportionate return for a sum of 3 lakhs of rupees sunk by them in wells within the last few years, and of other large sums spent by them in previous years.
- (3.) The jagirdars would suffer to the extent of Rs. 1,63,500 annually.
- (4.) The traders would suffer a loss estimated at Rs. 8,50,000 annually, and would find no good investment for nearly a crore and a half of rupees now invested in the opium trade.
- (5.) No money compensation can adequately make up the loss, and it is impracticable to apportion such compensation.

Rao Bahadur
K.C.
Bedarkar.
(Indore State.)

7 Feb. 1894.

Rao Bahadur
K.C.
Bedarkar.
(Indore State.)

7 Feb. 1894.

- (6.) The impracticability of carrying out preventive measures.
- (7.) There would be a resort to liquor, leading to physical deterioration, moral and social degradation, breach of religious commandment, and increase of crime.
- (8.) There would be grave discontent amongst the people, amounting to political danger.
- (9.) No object will be gained by making so much sacrifice and incurring so much risk, as China will continue to grow and consume its own inferior opium, in spite of all and everything.

22,203. I understand you are prepared to support in detail each of the points you have dealt with in your list?—Yes. Opium is capable of being produced in irrigated land only. The quantity of irrigated land inclusive of khasgi and exclusive of jagirdars in the State is about 152,000 bighas, each bigha being $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre. According to the revenue system prevailing in the State, no distinction whatever is made in respect of assessment between land actually producing opium and land capable of producing it. The whole is popularly known as *adan*, and is assessed on the sole principle as to its capability of producing opium. It is, therefore, a matter of extreme difficulty to arrive at the number of bighas under actual poppy cultivation. In the annual returns submitted to the Agency during the last seven years, the quantity of opium land in the six *knasgi* mahals has not been included, nor also the land owned by jagirdars. A careful investigation, made in connexion with the present Commission, tested by the result of a similar investigation made by His Highness the late Tukoji Rao Maharaja—the ablest revenue administrator Malwa has ever produced—shows the number of bighas under actual poppy cultivation to be about one lakh and ten thousand. A bigha of *adan* pays annually an average assessment of Rs. 13-14-3; so that the land revenue of the State by poppy cultivation comes to about Rs. 15,35,553 annually. The State levies a cess of Rs. 2-5-0 per dhadi of 5 seers of crude opium, weighed at the State scales. The annual revenue derived from it is Rs. 2,03,738. The State levies a consolidated export duty of Rs. 16 per chest of about 14 dhadis or 140 lbs. of manufactured opium. This yields Rs. 1,83,288 annually. The State levies a tax called *dhadwai* at the rate of one anna per dhadi upon sales of crude opium in the city of Indore—half an anna from the seller and the other half from the purchaser. The annual revenue thus realised is Rs. 45,896. The State has a monopoly of manufacturing *rubba* opium from crude opium, adhering to bags in which it is brought from up-country to Indore city. This gives an average annual income of Rs. 24,449. The vend of retail opium takes place under licences granted to farmers. The annual revenue so derived is about Rs. 13,017. The export duty on poppy-seed gives an annual income of about Rs. 3,902. The total of these figures of income is Rs. 20,09,843. The total area under actual poppy cultivation being 122,000 bighas, inclusive of the jagirdars' 12,000, the produce of crude opium therefrom would be the same number of dhadis as, roughly speaking, one bigha yields one dhadi. This produce when converted into manufactured opium will make up 7,625 chests; for 16 dhadis of crude opium or chick is equivalent to one chest. The total of the receipts from the items of "land rent," Rs. 15,35,553, "Rs. 2-5-0 cess," Rs. 2,03,738; "export-duty," Rs. 1,83,288 and *dhadwai*, &c., Rs. 45,896, is Rs. 19,68,475. This together with the income of the jagirdars, Rs. 1,87,500, gives the aggregate receipts at Rs. 21,55,975. Dividing this by the number of chests, 7,625, we get Rs. 283 for the receipts per chest, which is very nearly the same that was made out by His Highness the late Maharaja. In addition to these items of revenue enumerated above, there is one more which requires some detailed explanation. The average export from Indore every year is 10,902 chests, and the average yearly exports from towns other than Indore, such as Rampura, Garot, Manasa, &c., are 1,000 chests. The exports from Indore are made up partly by opium produced within the State itself, and partly by opium imported into Indore in a crude form from foreign territory. The proportion in which these two quantities stand in the sayar (customs) returns is 4,628 chests of the former and 6,274 chests of the latter. The mofassil exports of 1,000 chests may be taken to represent only the State-grown opium, as there is little likelihood of foreign opium going there. The entire produce in the State is 7,625 chests, as given above. Deducting 1,000 chests for mofassil exports, as explained above,

and, say, 1,000 chests for local consumption, there remain 5,625 chests available for being exported from Indore city. But the sayar returns record the actual quantity of State opium received into Indore to be 4,628 chests only, as shown before. This figure falls short of 5,625 by about 1,000 chests, which is, therefore, in my opinion, the extent of smuggling. The smuggling is believed to be carried on in two ways. Some of it is pure and simple smuggling, that is to say, so much chick is brought by stealth from the districts to Indore directly, and thus has evaded the Rs. 2-5-0 cess altogether. But in parts close to or bordering upon foreign territory of other Native States the likelihood is that chick produced within our boundary is smuggled into foreign territory, and again brought back into the State under cover of foreign opium, which at once makes a vast difference in the cess charged upon it. The cess on foreign chick is only one rupee per bag, which usually contains 15 dhadis. Considering the facilities for this latter kind of smuggling, 600 chests may be taken to represent it, leaving 400 chests representing pure direct smuggling. If the 600 chests, indirectly smuggled, had come in the regular way, it would have yielded at Rs. 2-5-0 the following revenue:— $600 \times 16 = 9,600$; $9,600 \times \text{Rs. } 2-5-0 = 22,200$, or, roughly speaking, 20,000. The above result is arrived at synthetically starting from the *datum* that the area under opium cultivation in the State is 122,000. The same thing may be put analytically as follows:—The number of dhadis annually taxed at Rs. 2-5-0 per dhadi on the chick produced and sold in the State as shown by the *fadnavishi* accounts is 90,322. Sixteen dhadis of crude opium make one chest of manufactured opium. So 90,322 dhadis give 5,645 chests. The sayar accounts show that annually 74,034 dhadis of chick produced in the State is brought to Indore for being manufactured. These dhadis make 4,628 chests. The difference between 5,645 and 4,628 is 1,017, or in round numbers 1,000. From the information called for from the Rampura District, it is known that about a thousand chests are annually exported direct without coming to Indore. So 90,322 dhadis annually taxed by the State are correctly accounted for. The average number of dhadis of chick annually coming to Indore from outside as given by the sayar is 99,360. These dhadis give 6,210 chests. The number of chests therefore manufactured from opium chick produced in the State and from that coming from outside is $5,645 + 6,210 = 11,855$. The average annual export of chests from Indore as shown by the Opium Godown Department is 10,909 chests. The number of chests exported direct from Rampura is 1,000. So the total number of chests exported annually from the State is 11,902. Thus the number of chests annually manufactured tallies very nearly with the number of chests annually exported. The question then arises—Whence comes the quantity of opium for consumption in the State? The population of the State is nearly eleven lakhs. Taking 25 per cent. as opium consumers, the number comes to 2,75,000. The average quantity consumed per head daily is about one *masha* or 15 grains. At this rate the total amount consumed in the year comes to about 20,000 dhadis. To these must be added about 12,000 dhadis which, though really produced in the State, come back under cover of foreign chick by smuggling, making 32,000. This number of dhadis gives 2,000 chests, which, together with the 5,645 chests given above, make up 7,645 chests, which is nearly the production of 122,000 bighas at one dhadi per bigha. To proceed to account for these 2,000 chests or 32,000 dhadis. A portion of it is manifestly being retained by the cultivators for their own consumption, and therefore does not come under the Rs. 2-5-0 cess. Taking it to be about 750 chests, the remaining 1,250 only may be presumed to be smuggled into Indore by direct and indirect way. This result accords very nearly with the result worked out in the other way. There is thus every reason to believe that smuggling of an indirect kind under cover of foreign chick has been going on to the extent above shown, and that it might be stopped by rigorously checking every import of chick from foreign territory by requiring *parwanas* under which it left the foreign territory. Orders have accordingly been issued to that effect, by which Rs. 20,000 at least will be added to the revenue from the Rs. 2-5-0 cess. Adding this sum of Rs. 20,000 to the total income given above, gives a grand total of Rs. 20,29,843, representing the annual revenue to the State from opium. I should like to add that I have endeavoured, to the best of my power to give an estimate of the losses that would be sustained. It was

made within the short time allowed to us, and I have reason to believe that if the figures are worked out more leisurely and carefully there may be an increase; I do not think there will be any decrease. There is one item, for instance, which I have omitted from consideration—the revision of the assessment. If any prohibition policy were to come into operation it would, I think, be necessary to revise our assessments, and in the case of an important State like Indore there might be under that head a very large increase—three or four lakhs.

22,204. For the mere re-assessment?—Yes. These figures are only to be taken as approximate estimates.

22,205. That charge for re-assessment would be an expenditure occurring once only?—Yes.

22,206. The other figures are recurring?—Yes.

22,207. In addition to the items making up the total of 20 lakhs you have dealt with another item which you say requires some detailed explanation—smuggling Rs. 20,000. Can you give us the general result of that statement?—Indore and several other States are continuous, the villages of one State bordering upon those of another. Our tax upon opium from the place of production is Rs. 2 5a. In order to evade that producers will produce opium in Indore territory, take it to a neighbouring village belonging, say, to Gwalior or Jaora, and then bring it back to Indore as opium not belonging to our State, but belonging to either Gwalior or Jaora. They have an inducement to do that because the duty which they have to pay for bringing opium to one of our villages where opium is produced to Indore is Rs. 2 5a., whereas the tax which we levy upon opium for the purpose of being manufactured from neighbouring States is Rs. 1 per bag containing about 25 dhadis of seers each. That is the principle upon which the calculation is made.

22,208. Having explained to us what may be called the total income derivable from opium, in order to get a net figure, you must deduct something for the revenue which may be expected to be realised from the crop next best to opium?—From this must be deducted the estimated amount of revenue expected to be realised from the crop next best to opium. Having regard to the circumstances existing in this State, wheat is considered to be this crop, and the average rate expected to be realised from it is Rs. 2 per bigha, or Rs. 2,20,000 in all. Export duty on grain as at present levied should also be added to this probable estimate of the substituted revenue. This export duty on grain is estimated yearly to be Rs. 6,248. So, on the whole, the total income will be Rs. 2,26,248. Thus annual loss to the State from the prohibition of opium would be Rs. 20,29,843 minus Rs. 2,26,248, or Rs. 18,03,595.

22,209. You have referred to the expenditure upon tanks; to what extent would there be a loss under that head?—His late Highness Tukoji Rao Maharaja spent no less than 33 lakhs of rupees upon tanks and wells with the view expressly of affording facilities for the growth of opium within this State. As no other irrigated crop can, under the circumstances of the State, be profitably raised instead of opium, this large sum of money must cease to be remunerative. This sum at 4 per cent. per annum would have yielded an interest of Rs. 1,32,000, which, therefore, must also be added to the above sum of Rs. 18,03,595 to arrive at the total annual loss to the State, which thus comes to Rs. 19,35,595.

22,210. What figure have you taken for the necessary preventive establishment?—It will be necessary to add the cost of preventive measures for the suppression of opium. It is my personal experience, and I believe it also to be the experience of every officer connected with the administration of the State, that the present staff, both at head-quarters and the mufassil, is unable to cope with the work which they have at present to perform. The old lax system under which a patwari, who drew the nominal pay of 14 annas per month, was expected to keep the accounts of a village yielding a revenue of several thousands of rupees, is being replaced by better-paid men. The hereditary servants, such as Kangos, Mandlois, and others, are being replaced, where practicable, by regular servants of the State with the view of promoting general efficiency and getting rid of corruption. There is therefore a cry for more men and better pay in every department of the State, and the cry is undoubtedly well founded. Consequently if opium be suppressed, extra establishment will have to be maintained,

costing about Rs. 2,92,950 annually, as will be seen from the details given later on in the discussion regarding preventive measures. It may be possible to curtail, on the other hand, a part of our present establishment; but it will be quite impossible to reduce it to a greater extent than Rs. 50,000 a year, which sum should therefore be deducted from Rs. 2,92,950. A greater part of the preventive establishment will not be required to be maintained throughout the year. It will therefore be fair to deduct another sum of Rs. 1,00,000. The preventive measures will thus at least cost Rs. 1,42,950. Adding this to Rs. 19,35,595 the total comes to Rs. 20,78,545, representing the total annual loss to the State, or, in round members, 21 lakhs.

22,111. The next question with which you propose to deal is the loss to agriculturists?—It is calculated with reference to question No. 62 of the series of questions sent by the Agency to the Darbar, and which, with my answers, are appended to this memorandum, it is found that a cultivator realises a profit of Rs. 17 per bigha of opium-growing land. In the case of the next best crop his net profit would be Rs. 2 per bigha; deducting 2 from 17, the loss to him per bigha would be Rs. 15. The area of land under actual opium cultivation in the State lands is 110,546, and the area in jagir lands is 12,000, in all 122,546. Multiplying by 15, the total loss to the opium cultivators, both of the State and jagirs, comes to Rs. 18,38,190. Besides the loss given above, account must be taken of the loss corresponding to the investments by the cultivators on their own account in the sinking of wells. They have borrowed capital on this head both from the Sirkar and sowcars. The State accounts show that loans to the amount of Rs. 3,00,000 have been made to them during the past few years, for which they pay interest at varying rates. It is impossible to ascertain how much the cultivators have borrowed from other sources or spent out of their own savings. But there is no doubt that their investment would come to a considerable amount. For this sum they have been paying interest to their creditors. This they must continue to pay until the liquidation of their liabilities even if poppy cultivation were stopped. Leaving out of account the interest on their unascertained liabilities, that on Rs. 3,00,000, advanced by the Sirkar at 6 per cent., gives Rs. 18,000, which, together with the loss in their savings given above, makes up the sum of Rs. 18,56,190 as the annual loss.

22,212. What is your estimate of the loss to the jagirdars?—The irrigated land in jagir villages is 15,000 bighas, of which about 12,000 is under poppy cultivation. The average assessment realised by them may be taken to be Rs. 15 per bigha, as I think they charge a little more than the State. Deducting from it the assessment that could be levied by them on the next best crop at the rate of Rs. 2 per bigha, the net loss to the jagirdars and thakurs would be Rs. 13 per bigha or Rs. 1,56,000 in the aggregate. In addition to their own land rent they get some share of the Rs. 2-5-0 cess levied by the State on the chick produced and weighed at their villages. This share varies from annas 4 to 16 per dhadi. Taking the average to be 10 annas, the income to the jagirdars taken together from this source is Rs. 7,510. These two items added together give the annual loss to jagirdars at Rs. 1,63,500. Besides this actual loss the jagirdars will get no adequate return for the cost of construction of wells and other improvements made by them in their estates, with a special view of facilitating the growth of poppy.

22,213. What do you estimate to be the loss to the class of traders and bankers?—The opium chick produced is generally purchased by the village tipdar or middleman on his own account or as agent to the city manufacturers. He buys the chick at one or two rupees less than the market price from the cultivators, for whom he stands security to Revenue officers with regard to the payment of assessment. Roughly speaking, he makes 1 rupee per dhadi sold. The village dalal or broker gets 4 annas per dhadi for his labours in travelling from place to place and collecting juice. The village tullawati or weigher gets 2 annas per dhadi of the chick weighed and sold. The village tipdar then brings the chick to the city manufacturers. First it goes to the sayar or Customs office, where it is weighed and dhadwai tax levied when sold. The city sowcar gets from the village tipdar commission at 8 annas per cent. on the amount of purchase. The time intervening between the coming of the chick to the manufacturer and that of the drying of the balls fit for being

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sold in chests is about 18 months. For this period the sowcar calculates interest at 6 per cent. on his investment. All the sowcars are not manufacturers. Some of them get the manufacturing business done through others, by paying Rs. 14 for 30 dhadis of chick manufactured for them. The manufacturers get a net profit of Rs. 4 out of the Rs. 14. The city dalal and tullawati, combined into one, get about Rs. 2 per chest. There is a class of traders who buy chests locally manufactured, and send them to Bombay. They make Rs. 4 per chest. Taking all these items together, the different persons concerned get Rs. 72-10-1½ in all per chest as follows:—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Village Tipdar - - -	16	0	0
Do. Dalal - - -	4	0	0
Do. Tullawati - - -	2	0	0
City Dalal and Tullawati - -	2	0	0
Do. Sowcar - - -	44	10	1½
Trader who locally buys and exports to Bombay - - -	4	0	0
Total -	72	17	1½

The number of chests annually exported is about 11,000. Multiplying this number by Rs. 72 10a. 5½p. the result is the annual profit to all the above traders concerned, that is, Rs. 7,98,875. One chest of manufactured opium is worth about Rs. 500. As shown above, a trader gets about Rs. 72 10a. 1½p. as profit per chest. At this rate the total amount of profit for 11,000 chests annually exported is Rs. 7,98,875. This is obtained from an outlay of Rs. 46,75,000 at about Rs. 425, the cost price per chest, and gives a dividend of about Rs. 17 per cent. If opium cultivation is suppressed, this annual profit will be reduced to Rs. 1,87,00, calculating interest at 4 per cent. on Rs. 46,75,000. Deducting this sum from the present profit of Rs. 7,98,875, the remainder is Rs. 6,09,875, representing the annual loss to the traders above named. Besides these, there others who gain livelihood in other ways from opium. The ball-makers make annually about Rs. 63,000; the labourers or kamals make Rs. 5,250, and charitable institutions receive about Rs. 26,500 as contributions from opium merchants. Then, again, the Indore merchants have branch firms in Bombay for the purpose of the export trade to China. These firms make about Rs. 1,47,000 annually as commission on the business they transact. If opium traffic is suppressed, all these will be deprived of their means of subsistence to the extent specified above. Thus the sum total of annual loss to the trading class and others coming within its pale is about rupees eight lakhs and a half. The chests now in stock in Indore are estimated at about 21,000. The investment per chest is about Rs. 425; so a capital of Rs. 89,25,000 is locked up in opium traffic. If opium traffic be suppressed this large capital, as well as nearly half a crore annually employed in the opium trade, will go abegging for profitable investment, which it will scarcely get.

22,214. Upon this question of compensation, which is a very grave one, we shall be glad to hear your views?—Closely allied with the question of losses, attendant upon the prohibition of opium, is that of compensation. It is a very plausible argument that if the British Government afforded compensation to Native States, the latter should have no objection to the proposed change. A little consideration will, however, show that the matter is not so simple as might at first be supposed. Supposing it was possible for Government to afford compensation at cent. per cent. of all the actual pecuniary losses of each State, the latter would hardly be satisfied with the compromise. For it is one thing to be able to grow the crop and raise a revenue therefrom, and it is quite another thing to receive a certain money compensation annually in lieu of it. The former is a matter of right or possession of an important lauded interest, the latter is a matter of so much money allowance. The former is fraught with possibilities of development and increased profit; the latter is a stated return, shut up to all chance of increase. There is a sort of dignity, greatness, independence, and sovereignty attaching to the former; the latter can be regarded in no better light than an annuity or dividend allowed to a member or shareholder by a Stock or Insurance Company. Territory yielding revenue equal to the State loss can alone adequately compensate it; and I fear a demand for any such grant would be simply ridiculed. In short, any scheme awarding compensation can, at the most, deal with the actual pecuniary losses, leaving the injury in

respect of the pecuniary interest *in posse*, or to the sentimental side of the matter totally uncompensated. But the problem of giving compensation for the actual pecuniary losses is itself not easy of solution. I have shown above how many parties would be involved in loss and what would be their respective losses, and the aggregate comes to Rs. 49,48,235. This amount of compensation must be forthcoming to make good the sum total of them all. Come it must; for there will be a failure of justice otherwise. Unless all the parties are fully compensated, their willing acquiescence in the proposal is quite out of the question. Assuming then that the fullest compensation is forthcoming, how will it be possible to apportion and distribute the same in the case of the agriculturists and traders? The approximate amount of their losses is given above in one lump sum. But I cannot conceive how the individual losses that make it up can be ascertained and the corresponding compensation distributed to the right individuals. The problem is, on the whole, marked by extreme difficulty and complexity, and is one which it will be impossible to solve in a way that will satisfy the just claims of all the parties. In conclusion, I have no hesitation in saying that the extension of the prohibition of opium to the Indore State, even if accompanied by pecuniary compensation, will dislocate its finances and its revenue system hopelessly, and will give a permanent blow to the various classes and interests in it. I may in this place consider the kindred question whether or not it will be possible to recoup the State's loss by the development of other sources of revenue, by increase of taxation, and by curtailment of expenditure. This is the remedy proposed by the advocates of prohibition to the Government of India for making up the void that will be created in the event of prohibition in their finances. It must be seen whether that remedy is applicable in the case under discussion. In this connexion, it is important to remember one material and essential difference between the Government of India and this State. The resources of the former are vast, varied, and elastic. They are developing every year. Their sources of revenue other than the land-rent are many and considerable. The finances of this State depend, for the most part, on land revenue, which is fixed. All the other sources put together form but a fraction of the total revenue, and are as stationary as the land assessment. An order was made only last year to grant annual remissions to the tune of several lakhs of rupees. The income of the State, circumscribed as it is by internal conditions as well as by the depression of trade resulting from the increasing growth of opium in China and the competition of Persia, has not only lost its elasticity, but reached its lowest level. Consequently, the State will never be able to make up the great deficiency attendant upon the prohibition of opium, and restore equilibrium by an increased income from other resources. As for the expenditure of Indore, it does not admit of retrenchment. On the contrary, it has a tendency to increase, and has latterly positively increased, especially in the Military Department, owing to the formation and maintenance of the Indore Imperial Service Cavalry, and in the Educational Department by the establishment of the Holkar College in the new building now nearly completed. Vast improvements which must cost a very considerable sum of money are under contemplation in the Public Works Department. Several roads, bridges, and public buildings for the location of Amin Kucheries, Courts of Justice, and buildings for the accommodation of the police, would be in hand but for the want of funds which can come from no other source than land revenue. Further taxation in Indore is impossible and not to be thought of. If the Government of India, with their vast rich and developing resources and with the possibility of effecting considerable reductions in the Home charges, and also, according to some, of effecting reductions in the military expenditure, emphatically deny that they will ever be able to recoup the loss of their revenue from opium prohibition, much less will it be possible for the Indore State to make its two ends meet. It will be quite impossible to make adequate progress within the State at all commensurate with the progress going on beyond it. On the contrary, it will be impoverished, if not completely ruined. The Akra Panch of Indore tell me that they have recoverable outstandings in connexion with the opium trade of about 3 crores* of rupees, and that the prohibition of opium will make this recovery almost impossible. The State also has outstandings due by cultivators extending over several crores. How much of this is for opium cannot be estimated. But it must come to some crores,

and there is no doubt the cultivators if prohibited to grow opium will never be able to repay it.

22,215. What do you estimate to be the net cost of the necessary preventive measures?—The wide-spread cultivation of the poppy in this State would make it an extremely difficult task to prohibit its growth, except for medical purposes. Nearly every village in the Rampura District, including Bhanpura, grows poppy. Few villages in Indore district are without the poppy. In Nimad it is sparsely grown, and in Nimawar it is rarely grown. To allow the poppy to be grown where it is now grown, but to restrict its growth in each place to the extent only of the medical requirements, would be impracticable, if not absolutely impossible, and would require a host of preventive officers at an expense quite incommensurate with the object to be attained. It will be expedient to select a part of the country and allow in it as much opium to be cultivated as would be required to meet the medical requirements of the whole State. Special rules and regulations will have to be made for the cultivation of the plant, for the ascertainment of the quality and quantity of the product in its crude state, for its manufacture into a saleable condition, and for its distribution to those who may require it. Rules and regulations and a large number of preventive officers will be necessary to enforce the prohibition of the growth in the rest of the territory. All this proceeding, besides being inquisitorial, will require a large extra establishment, the present one being scarcely able to perform the work which it has to cope with now. During the time that the ephemeral Treaty negotiated in 1826 lasted, a state of things existed which is described in two sentences quoted below from Sutherland's sketches quoted by Aitchison, Vol. III., p. 332, first edition, and to which Mr. A. Mackay alludes in his introduction to his work on the Chiefs of Central India, page lix. and lx. "They (the British Government) did not know that they had raised up a cloud of spies and opium seizers, whose hand was in every man's house, and in every man's cart; that they were teaching the Governments of these countries to lend us their aid to forward views most opposed to the interests of their own subjects, whether agricultural or commercial, or to the extent to which the odium of the whole system fell upon themselves."

"At last, opium carriers armed to oppose opium seizers, and a sort of civil war had in some places arisen, which is likely to become more extended." It is believed that, viewed by the light of the above two passages, the establishment detailed below will not be found to be more than necessary for the suppression of the poppy in this State. There are over 5,000 villages in the State, of which I assume 3,000 to be those in which the poppy is grown. This estimate is rather under than above the mark. There are 40 mahals in the State. Upon these facts, I think it will be necessary to have one guard in each opium-producing village, and one inspector in each mahal, with a sub-inspector to assist him in the larger mahals. The inspector would require a karkun or two, and a few chaprasis. The mofassil establishment will be of two kinds, the watchmen remaining stationary in each village, and the inspectional staff travelling for at least four months, and being engaged on duty for six months. The head-office at Indore will be full-time workers, but must travel for at least four months and superintend the operations of the whole department. The establishment and the cost necessary for this purpose will be as follows:—

Head-Quarter Establishment.

Charges for one year.

	Rs.
Head preventive officer at Indore on Rs. 300 a month - - -	3,600
One head clerk on Rs. 50 a month - - -	600
1st " " 30 " - - -	360
2nd " " 25 " - - -	300
3rd " " 20 " - - -	240
4th " " 20 " - - -	240
6 Chaprasis at Rs. 5 each " - - -	360
Contingent expenses for one year - - -	150
Total - - -	5,580

Mofassil Inspectorial Establishment.

	Rs.
40 Inspectors on Rs. 100 per head per month including travelling allowance - - -	48,000
80 Karkuns at two Karkuns under one inspector, one on Rs. 35 and the other on Rs. 25 per month - - -	28,800
160 Chaprasis at four chaprasis under one inspector on Rs. 5 per head per month - - -	9,600
20 Sub-inspectors for large mahals on Rs. 50 per month, including travelling allowance - - -	12,000
20 Karkuns at one karkun under each sub-inspector on Rs. 25 per month each - - -	6,000
40 Chaprasis at two chaprasis for each sub-inspector on Rs. 5 per head - - -	2,400
3,000 Guards at one guard per village on Rs. 5 per head - - -	1,80,000
Contingencies for inspectors and sub-inspectors - - -	300
Total - - -	2,87,100
Grand total - - -	2,92,950

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Having regard to the fact that this establishment will not be a whole-time establishment, and that only the head office will have to be maintained throughout the year, I will in the lump deduct one lakh of rupees from the above amount, and I will also deduct a sum of half a lakh of rupees which may be saved by a reduction from our present administrative establishment. These deductions leave Rs. 1,42,950 as the least amount which will be required to take preventive measures for the suppression of the poppy. The preventive measures of this State to be effectual must be of a character co-operative with the measures which may be adopted by the British Government, and the other States of Central India, and may require to be modified both as regards costs and numbers.

22,216 The inquiry on which this Commission is engaged has been instituted in deference to the wishes of those who have a high moral object in view. Those who have promoted the inquiry are exceedingly anxious that in all countries with which our Government is either directly or indirectly concerned the principles of moderation and the avoidance of excess in all things shall prevail. Supposing a policy of prohibition to be established in British India and accepted by the State with which you are connected, how do you think that the diminished use or the cessation of the use of opium, would lead to excess in other directions?—I have very great respect for Sir Joseph Pease and his philanthropy, and also for Mr. Caine, with whom I have had the pleasure of personal acquaintance; but I am still of opinion, having considered the matter carefully, that so far as this State is concerned a policy of prohibition in the first place is unnecessary, and, in the second place, would produce very grave discontent and lead to a resort to liquor. If the cheap and easily accessible opium be placed beyond the reach of the people, and if the people must have something as a luxurious stimulant or comforter after toil, they will most probably have recourse to the worst kind of liquor. In these parts toddy is not obtainable; so that the only liquor available will be either the country liquor of cheap liquors imported from Great Britain and the Continent of Europe. The great majority of the people of this State are Hindus, and a great portion of them belong to castes whom religion forbids the use of liquor, but permits that of opium, and consequently who consume that drug very generally. Indeed, even tobacco-smoking is forbidden by religion to a number of castes, both Hindu and non-Hindu, such as the Nagars, Bohras, Parsis, Sikhs and others, and is held socially not respectable by a host of others, but there is not a single class or caste in the whole of India, or, for the matter of that, in the whole world, whose religion interdicts the use of opium. To all such, liquor will be an inducement to break the commandments of their religion. As for the rest, those among them who hitherto satisfied their cravings for a stimulant by opium will do so by liquor. So that a race of opium-eaters will be substituted by a race of liquor-drinkers. Liquor of the sort which they will get, being of bad

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quality, will not prove so harmless as opium has been, but will work destructively on their mental powers and physical constitution, and will also lead to offensiveness in society, depravity in morals, and criminality in their actions.

22,217. You wish to say something on the question of what you call political danger?—The traditions of mythology or the records of history give no instance of any portion of humanity who at any period of time did not indulge in a stimulant of some sort. On the contrary, mythology and history alike teach us that every nation has been in the habit of using one or more substances to gratify their innate desire for a drug or substance which brought on exhilaration or intoxication. From a variety of local causes, one nation had one sort of a stimulant and another the same or something different. For centuries in India opium has been used as a stimulant by several classes of people, and in Malwa a considerable portion have come to regard it as a necessary function of their daily life. Whether as an article of necessity or luxury, as a tonic or as a medicine against disease, opium has become a part and parcel of their life. The daily administration of opium to infants is universal throughout India. Hardly 10 per cent. go without it. Opium does no physical harm to them, much less to adults, when taken in moderation. Even taken in excess it takes years for bad results to follow either on the body or on the mind. There are some people who take 8 or 10 tolas without being seriously injured. I am told there is one man in the city who can eat half a ball of opium without injury, and I can produce him. At the same time opium may of course be abused like anything else, however harmless in itself. It may be used for self destruction or murder; but the above is an exception, and the moderate use is the rule in this part of the country. Opium consumers for the most part belong to castes which, by religion or usage, are forbidden to use liquor, and have found in opium a substance giving energy for their daily toil and a solace and comfort after that toil is over. The habit of using opium when once formed is exceedingly difficult to get rid of. Its use is absolutely harmless and leads to no criminality. On the contrary, opium cultivation has in this State positively checked the criminal practices of the criminal tribes, such as the Moghias, Sondyas, Bhils, Baoris, and others upon whom Maharaja Holkar has spent large sums of moneys and whom the Darbar has given lands for peaceful settlement. These will almost surely resort to their forefathers' predatory occupation. The recent report by the Actuary of the Oriental Life Assurance Company has established that the Company has not had to deal with a single death from opium for so many as 20 years. Mr. Rustomji Pestonji Jehangir, of Bombay, has shown in his recent work on 'The Lives of Opium Smokers in Bombay' that, during a period of eight years, he has not found a single case of criminality originating in the use of opium. There has been within my knowledge not a single case of a Government servant being dismissed for over-indulgence in opium either in this State or in British India, whereas cases of dismissals for over-indulgence in liquor may be counted by the dozen. The preventive measures which can be devised for restricting the growth of the poppy to medical purposes, and prohibiting the growth otherwise, would be needlessly inquisitorial in the highest degree and distasteful all round. Under these circumstances the least interference with the use of opium is sure to be resented by every class of the people on one ground or another. Non-users would resent it on the ground that if the use of opium is interfered with to-day something else might be selected for interference to-morrow. From the highest to the lowest the interference would be resented on the ground of the infraction of a right to use any substance in any rational way they pleased. Users would resent it on the ground of interference with their habits and customs. And all would resent it on the ground of the sure probability of the substitution of the more dear and destructive alcohol imported from the home of the philanthropic anti-opiumists and religious bigots blind to all arguments but their own, notwithstanding the fact that some of them may be total abstainers. India is essentially a conservative country, and the Indian people's prejudices, sentiments, and practices being blended more or less with religion, are deep-rooted and extremely difficult to eradicate. Indian history furnishes numerous instances of serious disturbances having arisen from a disregard of these characteristic susceptibilities. The riots of this year in the various and distant parts of India are the most

recent illustration of this fact, which may be taken as incontrovertible, and when it is observed that the proximate causes of these riots have been such insignificant trifles as the ringing of a bell, the parading of a *tabut*, or the sight of an animal legitimately slaughtered, it is but reasonable to suppose that the ignorant portion of the community will resent any interference with their inveterate domestic habits most bitterly and most certainly. The cultivators will be discontented because their principal product of agriculture will have gone. The martial classes like the Sikhs, Rajputs, Rathors, and Poorbeas, who form the major portion of the State army, the Police and the Shibandi, will resent it because of the loss of their favourite stimulant and giver of energy. The merchants and traders will resent it because their whole occupation will have gone. It is clear, therefore, that the proposed measure is certain to result in the gravest discontent amounting to serious political danger such as no Government would take the risk of incurring; and this danger would be infinitely enhanced by the fact that it has originated in the agitation raised by proselytising missionaries and tenaciously pursued by them both in and out of India. It would be unwise, impolitic, and impracticable for any Government to incur the risk of such a widespread discontent and such a serious political danger. It is indeed a pity that things should have been allowed to have gone on to the extent to which they have already proceeded, and it would be necessary and wise to allay in the best possible manner the discontent which has unfortunately already been caused, and which I noticed both amongst traders and agriculturists during the course of my inquiry for the purposes of this Commission. Their despairingly defiant tone was shown in a manner for which I was not prepared.

22,218. What have you to say with regard to the effects of prohibition on China?—If the object of the proposed prohibition of opium be to put a stop to the poisoning of the Chinese on moral or religious grounds, then that object will remain as distant from fulfilment as ever, because I believe the preponderance of authoritative evidence goes to show that the Chinese will grow and consume opium in spite of everything to the contrary.

22,219. Are there any further remarks that you desire to make?—For the reasons I have given the British Government would not be justified by right or reason to ask the Indore State to extend the edict of prohibiting the growth of opium, except for medical purposes. The points of reference Nos. 2 and 3, 4, 5, and 6, so far as they apply to this State, have been already discussed and disposed of above. There exist no special arrangements with this State in respect of the transit of opium through British territory. The practice has been for the British Government to charge a reasonable duty on each chest of opium exported from the State, and for the reasons explained it would be unjust to make a substantial change in the practice. His Highness the late Maharaja Tukoji Rao over and over again protested against the levying of a high export duty, and his Highness' protest was always treated with consideration and listened to. The present proposal is quite revolutionary in its character, and no protest would be too strong against it; for it is obvious that both the prohibition of opium and the raising of duty to a prohibitive figure can lead to but one result. As to a change short of total prohibition, I am of opinion that there is no case made out for regulating or restricting the opium trade or raising the revenue therefrom in the case of this State. The consumption of opium in a moderate way, as is the case in the State, is not only not deleterious, physically, mentally, morally, or socially, but is, on the other hand, positively beneficial, as it brightens the intellect, alleviates hunger, assists digestion, prevents disease, relieves toil, and satisfies a natural craving. As to the willingness of the people to bear the cost of preventive measures it would be asking them to assist in their own destruction. One might as reasonably expect them to alter human nature.

22,220. (Mr. Wilson.) You have mentioned three principal matters in which there has been some suggestion of an alteration in the Native States; is it the case that the British Government has never, in the case of this State, gone beyond saying "It is advisable"?—In revenue matters I am absolutely certain that it has never gone beyond that.

22,221. You do not apply that remark to other matters?—I have answered the question with reference

to revenue; if you will put a distinct question on any other point I shall be prepared to answer it.

22,222. I will not press it if you do not wish to answer it. My question was whether in regard to other matters the British Government had gone beyond saying that it was advisable?—Your question is a very comprehensive one, and a vague answer would not be satisfactory. If you will put the question in precise terms, I will give as precise an answer as I can.

22,223. I will not press it. You have said that the whole case clearly rests on so-called moral considerations, and has nothing to do with politics?—That is what I conceive the case to be.

22,224. You regard morals and politics as entirely separate matters?—In one sense they are, and in another they are not. Morality may be the ground of all our considerations, politics included. But dealing with politics especially, I make a distinction between politics and morality.

22,225. Will you explain the distinction a little more clearly?—I conceive the case to be this. As the noble Chairman has said, this agitation arose in consequence of certain conscientious scruples entertained by a certain class of very venerable people on the ground of morality. Morality to a certain extent in that sense includes religion. Morality in a practical form may be shaped according to the religion upon which each particular aspect of it is based. India is an extremely conservative country, in the principal affairs of which religion has a potent influence; and the above remarks specially apply to it. The agitation having originated in that way, it has a mixture of the religious and the moral aspect. Separating morality altogether from politics, I say, that this question has a purely moral aspect. The British Government is not supposed to interfere with our religion. The Queen's proclamation forbids it. They can only interfere on other than religious grounds. The ground upon which the Commission has proceeded being professedly a moral ground, and a conscientious ground, including religion but excluding politics, I say that the question, based as it is upon grounds of morality, has nothing whatever to do with politics.

22,226. With regard to the three lakhs sunk on wells and tanks, those are not exclusively for poppy, are they?—Mostly, because other crops do not require the water poppy does. Poppy cultivation is distinguished from all cultivation in this respect, that it requires the shortest possible time, and all the water that is given to it has to be given within a certain short space of time. In Malwa, and especially in Indore, water lasts only for a short time, and unless these special provisions of wells and tanks are made, the cultivation of poppy will not thrive as well as it otherwise would.

22,227. With reference to the three lakhs sunk by agriculturists, that is in addition to the 33 lakhs already referred to?—The 33 lakhs has been spent by the State; the three lakhs is what the State has advanced to the cultivators themselves. The State has helped the agriculturists to build their wells for the purpose of poppy cultivation.

22,228. In reference to smuggling, why do you make a difference in the payment, apparently giving preference to a neighbouring State as compared with your own?—For the purpose of increasing our export duty—that is one reason. Another reason is, that the merchants of Indore can alone, as a rule, afford to pay the expense of manufacture.

22,229. You say that orders have been issued for making a change?—Yes, but the order has not yet been carried into effect.

22,230. It has not come into full operation?—It cannot, because this is not the time when any poppy milk is produced. Orders have been issued, but there will not be any poppy juice coming in for some time.

22,231. It is only quite recently that it has occurred to you to take this means of stopping smuggling?—It has occurred to me for some time, but measures have been taken quite recently.

22,232. With reference to these various charges, have you in your calculation made allowance for the cost of collection?—Yes. I represented to the Agency that the course followed by the last Public Service Commission might be followed in this case, so as to allow every witness to be ready with information on the subject. To aid the Commission I thought that if certain questions were framed, we should be better able to assist you by placing evidence before you.

22,233. Is it not a fact that there is now a smaller quantity of poppy sown than usual?—Decidedly not. I do not think so. I not think there has been any change in the quantity of poppy sown.

22,234. Not even in this neighbourhood?—No. I think this is rather a good year. We are exceedingly hopeful of realising our full revenue this year very easily.

22,235. You say that the use of opium is "absolutely harmless." Of course I understand you to speak as the Minister of this State?—Decidedly not. I have endeavoured to frame my answers as if I were on oath or affirmation. I have tried to the utmost of my ability to be as accurate as the information supplied to me will enable me to be.

22,236. You do not think that the habit of taking opium can be in any way regarded as a vice?—The habit is decidedly a vice; but if anybody has got into the habit I see no reason why he should not be allowed to indulge in it. I would not go in for opium myself, not having been in the habit up to now.

22,237. You have expressed considerable respect for Sir Joseph Pease and Mr. Caine; would you class them among the "religious bigots blind to all arguments but their own"?—That depends upon their actions.

22,238. In this case you would?—I look to the actions, not to the men themselves.

22,239. Was there not in this State an order issued a few weeks or months ago with reference to the cultivation of opium?—What about?

22,240. In reference to diminishing the quantity?—I never heard of it up to this moment. If there is any foundation for it I should be very glad to know.

22,241. Are you aware that an impression prevails amongst some people that such an order was issued?—All I can say is that the origin of it must be very wicked. No order would go except with my signature, and none has gone; none has ever been in contemplation, to my knowledge, up to this moment.

22,242. (Mr. Mowbray.) With regard to the amount of poppy land under cultivation, I understand that the 1,10,000 bighas, which you calculate consists of irrigated lands, under the State itself, exclusive of the Jagirs?—Yes; 10,000 or 12,000 more for the jagirdars.

22,243. So that in fact out of the 1,52,000 bighas 110,000 or more than two thirds of the irrigated land are under poppy cultivation?—Yes, that is my estimate; it is only an estimate.

22,244. With regard to the Treaties with the Native States, are there any agreements in force of that nature with the Maharaja Holkar's State?—None, except the one mentioned, and that has ceased long ago.

22,245. There are no arrangements at all now?—None.

22,246. The State levies a cess of Rs. 2-5 per dhadi of 5 seers of crude opium weighed at the State scales; is that on what is consumed locally and what is exported?—No; the Rs. 2-5 is a duty that is imposed on opium the moment it is removed from the place of production and is generally brought to Indore, or, perhaps, some little part of it goes outside. When it is so removed this tax of Rs. 2-5 per 5 seers is paid.

22,247. Then, of course, if it goes to be exported, the export duty is on the chest when it is manufactured; Rs. 2-5 is on the crude opium?—The export duty is upon the chests which go to the scales.

22,248. I rather gather that you are anxious that the Commission should come to as prompt a decision as possible?—That is my humble wish.

22,249. I do not know whether this uncertainty that you refer to is more important at any particular time of the year than at any other time?—No, I do not think there is any difference. I have had to collect information from agriculturists and traders in order to assist you in your present investigation. The agriculturists specially were very bitter; they all had very false notions of what was coming. They thought that the British Government were going to introduce liquor and to prohibit altogether the growth of opium. I had considerable trouble in explaining to them what the real facts of the case were. Their tone was almost unreasonably defiant, and I thought it was my duty to place before you what was placed before myself, and what I thought of it.

22,250. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Will you kindly explain what is the meaning of the term *khagi*?—It is a subdivision of the State which is under the general control of the Maharaja Holkar, and especially under the

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control of the Maharani through the Minister of the State.

22,251. Are the details of the poppy grown upon that land included in the returns that you have submitted?—Yes, they are now.

22,252. They have not been hitherto?—Not hitherto, nor the jagirdars.

22,253. Will you tell us what the "Akra Panch" of Indore is?—It is a body of traders appointed by the State from their position and experience to regulate certain commercial matters, and they are invested with a bankruptcy jurisdiction. They are the repository of all commercial information. They arbitrate privately, bring about settlements, and fix prices. They are a very useful body of people.

22,254. (Chairman.) A sort of Chamber of Commerce, with jurisdiction in matters of bankruptcy?—Yes, they are.

22,255. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Have you a regular land revenue settlement in force in the Indore State?—We have.

22,256. Under that settlement are the rates fixed in cash on irrigated and unirrigated soil?—They are cash rates. Sometimes the revenue is paid in kind, but it is realised in cash. All our dealings are in cash.

22,257. I understand that poppy is your chief crop grown on irrigated land?—It is.

22,258. If poppy cultivation is prohibited, you contemplate that the rate on irrigated land will have to be reduced?—Yes.

22,259. The three lakhs for irrigation works is, I understand, advanced to the cultivators?—Yes.

22,260. Have they repaid part of it?—It is now being repaid.

22,261. They are going on repaying it at the present time?—Yes, they pay a certain interest and a portion of the principal. What would be true now, would not be true eight days hence; it is constantly changing.

22,262. On the larger part of the sum, are they still paying interest?—Yes.

22,263. Then that sum represents capital not yet repaid?—Yes.

22,264. So that if poppy cultivation were stopped, the security on which you advanced these large sums would be gone?—Yes.

22,265. That is why you think it ought to be taken into consideration in assessing the amount of loss?—I do.

22,266. In estimating the loss to agriculturists, what is the next best crop which, in your opinion, can be substituted for poppy?—Wheat. There are two crops that come near it—cotton and linseed. Our soil in Indore is much more adapted to the cultivation of wheat than of linseed or cotton.

22,267. You have stated that "in the case of the next best crop" the net profit would be Rs. 2 per bigha?—Yes.

22,268. In making that statement you refer to wheat?—Yes.

22,269. I understand you to say, that moral grounds do not justify the actual prohibition of the growth of the poppy, or interference with the opium trade, but not to lay down the general proposition that the Government could not, in the interests of public morality, address a Native State by way of advice or remonstrance?—On moral grounds they might bring persuasion or pressure to bear.

22,270. I said by way of advice or remonstrance, but not beyond that?—Not beyond that. On the ground of political necessity, they may perhaps go further.

22,271. (Sir William Roberts.) You said in answer to Mr. Wilson, that you considered the opium habit a vice?—Yes.

22,272. Do you mean that in the same sense as you would call the use of tobacco a vice?—Yes, but not so much as alcohol; that I would put upon a very different ground. Alcohol I would consider a hateful vice, but opium eating I should consider a vice like smoking tobacco.

22,273. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You mean a bad habit?—Exactly. Merely a bad habit.

The witness withdrew.

Chintamanrao
Vinayak
Vaidya
(Gwalior
State.)

CHINTAMANRAO VINAYAK VAIDYA, M.A., LL.B., called in and examined.

22,274. (Chairman.) What is your post in Malwa?—I am the Prant Judge of Malwa.

22,275. In that capacity you have had opportunities of coming into close contact with the people of Malwa?—Yes.

22,276. You have thought it your duty to look carefully into the opium question in connexion with the Gwalior State?—Yes.

22,277. What is your general view in regard to the effects of opium from a physical point of view?—I have nowhere seen any physical degeneration consequent on the use of opium. On the contrary, the people are generally healthy and free from disease. Opium (called "the Gift of God" to man) may be considered almost a necessity to children and old men, and to many agriculturists and labourers, who are thereby protected from cold, indigestion, asthma, diarrhoea, and other evil effects of the damp climate of Malwa and the adjoining provinces. The habitual use of opium in moderate doses acts, it has been found, as a great preventive of the diseases mentioned above.

22,278. What proportion of the population of Malwa are users of opium?—About one-third.

22,279. Would you say it was the same proportion in Gwalior and also in Esagarh Prants?—Yes.

22,280. If opium were prohibited, what do you think would be the effect with regard to the use of liquors?—Agriculturists and labourers in all countries take some sort of stimulant. If opium consumption be prohibited, these and others will take to liquors, which are more injurious than opium.

22,281. You are speaking as a man who has a judicial office—has your experience led you to the conclusion that the use of opium induces crime?—Opium intoxication does not lead to crime. I had before me five cases of culpable homicide, two of highway robbery, and one of an attempt to commit rape, committed under the influence of liquor, but none under that of opium. From statements prepared from the files of Subordinate Courts, I find that some cases of theft, hurt, and abusive language have occurred under the influence of liquor, but none under that of opium. In a province where

opium is consumed most and liquor least, that is a significant fact. The reason appears plain: the man in opium intoxication is engrossed with himself, while the brutalising tendency of liquor is notorious.

22,282. What have you to say with regard to the policy of prohibiting the use of opium except for medical purposes?—The prohibition of the use of opium, except for medical purposes, is impolitic. It is a settled principle of politics that the Legislature should not punish intoxication as a crime, but leave it to the religious and moral preachers, and the spread of education to remedy the evil. The habit of intoxication, like some other vices, if suppressed by coercion of law will lead to very great moral and political evils.

22,283. In the province with which you are connected do you think that the consumption of opium may be regarded in any sense as a necessity?—In this province, further, opium consumption is not at all a vice, but a physical necessity. Its use has grown among the Rajputs into a ceremonial custom. They drink kasumbha to the health of others as they do wine in England, and its use is ordained by custom in betrothal, marriage, &c. To compel so many men (say 5 lakhs of adults in the Gwalior State alone) to give up the habit of taking opium—a habit of centuries and not harmful—is exceedingly difficult and dangerous.

22,284. It has been proposed that the use of opium should be prohibited excepting for medical purposes; do you think such a regulation would be practicable?—It would be difficult, in many of the cases of opium consumption, to determine whether it is not taken for medical purposes. Qualified doctors cannot be sent to every village, and even if sent to every important village, their appointment will involve a large expenditure. The prohibition of opium except for medical use will also, by increasing its value and the craving of those who desire opium, create very dangerous temptations to corruption in the way of the subordinate medical service and the growers of opium.

22,285. (Mr. Wilson.) Will you tell me the meaning of the word "Prant"?—It means a division of this State, composed of five or six districts.

22,286. Can you tell me whether it is anywhere laid down as an authority, as a settled principle of politics, that the Legislature shall not punish for intoxication?—I have read "Sedgwick's Politics," and it is stated therein that so far as politics are concerned with the internal affairs of a State, they are regulated through the functions of a Legislature, and the business of the Legislature should be to manage the conduct of individuals, concerning not their own welfare but their relations with one another.

22,287. Are you aware that in most European countries intoxication is punished?—I do not think it is. Of course, if a man is drunk in public, that kind of intoxication may be punished, because he is a nuisance to others.

22,288. (The Maharaja of Darbhanga.) By the word "intoxication" you simply mean the use of stimulants?—Yes, if a man gets drunk he may be said to be intoxicated, but if he confines himself to moderation, and does not drink to excess, he is not intoxicated.

22,289. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Is it the case, that you anticipate that if the use of opium were prohibited, there would be an extension of the use of alcohol?—Yes, among those who have no objection to take alcohol. Those who are prohibited from taking it by their religion, would probably take to datura and the root of jowar plant, which it is impossible to prevent people from obtaining.

22,290. Can you tell me from your knowledge, speaking generally, among what classes in the Malwa Prant the use of opium is more common, or is it a general practice?—It is general amongst almost all classes, but the Rajputs use it most—about 80 per cent. of them.

22,290a. You mean that there is a larger proportion of persons who use opium among the Rajputs?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

MAHARAJ CHANI SINGH called and examined (through an interpreter).

22,297. (Chairman.) You are from Amla Barnagar?—Yes.

22,298. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—I eat opium twice a day, about three mashes or one-fourth of a tola. I have been eating for 10 years. I took to it because I suffered from purging. It has cured my disease. Many of my servants and subjects eat opium. If a person suffers from fever and has to work, opium is given him, and it stops his fever. Prohibition of opium will cause much loss of revenue, and cause general discontent amongst the people. The lives of many men will be in danger. I myself will have to suffer a loss of about Rs. 20,000 of revenue. Opium-eating is beneficial. It is not against religion. But the consumption of liquor is productive of very bad effects and is sinful.

22,299. (Mr. Moubray.) You state "I myself will have to suffer a loss of Rs. 20,000 of revenue"; what

The witness withdrew.

SEVARAM SAMANTRAM called in and examined (through an interpreter).

22,305. (Chairman.) What appointment do you fill?—I am engaged in the money-lending business, with a capital of one lakh. I am also a member of the municipality and manager of the Opium Godown at Ujjain.

22,306. Will you kindly explain to us what your duties are as manager of the Opium Godown?—I combine my commercial business with my position as manager of the Godown, and in some cases I advance money.

22,307. What is the meaning of the word Sahukar? It means money lender.

22,308. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—Cultivators in Malwa pay the whole revenue demand from opium produce. They can keep other produce for their use and benefit. There are about 210,000 bighas under opium in our Maharaja Sahib's Malwa. They produce about 15,000 or 16,000 chests of opium. Their value is about 75 lakhs of rupees. The land also produces opium seed worth about 16 lakhs of rupees. In all the produce to the cultivators is worth 91 lakhs. If wheat, cotton, or other produce is grown, the value of the produce would be about 25 lakhs. Malwa cultivators thus generally are in a good condition. Malwa people rarely go to other provinces. Whenever there is any scarcity in Marwar and other provinces,

22,290b. Is it used as a domestic remedy in many houses in your part of the country?—Yes.

22,291. (Mr. Moubray.) Is your experience of the whole of the Gwalior State, or are you speaking only of the Malwa part?—I have specially studied the opium question in connexion with the Gwalior State. I was appointed to assist Sir Michael Filose in this connexion, so that I can speak with regard to the whole State.

22,292. You spoke of the Gwalior and Esagarh Prants—are they situated in the north-east part of the State?—Part of the Esagarh Prants is contiguous to Malwa the remaining portion of the Prants is in the north-east of the Gwalior State.

22,293. Do you think the same proportion of people consume opium in the north-eastern part as in Malwa?—No, perhaps the use is greater in Malwa as far as the quantity which is used is concerned. The habit, however, is general.

22,294. You mean to say, that about the same proportion of people consume it, but that the dose is greater in Malwa?—Yes, the climate is damp, and perhaps they use it in larger doses.

22,295. I do not understand what you mean when you say, "In the city population of Lashkar the number of consumers is naturally less, because I think the general evidence has gone to show that the consumption of opium is greater in the cities than in the country districts"?—It may be so in other parts, but in Lashkar there are no agriculturists in the city, and these are the men who consume opium most. It has been found that in Lashkar the consumption of opium is less than in Malwa.

22,296. Your conclusion is that the consumption of the bulk of the opium in Malwa takes place in the country districts?—Yes.

22,297. Is your interest?—I am a landowner, and if the opium cultivation is stopped, I shall suffer a loss.

22,300. How much land do you cultivate?—About 1,600 bighas, which is equal to 800 acres—or a little more.

22,301. Do you cultivate 1,600 bighas of poppy or 1,600 bighas of irrigated land?—1,600 bighas of poppy. I do not cultivate myself, but have tenants under me.

22,302. What rent do you get from your tenants?—Rs. 15 per bigha.

22,303. Supposing poppy cultivation were stopped, what do you suppose would be the crop which your tenants would cultivate?—Wheat could be produced, but they would not get so much revenue out of it.

22,304. What revenue would they get from wheat?—Rs. 2 per bigha.

The witness withdrew.

Chintamanrao
Vinayak
Vaidya.
(Gwalior
State.)

7 Feb. 1894.

Maharaj
Chani Singh.
(Gwalior
State.)

Sevaram
Samantram.
(Gwalior
State.)

thousands of people come here, and the people here assist them. It is not true that the use of opium weakens the people. The majority of the cultivators eat opium and are strong, and do their work in the open air. If immoderately used, it does harm, but even liquors do very great harm. If Government has not prohibited trade in liquor and other intoxicants, why should it prohibit trade in opium, from which so many people in Malwa derive so great a benefit? Children and old men and cultivators cannot pull on without opium. There are about 27,000 chests of opium in store, and about 135 lakhs of rupees are engaged. We sahukars get interest and profits, &c., on such a large sum. The value of any other produce substituted for opium will be about 25 lakhs of rupees only; and for trade in such a produce, which cannot be kept even for a year, much less capital will be required. If opium trade be prohibited, the loss of the merchants, &c., will be as follows:—

Rs.	a.	p.	
78,822	0	0	commission.
34,822	0	0	on the manufacture of opium.
31,500	0	0	on satta transaction.
12,500	0	0	on the sale of crude opium.
78,822	0	0	

Sevaram Samantram. (Gwalior State.)	Rs. 27,343	a. 0	p. 0	dalali on the above.
	27,000	c 0	0	rent of storing at one rupee per chest.
7 Feb. 1894.	638,334	5	0	traders' average profit by export of opium after deducting interest at the rate of Rs. 3-8.
	1,62,112	8	0	loss of interest of the sum invested in the opium stored at Rs. 2-8.
	9,33,611	13	0	

If opium will not go to China, the Chinese will still produce and consume opium. The only result of a prohibitive measure will be great loss to the British Government, our State, and the cultivators and consumers. Oil is extracted from opium seed, and is used for burning and eating. Oil cakes are given to cattle. Opium seed is also otherwise used. If opium cultivation and trade be stopped, people and cattle will suffer.

22,309. You have come here more especially to speak to us from the point of view of a man engaged in the commerce of opium?—Yes.

22,310. I notice that you say "There are about 27,000 chests of opium in store and about Rs. 135,000,000 are engaged." I suppose you mean that the money is locked up in that form?—There are about 27,000 chests of opium in store in Maharaja Scindia's Malwa possession, and these Rs. 135,000,000 represent approximately the capital engaged in this commerce.

22,311. I further notice that you say that the estimated loss to merchants engaged in the trade would amount to Rs. 9,33,611—would that be an annual loss?—The loss would be a yearly one.

22,312. (Mr. Mowbray.) I see that you estimate the loss on Satta transactions at Rs. 31,500. I understand that Satta transactions are in the nature of time bargains. How is it that all the merchants make a profit on Satta transactions?—It is a rate which men levy who conduct the sales as distinct from brokerage.

The witness withdrew.

Vallabha Deva.
(Gwalior State.)

VALLABHA DEVA called in and examined (through an interpreter).

22,320. (Chairman.) What is your position in Gwalior?—I am a Subha of Neemuch, which is a military cantonment.

22,321. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before the Commission?—Last year I was suffering from cold and pain in knee-joints. My father, who is alive, told me to take opium mixed with almonds and cardamoms, &c. My father himself uses opium, and has an experience of its good effects, especially in the decline of age. I also consulted Gopalrao, a doctor at Neemuch. He also advised me, and told me that he himself took opium from the last seven years. I then began taking opium in small pills as prescribed by my father. I am free from cough, indigestion, pain in the joints, general weakness and slothfulness. I do hard work from morning to noon, and from two to five in the afternoon. I also do urgent work at night. My father is a strong old man. I served in the Survey of Malwa, and have been a Subha for the last five or six years. In these parts opium is consumed by a large

The witness withdrew.

Narayan Das Jahazwala.
(Gwalior State.)

NARAYAN DAS JAHAZWALA called in and examined (through an interpreter).¹

22,325. (Chairman.) What is your position?—I am a Sahukar of Ujjain; my great-grandfather owned ships and traded in opium; that is why I am called a Jahazwala.

22,326. Your occupation is that of a banker?—Yes.

22,327. What have you to tell us with regard to the trade in opium in Ujjain?—From my forefathers I have been trading in opium, and maintain my family in good condition. The sahuks who invest money in opium get interest and commission. They also get rent for their *kothas* (storehouses). Traders also get profits; *dalals* (jobber) also earn a livelihood in assisting in the sale and purchase of opium. In short, trade in opium is like *Kalpa-Vriksha*, as it benefits all. There is no other trade so large and profitable. The British Government and our Maharaja Sahib and traders like myself, down to labourers and cultivators, are

These men are of the nature of "Jobbers" on the Stock Exchange.

22,313. Can you tell me how many firms of merchants there are who trade in opium?—I suppose your remarks refer to the whole of Gwalior—to the Malwa possessions.

22,314. Can you give me any idea of the number of men there are engaged in the trade?—I cannot give you any definite information. There may be two or three hundred merchants engaged in the trade.

22,315. (Chairman.) I suppose some of them are very small traders; there is a great range in the amount of business which they do I suppose?—I can remember the names of about ten men who are considerable merchants and who do a large business.

22,316. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Can you explain to us the heading what you mean by "Rent of storing at Rs. 1 per chest—Rs. 27,000." Does the opium belong to the traders themselves, or how is it that they charge for storage?—They store the opium brought in the crude state. Afterwards it is made into balls and put into leaf dust and allowed to remain in store for some time. I amongst other persons own stores, and the charge is made for the storing.

22,317. Does not the stored opium in any case belong to these men?—It mostly belongs to other people.

22,318. Some allowance ought to be made on that account because you charge for the rent of storing for the full amount of Rs. 27,000. I understand that in some cases the opium belongs to the traders themselves, and therefore they cannot charge for storing their own opium?—I calculate that I have invested a certain amount of capital in opium for which I get a certain return, and therefore I am entitled to claim under this head.

22,319. You would lose the interest now obtained on the sum invested in the stored opium?—Yes, Rs. 1,62,112. As regards the Rs. 27,000, I regard it as a general rate for storage. It is an advantage to the merchants to store the opium, and if prohibition were enforced this Rs. 1 per chest would not be realised. I do not stop to consider to whom the opium belongs. It is one of the advantages of the trade.

percentage of the people with benefit. The principal source of revenue is also opium, and the people will suffer physically and mentally if opium production and export were prohibited. The State will also suffer heavily.

22,321A. (Mr. Mowbray.) How old are you?—Forty-two.

22,322. How old is your father?—Sixty-eight.

22,323. How many years has your father taken opium?—For the last 20 years.

22,324. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You say that opium is largely consumed by the people in the Neemuch district, do you wish us to understand that the general use would be such as you have described after the age of 40 years?—The generality of consumers are more than 40 years of age, but sometimes a special reason arises such as an ailment which necessitates the consumption of opium before the age of 40.

The witness withdrew.

benefited by it. Grain cannot be kept for a long time, and engages only a small amount of capital. Cotton, if kept for one year, loses in value by one-fourth. It is a great merit of opium that it fetches a higher price the older it gets.

22,328. (Mr. Fanshawe.) I understand that you yourself are a trader in opium?—Yes. I and my ancestors for the last four generations have been engaged in it.

22,329. You are carrying on the trade now?—Yes.

22,330. What is the meaning of "*Kalpa-Vriksha*"?—It is a beneficial influence under which people derive benefit. It is the "Tree of desire," which enables anyone residing under it to obtain his wish.

22,331. Why does opium fetch a higher price the older it gets?—Because it gets drier and has more flavour.

The witness withdrew.

SIRSUBHA SAKHARAM MARTAND called in and examined.

22,333. (*Chairman.*) You are a native of this place and a Jagirdar; you have served the Indore State for 21 years, first as manager of the State arsenal, then colonel in the army, when you had command of three batteries and three regiments; you afterwards became lieutenant-general, and you are now the Revenue Minister or Sirsubha of the State?—Yes, that is so.

22,334. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—The irrigated area in the State is 1,52,000 bighas, of which more than two-thirds is under poppy cultivation. If opium were prohibited, there is no crop which can be raised in its place as favourably, easily, and profitably as opium. The cultivation of opium is exceedingly popular among the people, because they make large profits with small labour, outlay, and time. Opium land being *Do-fasli*, it allows the Indian corn to be grown upon it besides opium, which affords additional facilities to the cultivator. The consumption of opium is extensive in the State, and is equally indispensable. The ratio of opium consumers, in my opinion, is 50 per cent. of the adult population. Opium is very useful in old age and as a relief against bodily exertion. The income to the State from opium is (1) land-tax, 15½ lakhs; (2) Customs duty, 2 lakhs; (3) Export duty, about 2 lakhs; (4) miscellaneous, 1 lakh. The total loss would be about 21 lakhs yearly, and there would be a non-recurring loss of several croars. The loss to traders, cultivators, and Jagirdars together would be 30 to 35 lakhs yearly. Prohibition would be impracticable to carry out, and would throw an additional burden on the State. The first thing that calls for suppression is alcohol, and if it is stopped India will be saved morally as well as financially. My long connexion with and intimate knowledge of the State army enables me to say unhesitatingly that a moderate dose of opium is an unmixed good to the consumers. Opium-eating does not necessarily lead to immorality or crime. It gives staying power under great exertions such as long marches and hunting excursions. As compared with alcohol

The witness withdrew.

BAKSHI KHUMAN SINGH, C.S.I., called in and examined.

22,345. (*Chairman.*) You are a Rajput, I believe, by caste?—Ycs.

22,346. What is the meaning of "Bakshi"?—It means commander.

22,347. You were Bakshi of all the cavalry regiments of Indore, and you have served the Indore State for 45 years?—Yes.

22,348. You became General of the army and lastly the Minister?—Yes.

22,349. You are now a pensioner; you visited England in 1871; you are a jagirdar and have the decoration of C.S.I.?—Yes.

22,350. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—It would be a mistake to prohibit the production of opium for non-medical purposes. No cause whatever exists for any such prohibition. Any change in the existing order of things would be for the worse. Opium taken in moderation is perfectly harmless both physically and morally. In opium-eating in India moderation is the rule, and abuse an exception. It is largely consumed in the Indore State, as elsewhere, without the slightest bad effect on the physical or moral condition of the people as a whole. It is, of course, harmful in excess like anything else. The suppression of opium by force will cause widespread discontent amounting to political danger. The measure will touch people's purses as well as their bodily comfort and their susceptibilities. Opium is a general medicine among the people, and adds largely to the State Revenue. If prohibition is

The witness withdrew.

SADASHIV VISHWANATH DHURANDHAR, B.A., LL.B., called in and examined.

22,353. (*Chairman.*) You are an advocate of the High Court, Bombay, and Chief Justice of the Indore State?—Yes.

22,354. Will you give us your previous experience?—I am an ex-student of the Elphinstone College, Bombay, and a Graduate of the Bombay University,

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drinkers, I found opium consumers to be steady, quiet, reliable, and obedient soldiers. In my time I found 40 to 50 per cent. using opium in the State army. Forcing Native States to prohibit cultivation would be a breach of Treaty engagements, and it would be almost impracticable to compensate satisfactorily all the parties concerned—agriculturists, tipdars, traders, merchants, labourers, Jagirdars, and the States.

22,335. What is the meaning of *Do-fasli*?—It means two-crop land.

22,336. What does "tipdar" mean?—It means money-lender.

22,337. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) When you say that 40 to 50 per cent. of the men in the State army in your time used opium, do you include those who used it habitually and those who used it occasionally?—I mean those who used it habitually.

22,338. You found that the moderate use in no way interfered with the discipline or behaviour of the men?—No.

22,339. Have you any poppy cultivation in your Jagir?—Yes, it yields me Rs. 3,500.

22,340. Every year?—Yes.

22,341. What rate per bigha do you charge for the land?—The same as Government, Rs. 14.

22,342. If poppy cultivation were prohibited, what crop could your tenants grow on the land?—Sugar-cane and other crops; but they would require a large capital, and would have to spend more time on the cultivation—it is quite different to the poppy crop.

22,343. If poppy cultivation were prohibited what crop would have to take its place under present conditions?—There are four or five, but none so good as opium.

22,344. What would be the crop they would have to cultivate, and which would not be so profitable as poppy?—Wheat.

enforced Malwa will become poor. The extension of prohibition to the Indore State would be a breach of Treaty rights and constitutional usage. It would be a violation of the most solemn pledge to the Native Princes contained in the Proclamation of 1858. The State has a right to export opium through British territory just as the British Government have a right to tax opium so exported. Even an arbitrary enhancement of this tax or duty would be irregular. But for the Government to disallow the transit of opium coming from a Native State would be against political law or political morality. Opium is the life and soul of the income of the Darbar, cultivators, traders, and land-holders, and jagirdars, and its prohibition would entail the enormous loss of 55 or 60 lakhs yearly. Besides the large capital now invested in the trade and agriculture of opium, and the accumulated outstandings of revenue against the ryots, amounting to many crores, are staked on opium and will be gone, if opium is done away with. The State will be impoverished if not utterly ruined. Prohibition to be effective will require the creation of a large costly establishment, the working of which will be vexatious to the people, and make the confusion worse confounded. The Indore State cannot be satisfied with money compensation. It would insist on its subjects being compensated as well.

22,351. Do you agree with the opinions the Minister has expressed before us?—I quite agree with the opinions he has expressed.

22,352. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Do you take opium?—No, I do not eat opium; but many of the members of my family eat it.

The witness withdrew.

Sirsubha
Sakharam
Martand.
(Indore State.)

7 Feb. 1894.

Bakshi
Khuman Singh,
C.S.I.
(Indore State.)

Sadashiv
Vishwanath
Dhurandhar.
(Indore State.)

Sadashiv
Vishwanath
Dhurandhar.
(Indore State.)

7 Feb. 1894.

wise all over the Bombay Presidency and portions of Central India. I have acquired some knowledge of the Revenue matters relating to parts visited.

22,355. Would you say that the statistics which have been put in by the Minister with regard to the growth of opium, the revenue derived from the trade and so on, substantially represent the facts of the case?—They do.

22,356. Do you desire to say that in your belief the use of opium by the people in India is harmless when used in moderate quantities?—I think it is.

22,357. Are there any restrictions as to its use by any particular caste and creed?—No.

The witness withdrew.

Patel Soma
Bin Udai Ram.
(Indore State.)

PATEL SOMA BIN UDAI RAM called in and examined (through an interpreter).

22,362. (Chairman.) You are 58 years of age, Rodwal Brahmin by caste, inhabitant of the village of Randwasa, pargana Harsola, and appear here to represent the cultivators?—Yes, I am a cultivator myself.

22,363. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before the Commission?—I am an hereditary cultivator, and I have followed that profession since I became of age, that is since the last 40 years. I cultivate from 15 to 20 bighas annually, which produce opium amounting to 100 seers (200 lbs). There are about 50 to 60 cultivators in my village who produce opium every year like me. The land under opium cultivation in my village is nearly 300 bighas, and the produce of opium from that land amounts to 1,725 seers or 3,450 lbs., which fetched Rs. 11,000 annually when the prices were high, but, in consequence of the prices having gone down, the annual income from opium is 7,000 to 9,000 rupees at present. Opium supplies us with sufficient funds to bear the expenses on account of marriage and other happy or sorrowful occasions, and also enables us to pay off the Government demand of the whole of the land we cultivate. The grains produced in dry land are used in the maintenance of our families and to pay off the labour employed in cultivation throughout the year. Opium brings money into our hands and keeps us happy and comfortable. We cannot make changes in the opium land for two reasons: 1st, land is not available; and 2nd, the opium land requires to be in the vicinity of a well. Makai (maize) is grown in opium land prior to the cultivation of opium by those cultivators who are in straitened circumstances; but well-to-do cultivators, in the hope of producing good quantity of the costly substance of opium, do not sow makai; they sow hemp and urd, an Indian crop, prior to opium, and when these two have become old, of about two months or so, they crush them by ploughing the land, and allow them with their leaves and stems

The witness withdrew.

Ram Chandra
Padya.
(Indore State.)

RAM CHANDRA PADYA called in and examined (through an interpreter).

22,368. (Chairman.) You are Munim to Seth Maluk Chand Sheo Baksh of Indore?—Yes.

22,369. What does Munim mean?—Manager.

22,370. What business do you engage in?—I am both an opium trader and a banker.

22,371. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—I have been in the opium trade for 35 years. I have written a Marwari pamphlet on the Malwa opium trade. The bankers and traders, manufacturers of opium balls, religious institutions, all together will suffer a loss of 18½ lakhs of rupees if opium be prohibited. I have given full particulars on this point in my answers to the Agency questions, and can give them to the Commission. The total investment in opium is 1¼ crores, and three crores of recoverable outstanding debts. There will be grave discontent among all classes by the prohibition.

22,372. (Mr. Wilson.) Can you tell me whether there is a considerable accumulation of opium in the hands of the merchants now?—Yes, there is.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. R. M.
Dane.

MR. R. M. DANE called in and examined

22,379. (Chairman.) I understand that there are several witnesses in attendance whose abstracts of evi-

22,358. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Do agriculturists and others who follow trades involving exposure use it?—Yes.

22,359. You consider it is in common use as a protection against chills, colds, &c.?—Yes, it is in common use in Malwa.

22,360. Do you consider there are a large number of cases where opium is used to excess?—The excessive cases are very few in comparison to the excessive cases of spirit drinking.

22,361. You are speaking from your own experience in both these matters?—Yes.

to deteriorate with the object of producing a superior sort of manure. Sometimes the cultivators retain some quantity of hemp for ropes, &c., required in the profession. No other produce can bring money so much as opium does. We devote all our time and attention to the cultivation of opium and submit ourselves to the necessary expenditure on that account. Opium and its seed are the produce from the opium field. In my opium land of 20 bighas I get 60 maunds of seed worth Rs. 125 sold at the rate of Rs. 2 or upwards per maund. If any cultivator wished to sell leaves of opium plant, they are sold at one rupee per maund. We respect the opium plant, because it keeps us happy and comfortable, and we call it "Kalikadevi" (Black Goddess). If our merciful monarch prohibits the growth of opium, it will be a death-blow to us, and we shall prefer death without it. All the members of our family do not eat opium; it is only given to children up to the age of three to prevent attacks of any sorts of diseases; it is also gives to men who have become weak by old age or other causes. It is a substance which gives strength at all times. It is not injurious to health, but, on the contrary, it is beneficial.

22,364. Do you take opium yourself?—Yes, one masha in the morning and one in the evening.

22,365. How long ago did you begin to take opium?—I have been eating opium for six or seven years.

22,366. Do you take the same dose as when you first began to take it?—Opium was given to me when a child, and when I reached the age of 40 I took small doses and gradually increased it to the present dose, since when I have not increased the quantity.

22,367. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You say that there are nearly 300 bighas under poppy in your village; what is the total number of bighas of irrigated land?—There are about 100 bighas of irrigated land besides the irrigated land under poppy.

22,373. How does that arise?—From the trade being slack; opium not sent to China is necessarily kept in stock.

22,374. Are you expecting a rise in price?—The rate in China has improved, but on account of the depreciation in silver our profits are curtailed.

22,375. Have some traders lost heavily through the low price?—No.

22,376. (Mr. Mowbray.) Do you think the China trade in opium has been much affected by the recent currency changes in India?—Yes, the profits have been curtailed.

22,377. During the last six months?—Yes, during the last six months; they were not affected before.

22,378. Do you consider the prospects of the trade worse now than they were six months ago?—It depends in great measure on whether an arrangement is made about silver.

dence you desire to be printed in the Report?—The following witnesses are in attendance from the Gwalior

and Indore States and have furnished abstracts of the evidence they desire to give:—

From Gwalior State.

Durga Shankar Joshi, of Ujjain;
Thakur Danlat Singh, of Barda, Barnagar.
Ambaram, Numberdar, of Bhitaree, Ujjain.
Bhava Walad Bagwant, Patel of Jalwa, Ujjain.
Gunpatrao Wahudeo, Subha of Mandsaur.
Badridas, Munim of Subkaran Pralhaddas, Ujjain.
Umrao Singh, Munim of Ganeshdas Kishnaji, Ujjain.
Ganeshram, Munim of Tarachand Ghanshamdas, Mandsaur.
Sevaram Parakha, Banker, Mandsaur.
Raghunath Walad Omkar, Patel of Agar.
Rajajee Vyas of Ujjain.
Narayanrao Vithal of Agar.
Thakur Pralhad Singh of Runija Barnagar.
Thakur Fattesingh Istamrardar of Tajkhedi Bhamgurb.
Parashram of Nandavada, Mandsaur.
Lachman Parshad Kamdar Raoji Tonaday, Agar.

From Indore State.

Rai Bahadur Nanak Chand, Deputy Minister.
Nago Bhikaji Daube, Naib Dewan Khasgi.
Keshav Gopal Kamb, L. M. & S. Principal Medical Officer, Holkar's Army.
Kesari Chand.
General Balmukand Gayadeen, commanding the Army at Indore.
Dhanraj Brijlal.
Harkisan Ramlal Modi.
Raoji Janardhan Bhide.
Balkrishna Atmaram Gupte, Inspector General of Police.
Dayambaksh, Major, Adjutant-General.

Mr. R. M. Dane.

7 Feb. 1894.

I ask that, if there be no objection, the abstracts* of all these witnesses may be printed in the Appendix to the Report.

(Chairman.). Certainly.

Adjourned to to-morrow.

At the Collector's Office, Ahmedabad.

SIXTY-FIFTH DAY.

Wednesday, 7th February 1894.

(Section B.)

PRESENT:

SIR JAMES B. LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. ARTHUR PEASE.

Mr. HARIDAS VEHARIDAS, Desai.

Mr. PEMBERTON, Assistant Secretary.

MR. ANANT GANGADHAR KHOTE called in and examined.

22,380. (Chairman.) You are at present Subha of Baroda?—Yes.

22,381. What is the office of Subha?—The collector of the district.

22,382. And magistrate also?—Yes, district magistrate.

22,383. How long have you been in the service?—I have been 18 years in the Baroda service.

22,384. Are you a native of Baroda?—No, I am from the Carnatic. I have worked in the Southern, Central, Northern, and Kathiawar districts of His Highness the Gaekwar in the capacity of a police magistrate, revenue, forest, customs, Abkari, and opium officer.

22,385. Will you tell us what opportunities you have had for becoming acquainted with the opium habit, and what opinions have you formed of that habit?—Out of the 18 years' service, four years I was solely connected with the customs, abkari, and opium administration in the Baroda State. Of late, I was entrusted with the work of inquiry regarding the use of hemp drugs in His Highness's territory. During my services of various nature, I had ample opportunities of visiting every nook and corner of His Highness's dominion whether malarious, enervating or bracing, and moving and mixing with all the castes and creeds abiding therein. I have minutely observed the habits and customs of the higher and lower classes and studied their mode of life. In fact, I am intimately acquainted with every phrase of life of the people living in His Highness's Raj. As a police officer and a magistrate, I can allege, with a great amount of safety, whether opium bears any connexion with crime and whether its use is degrading the morals of the people at large. As a revenue officer, I can speak of the opium administration in Baroda State in general, the advantage and disadvantage of Government monopoly introduced by the Treaty engagements of 1878, both for the purpose of cultivation and manufacture and for the purpose of home consumption and exportation. I can also state whether any other

cultivation can be substituted for poppy with advantage to the ryot and the sirkar (State). I can treat of the chief classes who greatly indulge in the drug, their habits and customs both social and religious, together with the use and abuse of the drug in general. As forest officer, I can give my experience of the opium consumers as well as non-consumers who live in jungles, a notorious tract of country for malarious fevers, and tell with confidence whether the consumers or non-consumers are better able to stave off the evil effects of water and climate. As a customs, abkari and opium officer, I can assert, with some force, whether it is possible to enforce total prohibition of cultivation and sale of opium, whether satisfactory preventive agency can be organized for the purpose of suppressing the cultivation or sale and whether with all the facilities for obtaining opium, as existing at present, Government has succeeded in completely rooting out the evil of smuggling. I can also speak of the existing system in the Baroda territory for the purpose of retail sale of opium and the object of continuing the same. With my experience and knowledge of the country for the last 18 years, in the various capacities as above indicated, I can authoritatively lay down that the use of the drug is nowhere so made as to rouse the sympathy of the philanthropists or attract the attention of the politicians. The use of the drug is gradually losing instead of gaining ground before the advance of education and under the seal of social condemnation. Of late, we scarcely meet with new opium consumers. The tendency of all the classes appears more towards liquor than opium. When the educational and social forces are already acting against opium and that the drug is dying of itself, the necessity for appointing a Commission to inquire after the drug on its death-bed cannot be made out. A Commission for checking the extent of home-made liquor as well as the advent of foreign liquors, wines and malts will, under the existing circumstances, be a decided gain as the

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* See Appendix XIII. to this volume.

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narcotics are not such dire enemies of mankind as the alcohol. With these preliminary remarks and before touching the main questions pertaining to the drug, I beg to lay bare a fundamental fact which, I believe, must convince the most sceptic mind that the fact of His Highness countenancing the existing arrangements for cultivation, manufacture, and sale of opium in his dominions, the most enlightened prince in the whole of India who at the introduction of the measure of compulsory education, in spite of the great opposition to the contrary, happened to remark that for the sake of educating his people, he would draw upon his private purse, nay, even spend his last farthing, a prince who spends an equal or perhaps a larger amount of revenue than what opium returns to him in feeding his poor subjects, who is so much in touch with the people, who but last year sent for me and the statement of production and sale of opium to realize the true state of things, is a convincing proof in itself that the present arrangements and restrictions in regard to opium are the best safeguards required by the country as it is, at present, situated. Who would ever believe that the prince who has made so many sacrifices for bettering the condition of his subjects, nay, even sacrificed his own health, for the benefit of which he is seeking repose, would like to make money by degrading his people *physically, mentally, and morally* if the use of opium is such a pernicious evil? He would be the first prince to see his country purged of the evil if it be an evil *at all*! When such a prince countenances the existing arrangements and restrictions in respect of opium and its use, is not this a more overwhelming evidence to refute the arguments of the intolerant body of men and pigeon-hole the cart-load of their pamphlets? My observations may look strange but they are nevertheless weighty. There has, of late, grown a healthy public opinion which is now shaping the future of India *socially, morally, and politically*. There are now princes in India who know what is good or bad for their people. There are various public bodies striving hard to improve the morals of their societies. Notwithstanding all these powerful agents being silent, a cry is raised from far off to improve India's morals, by those who know very little of the country, its social and religious customs and the mode of living of its people. A sensational description is given before a religious audience, a description that nowhere exists but in the imagination of the persons describing in order to move their hearts and thus bringing pressure upon Government to interfere with the accredited customs. Would this tampering, this serious interference with individual liberty, be ever tolerated? No. All the people in India will resent it with one concordant voice, and tell those people in England who are waging war against opium traffic to improve the morals of their own people and wait patiently until India looks to them for succour to extricate them from the clutches of the so-called opium-vice. I now turn my attention to the other points of inquiry. His Highness's territory consists of four divisions of more or less alluvial and sandy formations, requiring different quantities of rain in different divisions for fertilizing; the opium-producing country requiring twenty inches of rain on an average. Some parts of the territory under forest is abounding in malarious fevers. The other parts are also more or less feverish. The spleens are very often enlarged. Dysentery and diarrhoea, at times, prevail to a very great extent. Bowel and lung affections are not less frequent. All these diseases make their ravages, and where there is a room vacant it is filled up by diabetes. Here the sovereign remedy, the family doctor, the home Vaid, is opium. People in general never frequent public dispensaries till they finish the stock of the home-made medicines. If one has an attack of cold, his old grandma, who is always considered to be a very experienced doctor, tells him to apply opium dissolved in milk to his head and nose. If he has sore eyes, she tells him to apply opium dissolved in lemon juice round his eyes. If he has dysentery or diarrhoea she advises him to take opium in Gol. If he suffers from cough or griping pain in the stomach, she prescribes opium with Ghi. Opium is thus prescribed in 20 and odd diseases by grandma, and there is always an instantaneous relief. In this manner opium is, when medically used, held in great esteem. Opium is given to small infants who are weak and do not sleep at night or who are subject to convulsions. Opium is not given in a crude form but it is mixed with several spices and made into pills. One-half of a tola goes to make three hundred pills. These pills are made by the license holders or by parents

and given to children every morning and evening to make them sleep well, digest their food, and prevent them from falling a prey to other diseases. Such children are easily weaned by gradually reducing the daily allowance. Opium is considered a specific for checking diabetes. It is so used by several diabetic patients and found to give a great relief. The use of opium in the country is so very general,—each house possessing a tola or two and the climatic influences therein are so enervating that I regard its use, not as a vice, no, not even luxury, but a bare necessity of life. I acted as a police officer in His Highness's Southern and Kathiawar districts and as magistrate in all the four districts. I have apprehended various offenders and inquired into several cases of petty and heinous offences. But I never found that opium was instrumental in the commission of crime. Almost all offences can be traced to alcohol but none to opium. There is no connexion between opium and crime. It is not the fruitful source of either immorality or insanity. The reason is obvious. Opium is a sedative drug; so it does not stimulate. Its toxic properties are quite different. No other intoxicant will ever supply its place. The fear that alcohol or ganja will be substituted for opium is more imaginary than real. The opium-consumer will have his daily ration in spite of your peg or Ganja Chilam. The toxic properties of opium are calmative and palliative. They soothe the head and invigorate the body. I should say they are the peace makers between the mind and the body. Consequently this peacemaker's help is always sought to make up the differences whether *social, religious, or political*. I was Conservator of forests in His Highness's territory, and as such I had many subordinates under me both consumers and non-consumers of opium. The largest number that suffered from the evil effects of that tract of country were one and all *without exception* non-consumers. The consumers of opium did not look bulky but were better able to counteract the evil effects of water and climate and endure more privations and fatigues than the non-consumers. From my experience of three years in the forests—*notoriously unhealthy*—it is perfectly evident to me that opium acts as preventive and febrifuge, and gives very great staying powers under severe exertions. That is why our old mail-bearers and Jasuds were fortified with opium before they were sent on their errands. Even the grooms and the runners occasionally take opium when they have to run a race with their master's horse. Such occasional consuming does not grow into a habit. The Baroda State is, strictly speaking, the cultivator, manufacturer, and seller of opium. The State undertook the business since the introduction of the monopoly on the Bengal system, at the instance of the British Government, which called upon the State to act up to the provision of the Convention of 1820. In spite of this convention between the British and His Highness's Governments, the practice in vogue was to cultivate opium as much as the people liked, manufacture it in their private warehouses and export it to foreign markets after paying the Darbar and British export duty. The cultivator was then contented, because he was at liberty to set any value upon his property. The money-lenders and capitalists were better able to utilize their own capital because the export trade was affording them extensive field for circulating the same. In this manner, the opium traffic was entirely in the hands of the people of the northern division, the other divisions producing opium for local consumption only till 1878, when for reasons, as it is said, that as opium in large quantity was smuggled in the British territory and for the protection of British opium revenue, the Convention between both Governments was revived and made binding. The following are its provisions:—

- (1.) To purchase all the opium produced within the territory.
- (2.) To supply the merchants and subjects of the territory with the opium required by them.
- (3.) To fix the price of the opium so supplied and sold within the territorial limits at the rate obtaining in the British districts.
- (4.) To confiscate all opium brought secretly for sale into the territory.
- (5.) Not to purchase opium from the Government stores until that produced in the territory and stored by it is consumed.
- (6.) To be the sole medium of supply of the drug to the merchants and subjects.
- (7.) To obtain supplies of opium as required from the opium godowns at Kaira, and when such cannot be obtained, to procure the same in

Malwa and to convey it thence to Baroda free of tax subject to the condition set forth under head five.

This Convention was a mere dead letter till 1878. The Baroda Government insisted upon the existing practice being continued, but the Government of India was not prepared to forego the right acquired by the British Government under the Convention of 1820. Consequently, the Baroda Government had to enter into arrangements and establish a State monopoly on the basis of what is called the Bengal System. The Baroda Government then undertook the monopoly under the following conditions:—

- (1.) That poppy cultivation be limited to the supply of the licit demand for home consumption and export.
- (2.) That the cultivation of the poppy be restricted to the Northern Division.
- (3.) The retail sale prices be assimilated with the British price.
- (4.) That no British duty be charged on opium imported by the Baroda State from foreign territory for home consumption.
- (5.) That Baroda Government indent upon the neighbouring collectors or officers in charge of opium depôts for opium for retail sale to be supplied at cost price without any duty or profit being charged.

The Bombay Government accepted the proposal with the following conditions:—

- (1.) That the concession of allowing Baroda to export opium will be withdrawn if it is found to be abused or to lead to financial loss or inconvenience and that the Baroda Government will be held responsible for illicit export of opium beyond its territory.

On the recommendation of the Bombay Government, the Government of India passed a resolution to the following effects. Baroda Darbar has formerly acknowledged its willingness to carry out the principal provisions of the agreement of 1820, viz., to establish State opium monopoly system on the basis of the Bengal system and to limit the production of opium to the extent of the licit demand, and that the Government of Bombay has decided to continue the following concession to the Baroda Government:—

- (1.) To permit the Baroda Government to import an amount of opium required for actual licit home consumption at cost price and free of duty from Malwa or from Government Depôts.
- (2.) To permit the Baroda administration to export opium locally produced to Bombay through the scales at Ahmedabad on payment of the full British duty.

These engagements entered into between the Baroda and British Governments brought about the total extinction of export traffic. The Baroda Government lost an annual opium export revenue of Rs. 2,50,000; the poppy plant ceased to lay the golden egg; the circulation of the capital was greatly impeded and the credit of the poppy cultivator was the thing of the past. However, the State monopoly has helped to survive the dying trade and sinking credit, to a small extent, by giving better rates for the produce of the juice, by making advances without interest, by manufacturing purer drug than what can be obtained by smuggling, and lastly by better supervision and control over the retail sale. The following are the figures of the retail sale for the last ten years:—

Years,	Quantity of Opium retailed.	
	lbs.	oz.
1883-84	60,495	3
1884-85	62,873	0
1885-86	62,006	31
1886-87	60,610	9
1887-88	59,992	10
1888-89	54,265	28
1889-90	62,844	8
1890-91	66,218	15
1891-92	72,008	29
1892-93	59,502	32

The above figures will fully indicate that the sale within the last ten years have been almost stationary.

After the introduction of the State monopoly, Baroda tried to enter the market four times for exporting its opium but, excepting the last time, it suffered a great loss. In order to protect the British revenue another understanding was arrived at in 1886 between the Baroda and the British Governments in addition to the former engagements that opium should not be retailed in any portion of the British or Baroda territories at a rate lower than Rs. 1-4-0 in advance of the issue rate for the time being in force. The above are in short the Treaty arrangements regarding opium, binding upon the Baroda and the British Governments. They are, with a slight variation, in existence for more than half a century. By these engagements, the Baroda Government is entitled to import opium from foreign districts free of duty, export it to Bombay on payment of the British duty, and transport it through British District for home consumption. The obligations made incumbent by the Treaty rights on both Governments cannot be interfered with. In 1878 when the Baroda Government was unwilling to adopt the Bengal Monopoly System for the loss it was destined to entail by ruining the export trade in opium, the Government of India forced its adoption by pointing out that they would not forego the rights acquired by them under the Convention of 1820. Would it, let me ask, be now fair and justifiable to demand of the Baroda Government to forego its rights acquired by the same Convention and recognized by subsequent engagements because some Christian people wage war against opium traffic, and its use which, the Baroda Government knows, has in no way been degrading the morals of the people, or deleterious *physically or mentally*? The Treaties entered by separate Governments are equally binding upon them. One Government for its convenience or otherwise cannot recede from the obligations without the consent of the other. They must always be regarded as very sacred and, on no account, be interfered with. Any interference in matters of Treaty-rights will certainly meet with resentment. The strength of every Government lies in the fulfilment of the pledges. Violate one pledge and the confidence in the Government will be lost. Take, for instance, the European Powers which are independent of one another. The safety of these Powers rests upon the international Treaties. Violate one Treaty, the balance of power will be lost. All European nations will be at war. It is, therefore, why these Treaty engagements are always kept intact. What a hue-and-cry will be raised from one end of India to the other if a single provision of the existing Treaties be disregarded? How far will the Government of India be hampered in safely steering the ship of Indian administration, if pressure were brought by irresponsible persons to abrogate Treaty engagements? Apart from the question of Treaty engagements, can we make at least a reasonable case for the anti-opiumists from out of the figures of production and consumption of opium? Here are the figures from the last five years' average. From the census of 1891 the population of Baroda is 2,410,559. The extent or the Baroda territory in square miles is 8,570. The cultivation of the Kari district is high as 15,30,047, out of which the poppy cultivation on five years' average is 15,831. The consumption of opium on five years' average is 63,065 lbs. by retail sale. There are 428 licensed shops in the Baroda territory. There are not the so-called "dens" either for eating or smoking opium, as our people do not consume opium on the premises. The sum and substance of all the above figures can be briefly stated thus. The consumption of opium per head of population is tola 1·6 per annum. There is one licensed shop for retail sale for 5,632 people and twenty square miles. The cultivation of poppy is $\frac{1}{10}$ th of the other cultivation in the Kari division. Taking the above figures into consideration, one can easily grant that the consumption of opium per head of population is smaller than what medical practitioners prescribe with safety. The extent of territory and the number of people per licensed shop can with advantage be compared with the extent of country and number of people per licensed liquor-shop in Great Britain. The result will be most appalling to those moralists who are carrying on crusade against the phantom of Satan giving the real Satan freedom to eat the vitals of their nation within doors. It will be thus seen that the above result obtained from the figures of production and sale of opium does not leave a margin for anti-opiumists to fight out their cause. I do not, therefore, see any practicable usefulness in holding sessions after sessions to go over the same grounds. There is no other crop that can be substituted for poppy with

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equal advantage. Wheat and rapeseed are substituted by people when the Government notify very low rates. Poppy cultivation is not then a very paying occupation for the ryots. But fearing the risks to which the other crops are liable, many cling *with a great tenacity* to poppy cultivation, because it is less risky, entirely free from the ravages of cattle, more productive in the long run, and lastly enables the cultivator to strengthen his credit with the money-lenders. Having no religious objection to the use of the drug all the classes of people *without an exception* consume it. It is chiefly used by all the warlike and turbulent classes such as Rajputs, Kathis, Kolis, Bhils, Waghers, Mekranis, Mayars, Sidis, Charans; Kunbis, Barotes, Fakirs, and Bawas are also its votaries to some extent. Opium is, in large cases, used to obtain relief from some malady or other or as a restorative. Such a use does not grow into excess. It is, in a few cases, used as a luxury: such a use tends to grow into excess. There is a very imperceptible line between the moderate and excessive use of opium, as excessive use with nourishing food is as beneficial as the moderate use of it. The general idea is that one who consumes opium below 30 grains per diem is a moderate consumer. Consumption to that limit is not looked down upon, one exceeding that limit is regarded as excessive consumer. The excessive consumer does not suffer from social opprobrium so long as he preserves his health and the effects of excess are invisible. There are no statistics to show how many persons consume opium out of the whole population. However, it can be safely laid down that there are 5 per cent of moderate consumers and one per thousand of excessive consumers. Opium is never harmful unless it is consumed without a good nourishing food or when it is used as an aphrodisiac. In that case, its use stimulates virile powers and leads to excessive sexual intercourse. Opium is consumed on the occasions of birth, marriage, death, by all warlike classes as well as Kunbis and Barotes. It is either eaten in a crude form or drunk in a liquid form called *Kasumbha*. Among these classes opium forms the leading factor in the hospitality to be shown to the guests. Its use figures very much in making up quarrels and differences between the antagonistic parties. Opium is used in anointing the Hindu Gods. The merits to be secured from anointing the deity with opium are considered to be hundred-fold more than what can be procured by anointing the deity with sugar or milk. To enforce absolute prohibition of the production and consumption of opium is impossible. It is also undesirable as its use is nowhere seen to degrade the morals of the people or affect their health. The people who consume opium are so numerous and India is abounding in so many narcotics that deprivation of one narcotic which people for generations have been accustomed to regard as a legitimate and harmless luxury, and which has done no perceptible injury, will be followed by another narcotic more pernicious in its effects. The warlike classes, who are the chief consumers of the drug, when deprived of the drug may create disturbance and the peace of the country will be endangered. The use of opium on social and religious occasions is regarded essential by numerous classes who will regard prohibition as unjustified and unnecessary interference with their individual liberty. The prohibition will be a serious privation to those who are now habituated to consume opium. The prohibition will drive the people to the medical practitioners for ordinary diseases which are now cured or prevented by opium. The grandma's business will be extinct and the doctor's bill will swell. People thus touched in their pockets and confirmed in their belief that Government is forcing down their throats spirits mixed with medicines with a view to tamper with their religion will be much disaffected. Nobody can say that such a state of things will not breed discontent. Absolute prohibition seems to me an idea beyond the range of practical politics. How can such a tremendous agency both preventive and protective be organized to enforce complete prohibition, and what new source can be traced to amass a large amount that will be required to maintain the force especially when opium revenue is to cease? People against whose wishes opium revenue is to be sacrificed, will not bear the imposition of a new tax. Will not this create general disaffection and add fuel to fire? Besides, notwithstanding the existing facilities for obtaining opium and the maintenance of the preventive arrangements, do we not know that a large quantity is still smuggled into our territory? With this knowledge of the country, and its people, the success achieved by the preventive agency, we must admit that if absolute

prohibition and sale of opium be enforced, we shall not be able to cope satisfactorily with the smuggling which must flow in either from poppy-producing countries or patches that will have to be planted with poppy for pure medical purposes, however costly and strong the preventive agency be. Then there will be a difficulty of protecting the patches planted with poppy for medical purposes. How large an army of policemen will have to be maintained to guard these fields, and how many men will have to be kept to look after the yield? These expenses will render the drug very precious and stimulate smuggling. What fine prospects will thus open for oppression, corruption, and extortion? With all these difficulties looming in the way of absolute prohibition, no responsible Government will ever take such ill-advised step and lose not only the revenue but endanger the safety of the Raj. I cannot close the subject of prohibition without quoting the words of that eminent statesman Raja Sir T. Madhava Rao, who remarked "any measure having for its aim the immediate or ulterior suppression of the production of opium cannot but be as unfair and as unwelcome to this Native State as to any Native States in Malwa." The question of compensation does not require any lengthy treatment. When we are not prepared to enforce absolute prohibition for reasons above alluded to, and as there can be no compromise in matters of Treaty-rights, the question of compensation falls to the ground. Supposing such a contingency is in near future, there will even then be a serious difficulty of estimating accurately the amount of compensation. The ten years' average of opium net revenue will not be an adequate figure of compensation. The reasons are that the revenue is gradually rising every year by the substitute of duty-paid opium for smuggled opium. Besides if we raise the present duty by Rs. 2, the opium revenue will increase by almost a lakh of rupees. Then the poppy cultivator's loss, more especially the loss of the credit with the money-lenders, and the stoppage of circulation of the capital and consequent general loss of wealth to the country, all these interests will have to be taken into account before fixing the amount of compensation. But these interests are so much intermingled with other agriculturists and mercantile enterprises that arriving at an accurate figure of compensation is a task well-nigh impossible. Since the establishment of the State monopoly in 1878 till 1889 opium was sold by separate license-holders for each shop. The license-holder paid a certain sum for the right to open a shop and sell the Sirkar's opium, purchased in the depôt, at the issue rate. The license-holder used to take a small quantity of the Sirkar opium to avert suspicion, but made his profits by retailing illicit opium. When it was found that such illicit dealings could not be stopped, the safest course that appeared best under the circumstances was to introduce what has been designated as the Minimum Guaranteed Vend System. The right to vend opium was given to one person for the whole district after fixing the minimum quantity, to be retailed, at appointed number of shops and at prices fixed by the Government. This system makes it incumbent upon the farmer to pay duty on a certain minimum quantity even though his actual sales fall short of the minimum. This condition was entered with the object of checking smuggling so rampant when the separate licensed system without guaranteeing the sales was in vogue. The condition makes it the interest of the farmer to refrain from dealing in contraband opium, as he has to dispose of the guaranteed quantity of opium himself. The farmer being one for the whole district he has increased powers to bring to light the illicit dealings. The only fault attributed to the system is that the quantity of opium to be disposed of in a year being guaranteed, the farmer has to encourage sale by hook or crook. But this fault in the system is rather imaginary than a real one, in the opium transaction. The quantity to be kept in possession and to be retailed being restricted and the minimum and maximum rates of sale being fixed, the farmer finds it very difficult to dispose of a large quantity by cheap sale. Then there is a fear of being detected and the license withdrawn. His best interest to extricate himself from this predicament, lies in disposing of the quantity at maximum price and thus make up the loss accruing from the quantity unsold. The following results will better illustrate how the system works:—After the introduction of the system, in the year 1891-92, the farmers guaranteed to vend 74,215 lbs. in one year. They actually sold 72,208 lbs. They had, therefore, to pay 11,035 Rs. for the quantity fallen short of the minimum. The right of vending opium was leased out to them for

three years. So the farmers had to pay during those years not less than Rs. 1,08,456. After the expiry of the first lease, the new farmers guaranteed to vend 62,850 lbs., that is, 11,365 lbs. less than the outgoing farmers. In this way, the quantity goes on falling and the opium being sold at maximum price, the excessive indulgence is placed beyond the reach of the masses. We often hear that the Minimum Guaranteed Vend System is condemned as it is alleged that it encourages consumption. But the actual results prove to the contrary. It is the only system which substitutes licit opium for illicit. But the persons who condemn the system do not devise another which can be substituted in its place. As long as another better system cannot be suggested, so long the Government should be allowed to maintain its own policy.

22,386. You say, "The use of the drug is nowhere so made as to rouse the sympathy of the philanthropist" or attract the attention of the politicians"; I suppose there are a considerable number of cases of excessive use, are there not?—No.

22,387. Have you ever seen men incapacitated for their profession by the use of opium?—No.

22,388. As an officer at the head of large establishments, have you ever had to reduce a man, or dismiss a man, for intemperance in opium?—Never.

22,389. You also say that "The use of the drug is gradually losing instead of gaining ground before the advance of education and under the seal of social condemnation; of late we scarcely meet with new opium consumers"; does that apply to the common country people or to the educated class?—To all the classes I should say. Among even these cultivators we do not see the young people eating opium, although the old people generally do so.

22,390. Do you attribute that to anything else besides the "advance of education and the seal of social condemnation"?—Also to the high price of opium.

22,391. Is it more difficult to get than it used to be?—Certainly.

22,392. Before the opium monopoly was created was the sale free in the villages?—It was not exactly free; but there were many shops, and the price of the article was very low.

22,393. You have told us that you have never seen instances of excessive use; if there are no instances of excessive use why should there be any social condemnation of the habit?—The thing is this, some people do go to excess, and the people laugh at them; but the cases are very rare.

22,394. I suppose the social condemnation is a sort of fashion?—Yes.

22,395. You say the fashion is tending more towards liquor?—Yes.

22,396. What kind of liquor?—English liquors. We see almost all the classes using whisky and brandy instead of ganja, bhang, or opium.

22,397. That surely is among the upper classes, not among the lower?—The lower classes use country liquor I think.

22,398. Do you think that change of the fashion towards liquor is a bad thing or a good thing?—It is a very bad thing.

22,399. You also say that there has of late grown a healthy public opinion which is now shaping the future of India socially, morally, and politically; why does not that healthy public opinion stop the growth of the habit of taking liquor?—It has been doing of late a good deal that way.

22,400. Are there any temperance societies?—Yes, even among the lower classes.

22,401. Can you give us any description of them?—There is an association at Sinore in the Baroda district where the boatmen had formed a society not to touch liquor at all.

22,402. Is that a large association?—It numbers about 2,000.

22,403. Does it include most of the tribe?—Yes.

22,404. Are there any other such associations?—Yes. There are also in the Nausari district, the southern district of Baroda, people who have formed an association.

22,405. What people?—Machis and Kolis.

22,406. Have they done that entirely of their own notion, or has it been suggested to them by people above them?—Of their own notion.

22,407. Has anything similar been started among the higher classes?—There are various associations amongst the Brahmins and other people against the use of liquor.

22,408. Do the Machis and Kolis who have formed associations against liquor include opium in their vow?—They do not include either bhang or opium.

22,409. Apparently they think those lesser evils?—Yes.

22,410. Do you know if these associations among the Brahmins and higher classes make a vow against all intoxicants?—Yes, against all intoxicants.

22,411. Is opium included in that?—Yes.

22,412. You say that opium is the sovereign remedy, the family doctor, the home Vaid, is that among all classes?—It is almost general.

22,413. Do you yourself think that the custom of giving opium pills to children is a good or bad thing?—I think it is a good thing. It has done no harm. I was given opium for three years when I was a child, and I do not suffer from it.

22,414. You say there is no connexion to be traced between opium and crime?—No.

22,415. But it has been generally said that excessive opium eaters in some parts of the country take to petty thefts?—I have not seen them here. I was police officer in all the districts of Baroda for seven years, and I never met with a single case.

22,416. The Convention between the British Government and the Baroda Darbar of 1820 was made, I think, very soon after the war between the British Government and the Maratha States?—Yes.

22,417. Do you think the Baroda Darbar agreed to it of their own free will?—That I cannot say. It was forced upon them so far as I know. Even in 1878 it was forced upon them also for the interest of the British opium revenue.

22,418. Sir Madhava Rao was not a man who would let himself be forced into a thing which he deliberately disapproved of; he was a very independent man?—Yes; he was a very independent man.

22,419. I see that another witness has mentioned that there was also a sort of agreement in 1803 between the British Government?—There might have been, but I have not seen it.

22,420. In considering the agreement of 1878, it must be remembered, must it not, that it was a fact that a very large quantity of Baroda opium was smuggled into British territory?—It is so stated, but we have not examples.

22,421. But do you not know as a fact that it was so?—I do not know that it was. Of course all that kind of pressure was brought upon the Baroda Darbar.

22,422. That was a legitimate reason, so far as it existed, for pressure was it not?—Yes.

22,423. You say that by the engagement entered into between the British Government and the Baroda Darbar, the Baroda Government lost an annual opium export revenue of Rs. 2,50,000?—That Rs. 2,50,000 is calculated at Rs. 135 per chest; and there were other duties also, Chungi and Tolamni.

22,424. You say that the consumption is decreasing, and that there are very few new consumers; but the figures of retail sale which you give do not show any decrease, as it were?—No, not much decrease; but there has been a decrease for the last two years since the interruption of the Minimum Guarantee System. The farm guaranteed to sell 74,000 lbs. in 1891-92. It was a contract for three years. Since the last lease they only guaranteed the vend of 62,850 lbs.

22,425. Your figures of retail sale show no great decrease?—It was 72,000 lbs. in 1891-92, and it was 59,000 lbs. in 1892-93, and it was 66,000 lbs. in 1890-91; so that there is a good deal of decrease.

22,426. You say, "Opium is used in anointing the Hindu gods. The following is the religious authority:" can you give us a translation of those lines?—"Milk, curds, butter-milk, honey, sugar, cold water, liquor, water washed from rice, opium, hemp, the poison from dhatura, these are the articles used for anointing Hindu gods; and anointing by opium is

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"much more meritorious than anointing with other articles."

22,427. Where does that come from?—It is from the tenets from the Shastras, the persons who worship Marahatta*; they are called Varmamagis.*

22,428. Is it a frequent practice to anoint gods with opium?—It is a frequent practice on certain days, that is on Shivarat, Panchmi and Durgapuja.

22,429. You say, "Notwithstanding the existing facilities for obtaining opium and the maintenance of the preventive arrangements, do we not know that a large quantity is still smuggled into our territory;" where does that smuggled opium come from?—Generally from Malwa.

22,430. And from Central India and Rajputana?—Yes.

22,431. How is it smuggled?—It is brought through the jungles; it is not brought by railway.

22,431a. How is it concealed?—It is concealed in bags, and it is generally carried at night.

22,432. What preventive establishment is there—the police?—Yes; we have preventive people as well as policemen.

22,433. You say, "The revenue is gradually rising every year by the substitute of duty-paid opium for smuggled opium"; do you mean that the revenue is rising, or that more licit opium is used every year?—I have given the figures. I say the figures are going down.

22,434. What do you mean by saying that the revenue is gradually rising; do you mean that less illicit opium is used now?—Yes.

22,435. And the prevention of smuggling is improving?—Yes.

22,436. The minimum guaranteed vend system was introduced in 1889?—Yes, in 1889 in Baroda.

22,437. It was introduced into British territory and Bombay about 1879, was it not?—I do not know exactly, but as far as I remember I think it was in 1874.

22,438. Before the minimum guaranteed vend system was introduced, is it your opinion that the licensed vendors used to smuggle?—Yes; we had several cases like that on the record.

22,439. But if they smuggled themselves, they could not easily inform against other people who smuggled, could they?—No, they could not.

22,440. If they do not smuggle themselves, and buy from the Durbar, then, I suppose, they do inform as much as possible?—Yes, exactly.

22,441. Do the licensed vendors give information which enables many smugglers to be caught?—They do sometimes.

22,441a. (Mr. Pease.) Why does the advance of education cause a decrease in the consumption of opium?—The reason is, because the educated people would not advocate the cause of any narcotics.

22,442. Do your educated people abstain from narcotics?—I cannot say, because opium is never considered to be a very bad poison. It is sometimes necessary.

22,443. What do you mean by the expression, that the drug is gradually losing instead of gaining ground before the advance of education?—Educated people will not generally take opium.

22,444. In what way does the seal of social condemnation against opium show itself?—When a man uses opium excessively the people generally deride him.

22,445. You make allusion to malarious fevers; do you know of any cases of persons taking opium before they had been attacked with fever or some other ailment in order to prevent them from catching the fever?—Yes.

22,446. Is the view that opium is a preventive against fever general in this district?—It is general in the jungle districts.

22,447. I suppose that people here take quinine more than opium for that purpose?—So far as I know people do take quinine in the Baroda and Kari districts, where there is not much malarious poison.

22,448. What is the price you give to the cultivators for their opium?—We give different rates at different

times. We give sometimes Rs. 3.4 as., sometimes Rs. 2.4 as., and sometimes Rs. 2.8 as. It generally depends upon the stock we have in the depôt. If the stock runs short we give a high price for a seer of juice. We manufacture the opium; the people do not.

22,449. Do I understand that your price varies from Rs. 2.8 as. to Rs. 8 for juice?—No; we give from Rs. 2.4 as., to Rs. 3.8 as.

22,450. You say that the State monopoly has helped to survive a dying trade and sinking credit; why do you call it a dying trade?—Because at first the people were allowed to export, and now the Government has taken the monopoly.

22,451. According to the return you have given us in 1891-92 there were 72,000 lbs. sold, and in the succeeding year, 1892-93, the quantity came down to 59,500 lbs., which is a reduction of 20 per cent. In what way do you account for that; do you think it was an increase of illicit opium, or a decrease in the consumption, or that there was some decrease in what was held over the year before?—I cannot exactly give you the reason. The reason which I would assign is that there may have been less marriages and births and other ceremonies where opium is very largely consumed.

22,452. Is there any opium smoking in Baroda?—No.

22,453. Is there any opium smoking in clubs or in private houses as far as you know?—No, nowhere.

22,454. Is it your estimate that a person may be a moderate consumer who consumes up to 30 grains a day?—Yes; even persons taking 30 grains of opium a day are not the worse for it; they enjoy perfect health.

22,455. Do you mean persons with specially strong constitutions; there are many people who would suffer very much if they took much less quantity, are there not?—Yes.

22,456. And there are many people who have not good nourishing food who suffer from taking opium; you say it is never harmful unless it is consumed without good nourishing food?—I mean taken in excess. Opium taken in excess without nourishment is very harmful.

22,457. You have observed that?—Yes.

22,458. In what way is it possible to force down the throats of people medicines mixed with spirits?—People regard all tinctures as being mixed with spirits; so whatever liquid is given to the people they regard it as spirit.

22,459. In what way is there any compulsion to take tinctures?—What will they take if opium is taken away from them?

22,460. Can you tell me the amount of revenue derived by the State from opium?—The net revenue is about Rs. 5,00,000 retail sale.

22,461. Do you not think that your system of requiring a minimum guarantee is almost equivalent to saying to the licensed vendor, "After you have sold a certain amount of Government opium, then you may sell illicit opium"?—I do not think that is the meaning we attach to it. It is not that.

22,462. The object of a minimum guarantee is to prevent the licensed vendor from selling illicit opium until he has sold the Government quantity?—Yes; but he can take an extra quantity if he likes when the minimum is finished.

22,463. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) You say that there is no other crop which can be substituted for poppy with equal advantage. I believe before the present system there were other parts in the Baroda territory where opium was grown?—Certainly.

22,464. And the cultivation was put a stop to?—Yes.

22,465. The cultivators were obliged to discontinue the poppy cultivation which was very beneficial to them; have the Government of Baroda made any arrangements with the cultivators in the way of compensation?—No, the Government has not made any arrangements to give compensation, but the cultivators deserve it, I suppose.

22,466. You say that the cultivation of poppy is one hundredth of the other cultivation in the Kari division. Have you compared the condition of the cultivators who grow poppy with those who do not?—I could give you the amount of the yield and all the expenses for a bigha.

* It has not been found possible to verify these two words.

22,467. I want to know whether the poppy cultivators are much better off than those who grow other crops?—They are much better off according to my own experience. The people of Unja are much better off.

22,468. Have you any applications from cultivators to grow more poppy than you require for your purposes?—Yes.

22,469. And do you ever refuse those applications?—Once in 1891 I restricted the cultivation to a few Talukdars. There was a great clamour. They sent in a lot of petitions to Baroda asking permission to extend the sphere of cultivation, and we granted it.

22,470. The cultivators themselves did not reduce the area of cultivation, but you refused to allow them to cultivate?—When we do not want much juice we give less rates.

22,471. So that you do not consult the convenience and desire of the cultivators as regards poppy cultivation, but you have to consult your own needs?—Exactly; because we have got the monopoly.

22,472. You have said that you were a police officer. I believe you had the authority to fill up vacancies?—Yes.

22,473. In case there was a vacancy in the ranks of the police, and two candidates appeared, in other respects equal, but one took opium and the other did not, on whom would your choice fall?—I should make no distinction provided the opium eater was healthy.

22,474. You would not mind whether he took more or less opium so long as he was healthy?—It depends upon the health of the person.

22,475. The habit of taking opium would not come in the way of an efficient performance of duty would it?—So long as the habit did not come in the way of a man efficiently performing his duty it would make no difference with me.

22,476. (*Chairman.*) You have said that the Durbar pays from Rs. 2. 4 as. to Rs. 3. 8 as. per seer for the opium juice?—Yes.

22,477. In Rajputana we heard that the Sahukars and Bohras pay from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 or even more than that per seer?—Yes; but we do not.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. RALPH KERSHAW called in and examined.

22,490. (*Chairman.*) You are opium superintendent of the Baroda State?—Yes.

22,491. How long have you been in the Durbar's employ?—About 16 years—since 1878.

22,492. Have you all along been in your present appointment?—Chiefly in my present appointment. I have been assistant in the Dewan's office, but most of the time I have been superintendent.

22,493. If the production and use of opium for non-medical purposes are prohibited throughout British India, could such prohibition be extended to the Baroda State?—Such prohibition can not be extended to the Baroda State. "The production and use of opium" in Baroda are a matter of treaty rights. The right of producing opium for export and local consumption has been granted to Baroda under the treaty of 1878; and the transit of its exportable opium is guaranteed also, provided it passes through the British scales at Ahmedabad and the full British duty is paid. [References:—Raja Sir T. Madhav Rao's letter No. 2562 dated 9th March 1878; Aitchison's Treaties, New edition, Vol. VI; Resolution of the Government of Bombay dated 6th April 1878, No. 1771; Paras. 3 to 6 of a letter No. 4020 dated 9th November 1878, from the Government of India to the Government of Bombay.] Under this treaty His Highness' Government undertook two monopolies; first, that of the production of opium; second, that of retail sale. The British Government on their part agreed "(1) To permit the Baroda Administration "to import an amount of opium required for actual "licit consumption within the Baroda State at cost "price and free of duty from Malwa or from the "Government Depôts. (2) To permit the Baroda "administration to export opium locally produced to "Bombay through the scales at Ahmedabad on payment "of the full British duty." *Vide* Para. 3 of a letter of the Government of India to the Government of Bombay dated 9th November 1878, No. 4023. The principal obligations which the treaty enjoins on the Baroda

22,478. In Bengal the British Government pays Rs. 5 per seer. Can you explain why the Durbar rates seem so low?—I do not know why that is, because when we manufacture opium it comes up to Rs. 5. The issuing rate is Rs. 10. I do not think the rates are very low.

22,479. Can you tell me what the ball of opium for export costs per seer?—Rs. 5 almost.

22,480. No more than that?—No.

22,481. You are not in charge of that Department, are you, and perhaps you do not quite know?—No; I do not exactly know.

22,482. Probably the Excise superintendent will be able to answer that question?—Yes.

22,483. You have said that no compensation was given to the cultivators in those parts of Baroda where cultivation was stopped. Can you tell me in what part the cultivation was stopped, and in what part it was allowed?—It was stopped in Petlad and the Amreli districts.

22,484. Anywhere else?—It was also stopped at Dhegaum.

22,485. Is that a Taluka or district?—A Taluka.

22,486. In the rest of the territory it was allowed?—There are four districts in Baroda: Nausari, where poppy was not grown at all; Baroda, where poppy was grown; in Petlad it was stopped; and poppy was grown in some of the Talukas of the Amreli district: that was stopped; and it was stopped at Dhegaum and Attursumba, which are in the Kari district.

22,487. Was there much poppy cultivation in Petlad?—I have not got the figures but there was, as far as I know.

22,488. Was the poppy cultivation in the Talukas of Amreli much or slight?—I think it was slight there.

22,489. I suppose it was stopped where it was difficult to look after or where it was slight?—It was stopped for two reasons—it was very difficult to look after, and the yield was very small.

Government are first, that the cultivation of the poppy in the Baroda territories should be restricted to the Kari Division of those territories alone; second, that the cultivation should be limited to licit demand for home consumption and for export; third, that the cultivation should be by license; fourth, that the State should buy all the juice and convert it into opium; fifth, that the opium for export should be in charge of the State till it has paid British duty at Ahmedabad; sixth, that the retail sale should be carried out under a complete Sirkar Monopoly, analogous to that prevailing in British provinces, the prices being assimilated, and seventh, that the Baroda Government should give the strictest and most loyal adherence to, and enforcement of the arrangements, and exert its utmost efforts to carry them out faithfully and cordially. The obligations which the treaty enjoins on the British Government, as noted above, are first, That they should permit transit of Baroda exportable opium, taken to the scales at Ahmedabad, on payment of the full British duty and second, allow opium required for consumption within the Baroda State at cost price and free of duty from Malwa or Government depôts. As long as the Baroda Government continues its "strictest and most loyal "adherence to and enforcement of the arrangements, "and also its utmost efforts against the prevention of "the illicit export of opium beyond its territories," there can be no withdrawal from, or interference with, the treaty. Any attempt at prohibition in regard to the production or use of opium would, under the circumstances, be obviously unjustifiable. It may be added that the Baroda Administration was most reluctant to adopt the arrangements proposed in the new treaty, and did so only "yielding to the pressure of the situation" and in protection of the British Opium Revenue. In undertaking the monopoly of production the Baroda Government had, much against its wish and conviction, to interfere in respect of "a cultivation "which had been going on from former times and "which had attained a considerable magnitude under

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"influences similar to those which had operated to increase the production in the Native States of Central India. Very large interests had grown up in progress of time" and these had to be summarily swept away. Further the Baroda Government heavily suffered in its export Revenue to the extent of about 2 to 3 lacs and the prosperity of the trade of the Division where opium was being cultivated was materially affected. The capitalists as well as the village money-lenders received such a severe shock from the unexpected, and the sudden introduction of the measure that the trade has not yet recovered from its effects. Fifteen years have passed since, still the trade of the Division remains dormant, and the traders, in every grievance relating to their condition prominently put forward the introduction of the State Monopoly as the chief cause. The opium growing ryot suffered also, and suffered considerably. The credit he had then and the easy interest he had to pay are now the things of the past. He grew his opium for a private trader—his own money-lender—with whom he had transactions on all occasions whether for the settlement of Government demands, or marriages, births or deaths as his fathers had before him. He drew on this bank liberally and the bank honoured his orders. But things have altered since. The condition of the opium grower is far from being the same. He grows opium now for the Sirkar who certainly gives him advances, but only to meet the expenses of his cultivation; in all other respects he is still dependent upon the money-lenders, deeper in debt and worried much and oft. He finds credit simply because he still cultivates the only precious crop in the parts where it is grown. In carrying out the retail sale monopoly the Government had to buy up, and often at a loss, all the old opium in the territories and also imported from Malwa. It happened to be in a year when the Malwa crop having suffered the price of opium had risen unprecedently high. "The most extraordinary excitement in trade" says the Baroda Gazetteer "sprang up in the Division (Kari) during late years from speculation in opium. The intensity of the desire to deal in opium reached a climax in the very year when the State made the manufacture and sale of opium a State monopoly, that is on and after the 1st October 1878. Every class of people even those who were ignorant of the meaning of trade or the qualities of good and bad opium rushed headlong into the speculation and suffered proportionately." The Baroda Government under the obligation of the treaty arrangements had to enter the market and buy up the whole produce of the Division. It can easily be imagined how distasteful was the action of Government with the trader and the cultivator, how great the commotion and the clamour of dissatisfaction: I was an eyewitness to the whole and as opium superintendent a worker in the field. I do not even now, after the lapse of so many years, forget the difficulties and disagreeableness of the work. "Any measure" says Raja Sir T. Madhava Rao "having for its aim the immediate or ulterior suppression of the production of opium here, cannot but be as unfair and as unwelcome to this native State as to any native State of Malwa." Sir Madhava Rao wrote this previous to the framing of the present treaty. How much more unfair and unwelcome it would be now when the State at a great sacrifice and loss of revenue accepted the treaty, and has been most strictly and most loyally fulfilling its obligations. "Yielding to the pressure of the situation" may be all well and fair, in the interest of the fiscal measures, of the paramount power and in the protection of its revenue, when by illicit measures that revenue suffered, but not so, when the state of things is different, and the Baroda Government puts forth as agreed to, its utmost efforts towards the prevention of the illicit export of opium beyond its territory.

22,494. What is the nature of the existing arrangements with the native States in respect of the transit of opium through British territory; could those arrangements be with justice terminated?—This question has to a great extent been dealt with in the previous answer. The existing arrangements with the Baroda State in respect of the transit of opium through British territory form the subject of one and the same treaty as those in regard to the production and use of opium. The Baroda Government in having agreed to establish a State monopoly had in return certain concessions granted, or, to quote the words of the Government of India:—

"His Excellency in Council notices that the Baroda Durbār has formally acknowledged its willingness to

"carry out the principal provisions of the Agreement of 1820, viz., to establish State opium monopoly system, on the basis of the Bengal system and to limit the production of opium to the extent of the licit demand and that the Government of Bombay has decided to continue the following concessions to His Highness the Gaikwar's Government." One of these concessions being, to quote again the words of the Government of India:—

- (2.) "To permit the Baroda Administration to export opium locally produced to Bombay through the scales at Ahmedabad on payment of the full British duty.
"These concessions have been granted on the understanding that His Highness the Gaikwar's Government will not import and export opium other than those thus defined in toor from the British territories and loyally carry out all the other terms of the Agreement.
"His Excellency the Governor-General in Council fully approves the arrangement made with the Baroda State as detailed in the Resolution of the Government of Bombay dated 6th April 1878. No. 1,771."

Let it be plainly stated with all respect, that under this treaty of 1878, so clearly ratified by the Government of India, the British Government would have to pass Baroda grown opium to Bombay provided, first that it is presented in its own charge at the scales at Ahmedabad and secondly the full British duty is paid there, even were there to be a complete prohibition against all export of opium from British territory. Under the same treaty arrangements the British Government have to pass through their intervening territories opium conveyed from one part of the Baroda territory to another for licit consumption. Let it be noted that these are not all new rights obtained under the present treaty. Even under the Convention of 1820 (taking it in the sense in which the British Government demanded it to be observed after over half a century) Baroda was entitled to produce opium for use in its territories, and in case the stock ran out to obtain the required quantity free of duty from the British depôts or from Malwa. But the Convention of 1820 had never been observed. Its provisions remained a dead letter. No State monopoly of retail sale as therein provided for had been created. The State never purchased up all the opium produced in its territory. The cultivator was left free to grow opium according to the demand of the market, the trader to buy the produce of the field, cake it, and export it or sell it in the territory. Being the highest and most paying crop the cultivation grew and multiplied. Export trade increased rapidly commencing with 1857, the occasion being the establishment of the scales at Ahmedabad. In 1862 over 3,900 chests passed through the scales at Ahmedabad for export to Bombay paying pass-fee there; still the British Government did not object to the action of the Baroda Government. Every year a large number of chests continued to be conveyed to the scales by private merchants, and the British Government went on passing the chests and collecting their duty. Between 1862 and 1877 over 32,150 chests had passed through the scales and paid British duty. Large agricultural and mercantile interests thus grew up in course of time. Practices sprang up which had obtained the strength of prescriptive rights. Neither the cultivator nor the merchant knew anything about the Convention of 1820, nor about the question raised in regard to it. Over a generation the cultivation and trade had existed, and it never entered into their calculation that there was anything so destructive of their prosperity as the State monopoly, looming so near. The Malwa crop failed, the price rose to a tempting height, and all without distinction of sex or condition rushed into the speculation hastening to be rich. In the same year the convention of 1820 which existed only in name was set aside and the present monopoly introduced. It was a rude awakening for all parties.

22,495. What compensation would Native States be fairly entitled to in case of measures of prohibition being adopted?—There can be no question of compensation in a case of treaty rights like the one above noted. Can such prohibition be extended with justice is the second question. It has been shown in answer that it cannot be done so with "justice." The question, therefore, of compensation calls for no answer. It is only in the case of the Baroda Government agreeing with the British Government to come

to a compromise on the subject matter of the treaty, that the question of compensation could be brought on the board. But I am certain that His Highness' Government have no wish, even were the highest compensation made, to accede to an act which would be ruinous to the agricultural interests of the State, and the little trade that remains in the Kari division; that would interfere without cause with the individual and social liberty of its subjects, that would drive out one imaginary evil spirit to make room for seven in the shape of some other drug, that would create dissatisfaction and disturbance among its subjects; in short what would be a serious political blunder as will be shown further on in detail. Besides in a matter like this it is impossible to ascertain the amount of compensation. It is not only a case where a certain fixed revenue is concerned where one may take the figure of average profit. In the present case, there are the agricultural interests involved and there is the fear of impoverishing the ryots by prohibiting one of the richest crops, and the only rich crop in the parts where opium is grown. It is a question of land revenue. There may arise difficulties, and I declare there will, as to the collection of the assessment, because by the prohibition of the poppy cultivation, the cultivator will not only be deprived of his best and most paying crop, but of that which gives him credit with his money-lender and what poor ryot is without his Sahukar or money-lender? It is hard to ascertain precisely how the revenue will suffer in this matter. In case of difficulty of collection there will have to be used the harassing process of distraining which will drive away the Ryot, and necessitate the writing off of arrears, or the reduction of land assessment. Again, when a state unjustly deprives a cultivator of his right of cultivating a crop on which he chiefly depends for meeting the dues of the Sirkar may he not fairly expect a compensation in some way or other. How can such a compensation be settled at once? Further, a total prohibition of cultivation is one thing, but when a partial cultivation is kept up only for medical purposes there will be required a most expensive preventive force. It is hard to imagine just yet what the strength of such an establishment would be. The prohibition is bound to raise the price of opium to a speculative height which will open a way to extensive smuggling. In fact the greatest difficulty will be to settle the area and the district for a cultivation of the drug purely for medical purposes, and if such a thing is sold by auction there can be no question of its fetching a high amount. And what guarantee is there that there will not be illicit cultivation notwithstanding an extensive preventive establishment. Every field will have to be watched, and even if the area is kept under control and supervision there is the question of collection of the juice. There will be every reason for the cultivator to keep back as much of juice as he can. Of course, there will be one of the members of the preventive department there, but will not the temptation prove too much for a peon on five, a havaldar on ten, or even a mehta on Rs. 20 a month. Then there comes the caking process. For though the trade to China may cease and the use of opium locally may be prohibited and made penal, still the opium will have to be caked, or if not caked, dried in some shape or other, before being used for medical purposes. This will have to be constantly watched, and the cakers will have to be highly paid; and yet it is hard to say whether the temptation to steal or smuggle opium will not prove too much for their poor strength. I can go on dealing with the different processes in this manner until the opium goes into the custody of the medical man, for medical use, and even there difficulties will arise and a watching will be required. It is not possible, therefore, to come to any definite conclusion as to the strength and expense of a detective force. Without all these particulars no amount can be determined as to compensation. But taking the above facts into consideration together with the resulting loss of export trade the amount may be roughly estimated at twelve lacs of rupees a year.

22,496. Have you any general observations to make with reference to the effects which the prohibition of the cultivation and use of opium is likely to have?—As I propose to express my opinion in regard to the effects which the prohibition of the cultivation and use of opium is likely to have, in case of the former on the agricultural and money-lending classes, and in case of the latter on individuals and the society in general; as I shall have in the course of my remarks to compare the effects of opium with those of alcohol, as they have

come under my personal notice, and also to speak of the feelings and fears of the people in regard to the present movement and to make observations of a similar nature, and as I propose to give evidence on these points in addition to those noted above, it is but fair that I should indicate here what opportunities I have had to obtain information regarding these matters. I have been in His Highness the Gaekwar's service for over 15 years, that is since the establishment of State opium monopoly in the Baroda State, to carry out which I was appointed by the Baroda Government as superintendent of the Opium Department. I am also superintendent of Customs and Abkari in the Kari Division. My position as opium superintendent constantly brings me in contact with the Ryots in general and the opium-growing Ryots in particular, and with the trading and money-lending classes; and hence I have had many opportunities to inform myself on the subjects regarding which I shall speak here. I have also been with more than one Christian missions and churches in the capacity of educational teacher or preacher, in Bombay, Poona, and Gujarat; and from the knowledge I gained in these and other capacities, I am enabled to form my opinion as to the comparative effects of opium and alcohol on individuals, on society, on crime, and on morality and religion. What I shall say will be only in regard to the practical view of the question, the physiological being left to experts. With these remarks, which I feel were due under the circumstance, I shall proceed to the subject and be as brief as possible on each point, leaving the subject to be expanded as the questions arise. Independent of the matter of treaty rights and monetary gain or loss, the Baroda Government has also to take into account the effects that the prohibition of the production and use of opium would be likely to have in its territory. I shall first address myself to the subject of the prohibition of the production of opium:—

(a.) It would be ruinous to the opium-cultivating Ryots of the Kari Division where the poppy is grown.

"Any measure," says Raja Sir T. Madhava Rao, "having the effects of sooner or later destroying the production of opium in Baroda territories would not only prove ruinous to the agricultural districts and commercial industries therewith connected, and to the revenues therefrom derived by this State, but would also, I submit, be prejudicial to British interests."

"Again, with the suppression of opium production in Baroda territories the revenue derived therefrom must disappear."

Sir Madhava Rao wrote this when he was fighting his ground, inch by inch, against the introduction of the State monopoly in the Baroda State. But still the monopoly gained in the field and is now in full possession. With the establishment of the monopoly "the commercial enterprises connected with the production of opium" ceased to exist. The agricultural interests suffered also. But if the cultivation is completely prohibited it would create great agricultural distress in the parts where opium is grown. It would in fact be altogether ruinous to the ryot. The reason is obvious. In the parts where opium is grown there is no crop of equal value or anything near it that the cultivator would go in for in case of the prohibition. The soil is light and sandy and rejects such valuable crops as sugarcane, cotton, &c. In fact as these opium ryots have told me they cannot even grow chillies instead, if opium was stopped. It is a soil good enough for food grains and cereals of some kinds, but not for such crops that would equal opium or replace it. It is well known what lifelong and intimate transactions—transactions which come down from sire to son—exist between the ryot and the money-lender. In these transactions opium holds the chief place. The opium-grower is readily trusted by the Sahukar who comes to his help on all occasions, whether of marriage, birth, or death, or Government dues, or other monetary difficulties, because the Sahukar is comparatively sure of not losing his money. I have known many cases in which Sahukars have refused to lend money to ryots on account of their failing to grow opium one year, unless they promise to do so next year. The crop yields on an average 15 lbs. of opium juice and seven and a half maunds (three hundred pounds) of poppy-seed per acre. Taking the former at the average low rate of three rupees a pound and the latter at two rupees a maund, the total amount comes to Rs. 60 an acre. Besides, in

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some sub-divisions it is usual to take a crop of *bajra* before utilizing the land for the poppy; and though the yield of opium juice is a little less in such cases yet the margin of profit left upon the whole is larger. The cultivator is also benefited in his land, as a field grown with poppy gives in the succeeding year a better yield of wheat or other cereals that may be sown in it. Notwithstanding the bad years and less return of food grains and fodder on one side and the State keeping down the cultivation by giving low prices on account of the market in Bombay being against the export of opium due to low prices on the other, on an average over 8,000 licenses a year are issued. It must be remembered that though the licensee may be one he has not unfrequently *peta bhagias* (co-sharers) and especially so in a crop like that of opium, which, being valuable, requires much care, labour, and attention. The cultivation is not confined to any particular class, it is popular with all classes. The largest number of cultivators are *kanbis*. But the *Dher* and even the *Bhangi* grows opium. The families of the opium growers are during the season engaged in the field. The labouring classes of the village find work during the weeding and the juice collecting season. Stop a cultivation so profitable and helpful without any other to replace it, and it goes without saying that the consequences will be serious. Agricultural distress and general discontent must follow. Impoverished ryots must throw Government dues into arrears. Distraining processes will drive away the defaulters, and, in the long run, the result all round will be exceedingly undesirable impoverishment to the people and loss to the revenue. The prohibition will also affect the money-lending classes. The village money-lenders are not capitalists. They themselves are generally borrowers of money. They take loans from the capitalists at a certain interest and lend out money to the cultivator on a higher interest. Since the establishment of the State monopoly the interest has risen, still the opium grower can always find a *Sahukar* to lend him, and get the money on less interest than others. It may be asked wherein lies the security, so great as this, with regard to the opium grower. The answer is plain. In the first place, opium is a valuable crop giving a realisation much higher than any other. Secondly, there is a certainty connected with it of which the money-lender does not lose sight and in which the ryot has confidence, viz., that the price of the juice will come in a lump sum from the Government at an appointed time and on immediate delivery of the produce, which the cultivator will be ready to pay and the money-lender to receive. They know also that no decree of the civil court can touch it nor can the Government dues, except the advances made for the poppy cultivation, be deducted from it. Thirdly, food grains have outlets in a variety of ways, while opium, being under Government control, has none. If, therefore, the cultivation is prohibited the money-lender will be backward to give credit, and, if he does, the amount of interest charged will be crushing. The fact is, since the establishment of the monopoly the chief trade of the Division consists in money lending, there being no commercial industries, this trade will also be to a great extent swept away by the prohibition. Now to the question of the prohibition of the use of opium. I believe the action would be very unadvisable; that it would serve no good purpose; that, on the contrary, it would have just the opposite effect; and that the people would seriously resent it; and that it would lead to very serious discontent, and perhaps to political danger. I say this from what I know to be the feelings of the people. The object of the present inquiry by the Commission must be acknowledged to be good. But it is looked upon with suspicion. The impression amongst the people is that a pressure will be brought to bear upon the Government to prohibit the use of opium with the effect of spreading the use of "*Vilayati daru*." They openly declare it so. In fact, I have been asked by people over and over again whether such is not the intention. When I tell them it is the very people who would like to see all sorts of *daru* banished the earth they give me a smile of scorn and surprise. They say: "Why don't they stop it amongst their own people, why don't they stop it coming into the country where it is flooded? They will spoil our children, they will teach them to drink, they will destroy our religion. Opium is not against our religion. Opium does not disgrace one's name or family." They have often asked me whether they should not memorialise to the Government. I advised them not to do so. I told them that it would serve no

good purpose, that it might be misunderstood as if got up for the special purpose, and I kept them back. This prohibition will not affect one particular class of people. It will affect all classes. Everyone is interested in one way or another—the opium grower in his own way, the money-lender and capitalist in theirs, the opium eater in his own. Then there is the social and religious feeling against drink which has unfortunately got mixed up with this affair. Taking all in all, a more unadvisable action cannot be taken, and hence any recommendation towards the prohibition must be resented. I am personally no advocate of any narcotics or stimulants, I should like to see one and all banished the surface of the earth. But it is a matter of personal opinion. Such opinions cannot be enforced by law or by breaking of treaties or engagements. Besides "*cui bono*?" When alcohol is going about slaying its thousands, why persecute or destroy the use of a drug that, if moderately taken, is never known to do harm? Examine your hospitals, your gaols, your lunatic asylums, and show me a single man whom simply opium eating has driven there. Take note of the register of crimes, do you find a single case there that you could attribute to opium eating. From a very early age I have had opportunities to watch and study alcohol—not opium—because nobody in those days ever talked about it, I suppose because there were no printed reports in those days. I have seen the finger of scorn pointed while preaching in the streets as professed Christians passed reeling along the road. In all my tours with missionaries, in all my intercourse with them, I have not hitherto heard any one of them make a remark to the effect that opium eating retarded the progress of morality or was a stumbling block in the way of the spread of Christianity. In fact, the most that the old and experienced missionaries will say is what Dr. MacDonald, of the Free Church of Scotland, is reported to have said, "Opium eating and smoking was bad, but could not be compared to the bodily evils and moral degradation caused by drink." He had unbounded opportunities of studying the effects of indulgence in both. Take our own population, compare the figures of the consumption of drink and opium averaged for the last five years per head of population ending with 1891-92 and you get—

		Srs.	Tolas.
Liquor	-	2	38
Opium	-	0	1.19

It is our desire and study to see the per-centage of the former fall off as much as possible, knowing that the latter will be swept away by the current setting in with higher ideas of things. But I must note one fact, that where there is more of consumption of opium there is less of drink, but not proportionately—the proportion of the latter is much greater. Here are the figures of five years' average consumption of liquor and opium per division:—

Division.	Liquor.		Opium.	
	Seers.	Tolas.	Seers.	Tolas.
Nausari -	-	16 33	0	.43
Baroda -	-	1 26½	0	1.68
Amreli -	-	0 7	0	2.78
Kari -	-	0 23	0	.68

The result of the prohibition will be to pass over the opium consumer from the opium vendor to the liquor seller. His Highness' Government I know is very desirous to see the sales of liquor dwindle away as much as possible. The prohibition would be the wrong way of going about it. It would on the contrary add to the number of liquor consumers instead of lessening it. Let us note here before proceeding further that opium smoking, that is the use of *chandul* and *madat*, is made penal in the Baroda State by the Gaikwari Act I (Sthanic Nibandh) of Samwat 1917 (1861), section 53. Opium is therefore used in the Baroda territories only in the shape of eating or in the liquid form of *Kasumbha*. Opium is not an increasing consumption in the Baroda State. The heavy retail sale price has gone much towards its decrease. Education is also a valuable worker in the field against opium. The general complaint is that the races among which opium held a high place is giving place to drink. One thing I can testify to from my personal knowledge that opium eating is falling off, that the largest number will make a pice worth of opium serve them for two doses. I have never

seen any evil consequences proceed from moderate opium eating. In fact there are hundreds of respectable intelligent business people who take it and yet you would not know they did. I have seen also cases of excessive consumers, but they did not act like what those under the influence of drink do. There was no wife-beating, there was no nuisance to neighbours, there was no frenzy or madness, and there was no attempt at suicide or homicide. It was sublime somnolency or sublime indifference to the passing things of the world. Whenever I think of the story of Alnaschar's dream it makes me question whether Alnaschar or his storyteller was not under the sublime dreamy influence of opium at that time. An opium eater under the full influence of his favourite drug imagines himself the "monarch of all he surveys, there is none his right to dispute," but all the dispute that may arise about it does not in the least upset the placid equanimity of his mind. I have said before that education is fighting opium out of the field. Can as much be said of alcohol? Is it insinuating itself into higher classes or not? Is it spreading with education or not? These are serious questions, questions requiring seriously to be pondered. There is much to be done in this respect without interfering with the use of a drug that is quietly dying away and will soon disappear. How small is the per-centage of opium eaters compared with that of those who use alcohol. Then the per-centage we have of the latter is simply of the use of country liquor. There is no record of the per-centage as regards imported liquors. I shall further on notice this article of import as far as the Presidency of Bombay is concerned. In the meanwhile let me quote here the words of the Government of India in regard to the habits of intemperance as connected with education, and claim the same consideration for a harmless drug lest any extreme measure should lead the people to a greater and more to be dreaded evil. One of the earlier "effects of the spread of education and enlightenment in such countries as India may sometimes be an increase in intemperance; old checks based on imaginary sanctions lose their power of restraint and the result is excess. But this result is, we believe, only temporary, education in time establishes more solid and enduring restraints against intemperance than those which it destroys. The gradual growth of a healthy public opinion will, in our opinion, reduce intemperance in a wider, surer, and more lasting manner than the most severe restrictive measures which Government could adopt. It seems to us better to await with confidence this result of education and to assist in the formation of sound public feeling than to be hurried by alarm at a temporary evil into hasty attempts at forcible repression." It will be seen from the above that in the case of a drug from which greater evils proceed, wisdom dictates a waiting with confidence the result of education and deprecates severe restrictive measures, now much more of this patience is necessary in the present instance when the result carries a greater certainty with it. Now as to imported liquors. Taking the figures of the five years ending 1891-2 I find the quantity of potable spirits imported into Bombay to be 1,105,466 proof gallons which gives an average of 221,093 proof gallons. But this comprises only brandy, whiskey, gin, rum, old tom and hollands. Liquors such as liquers, ale, beer, wines, porter, and other fermented drinks are not included in the Port Trust Customs Reports in the above figures, as they do not fall under the heading of potable liquors. So also alcohol rectified and methylated spirits, spirits used in the composition of medicines, chemicals, and perfumed spirits are excluded. As all these things are used more or less, the Eau de Cologne being not an exception, it is hard to fix the per-centage without full figures. But I am not concerned with the drink question just now. I simply mention this with a view to show that the danger of moral degradation does not lie towards the side of opium. One word more in regard to the effects of the use of opium as regards crime. I am not aware of a single case in which opium eating can be made responsible for crime. Our Police Commissioner, Mr. S. Kyte, to whom I referred the question that I may compare notes, expresses his views so much in consonance with mine that I cannot do better than give them here: "My experience of police duties," says Mr. Kyte, "dates from June 1866, I have had about 22 years' experience of police work in British territory and about six years' experience of the same duties under His Highness' Government. My opinion on the comparative effects of opium and alcoholic drinks

"with regard to their effects on crime in general or crime of any special character is that there is no comparison between the two, for alcoholic drinks are and have been found by me to be the source of any amount of crime of all descriptions, whereas the use of opium has never to my knowledge and experience been the source or cause of a single cause of crime (suicides excepted). I cannot also bring to recollection a single instance in which the smoking of Chandu and Madak has given rise to any crime whatsoever. I beg to state that opium has never to my knowledge been used by criminals to further their designs or to induce their victims to partake of it in order to stupefy them. Should opium be used in any other drug for the purpose of stupefaction the nauseous taste would act as a preventive rather than as an inducement to the partaking of the drug. I would beg to state that the consumers of opium, and smokers of Chandu and Madak, have never been known to me as offensive neighbours." Opium is a household remedy, used as a specific for children. It is given to weak, emaciated, cranky children. It is used for this purpose amongst all classes, high and low. The idea is that the child remains in *khush mizaj* (happy), and grows up vigorously. They believe that if it were not for the administering of opium they would lose 40 per cent. of their children from diarrhoea, fever, cough, &c. The drug is administered till the child is about three or five years old. It is used as a specific by people to check chronic diarrhoea, which is common here, especially amongst the lower classes, also in cases of cough, asthma, and chest affections, and as a febrifuge, &c. I have known people taking it in diabetes. Amongst what are called "Shuralok," that is, the heroic or warlike races, such as Rajputs, Sikhs, Mahomedans, Bhats, Charans, Dharalas, Thakardas, Kolis, Kathis, and Waghers, opium is held in great esteem. It is the drink of "Shuras," they say, "the drink of the brave." Their quarrels and misunderstandings are made up over Kasumbha. All bad feeling must cease the moment Kasumbha is taken together. In fact, Kasumbha fills the place of the social glass over which quarrels are made up amongst certain people. In visits of congratulations or condolence Kasumbha holds an important place. The Hindus are not the only races, the Mahomedans used it also, in fact it has no religious or class restraint. The most respectable people make use of it, as it is considered to give staying power and keep one in *khush mizaj*, or happy humour. While on this subject, I cannot do better than to quote extracts from our chief medical officer, Dr. Shamsudin's reply to my inquiry in regard to the use of opium, as all that he says I can testify to as having come under my notice and personal knowledge. "Opium holds an important place," says Dr. Shamsudin, "both in European and native pharmacopœias. There are several compound drugs in which opium is the chief ingredient, and its place cannot be supplied by any other drug. There are some diseases in the treatment of which opium is the sheet anchor, without which results are likely to be very unsatisfactory. Opium is largely used by Hakims and Vaidis in the treatment of diseases. It is also used as a household remedy for bowel complaints, and cough, chronic diarrhoea, dysentery, bronchitis, and asthma. Opium is made use of as a household medicine, and thereby much suffering and many lives are saved. As regards the effect of opium on constitution, its dietetic use amounting to a few grains daily does no harm. Hundreds of people use it, and those who live in damp and malarial districts imperfectly clad, indifferently fed and housed, and keenly susceptible to attacks of fever from chills are greatly benefitted by it in point of health. They do not suffer so much from climatic changes as the non-opium eaters do when placed in similar circumstances. Habitual moderate use of opium gives staying power to man under severe exertion. Shikaris going in the jungle can walk the whole day without taking any nourishments, and without experiencing feeling of fatigue when they have taken their usual allowance of opium before starting. Opium when used moderately as a matter of habit does not prevent man from following his usual avocation, whether it be connected with brain or not. Opium when taken habitually in a comparatively large quantity causes emaciation of body, especially in the case of poor men who cannot afford to live well. No serious organic disease of any kind ever results even from the abuse of opium. Habitual imbibition of alcohol in large quantities produces terrible

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" results. It causes cirrhosis of liver, kidney disease, " dropsy, fatty degeneration of heart and arteries, " paralysis, and insanity. In the majority of cases of " insanies in Europe the cause of deranged mental con- " dition is attributable to the abuse of alcohol. From " what has been stated above, it will be seen that the " evils from opium are nil as compared with those from " alcohol." In conclusion, I would request the liberty of being allowed to say a word about the moral grounds on which the agitation appears to be based. This is an important point. I have not the least doubt that if every rupee as far as the revenue is concerned had to be sacrificed, His Highness's Government would not be deterred from siding with morality. But I beg respectfully to submit that morality is not at all concerned in the matter. It is a fearful misunderstanding to make opium responsible for a serious matter like that when the trade in drink is permitted to flourish, when the importation of liquors is allowed, the consequences of which are so well known and daily seen that on moral grounds, opium should be drummed out of the country as its worst enemy. If it is not immoral to take a glass of wine, I trust I shall be permitted to say that it cannot be immoral, especially as the excess of it has not such demoralising and degrading consequences to take a pice worth of opium. It is a matter of personal liberty, and if the man by excess sins against law or society he has his punishment. In matters of eating and drinking each nation has its own code. If the stronger one compel its own on the weaker it would be against all law and justice. Matters like this must be left to education, moral persuasion, and fitting example. But any extreme measure that would interfere with one's individual or social liberties would only lead to unpleasant and serious consequences. I beg to submit that the feelings of the people are very much against any action that would interfere in their liberty in this respect, and I am not singular in my opinion. The Subhas of the several divisions who have had vast experience and intimate knowledge of the people entertain the same opinion.

22,497. You have said that one of the obligations of the Treaty of 1878 was that the cultivation of the poppy in the Baroda Territories should be restricted to the Kari Division of those territories. Why was that?—That is one of the conditions we entered into, that we would not extend it beyond the Kari Division.

22,498. Is it mentioned in the Treaty too, do you remember?—Sir Madhava Rao's letter is the Treaty. There is no other Treaty except that letter ratified by the Government of India. That letter will be found in Aitcheson's Treaties, I think, in vol. 6 of the new edition.

22,499. Perhaps you can tell us what was the object in restricting it to the Kari Division?—The cultivation in the other parts was not worth anything. In the Dhegaum Taluka we stopped it, because in the first place it is an interlaced Taluka. Every third village is British, and the other is Gaikwari. The cultivation was not very much. It was a highway of smuggling from Malwa on the other sides into Ahmedabad as well as into Baroda, and that was stopped. In Amreli and Baroda Petlad the cultivation was very little. We have no figures of the cultivation. We have only the past cultivation to go upon.

22,500. Was the cultivation in Kari better?—Kari was the chief place. The bulk of the cultivation was in Kari, and certain parts of Kari.

22,501. Was that because of the soil?—Yes. It is a kind of light sandy soil where opium grows better with manure than anything else. In that part no other crop will grow so well. We stopped cultivation in Kalol and Kari.

22,502. Are they Talukas?—Yes. Kari is the headquarters of the Division. The cultivation was very small, and the superintending and weighing the juice, and that sort of thing, caused great trouble.

22,503. What year was this stoppage carried into effect?—In 1878-79. I think the monopoly came into operation on the 1st October 1878.

22,504. Was there much complaint by the peasantry in those Talukas when it was stopped?—Yes, terrible complaint. In fact, for the first two years, they would not cultivate, and the money-lenders who lent them money on other crops would not lend them on that account. It gave us a great deal of trouble; but after the third year they all came round and begged of us to

allow them to cultivate. They could only stand it for a year or two in that Division.

22,505. You mean for two years they did not cultivate any crop?—Only about one-third of the cultivation. They thought if they did that the Government would withdraw the monopoly, and let them have their own way again. When they found we were determined they came back again.

22,506. For those two years they let the land lie waste?—No. They grew other crops. At that time also there was a slight scarcity of grain.

22,507. Do you know what other crops they generally grew in place of poppy on that land?—In certain mahals, where the bulk of the cultivation lies, they grow wheat or rape seed.

22,508. I am speaking of those Talukas in which poppy was given up?—They grow cotton and castor oil plant. Those crops pay them better than opium. In Kari and Kalol opium would not yield five or even three seers an acre, while the other crops thrive there.

22,509. Then why did they complain?—They did not complain.

22,510. The complaint was about the monopoly, and not about the cultivation?—Yes, the monopoly. The merchants complained.

22,511. For instance, in the Amreli Talukas, and in Petlad where you have stopped poppy cultivation, you say it was not very good; was there much complaint there?—I do not think so. Not so much there. There would be complaint not so much from the cultivators as from the money-lender and retail seller, because they bought and sold their own opium. Truly speaking we know very little about Amreli and Petlad.

22,512. You said the Baroda Government suffered heavily in its export revenue to the extent of about two or three lakhs; is it not the fact that under the Treaty of 1820, the Baroda Government had no right to export opium at all?—In 1820, when the Treaty was made, that Treaty was understood in one sense by the Baroda Government, and in another sense by the British Government, and it was never given effect to. The Treaty of 1820 remained a dead letter. Fifty-three years afterwards the British Government decided that the Treaty of 1820 meant so and so, and the Baroda Government accepted that view, and introduced the monopoly under another Treaty—not under the Treaty of 1820.

22,513. As a matter of fact, opium went to Bombay, and was exported before 1878?—Yes. It went to Bombay in not only a few chests, but in two or three thousand chests a year.

22,514. Did it go to any British Government scales?—It went to the British scales at Ahmedabad. The British Government received duty and passed opium for export to China.

22,515. But no question was raised whether it came from Baroda or not?—They knew it came from Baroda at the scale at Ahmedabad. It came from Kari in Baroda Territory.

22,516. Is any other opium weighed at Ahmedabad besides Baroda?—Ajmere opium used to be weighed there, I believe. The same line that runs there as to Kari.

22,517. By Ajmere you mean Rajputana?—Yes.

22,518. You said that the export trade increased rapidly commencing with 1857, the occasion being the establishment of the scales at Ahmedabad; before 1857 I suppose there was no export?—No, the opium used to be sent to Rutlam before, and caked there. Before the scales at Ahmedabad it always used to go to the Malwa side to be caked and weighed.

22,519. What States in Central India and Rajputana does Baroda territory touch; does it touch any of them?—On one side Palampur and Mahi Kantha. It does not touch Rajputana or Central India.

22,520. Do you know it got through to Rutlam before 1857?—It was in this way; the produce used to be bought from the traders at Rutlam and Ahmedabad, but by what route it went I cannot say.

22,521. Before 1857 it went under the name of Malwa opium?—Yes, to a certain extent, when it was caked at Malwa.

22,522. Before 1878 was there a system of licenses to retail vendors?—No; there used to be farms, but no

licences. It was not like the Government licences that are issued now.

22,523. The farmer could establish as many shops as he liked?—Yes.

22,524. And the farms were sold by public auction?—Yes.

22,525. And anybody who bought opium except from a farmer was punishable?—I do not think there was any law to that effect.

22,526. Is there a fixed cash settlement in the Baroda territory of land revenue?—Yes; I do not think it is anywhere paid in kind, unless it is in some parts of Amreli.

22,527. I suppose land growing poppy is assessed as first-class land?—Yes. Under the new survey there are different rates, but still it is assessed as first-class land.

22,528. You say that a crop of poppy yields on an average 15 pounds of opium juice per acre?—That is the average taking the whole. If we took separate mahals it would be more in some cases than in others. The average is 15 pounds.

22,529. How many pounds of opium would that 15 lbs. of juice make?—About 160 or 170 lbs. of juice would make about 140 lbs. of opium.

22,530. Then the 15 lbs. of juice would make about 13 lbs. of opium?—Yes.

22,531. You say that the average rate of opium is Rs. 3 per pound?—Yes; a low average rate of payment would be Rs. 3 per pound. We have paid Rs. 3-8-0, and Rs. 3-4-0. We have paid less than Rs. 3, but I find the average we have paid is Rs. 3 per pound.

22,532. Your rate seems to be about the same as the rates paid in Rajputana, and higher than those paid in Bengal?—Yes.

22,533. You say that the use of madak and chandu is made penal in the Baroda State by the Gaekwadi Act I?—Yes; opium smoking is not allowed.

22,534. Was that Act passed in 1861?—Yes.

22,535. Do you know at whose suggestion that Act was passed?—It was done at the time of Khanserao.

22,536. Sir Madhava Rao was not there then?—No.

22,537. Have you ever heard whether the practice was common in those days?—It is very old compared with our times.

22,538. Has the Act absolutely stopped the practice, or does it still go on?—I do not believe the practice is known. As far as the Kari Division is concerned nobody knows what madak or chandu is. They do not understand it—it is not known. In Amreli there is no madak or chandu, neither is there in Nausari. I believe if the Act was passed at all it must have been passed for the sake of Baroda itself. I believe in Baroda there is no practice of that kind carried out. There are no dens, and no shops or anything.

22,539. You have never heard of it being practised in private houses?

22,540. You say that education is also a valuable worker in the field against opium; how do you think that education affects it?—I should say from what I know of the people, as the people get more educated they seem to despise opium and respect and honour drink.

22,541. You speak of English education,—that it teaches them to despise native things and follow English fashions?—Yes.

22,542. You have given some figures as to the imported liquors into Bombay: I presume you got them from the Customs report?—Yes.

22,543. What is the law with regard to the import of English liquor into the Baroda territory?—There is a Customs duty on it.

22,544. Can it go in bond into the Baroda territory from the sea?—We have no sea to bring it in. Whatever comes comes from Bombay direct.

22,545. It pays duty at both places?—Yes. It pays whatever the Bombay duty may be; and it pays duty on coming into the Baroda territory.

22,546. Do you know what sort of duty it is?—So much a gallon—I think four or eight annas.

22,547. You have referred to a report made by Mr. S. Kyte of the Police Department, and he says,—“I cannot also bring to recollection a single instance “in which the smoking of chandu and madak has “given rise to any crime whatever”: Do you suppose he is referring to smoking chandu and madak in the Baroda territory?—He gave his opinion as a British officer and as a Baroda officer. He belongs to the British service. He knows we have no chandu or madak.

22,548. You mention that at one time you were engaged in mission work?—Yes.

22,549. May I ask what church you were connected with?—There are a great many phases about it. I was in connexion with the Free Church of Scotland; I was in connexion with the Baptist Church, and partly in connexion with the Methodist Church, and I am at the present time a Roman Catholic.

22,550. Where were you born?—I was born a Parsi priest: I am a convert.

22,551. When you were in the Free Church and the Baptist Church and the Methodist Church, did any of these churches make it a matter of discipline that their converts should not take any opium?—I never heard of such a thing as opium discipline. There used to be discipline about drink. We had Sikh converts there, but I never heard of opium in those days.

22,552. It did not come to your notice that converts ever took opium?—No.

22,553. Probably they did not?—No, they did not.

22,554. Where were you working when you were in connexion with the missions?—I was in Bombay in connexion with Dr. Wilson's College. I was there as a student, and I used to go out with Turner and others preaching. I was sent out by the Baptist Church. I used to preach in Poona and in the hills about there. I was in Gujarat in connexion with the Irish Presbyterian Mission. I was head master of the Mission School, and I used to preach there.

22,555. (Mr. Pease.) Can you tell me what has been the acreage under poppy cultivation for some years past?—I am not prepared with those figures.

22,556. You have said that you are personally opposed to all narcotics and stimulants?—Yes, I am.

22,557. I suppose, therefore, you would disapprove of the practice of giving opium to healthy children?—I know nothing about it. I do not give opium to my children, but the people who give it to their children know what is best. I do not disapprove of a custom that improves the health of children; I cannot say that I disapprove of it. It is given as a medicine: it is not given as anything else.

22,558. Have you ever known any accident that has occurred in connexion with an overdose of opium given to children?—I am not aware of any instances; but an accident might occur.

22,559. You have said, “notwithstanding the bad years and less return of food grains, and fodder, on one side, and the State keeping down the cultivation by giving low prices on account of the market in Bombay being against the export of opium due to low prices on the other, on an average over 8,000 licences a year are issued.” Can you explain what you mean by that?—In the first place we have had very bad years. There has not been that plentiful supply of food grain and fodder which the land ought to produce. Then the present British pass duty is very heavy on export opium, and we can hardly meet that, because it comes to a great deal more than the cost price of the opium itself. We have to keep our cultivation down to just sufficient to meet our own requirements. We are bound to give a very low rate. If we gave an unusually high rate there would be plenty of cultivation.

22,560. You mean that with the present English Pass duty foreign trade is of no value to you?—It is of very little value to us under the present circumstances; and hence we are obliged to keep our cultivation down. Our agreement is that we are to cultivate according to the licit demand, what we want for export and for our own consumption.

22,561. (Chairman.) I believe there has been very little export lately?—That is so; in fact there has been no export since 1887.

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22,562. (*Mr. Haridas Vedaridas.*) I believe that Sir Madhava Rao was appointed by the Government of India during the minority of the present Maharaja, under special circumstances?—Yes.

22,563. He was not so independent as he would have been if he had been appointed by the present Maharaja after his majority?—I would not say that. He did use his independence to a certain extent. Sir Madhava Rao acknowledged that pressure was brought to bear upon him, and that he yielded to that pressure. He was independent, but pressure was brought upon him.

22,564. All this arrangement was not according to his own wishes, but with the view to comply with the wishes of the Government of India?—Quite so.

22,565. (*Chairman.*) And in conformity with former agreement?—I cannot say. That is just the point in which the Baroda Government and the British Government have been at variance.

22,566. If there had been no former agreement to refer to, the British Government could not have brought that pressure to bear?—I cannot say even that. Where the Imperial fiscal question is concerned I do not know how to meet it. As far as British revenue is to be

The witness withdrew.

Major W. B.
Ferris.

Major W. B. FERRIS called in and examined.

22,570. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are in political service, are you not?—Yes.

22,571. And I suppose you work under the Agent Governor General of Baroda?—Yes.

22,572. Have you separate charge as it were of Amreli?—Separate political charge.

22,573. Is Amreli a detached piece of country: is it separated by British territory from the rest of Baroda?—It is surrounded by Native States, with a little amount of British territory. The Amreli mahals are entirely surrounded by the other Kathiawar States.

22,574. It is detached by long distance from the rest of Baroda?—A very great distance.

22,575. What is the amount of the drug consumed in the Amreli and Okhamandal districts?—The Mahals consist of Amreli, including Bhimkatta, Dhari, including Khambha, Damnagar, including Sihanagar, Kodinar, Dwarka. Population according to the census of 1891:—Males, 93,532; females, 85,960; total, 179,492. The Contractor Vithaldas Lilladhar, who has held the Ijara (farm) for the past three years, contracts to sell 12,525 ratals, i.e., seers of 40 totals per annum. He pays nothing to the Durbar for the concession. If the consumption is in excess of the above he can get additional opium. For every seer, less than the contracted amount that he fails to sell, he is fined Rs. 5.

22,576. What is the average consumption per head of the population?—Of the whole population 2.79 tolas. Assuming that adult males make up 25 per cent. of the population. Of adult males 11.16 tolas.

22,577. What have you to say with regard to the customs of the people, and the use of the drug as an article of daily necessity?—The castes that may be classed as opium consumers:—Kathis, Higher Rajputs, Barots, Bharwads, and Mers among Hindu; Mianas, Mekranis and Arabs among the Mahomedans; Bawas and Waghers of both persuasions; individuals of all castes also have the habit, but it is usually acquired by the drug having been taken as a remedy for some disease. *Form of Consumption.*—Opium smoking is unknown. Among Kathis and the well-to-do of the habitual consumers, in a liquid form called kasumbha, so called from its colour which is that of the safflower (*carthamus-tinctorius*). Among the poorer classes, and those who take it to allay pain or to give relief in disease, the crude drug is chewed. No opium is incorporated in sweets; it is stated by some that "Majum" contains opium as well as hemp, but this requires confirming. *Kasumbha how made.*—Cut the opium into small pieces, add a little water, mix to a thick consistency; put the mass into a thick woollen cloth, pour cold water on gradually and strain through. Drink the decoction without any addition of sugar, or anything to destroy the bitter taste. The proportion is usually 1 tola opium to 20 tolas water. *Ordinary Daily Consumption.*—According to the Ijadar, this varies from $\frac{1}{4}$ tola to 1 tola per diem. According to Kathis the usual dose of kasumbha contains 6 rattis,

protected, of course there is a difficulty as to what measure we may have to introduce. This was a question of British revenue no doubt; but they made capital of that agreement of 1820.

22,567. (*Mr. Haridas Vedaridas.*) I suppose the figures you have given with regard to the losses that would result from the prohibition of opium except for medical purposes are simply intended for the information of the Commission, and not as a basis on which compensation might be calculated?—I have been distinctly told to state that we want no compensation, and that we would be sorry to agree to any.

22,568. The Baroda Government does not think it is under any obligation to enter into any agreement with the British Government for the prohibition of the cultivation?—No.

22,569. If there was an Imperial order expressing compulsion by the British Government with regard to prohibition, will the Baroda Government enter into any agreement with reference to the prohibition and growth of opium except for medical purposes?—The Baroda Government does not expect any such contingency. It does not expect that the Imperial Government will bring any such pressure against the Treaty rights.

or $\frac{1}{8}$ tola of opium, and this is taken twice or thrice a day according to habit. They say that probably the smallest dose is one ratti at a time, and the largest $\frac{1}{4}$ tola or $\frac{1}{16}$ tola in the 24 hours. According to my experience the average quantities taken by those having the habit is Rs. 1 worth, or $3\frac{1}{2}$ tolas a month. One man a Sadhu admitted that he used to take 28 tolas a month, but as it unduly excited his sexual passions, he reduced it to his present habit of $10\frac{1}{2}$ tolas a month. *Women Consumers.*—In all castes may be found individual women who take opium either medicinally or as a stimulant in old age. The only class that has the habit, is that of prostitutes, especially Mahomedans. *Children Consumers.*—It is an universal habit among all castes and classes to give their children, from the age of one month until they are weaned—say up to three years of age—a small quantity of opium daily in what is called bal-goli or child's pill. The object is: (a) to keep the mind happy and contented; (b) to make them sleep well; (c) to prevent diarrhoea. The bal-goli is made of nutmeg, cinnamon, mace, and other spices, and a little opium. The quantity of the latter is about $\frac{1}{2}$ tola to 1,000 pills, or say $\frac{1}{2}$ grain to each pill—one is given in the morning, or two smaller ones, morning and evening. The pill is put down the child's throat, and he is at once put to the breast to enable him to swallow it. The pills are usually prepared by the mother. The poorer classes give the crude opium beginning with a piece the size of a poppy seed, and increasing to a bajri seed. As the drug is bitter a little milk is squeezed from the mother's breast into a shell, and the opium dissolved in it and administered to the child. *Weaning.*—Among the poorer classes once the child ceases to suck the mother, the bal-goli is stopped; but the better educated wean gradually, either by lessening the dose or lengthening the intervals. *Evil results.*—So far as I can discover, whatever the evil results may be, children never acquire the opium habit from being given bal-golis, neither when stopped, is there any apparent craving or physical disability, such as emaciation, as in the case of adults giving up the habit. *Age at which Kathis begin the habit.*—At festivals a youngster is sometimes given a mouthful of kasumbha, as we might give a sip of champagne or the top of a peg, but it is not until the youth is 18 or 20, that is when he begins to take part in the business of life with the adult males, that he takes to the habit.

22,578. Is the use of opium imperative in certain cases of festivity and mourning?—*Customs social and religious in regard to consumption.*—Among Kathis kasumbha is consumed at all funerals, marriages, betrothals, and such like ceremonies. As a fact it is never refused, but there is no religious obligation to take it. Nevertheless, if a Kathi has the habit and refuses kasumbha, on such an occasion it would cause offence. In cases of reconciliation after a quarrel among Kathis, the drinking of kasumbha, even by those not having the habit, is *de rigueur*. To refuse would be to raise a suspicion that the reconciliation was not sincere. Each party

must take some, however little, or the reconciliation is incomplete. It is a necessity almost amounting to a religion for a guest of a Kathi to be given and to accept kasumbha. A failure on either hand is a grave breach of hospitality and respect. Promises and verbal contracts and agreements are sealed among Kathis by the parties drinking kasumbha together. This makes the fulfilment as binding as an oath. When families agree to divide the ancestral property by mutual agreement, without having recourse to documents and the law, the parties drink kasumbha to clinch the undertaking.

22,579. What effect has the drug on the people?—To judge by the physique and longevity of the Kathis it would seem that the habit is not only harmless but beneficial. After consulting a large number, the following is an epitome of their opinion absolutely unanimous. It induces appetite, it staves off hunger, prevents dysentery and diarrhoea and cures it, aids digestion, relieves indigestion, invigorates the whole system, fortifying both mind and body; endows with great power of endurance and staying. Under its influence a man is bright and wide awake and his body is capable of bearing great fatigue. Even old men so fortified are capable of walking 20 or 30 miles at a stretch. It keeps the mind from fretting and worrying while the body is less liable to disease, it is good as a febrifuge, for asthma, cough, and lung affections, it conserves virility, and by preventing loss of tissue induces longevity. It is a harmless and necessary stimulant, and prevents those with the habit from seeking relief from alcohol, ganja, &c. It is not intoxicating and does not cause drowsiness although by keeping the body in health insomnia is averted. Being a nerve soother it is not the cause of crime. A man inclined to commit violent offences is more likely to be deterred from them by the habit, he is certainly indisposed towards violent crime when the habit is uninterrupted. Crime cannot be traced directly or indirectly to the consumption of kasumbha by Kathis. A man does not become a nuisance to his neighbours or slovenly in his habit unless deprived of the drug. All those having the habit take the drug internally in some form the first thing in the morning. There is no immediate exhilarating effect such as is induced by liquor, but if the allowance were not taken there would be a feeling of lassitude, discomfort, fidgetiness, and craving. The effect wears off with some in seven or eight hours, that is the uncomfortable sensations would make themselves felt if another dose were not taken. Such persons take three allowances, morning, 2 p.m. and night. In others the body is stimulated for 12 hours and more, and no dose is requisite between the morning and evening ones. *After effects.*—I cannot find that any are felt such as the excitement consequent on ganja and alcohol consumption or results as from smoking opium. The general effect is that of winding a clock before it has run down, it keeps it regular, but the winding does not accelerate the pace. *Result of stoppage of habit.*—There is a consensus of evidence that partial abstinence is attended with physical pains, nausea, vomiting, purging, loss of appetite and debility, and of opinion that total abstinence would result in death. Numerous instances in support are cited. *Insanity.*—I have not been able to trace a case of insanity either directly or indirectly to the opium habit. The disease is almost unknown among Kathis. *Increase of dose.*—When a young man commences the habit he naturally takes a smaller quantity than when he has practised it for years. Still there is no ever increasing desire requiring the dose to be continually augmented. The ordinary limit it would seem, as already stated, is about one-third of a tola in the 24 hours. There is a general impression that opium consumers require constantly to increase the dose as the effect wears off by habit, and that what would cause restfulness to-day will have no effect a year hence. This may be so in cases like that of De Quincy, who took to the use of the drug originally to allay pain and continued it afterwards to superinduce an unnaturally brilliant condition of intellect. The Kathi does not seek superlative results, he takes opium to keep him in good health. No doubt it is a stimulant and an artificial means of gaining an end, but the effect for the purposes required by him does not wear off, and he is consequently not obliged to go on increasing the dose indefinitely. In cases where opium is taken for the cure of disease or the alleviation of pain, the dose fluctuates with results. If physical suffering has yielded to the treatment the quantity taken is diminished and *vice versa*. But a moderate habit invariably remains. *As an aphrodisiac.*—I find it admitted gene-

rally that opium is taken occasionally by persons to preserve their failing virile powers. This is, of course, not the true use of an aphrodisiac, which is to excite venereal desire. The idea appears to be that when virility is failing from old age from early excesses or from some other cause, opium will restore vigour. It also appears to be a popular belief that as the mind and body are invigorated so are the sperm cells in the habitual consumer, and therefore the power to impregnate the female is greater. No man will admit that he takes or has taken opium with this end in view, but all agree in the philosophy of the effects. In the case of prostitutes the drug is taken purely as a physical stimulant. The lives they lead and the calls on their vital forces enervate them. Opium gives them renewed energy. It is not taken by them to excite their desires. *Physical effects on individuals.*—Occasionally painfully emaciated persons are pointed out as opium eaters. I have held these up to those having the habit as examples contradicting the theory of the beneficial effects of the drug. This is the explanation:—If a person be well nourished especially on ghee, milk, wheat, sugar, &c., the opium has none but beneficial effects, enabling them to digest and assimilate their food. The emaciated are those who being poor deny themselves proper nourishment in order to obtain the drug. The result is pernicious, and as they say “the craving feeds on itself.” I think the true explanation lies between these two statements. Opium appears to have no emaciating effect on those enabled to live generously on a milk and vegetable diet. It may attack quantity in the matter of food but not quality. *Lepers.*—Those afflicted tell me that when they can afford to practise the habit a great alleviation of their sufferings is obtained by a moderate use of opium. *Popular belief. Opium eaters proof against cobra poison.*—There is an universal belief, both in Kathiawar, Gujarat, and the Deccan, and among those with and without the habit, that a confirmed opium eater does not suffer evil effects from a cobra bite. To be entirely proof, however, a man must be the habitual consumer of much larger quantities than those usually having the habit. One Viro, a Kathi, deposes that his nephew Viko was bitten on the ankle by an undoubted cobra. He (Viro) saw it himself. Viko, who had a habit of 10½ tolas a month, immediately took an extra dose, gave himself up for lost, lay on his bed and slept, but awoke next morning feeling no ill effects. One Bhoja, a Kathi, aged 60, bitten on the toe by a cobra at 9 p.m. went home to die. Next morning awoke feeling dizzy and refused his usual morning dose. By midday he was quite well. In this case it is asserted that the cobra was found dead from the effects of biting the man. A historical parallel to the fate of the mad dog sung of by the poet Goldsmith. *In cases of scorpion sting.*—There is a less prevalent belief that those with the habit suffer less from scorpion sting. I have statements in support of this. *Those with the habit proof against an overdose.*—A certain Kathi named Ram Vala had the habit of one tola daily. His house was robbed and in despair he determined to commit suicide. He therefore purchased and took at one dose 10 tolas of opium. He then bid his wife, children, and friends goodbye, and they surrounded his bed in tears as drowsiness supervened and he slept. From noon one day until noon the next he remained unconscious, the mourners waited for the last signs of breathing to remove the body for cremation, but Ram Vala upset their arrangements by awaking none the worse for his abnormal dose. *Origin of the habit among Kathis.*—The Kathis say that originally they were a very quarrelsome race, continually fighting among themselves, and appealing to arms on the smallest provocation. One of their bhagats or high priests introduced the caste custom of kasumbha drinking as a pacificator. The hot blood was scotched, the social characteristic became good temper and peacefulness, and now they live together in harmony on patriarchal lines.

22,580. Have you anything to say with regard to the antiquity of the habit?—Among lacustrine remains of the early stone or palæolithic age (say 1200 B.C.) found in Central Europe, on the Hungarian side of the Alps, at Moosseedorfsee, poppy seeds were found along with barley, wheat, pea and flax, showing that at that early date, the poppy was cultivated. (Vide Monroe's *Lake Dwellings of Europe*, p. 498.)

22,581. What in your opinion would be the results of prohibition in Native States?—My opinion after 20 years' experience from political connexion with Native Durbars and their subjects, in Kolhapur, the South

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Maratha Country, Janjira, Gujarat and Kathiawar is, that any attempt at interference with the rights of Native States in this matter, that is to say the sale and consumption of opium, will be strongly resented, and productive of exceedingly grave complications. It would be looked upon as an unwarrantable interference with inherent rights that have been enjoyed from time immemorial, and would give rise to an opposition, little if at all inferior to that which would result from tampering with the religions of the people. It would further have the dangerous effect of supplying all castes and creeds with a common grievance against the paramount power.

22,582. Do the castes which you mention as large consumers, the Kathis, Rajputs, Barots, Bharwads and Mrs, &c., form a small or large part of the population?—The Rajputs are the largest consumers. Next come the Kathis.

22,583. Do the races you have mentioned as consumers form the bulk of population, taken altogether, or only a small portion of the population?—They form only a small part of the population.

22,584. Do you believe that it is the opinion amongst that population that opium eaters are in any way proof against cobra poison?—A case came before me a short time ago in which undoubtedly a man had been bitten by a cobra on the day before I saw him, and he was absolutely none the worse for it. There is no doubt about his having been bitten by a cobra; but whether the cobra had lost its poison bags I cannot say. The alkali of cobra poison is narcotic.

22,585. Poppy cultivation is not allowed in Amreli is it?—It is not allowed now; it used to be.

22,586. Then the opium is all brought in?—Yes, it is brought in from Kari under passports.

22,587. Do the surrounding Kathiawar States all get their supply in the same way?—They get their supply from the British depôts. They only get a partial drawback; Baroda gets the entire drawback.

22,588. Have you yourself in talking with the Amreli people heard any expression of opinion from them as to how they would regard prohibition?—Yes. There is a very universal feeling against prohibition. There is rather a feeling of alarm just now that the Commission is going to stop opium.

22,589. I suppose after all, in the villages there are very few people who have heard about it yet?—I think

The witness withdrew.

Mr. A. F. MACONOCHE called in and examined.

Mr. A. F.
Maconochie.

22,598. (Chairman.) Will you explain to us what opportunities you have had of studying the opium subject, and what you consider to be the general effect of the drug?—I am a member of the Indian Civil Service, of eleven years standing. With the exception of eight months in the Deccan, the whole of my service has been spent in Gujarat, and I am well acquainted with all parts of the Province. For four years I was Assistant Collector and Magistrate at Ahmedabad, holding charge of the western portions of that district bordering on Kathiawar. On two occasions I acted as Administrator of the Rajpipla State bordering on Central India. I was for a year Assistant Collector and Magistrate of the Panch Mahals. For the last three years my services have been lent to Baroda, and I have travelled through nearly every part of the State. Living thus amid an opium-using population, I have had every opportunity of observing the extent to which the drug is consumed, and the general effects of its consumption on the people. I consider that the drug is wholesome and beneficial; it is largely used, and very little abused; its prohibition would in my opinion be fraught with serious injury to the people, and the resulting discontent would form a serious danger to Government. In my experience the use of the drug seldom leads to bad results. It is a sedative, and therefore conduces to peace and quiet; not a stimulant like alcohol, which rouses the passions and is an incentive to disorder, violence, and crime. In all my magisterial experience I never remember a confirmed opium-eater being convicted for any offence; but of the two murder cases I had to try while at Rajpipla one was directly caused by drink. I have never seen any one the worse for taking opium; on the contrary the few opium-eaters I have known have been exceptionally healthy and vigorous, and it is a common saying in the country here that if a man eats opium no disease has power

most of them have heard about it. The Native Press has been writing it up; and in some parts of the country people have been going about preaching that the Commission had come out for the purpose of stopping it; they have been preaching in opposition to any such policy.

22,590. Have you ever heard any such expressions of opinion on the other hand in favour of prohibition?—I have, by individual high caste people, who said it would be a good thing if opium could be done away with, people who are not in the habit of taking it.

22,591. I suppose among English educated people, too, there is a division of opinion, is there not?—Yes, undoubtedly.

22,592. Some would be in favour of doing away with it, and some would resent the interference?—I think the majority would resent interference on the part of the Government; but some would like to see opium become less popular.

22,593. (Mr. Pease.) You have spoken about people preaching; what is it they preached?—They preached that the object of the Opium Commission in coming out here was in the name of the Sirkar or Government to stop opium; and they advocated that every legitimate means should be taken to persuade Government against taking such steps as it was interfering with their right and with their religious rites, as many of them think it to be.

22,594. It was not that the Government had any sinister object?—In some cases it was thought that the Government wanted to do away with opium in order to increase the consumption of other liquors.

22,595. Where has this taken place?—In many parts of the Bombay Presidency.

22,596. But not in Baroda?—No, not in Baroda territory itself. We were on the look-out for those fellows, but they never came. They were reported in many of the Native States. They were wandering mendicants, men of no status whatever, men who had the habit, and who I suppose from personal feelings desire to take time by the forelock.

22,597. Do you remember where this has taken place?—I could not tell you the places. We have been on the look-out for them because we have seen it in the native papers. They have not come in my way at all. I am only speaking of what I have seen in the Native Press.

over him. As a supplement to bad insufficient food, as a support during the exhausting hot season, as a preventive of that scourge of the country, malarious fever, I believe it to be invaluable. Any attempt at suppressing its use will be bitterly resented, first by the Native States where it is produced, as an interference with their Treaty-rights, and secondly by the people at large, as depriving them of what is to millions a necessary of life.

22,599. Do you think the reason which prompted the Government to send out this Commission is understood by the people?—It is absolutely misunderstood. Indians do not understand the disinterested philanthropy that prompts English humanitarians, instead of remedying the evils caused by alcohol to the degraded population at their own doors, to take away from a hardworking and sober population out here a drug which in health cheers their hard lot, which in disease is their best friend. The effect of prohibition on the health of the people would be no less injurious. Some stimulant or other they must and will have; and if it is not to be opium they will infallibly take to alcohol, or drugs even more poisonous, such as dhatura. Both politically and socially therefore it would be a fatal mistake to interfere with present arrangements, and any such action must gravely impair the content of the people and the stability of the empire. The one idea that the people of these parts have got into their heads about the Opium and Hemp Drugs Commission is that they represent a veiled endeavour on the part of Government to drive the masses to liquor by suppressing drugs, and so raise the local Excise revenue, at the same time giving a fillip to the English export spirit trade. The use that the sedition mongers are making of this theory is obvious.

22,600. Do you say that from what you have read in newspapers?—No, from talking with the people.

22,601. From talking with common country people? No, with the more educated people who have asked me what it meant, and if I could explain it.

22,602. Some other witnesses who have appeared before us have said that with education the consumption of opium is decreasing; your evidence seems rather inconsistent with that. Can you explain it?—I do not think it is decreasing to any considerable extent. I think large classes of the population, such as the Rajputs, are certainly not decreasing their consumption.

22,603. Perhaps it is decreasing among the natives who are educated in the English fashion?—Yes; I think they prefer alcohol.

22,604. Have you acquired any knowledge as to the Treaty arrangements between the English Government and the Baroda State?—The Baroda State possesses by Treaty the right to supply its own subjects with opium produced in its own territory. Opium has always been largely grown in this part of the country, and smuggling of the drug from Baroda into adjacent British districts early necessitated the interference of the British Government. In 1803 the cultivation of opium in Baroda territory was absolutely prohibited, and the prohibition was only withdrawn as an act of grace, on the express stipulation that the opium cultivation in Baroda was to be only for home consumption in the State. In 1820 there was concluded a Treaty between the British Government and the State "for the manufacture of opium in the Gaekwar's territories to an extent sufficient to provide for the consumption of His Highness' territories." (Letter from the Government of Bombay, Oct. 1820.) This Treaty bound the State:—

- (1.) To buy up all the opium produced within its territory.
 - (2.) To supply the merchants and individual consumers within its territory with the opium required by them.
 - (3.) To fix the price of the opium so supplied and sold within its territory at the rate obtaining in the surrounding British districts.
 - (4.) To confiscate all opium brought secretly for sale into its territory.
 - (5.) Not to purchase opium from the stores of the British Government till all that had been produced in its own territory and stored by it had been consumed.
- And it entitled the State:—
- (6.) To be the sole medium of supply of the drug to its own subjects.
 - (7.) To obtain supplies of opium as required from the opium-stores at Kaika, and when such could not be thence obtained to procure the necessary quantity in Malwa, and to convey it thence to Baroda free of tax subject to the condition set forth in clause (5) above.

This Treaty, however, remained for many years a dead letter. In spite of the stipulations that opium was to be grown in Baroda only for home consumption, the British Government allowed the State, as a matter of favour, to export large quantities to China via Bombay, on payment of transit duty at Ahmedabad. The State, at the same time, exercising no control over the production and sale of opium in its territories, the smuggling into British districts went on unchecked. In course of time it thus came about that the far greater part of Baroda opium was not grown for home consumption; in fact the people of His Highness's territories hardly consumed their own opium at all; they did not like it, and they much preferred Malwa opium, which they imported in large quantities, while their home-grown opium either went to the Ahmedabad scales for export to China, or was smuggled into the neighbouring districts of Gujarat and Kathiawar. Under these circumstances, in 1878, yielding to pressure by the British Government, the State concluded the agreement on which the existing arrangements are based. These are set forth in Appendix A of Mr. Finlay's note on "Arrangements with Native States" regarding opium presented to the Commission on the 24th November 1893,* which contains, besides the Treaty of 1820, (1) a letter No. 2562, dated 9th March 1878, from Sir T. Madhava Rao, K.C.S.I., late Minister of the State, to the Agent to the Governor General at Baroda, and (2) an extract relating to opium from a memorandum of points discussed and understanding

arrived at in a conference between the Minister of the State and the Commissioner of Salt Opium and Abkari Bombay, in 1886. Under these agreements the cultivation of the poppy and manufacture of opium are allowed in Baroda both for the home consumption of the State and also for export by sea. The arrangements may be summarized as follows:—

- (a.) The Darbar has established a State monopoly of opium produced in Baroda on the basis of the Bengal system.
- (b.) The Darbar has agreed to limit its own production of opium to the extent of the demand recognized under the present arrangements.
- (c.) The retail selling price of opium both in Baroda and in neighbouring British districts shall not be less than Rs. 11-4-0 per lb of 40 tolas in excess of the rate fixed by the British Government for the issue of opium from the Government depôts (Rs. 10 per lb.)
- (d.) The Darbar is allowed to import any amount of opium required for actual licit consumption within the Baroda State at cost price and free of duty from Malwa or from Government depôts.
- (e.) The Darbar is allowed to export Baroda opium by sea, from Bombay after weighment and payment of the full British duty (Rs. 700 per chest of 140 lbs.) at the Government scales at Ahmedabad. Since 1887 the Gaekwar's Government has not availed itself of the privilege of exporting opium by sea under clause (c), and no Baroda opium has since that year been brought to the scales at Ahmedabad.

22,605. You say, "In 1803 the cultivation of opium in Baroda territory was absolutely prohibited, and the prohibition was only withdrawn as an act of grace"; have you ever seen any document purporting to be a prohibition?—I think it is quoted by Colonel Mead in his letter. I have never seen the original document. It is in a letter to the Chief Secretary to the Government, Poona, from Mr. Pritchard, the then collector of Salt Revenue. He says, "The cultivation of poppy was strictly prohibited in Gujarat from the year 1803." It was not to interfere with our monopoly elsewhere.

22,606. Would that necessarily include Baroda?—Yes.

22,607. In talking generally of Gujarat, you might be talking of British Gujarat, might you not?—Yes.

22,608. I know well enough that it was prohibited in 1803 in British Gujarat, but it is new to me that it included Baroda?—It is my impression that it included Baroda, because the prohibition was withdrawn as an act of grace.

22,609. Have you any reference to its being withdrawn as an act of grace?—Yes. It is in the letter from Mr. Melville, the agent of the Governor-General, Baroda, to Sir Madhava Rao. It is quoted in "Selections from the records of the Baroda Government; No. 4, opium;" and is as follows:—"In 1803 the Gaekwar had agreed, at the request of the Government of Bombay, to prohibit the cultivation of the poppy throughout Baroda; but the Court of Directors, considering that the absolute prohibition of poppy cultivation was a measure of severity, and one calculated to render the Government unpopular, expressed their opinion that it would be expedient to permit the cultivation to an extent sufficient for the use of the inhabitants. The prohibition was accordingly relaxed, and it was on this ground apparently that the Gaekwar sought permission to continue the growth of the poppy, and that the Bombay Government assented to the manufacture of opium in the Gaekwar territories to an extent sufficient to provide for the consumption of His Highness's territories."

22,610. I think in 1803 we conquered some territory in Gujarat?—Yes; it was the beginning of our relations with the Baroda Government. The first Resident, Major Walker, was sent to the Court of Baroda in 1803. We were fighting the Gaekwar's cousin in Kari in that year. An alliance was of the greatest importance to the Gaekwar at that time. We saved him from being eaten up by his cousin on one side, and by the Peshwa on the other.

22,611. You say, "The British Government allowed the State, as a matter of favour, to export large quantities to China via Bombay, on payment of transit duty at Ahmedabad." Another witness has told us that that

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only dates from 1857?—It went to Ratlam before that in Central India; the juice was sent to Ratlam and it was made up there.

22,612. I suppose that was practically a smuggling trade, was it not?—It was. "The Gazetteer of the Bombay Presidency, Volume VIII, Baroda, states:— 'The poppy is certainly a difficult plant to bring under culture. It requires constant care and attention, and all the processes connected with it entail much labour. But these difficulties were soon overcome by the cultivator, and the cultivation spread rapidly. It was the manufacture of opium that for a long time baffled the attempts of the trading class. There were no skilled men in the division to prepare the drug so as to make it marketable in China. There was certainly an attempt made to dry a small quantity of juice and turn it into awkward little balls; but these were reserved only for local use. It was therefore a practice till 1857 to send the greater part of the juice to Ratlam, to be made up there. Fortunately for Gujarat the unusually heavy monsoon of 1853 flooded the grain market at Ratlam. The effect of this may be easily imagined in a soil like that of Malwa. The result was that the pack-bullocks on which the out-turn of the season was sent could hardly wade through the mud, and several animals perished in the attempt. Besides the damage to the juice the loss of animal life offended the susceptibilities of a class mostly Jain in faith and infinitely loth to see even an insect in pain. Measures were forthwith taken by the opium traders, amongst whom an Ahmedabad firm was the chief, to procure opium cakers from Malwa. The services of Hamals were obtained in 1858, and thus the opium manufacturing work commenced in this division.' It was on account of the aversion of the Jains to take animal life.

22,613. Do you suppose that that practice of sending the opium to Malwa was necessarily known to our Government?—I think it was known, and permitted; because we allowed them to export to China, and this was a preliminary.

22,614. It would be exported as Malwa opium so that it would not be known?—I think it was known because there was no attempt at interference with it.

22,615. You say "Under these circumstances, in 1878, 'yielding to pressure by the British Government, the State concluded the agreement'; I suppose in imposing pressure the British Government based its pressure upon the preceding conventions?—Yes, upon the Treaty of 1820. The Baroda Government contended that it had so long remained a dead letter that it could not be enforced, but the British Government said that it must be enforced.

22,616. I believe it was a well-known fact that our Gujarat districts were largely supplied with Baroda smuggled opium?—Yes.

22,617. Can you give us any information to show what the old area under cultivation was before the present arrangement came into force?—There are no figures available to show the area under cultivation and the average consumption per head of population before the present arrangements came into force. Cultivation was carried on indiscriminately in the Kari Division and in the Petlad Mahal of the Baroda Division. The whole of the opium used in the Baroda and Nausari Divisions and part of that used in Petlad was Malwa opium. There was no farm of the right of retail sale in the Kari Division, the revenue being derived from export duty. The greater part of this duty was collected in Visnagar, but some was also collected in Siddhpur and Kari.

22,618. Can you tell us what the average annual collections were?—The average annual collections in Visnagar were about four lacs of rupees. The number of chests annually exported necessary to produce a revenue of this amount (at the rate of Rs. 135 per chest) was roughly speaking 3,000. Of this quantity part was taken to the scales at Ahmedabad, and part was smuggled into British districts and Native States which were bound to use British opium only. From a return prepared by the Collector of Ahmedabad it appears that the average quantity of Baroda-grown opium taken to the Ahmedabad scales during the five years ending with 1876-77 was 1,700 chests; and of this quantity 200 chests were brought from the Siddhpur and Kari Mahals. Thus the licit Visnagar exports did not exceed 1,500 chests a year and therefore only about half the Gaekwar's export revenue on the Visnagar opium was

drawn from licit exports,—the remainder, Rs. 2,00,000, being derived from opium smuggled into British territory and Native States subject to the British opium tax. Besides this, a considerable quantity of the opium made in Baroda escaped the Gaekwar's export duty, and was smuggled out of the State without yielding a penny of revenue to either the State or the British Government.

22,619. What is the state of things under the new system?—The introduction of the State monopoly has altered all this. Cultivation has been confined to the Kari Division, and is only permitted under license; all juice gathered by the cultivators is bought up and stored in a central depôt at Siddhpur, where it is prepared for the market. The care with which it is manufactured has resulted in its displacing Malwa opium from the favour the latter had always enjoyed over the locally produced drug. So much is this the case, that inhabitants of the surrounding British districts and Native States living on or near the borders largely consume Baroda opium in preference to that sold by their own farmers, though to do so involves either smuggling without profit, or walking a considerable distance to the nearest Baroda shop. Hence it is impossible to get accurate figures of the consumption per head of the Baroda population, as the total amount showed as consumed includes that consumed by dwellers outside Baroda limits. Cultivation is only permitted to persons granted licences by the Opium Superintendent; the number of such licences granted every year is determined by the quantity of opium in stock. As many as 8,000 licences are issued in one year. The village officers see that cultivation is only carried on by licence-holders, and their supervision is again checked by four inspectors under the superintendent. The people of these parts are so law-abiding that very little unlicensed cultivation, if any, takes place. The police are supposed to look after illicit import and sale of the drug, and do check this to a certain extent; they are not, however, very efficient, and I should say that a good deal of opium was smuggled into the Kari Division from Central India through the Mahi Kantha. When I was at Ahmedabad in 1886, the authorities there seized a large quantity of opium which had been smuggled from Dehgam into Ahmedabad, and on complaint being made to the Baroda Government the latter declared that the opium was not Baroda-grown, but must have been smuggled into their territory from some other opium-producing district.

22,620. Can you tell us from your experience as Settlement Officer whether the cultivation of poppy is popular in the Kari Division or not?—Yes, it is very popular.

22,621. Do the people go up themselves to get their licences, or are the licences sent down to them?—I believe they apply themselves. The Superintendent of Opium can tell you best about that. They like having fixed advances to count on. It keeps up their status, and gives them credit with the money-lenders, and enables them to marry their daughters well.

22,622. What other crop do you think would take the place of poppy if poppy cultivation went out?—Irrigated wheat, mostly. It would not pay them nearly so well.

22,623. Would cotton take its place?—To a certain extent. I think they would try irrigated wheat. They do not irrigate here as a rule.

22,624. What other crops are there that they irrigate?—I do not think they do irrigate other crops. Of course they irrigate chilis and vegetables.

22,625. Do they grow tobacco?—No, not much. Petlad is the place for tobacco, in the Central Division.

22,626. Speaking carefully, and from what you have learnt as Settlement Officer, do you consider in the Kari Division that the prohibition of the cultivation of poppy would be a very serious injury to the cultivators?—Yes, I do; I think it would be a very serious injury.

22,627. In other districts or talukas where the cultivation is stopped, it was done by order without giving any compensation, I understand?—Yes; but I think that was very hard indeed. It must have injured them very much. They did not complain because they were so good.

22,628. Who are the chief opium-consuming-classes?—The chief opium-consuming classes are the Rajputs, the Lewa and Kadwa Patidars, the Thakarda-Kolis, the Ganjas, or barbers, and the Mussulmans. Among the Rajputs "Kasumbha," or opium-water, is a daily neces-

sary, an indispensable part of the rites of hospitality; while at births, marriages, funerals, it forms one of the chief features of the ceremonies. All these classes use the drug both as a luxury and as a medicine. Its use is rare among Brahmins and Waniās.

22,629. Have you any figures to put in of the Baroda revenue?—Yes.*

22,630. Do you think these figures are reliable?—Yes.

22,631. I think you have also prepared a statement you wish to put in showing transactions in Baroda-grown opium from 1879 to 1891?—Yes.*

22,632. Supposing the Darbar wanted to stop the cultivation of the poppy and the use of opium, except for medical purposes, do you think it could do it?—I am strongly of opinion that it would be impossible to entirely check the cultivation of the poppy. To check it to any considerable degree it would be necessary to entertain a large preventive force armed with inquisitorial powers. The people are already so much distressed by the petty tyranny of the low-paid subordinates of the revenue, police, forest, and other departments, that the chance of any addition to this grievance cannot but be viewed with alarm. The expense, too, of keeping up an even decently efficient preventive force would be prohibitive.

22,633. (Mr. Pease.) You say that the area under cultivation on the 31st July 1883 was 17,372 acres, and in the next half-year, on the 31st of January 1884, it was 332 acres, that seems as though the Government did decrease the area. You have also said, "It would be impossible to entirely check the cultivation of the poppy. To check it to any considerable degree it would be necessary to entertain a large preventive force armed with inquisitorial powers." Had they a large preventive force, armed with inquisitorial powers, when they reduced the cultivation from 17,372 acres to 332?—No, they had not. The people knew that it was only a temporary measure. They knew that next year they would be allowed to cultivate again.

22,634. It would create a great deal of dissatisfaction if opium cultivation were prohibited?—Yes.

22,635. I suppose there was no compensation paid when those 17,000 acres were thrown out of poppy cultivation?—No.

22,636. You have said that the consumption of opium is to millions a necessary of life; do you take that literally?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. F. S. P. LELY called in and examined.

22,648. (Chairman.) I believe you are a member of the Indian Civil Service?—Yes.

22,649. How many years have you been in the service?—Over 24 years.

22,650. I believe you are at present Collector of Surat?—Yes.

22,651. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—My experience relates to the Surat District, the Ahmedabad District, and to a portion of Kathiawar. In Surat District opium is of secondary importance. Liquor and toddy drinking is the prevailing vice. Smoking is confined to about a hundred persons in the city of Surat, where it was first introduced about 20 years ago. About 3,000 persons eat or drink it out of a population of 1,08,000 in the city. Of these about 2,000 are Mahomedans, and 1,000 Hindus of various castes from Brahmins to Dhers. Over three-fourths are moderate consumers, and the rest may be called excessive. Among the Rajputs of Ahmedabad, and elsewhere, opium-water is constantly drunk as a social beverage.

22,652. You say that over three-fourths are moderate consumers, and the rest may be called excessive; how do you draw the line?—I should say that a moderate consumer would take from 10 to 15 grains a day; and that an excessive consumer would take 30 grains a day.

22,653. I suppose there are some people who can take 30 grains with as little harm as most people can

22,637. Perhaps you are hardly aware of the amount of evidence we have had with regard to opium consumers being put into gaol, and coming out better men than when they went in?—I should say from my experience that thousands, millions in fact, cannot live without it.

22,638. (Chairman.) Do you mean a necessary of life in the sense that tea and coffee are necessities of life to the people at home, or a necessary of life in the sense that bread is a necessity of life?—It is absolutely necessary. It is part of their religion for one thing.

22,639. (Mr. Pease.) Do you mean that they would die without it?—No, I do not say they would all die; but they could not carry on their religion without it.

22,640. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) Perhaps it has come within your knowledge that those opium eaters who commit crimes, and are sent to gaol, are not allowed to use opium, and that they have to give it up?—I do not think they have to give it up entirely.

22,641. We have had evidence from Dr. Rice, and from various medical officers, that under no circumstances would they give opium to prisoners?—I have heard of its being given here. In Baroda we do give it.

22,642. You are only talking about Baroda?—I am talking about British districts too.

22,643. The doctors say that cutting off the opium does not affect the health of the prisoners, and that they go on well and do their work. Has it come within your knowledge that opium is not allowed in British gaols?—No.

22,644. Do you consider it an advisable habit for a young man of from 20 to 30 years of age, and in good health, to take opium for pleasure?—Yes; I should not think any harm of it as long as he was moderate.

22,645. You think that if he is in health he may take it?—Certainly.

22,646. Do you know that the habit of taking opium enslaves some people?—Not unless they indulge in it to excess.

22,647. If a man takes opium in the morning regularly, but should happen not to do so on a certain occasion (even if he was in the habit of taking a moderate dose), would he not suffer pain or something of the kind?—He would feel much the same as an Englishman would feel if he were accustomed to smoke a cheroot every morning, but on some account could not do so. He feels inconvenienced and put out because he has not got his usual smoke. It is a matter of habit.

take 15?—Probably; but I should think very few would exceed 30 grains a day.

22,654. What is your experience with regard to the effect of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people?—Many, perhaps most, consumers in Surat allege that they have taken to the habit because it affords them relief against some disease, such as dyspepsia, diarrhoea, asthma, diabetes, rheumatism, &c., and they profess to regard it as a godsend. In the great majority of such cases there is no reason to doubt their word. The minority who are excessive consumers no doubt injure their health and enfeeble their intellect, especially when they cannot get sufficient nourishing food. Most of them are weak-willed people, who would debauch themselves with something or other in spite of all attempts to save them. The vast majority of Rajputs are moderate consumers, and appear none the worse for it. They are an indolent race, but that is not a consequence of opium.

22,655. You say that the minority of excessive consumers no doubt injure their health. I presume you have seen a great number of excessive consumers?—I have seen a certain number, but they would be an exceedingly small minority of the population. Men socially wrecked by opium do, however, exist.

22,656. Do you see those people in towns or villages, or both?—Chiefly in the towns. I cannot say that I have ever seen them among the agricultural population. They may exist, but they chiefly exist in the towns.

22,657. You said there are about 100 people who smoke opium in Surat?—Yes.

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* See Appendices XIV. and XV. to this volume.

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22,658. I suppose they used to smoke in public saloons?—Yes, until lately. The smoking shops are prohibited now. There were four smoking shops in the city of Surat.

22,659. Where do the opium smokers smoke now?—They smoke at their homes, and they collect together into small clubs.

22,660. Can you tell us to what caste they belong, are they Hindus or Mahomedans?—These 100 smokers belong to all castes and classes. It is a miscellaneous mixture. I have often been into the smoking shops when they existed, and they seem to be a mixed lot there.

22,661. I suppose a respectable person would go into a shop of that sort?—No. If he did, he would lose his character and good repute.

22,662. Can you say from your own knowledge that these smokers were people of generally depraved character?—No, I believe not. Except in that respect, they were decent enough people.

22,663. Is opium-smoking a habit to which prostitutes are addicted?—Not that I am aware of.

22,664. Did you see any women in the shops you went into?—No. The habit of smoking is believed to be dying out in Surat. Before the shops were closed, that was the case.

22,665. Is the use of opium for non-medical purposes, thought disgraceful by the people?—A moderate use of opium is not considered disgraceful by the people. All the Mahomedans, except a few strict sects, regard it as lawful. The largest opium shop in the city of Surat (at the Burhanpuri Bhagal) is actually in quarters belonging to a mosque, and close to its gates. It is regarded as a valuable medicinal agent, and a protection against the effects of fatigue and cold.

22,666. Supposing the use of opium except for medical purposes were prohibited, and the loss of revenue had to be met, how would the people regard fresh taxation for that purpose?—With the very greatest dissatisfaction. They would resent having to bear the burden of cost of any prohibitive measures.

22,667. Do you think there is any case made out for prohibiting the sale of opium, except for medical purposes?—Prohibition, whole or partial, would in my opinion be both unjustifiable and dangerous. I am informed by reliable persons that even the appointment of the Commission has already caused much undesirable excitement. A rumour has gone abroad that Government is going to close the opium shops, as it has already closed the chandul and madat shops, and much bitter comment is the result. The concurrence of the inquiry with that into the use of hemp drugs is, in my opinion, most unfortunate, and it will be years before the effect on the minds of the ignorant classes passes away.

22,668. What do you suppose is the effect upon the minds of the ignorant classes?—They think the Government is interfering with their pleasures and daily enjoyments, for some subtle purposes of its own. When any reason at all is given, the suggestion is made that it is some indirect means of increasing the Abkari revenue, especially the use of European liquors.

22,669. You are a Collector of some standing, I believe?—Yes.

22,670. I should like to know how you regard the measure which has been carried out of putting an end

to the minimum vend guarantee system?—I think that has worked very well, so far as it has gone.

22,671. You think putting an end to that has done no harm?—No.

22,672. What was the minimum vend guarantee system for?—I suppose it was a check against illicit practices on the part of the farmer. The antidote to that supplied by the new system is the attested character of a farmer. He is a very carefully selected man now, a man who will have nothing to do with illicit practices.

22,673. How does a farmer get his farm, at auction bid, or how?—He is selected by the Commissioner, and the farm is given to him straight off.

22,674. How is the amount fixed?—By a careful consideration of the past receipts of a district, and the probable wants of the people.

22,675. Does the farmer get his farm for a term of years, or for one year?—For one year now.

22,676. I suppose if he is a selected man, unless he does anything wrong, he may take it for granted that he will continue to have the farm?—I believe, as a matter of fact, that is so. In Surat, at any rate, the last year's farmer was again selected this year. The Commissioner's hands are not tied, but probably he would give a preference to a man who had already done well.

22,677. I suppose the short term is fixed in order to have a check on him?—Yes.

22,678. I suppose the Convention of Gujarat has very much stopped smuggling, and therefore facilitated the doing without the minimum vend guaranteed system. has it not?—To some extent it has no doubt. There is much less smuggling from Baroda than there used to be.

22,679. You have not heard anything about the old trade in opium from Surat to China before British rule?—No, I have never inquired into that.

22,679a. (Mr. Pease.) You have stated that 3,000 persons eat or drink opium?—Yes, out of a population of 108,000 in the city or 150,000 in Surat and district.

22,680. You have said that Rajputs are an indolent race; that is not their characteristic generally, is it?—They are willing enough to engage in martial exercises. I would not call them an industrious race at all. They are very reluctant to take to actual cultivation or actual business of any kind.

22,681. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) You say "The" largest opium shop in the city of Surat is actually "in quarters belonging to a mosque and close to its" gates." Do you think that the Mahomedans would have a liquor shop in a similar situation?—No; because they object to liquor in a way they do not object to opium.

22,682. Do you think that the habit of taking liquor is more objectionable than that of taking opium?—I think the habit of drinking European liquors as practised by many of the higher classes of the country is distinctly worse than the opium habit.

22,683. If opium is prohibited except for medical purposes you think people will take to drink, and you think that is more objectionable and injurious than taking opium; you would not like to see prohibition of opium brought about at such a cost because the result would be much more serious?—Those are my views.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. H. O.
Quinn.

Mr. H. O. QUINN called in and examined.

22,684. (Chairman.) How long have you been in the Indian Civil Service?—Eight and a half years.

22,685. I believe you are Talukdari Settlement Officer at Gujarat?—Yes.

22,686. What does Talukdari Settlement Officer actually convey?—The office was created originally in 1862 to settle estates encumbered with debt. An Act was passed by the Bombay Government. Since then work of other kinds has accrued to it.

22,687. Who are the Talukdars?—They are landed proprietors. They receive the rents of the land. A certain per-centage of the rents is paid as revenue, called jamna.

22,688. What is your experience with regard to the consumption of opium?—I am personally acquainted with the Ahmedabad, Kaira, and Broach districts, but chiefly with the Rajput Girasia, Thakurs, and Talukdars of those districts. As regards the consumption of opium, I would prefer to speak with special reference to the Talukdars of Ahmedabad alone as the most numerous and important of their class. The majority of them, perhaps 50 to 75 per cent., are habitual consumers of opium, and there are hardly any who do not on occasions of ceremony partake of it. Opium is a necessary of life with almost all Rajput Girasias. It is used as an essential part of the ceremonies at weddings and funerals, and it is the invariable custom

when visitors come to a Girasia house for hosts and visitors to take opium together as a mark of friendship and hospitality. It is also, as I learn, largely used for medicinal purposes. Children are frequently given it as a medicine, and sometimes cattle as a stimulant when they have been undergoing heavy labour. Most of those who consume opium habitually take one or two grains daily, while those who take it to excess consume up to one-eighth of a tola. The opium is either eaten dry or mixed with water and sipped out of the hand. In the latter form it is known as *kasumbha*; it is never smoked amongst the Rajput Girasias.

22,689. What is the distinction between a Rajput Girasia and Talukdar?—There is no difference. The words are synonymous.

22,690. They are landed proprietors paying a certain per-centage of the rent to the Government?—Yes. The Thakurs and Talukdars are all Rajput Girasias, with very few exceptions.

22,691. Has the Talukdar any sort of jurisdiction?—No, not in the Ahmedabad district; he has no jurisdiction at all.

22,692. What is your experience as regards the effect of opium consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—So far as my own experience is concerned, although I have been in close communication with the Rajput Girasias of Ahmedabad for more than four years, and have travelled in their villages, I have seen almost nothing of the alleged ill-effects of opium consumption. It is true they are on the whole an extremely apathetic class, and very backward as regards education; but this I should say is due more to their pride of race, which forbids them to work for a living even when but little of their ancestral estate is left to them than to any effect of the consumption of opium. The great majority of habitual consumers take but moderate quantities, less than one-eighth perhaps consuming enough to have any appreciable effect on their health. They are often fine, stalwart men, and their powerful frames bear but scant testimony to the harmfulness of the habit of opium-eating. As regards the moral effect, I am not aware in my own experience of any case in which either a special crime or a tendency to evil-doing or dishonesty has been connected with the habit of opium-eating. I have come across a few cases in which the intellect seems to have been dulled by the use of opium, but in those cases the amount habitually taken was I believe very large. Cases have also come to my notice in which an habitual opium eater was good for nothing until he had had his daily dose, when he was at once refreshed and capable of doing whatever was wanted of him. I am given to understand that with habitual consumers amongst the Rajput Girasias there is not as a rule any tendency to increase the quantity taken.

22,693. Do the Rajput Girasias also consume liquor to any extent?—Yes, a certain proportion of them do; but those who consume opium do not consume liquor, and *vice versa*.

22,694. Do they consume country liquor or European liquor?—Those who can afford it, I think, probably consume European liquor. There are not, however, many who can afford it. Others consume country liquor.

22,695. Do any of the Rajput Girasias themselves cultivate, or do they consider that beneath them?—As a rule, they consider it beneath them. There are occasional instances where they do cultivate, but they are very rare.

22,696. How do the Rajput Girasias regard the use of opium for non-medical purposes?—My opinion as to the disposition of the Rajput Girasias of Gujarat in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes is that they look on the drug as a necessary of life. In Tod's Rajasthan I find it stated that "opium to the Rajput is more necessary than food," and I am inclined to think that much the same might be said of the Girasias of Gujarat. If it were possible to prohibit opium entirely, it is difficult to say exactly what the result would be; but it would be something extremely serious and might mean the physical ruin of a race to whom it has become an absolute essential. It would also mean, as I am informed, that the consumption of liquor would greatly increase. Although the Girasias admit that excessive consumption is most harmful, there is amongst them, so far as I am aware, no feeling whatever against the use of opium in moderate quantities, and they would be altogether at a loss to under-

stand the need for doing away entirely with the habit of opium eating in which they have indulged from time immemorial. The prohibition of the sale of opium would be regarded by the Girasias with the utmost disfavour.

22,697. Supposing prohibition were carried out and taxation became necessary, how would they regard it?—There can I think be no doubt whatever that the Rajput Girasias of Gujarat would be most unwilling to bear even in part the cost of prohibitive measures. So long as they continue to regard opium in the light they do now, they would consider it the greatest of hardships to be deprived of the drug, and they would certainly not be willing to pay for such deprivation.

22,698. What is your opinion with regard to the proposition that the sale of opium should be prohibited in British India except for medical purposes?—In my opinion the sale of opium in British India, except for medical purposes, should not be prohibited. I consider such prohibition would be in the first place unjustifiable and in the second impracticable. Unjustifiable because to certain classes and individuals opium has become a necessary of life, and it has not been shown that moderate consumption is harmful, and impracticable because it would not in my opinion be possible, in view of the necessity for a supply of the drug, to prevent its being either illicitly grown or smuggled. Amongst the Rajput Girasias of Gujarat, for instance, unless the prohibition were extended to the Native States in Kathiawar and to the Barda State it would be valueless in the adjacent British districts; and even if the prohibition were so extended it is difficult to see how the cultivation of the poppy could be altogether stopped in the Native States, where the chiefs would probably be at least indifferent and when the demand both in the State and the adjacent districts would be so great and so urgent.

22,699. How do you think the Native States would regard a request to them to prohibit cultivation?—I fancy they would regard it as being a thing which would be unjustifiable to their own subjects.

22,700. Do you think that there is any change of fashion or change of feeling going on with regard to the consumption of opium. Some witnesses have said that they think the use of opium is going out?—Speaking of the Talukdars, I think the number who now consume opium habitually is considerably less than it was a generation ago. That is partly due to an increase in the price, and partly, I should say, to the influence of education.

22,701. Do you think the decrease in the number of people who consume opium has been accompanied with any increase in the number of those who consume alcohol?—That I am not prepared to say. I fancy there is more alcohol drunk now, but whether it is amongst the people who were originally opium consumers I cannot say.

22,702. I suppose the Girasias, particularly the richer ones, are inclined to spend lazy lives, are they not?—Yes.

22,703. And it is among a class of that kind that the excessive use of stimulants is most to be expected?—Probably.

22,704. Have you seen many who have absolutely ruined themselves by excessive use of opium?—Very few indeed.

22,705. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) You have said that opium is a necessary of life and later on, in answer to the Chairman, you said that the use of opium is on the decrease. There must be many people who do not take opium, would you not therefore modify your general assertions?—I mean that many of these people have got into the habit of eating opium from one cause or another, and they find in that way it has become a necessary. The necessity would be stopped by prohibition.

22,706. You say the price of opium has increased; the people cannot afford to take it, so in that sense it is not considered as a necessary of life?—It is not a necessary of life in the sense that bread is.

22,707. They like it, and those who can afford it can take to it?—It is a necessity of social life amongst the Girasias.

22,708. Those who do not like it can do without it?—Yes, those who have never taken to the habit.

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22,709. (Mr. Pease.) I presume you mean that it would be a necessary of life very much in the sense that a smoker's pipe becomes a necessary of life?—No. I consider it would be a much greater necessity of life than a pipe. It is an absolute necessity with those who have begun the habit. A great many take opium to begin with as medicine; but by the time they have finished their course of medicine they have become confirmed opium eaters and unable to give it up.

22,710. We have had evidence of cases where men are necessarily obliged to give up opium and that while

The witness withdrew.

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KHAN BAHADUR BAHMANJI E. MODI called in and examined.

22,713. ((Chairman.)) I believe you are District Deputy Collector of Kaira?—Yes.

22,714. What experience have you had with regard to the cultivation of opium by the different races of people in your district?—I have been a deputy collector for 23 years, and I am personally acquainted with the opium-consuming races in the Kaira, Ahmedabad, Panch Mahals, and Broach districts of Gujarat.

22,715. Have you anything to say as to the moral and physical condition of opium consumers?—I am positively of opinion that no bad effect is produced on the moral or physical condition of the people by the consumption of opium. On the contrary it has had a good effect in preventing them from resorting to alcohol. The majority of consumers believe it keeps them in good health if taken in moderation. Cases of excess are very rare, but of course in such cases the consumer's bodily health and his mind are wrecked, but even then it is a question whether he would not have become worse if he had had resort to ganja or alcohol, if opium had not been available.

22,716. How would people regard the use of opium for non-medical purposes?—The use of opium for non-medical purposes is not considered by the people as a bad thing. The majority of the people of India are not addicted to opium, alcohol, or ganja, and those who do not use opium do not show any repugnance to those who do.

22,717. How would people regard new taxation to meet the cost of prohibitive measures?—The people would certainly not be willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of any prohibitive measure. It would, in my opinion, be a grave political error to saddle them with any such cost.

22,718. How do you regard any suggestion that opium should be prohibited except for medical purposes?—The sale of opium, except for medical purposes, should not be prohibited either in British India or in Native States. It would be impossible to make rules deciding who should be according to native ideas regarded as medical practitioners.

22,719. Supposing total prohibition to be impracticable have you any suggestions to offer?—Total prohibition is impracticable. I consider that the present system for regulating and restricting the opium traffic and raising revenue is all that can be desired.

22,720. You say that it would be impossible to make rules deciding who should be regarded as medical practitioners; in those districts of Bombay with which you are acquainted are there any class of medical practitioners who practise in the villages?—There are Mahommedan Hakims as they are called and Hindu Vaid. They have their own native systems of medicine.

22,721. Are they hereditary Hakims or do they set up practice for themselves?—They were formerly mostly hereditary, but now they set up for themselves. There are now many quacks also, but the people do believe in them, otherwise those folks would not have been able to live.

22,722. Are there Pansaris in the villages?—There are in the large villages.

22,723. They sell all kinds of drugs?—Yes.

22,724. What sort of people are these druggists; are they well-to-do or poor people?—They are moderately well-to-do.

22,725. Do they sell anything besides drugs?—In large towns there are druggists who sell nothing else but drugs, but in small places they sell grain and other things and they sell these sort of drugs as extra.

it creates a great deal of discomfort for a time it does not permanently injure the health?—That is not the opinion the people hold themselves. I have asked the question several times, and the answer that I at once get is that they will die.

22,711. But you have not heard of anybody who did die?—No.

22,712. Their saying that they will die is very much like the Irishman saying that he will be *kilt*?—I am afraid they go through a great deal more suffering than the Irishman does when he says that.

22,726. In Bombay is there any rule about the sale of arsenic or other poisons?—Yes, there are regulations. The druggists have to keep registers of the persons to whom they sell these poisonous articles. There is a Poisons Act in the Bombay Presidency.

22,727. Does that apply to villages as well as towns?—It applies everywhere.

22,728. A man must not sell poisons without keeping a register?—That is so, and he must take down certain particulars as to the use for which the poison is purchased, and the purchaser signs his own name in the register with his own hand. The books are examined regularly by the officials.

22,729. Do you know what poisons are included?—The list is given in the Poisons Act. I cannot remember just now what poisons are mentioned. Arsenic is the chief and there are the compounds of mercury, also nux vomica and verdigris.

22,730. Do you know what the Act is?—I think it is III. of 1866 or 1867.

22,731. Are those shops generally confined to towns?—Yes, to towns generally.

22,732. There are very few in the villages?—I should say none. I do not know of any in the villages of the districts in which I have served. In the towns of Matar and Borsad there are no shops for selling poisonous drugs.

22,733. Is opium eating or drinking at all common among the Parsis?—Drinking is not at all common, but there are some Parsis who do take opium. I know some among my own relations even, but other people would not notice that they are opium eaters.

22,734. Opinions have been expressed that the fashion of opium-eating is dying out, have you seen anything to indicate that?—As far as my observation goes I do not think that it is going out.

22,735. Not even among the English educated class?—The English educated classes have not taken to opium, so that I cannot say it has gone out with regard to them. It never existed among the English-speaking people.

22,736. There are various classes of people who are now taking to English education who did not take to English education before?—Yes.

22,737. So that perhaps some of those people would belong to the classes who used to take opium?—I think the children of those who used to take opium are not educated in English generally. For instance, the sons of the Giasias are not educated in English, but among the Talukdars there are many young people who are educated in English. They have taken to alcohol but not to opium.

22,738. (Mr. Pease.) How is the habit of taking opium looked upon by the Parsis?—It is looked upon with indifference by them. They have not any positive dislike to those who take opium.

22,739. Is it looked upon as a good habit?—It is not looked upon as a good habit; and I may go further and say that those who take opium do not say that it is a good habit. They admit that it is not a good habit.

22,740. But as a body the Parsis are not favourable to the opium habit?—No.

22,741. You have expressed the opinion that opium consumption has a good effect in preventing people from resorting to alcohol; would you tell me upon what you ground that?—The Giasias who are educated in English have taken to alcohol. People must have some sort of stimulant; and I think if they leave off opium they will take to alcohol. Those who have plenty

of time on hand would like to have some sort of stimulant.

22,742. Have you observed the case of anyone who has been prevented from taking opium, and who has taken to alcohol as a consequence?—I have known such cases. One case was in Cutch. I know the case of a Mahomedan gentleman whom I cannot name. He was in the habit of taking opium, and he was prevented from doing that, and he then took to alcohol. I know also of the case of a man in Dholka. I took a great interest in that man. I stopped his opium, the result was he took to drinking, and he became worse. He was a young man, and was what you might call a wreck. Whether it was from the effects of alcohol or opium I do not know.

22,743. Do you mean that those who have taken opium in excess if the opium were stopped would take to alcohol, or do you mean that moderate consumers of opium would take to alcohol if their opium was stopped?—If they leave off opium they will take to some other intoxicating thing. It would not matter much whether they were taking opium in large or in small quantities.

22,744. You know that intoxicating drink is forbidden both to the Mahomedans and to the Hindus. Do you think if they were to give up opium they would take to alcohol?—The lower classes of Hindus are not prevented from taking alcohol, and many Mahomedans openly take alcohol. The gentleman that I mentioned, who was in Dholka, is a Mahomedan, and he has taken to alcohol.

22,745. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Have you experience of the results of opium eating, and when people take to it generally?—If they take opium in moderation there is not any bad effect. If they take it in excess they go on from bad to worse, and become what are called wrecks. When young men begin to take opium they do so generally on account of getting into bad company. These people are vicious in other respects also, and the result is the ruin of their health and of their intellectual powers. I do not think that they acquire any vicious habits, such as thieving or lying, when they are in good circumstances. It is poverty aggravated by inability to work owing to the excessive use of the drug that produces the deterioration and the ruin of their morals. These opium wrecks are generally persons who suffer from other vicious habits and diseases, and it is not opium that produces these accompanying habits. These generally existed before the use of opium began. The opium eaters, such as Girasias, cultivators, and labourers, do not take opium in excess, and they do not suffer any evil effects. They themselves admit that they would like to break off the habit, but are unable to do so, although I have observed

that in the gaols the habit can be broken. At the same time it should be observed that whenever they are let out they take to it again. The dearness of the price of opium has no doubt deterred several persons from contracting the habit; but the present price is in my opinion sufficiently high. Any further increase in the price would be unjust and an unnecessary restriction on the liberty of the people. The minimum guarantee system did not in my opinion increase the consumption. There is a great difference between liquor shops where liquor is drunk on the premises or in the vicinity, where the shopkeepers can induce the customers to take more and more, and opium shops. The opium eater generally does not exceed his usual quantity. He purchases it, goes to his house, and takes it at the fixed time. The minimum guarantee system was of great use in putting an effective check upon smuggling, which is carried on on an extensive scale. The licensed shopkeepers, under the screen of licenses, smuggle large quantities, more than double or treble what they took from the Government Depôts. My impression about the prohibition of the cultivation of opium in Panch Mahals in 1878, is that it has not materially reduced the consumption of opium in that district. Although before 1878 opium was very cheap, it was not consumed largely. In 1879 we had to give some compensation to the Thakur of Limri on account of the prohibition of opium cultivation on his lands, and also on account of the failure of the rains in that year. One Chandu shop was opened at Broach, but it failed.

22,746. Do you take any stimulant as a habit?—No.

22,747. Will you not modify your assertion that everybody must have a stimulant?—I do not say everybody; I say most people.

22,748. Then it is not *must*. Those who like it may take to it, but not everybody *must* have it?—It is rather difficult to judge other people by ourselves.

22,749. You think that the generality of the people require a stimulant?—Yes.

22,750. Those who are not so learned, or so sober, and do not improve their ideas as you do would of course think that they must have something?—It is not all people who can have command over their inclinations.

22,751. So that it is not the case that everybody *must* take it as a necessary thing?—It is a difficult question, but I should say that stimulants are, as a rule, necessary with the majority of mankind.

22,752. That is your personal view?—Yes. There are many people who take alcohol, and whenever I argue with them they always say that they find it necessary, although I myself do not think it necessary for myself.

The witness withdrew.

RAO BAHADUR SARDAR BECHARDAS VECHARIDAS called in and examined.

22,753. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are Desai of Nadiad?—Yes.

22,754. What are the duties of a Desai?—He is a medium between the Government and the tenants.

22,755. Have you any magisterial powers?—I was an honorary magistrate, but I am not doing the duty now.

22,756. What opportunities have you had of obtaining information with regard to the consumption of opium, and in what districts?—I am well acquainted with the British districts of Kaira, Ahmedabad, Broach, Panch Mahals, the Gaikwari Mahals of Baroda and Petlad, and the State of Cambay. In all these districts opium eaters are found among all classes, but owing to the enhanced price of opium the numbers are greatly diminished, being, in my opinion, only about one-fourth of what they formerly were.

22,757. What in your experience is the effect of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people?—I do not think that the moderate consumption of opium in a regular way produces any bad effect on the moral or physical condition of the people.

22,758. Do you think there are many cases of the excessive use of opium?—Yes. Those persons who take it excessively do not keep their moral and physical condition properly.

22,759. Out of a hundred consumers how many take it in excess?—Before the duty was raised more than

10 per cent. were excessive eaters, but at present we have not got more than one or two in a thousand consumers.

22,760. Do you think the people of India would approve of the Government prohibition of the use of opium?—They would not like to have prohibition.

22,761. What do you think their feelings would be if Government not only prohibited opium, but put an additional taxation to meet the cost?—The people would not be in a position to bear the cost of prohibitive measures.

22,762. Do you think it would create any violent and strong feeling?—No doubt it would. At present, according to the general talk of the people, they are all crying out that Government is going to abolish the sale and cultivation of opium, and they are all unwilling to see these measures taken by the Government.

22,763. If the British Government prohibited the use of opium in its own districts, do you think it could prohibit it in the Native States?—No.

22,764. Supposing total prohibition to be impracticable, can you suggest any change in the system at present followed for regulation and restricting the opium traffic and from raising a revenue therefrom?—There is no necessity to take any measures for restricting the opium, but if Government are inclined to do so, the end in view would be to a great extent obtained by increasing the present duty on opium, and by

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decreasing the quantity which may be licitly kept by one person from two tolas to one, and by reducing the number of opium shops. But the effect of this would be to drive opium consumers to alcohol or other stimulant.

22,765. Which do you think is the most pernicious thing—opium or alcohol?—Alcohol.

22,766. You state that in your opinion the opium eaters are only about one-fourth of what they formerly were. Do you think that that is a good thing?—I think the less intoxication there is the better.

22,767. Do you think it is a good thing, and do you not rejoice at their being only one fourth of the number of opium consumers that there used to be?—Yes.

22,768. Do you think statistics would confirm your view as to the reduction of the quantity consumed?—I have no statistics with me, but I am of opinion that the number of opium eaters has been lessened on account of the duty being raised.

22,769. You suggest increasing the present duty on opium and decreasing the quantity which may be licitly kept; would you advise that?—That is only by experience. When Government first increased the duty the number of opium eaters was lessened. The Government has given education to the people, and at the present time they are not so much in favour of taking opium. They see in the books they read the vices of opium eating and how opium eaters are suffering. The new generation is not taking so much opium. The taste of opium is bitter, and therefore they prefer alcohol as a stimulant.

22,770. You do not recommend at the present time that the price should be raised or that the quantity should be decreased, but you think the time may come when it would be wise to carry that out?—Yes.

22,771. What makes you think that persons would take to alcohol if they gave up opium?—I am not well

The witness withdrew.

MR. MOTIBHAI RAGHUNATHJI PANDIA called in and examined.

22,777. (Chairman.) You are the President of the Nadiad Municipality, Kaira District?—Yes.

22,778. Have you been long President?—Nearly 4 years.

22,779. Will you state what your experience has been, and what you know of the habit of the consumption of opium?—I am acquainted with several parts of Gujarat, and have a particular knowledge of the Kaira District, in which I reside. Opium consumers are found among all classes of the people. The Rajputs and Dharalas are the chief consumers. It is usually eaten in the raw state or drunk as kasumba. It is very rarely smoked in the parts with which I am acquainted. It is used by several castes at marriage and funeral ceremonies, and is also given in very small quantities as medicine to infants.

22,780. What is your opinion as to the effects of the habit?—I am of opinion that taken in moderation it does not cause any bad effect, moral or physical, on the condition of the people. On the contrary, if wholesome food is also taken, it is beneficial. In excess it is injurious both morally and physically. It acts as a stimulant to labourers when taken in small doses.

22,781. Do you think it would excite discontent if Government were to prohibit the use of opium?—The general tendency of the people is not to discontinue the use of opium for non-medical purposes.

22,782. What would they think if it were proposed that they should give it up?—They will be totally

The witness withdrew.

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RAO BAHADUR RANCHODLAL CHOTALAL, C.I.E., called in and examined.

22,790. (Chairman.) I think you are President of the Municipality, Ahmedabad?—Yes.

22,791. And a member of the Legislative Council?—Yes, a non-official member.

22,792. You have received the honour of the Companionship of the Indian Empire?—Yes.

22,793. What in your opinion is the effect of the use of opium?—The effect of opium on the moral and

acquainted with those who have left opium and gone to alcohol, but the customs and company of the new generations lead them to alcohol. There is the enticement of other friends which induces them to take alcohol.

22,772. You think that persons of the class who used to take opium will take alcohol in the future?—Yes.

22,773. Have you known persons who have given up opium and taken to alcohol as a stimulant in its place?—I have heard of many cases. I know of certain princes who used to take opium, but they have given it up, and they prefer alcohol as a stimulant.

22,774. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Perhaps you know the quantity of opium used in connexion with the ceremonies and the social gatherings on the death of your grandfather, and also on the death of your father; from that would you say that there was a decrease in the consumption of opium?—My grandfather died in 1851 or 1852. In that year, I suppose, nearly three maunds of opium were consumed for the purpose of treating the guests.

22,775. And how much was consumed at the death of your father?—My father died in 1881, and in that year not more than 10 lbs. were used by the guests.

22,776. You also know that there are many social occasions when kasumbha is offered to the guests. Have you noticed any decrease in the amount of opium used on those occasions?—Yes, there has been a great decrease. Formerly when there was a marriage people would come from the villages to visit us and we were obliged to give them kasumbha, but nowadays when people come to meet us and we order our servants to bring kasumbha and offer to the guests they say that no one is drinking opium. When there is a marriage procession, or anything of the kind, and people come to visit us, kasumbha, used to be given before they commenced eating, but now that practice is abandoned and nobody is taking opium in that way.

unwilling to bear any portion of the cost of prohibitive measures.

22,783. What would Native States think if they were asked to prohibit opium?—It is not desirable to prohibit the sale of opium, except for medical purposes, in British India, either in the interests of habitual consumers or that of trade. As I think the sale should not be prohibited in British India, the same is my opinion as regards prohibition in Native States.

22,784. I suppose there are a certain number of excessive consumers, are there not, who do themselves harm?—I have no personal knowledge of excessive use.

22,785. Are you a Brahmin?—Yes.

22,786. Brahmins never have used opium much?—No, formerly they did not use it, but nowadays they do.

22,787. Do people who have had an English education take to opium?—No, I have not heard of them taking opium, but sometimes I have heard they take alcohol.

22,788. Do you think the present system of regulating the use of opium that exists in British India can be improved in any way—can you suggest any improvement?—No, I do not know of any new system.

22,789. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) When you say “the general tendency of the people is not to discontinue the use of opium except for non-medical purposes,” do you mean that the people have increased their use of opium, or that they would not like to see prohibition of the use of opium except for medical purposes?—I mean the prohibition of the use for non-medical purposes, not the increased use of it.

physical condition of the people is not good. Some people consider that a little opium does good in old age, but I have seen many instances in which very old people have kept their health very well without opium or any other kind of intoxicant.

22,794. What do you think the general feeling of the people is in respect to the use of opium?—I consider that the general disposition of the people is against the

use of opium for non-medical purposes, although there are certain classes of people with whom it is customary to offer opium to their guests. As education extends, and opium becomes dearer, this practice seems to be diminishing.

22,795. What would the people say if the Government put on an extra taxation to meet the loss?—I think that the people will not be willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures.

22,796. In your opinion is it advisable that the British Government should prohibit the use of opium except for medical purposes?—Total prohibition of the sale of opium in British India is not advisable, because of the outcry it will create amongst consumers, but I think that its consumption should be gradually curtailed.

22,797. Do you think the Native States would agree to it?—In some of the Native States the consumption of opium is greater than in British India, and it will, therefore, be more difficult to extend the prohibition to them.

22,798. What measures would you suggest for improving the present system?—I would suggest the gradual raising of the selling price of opium so as to dissuade people from beginning the habit of using opium. At the same time Government should adopt every practicable measure to prevent opium-smuggling.

22,799. You said that you have seen many instances in which very old people have kept their health very well without opium or any other kind of intoxicant; have you not seen also many people who take opium and keep their health very well to a great age?—Yes; but those who take a moderate quantity, and can afford to have proper nourishment with it, are able to keep their health well; but the poor people who cannot have nourishing diet with it do suffer in their constitution. That is my opinion.

22,800. Are there many consumers among your work-people in the mills?—There are some. We generally employ women and children more, and with them, I think, the great curse is alcohol. Perhaps that is doing more harm than opium. There are very few opium eaters, and we have never had any person dismissed on account of opium eating. Many were dismissed on account of alcohol. Out of the three chief sources of intoxication I consider alcohol the worst; the next is ganja, and the third is opium. They are all bad things; but there are degrees, in my opinion.

22,801. Were the people who had to be dismissed for the abuse of alcohol common workpeople or people in the position of overseers?—Both sorts. The higher and lower classes of people. Those taking country liquor.

22,802. I suppose the people who, perhaps, are most given to the use of opium are the Rajputs Girasias?—I think the Kolis, who are inferior Girasias. I think they are more among the classes of Hindus at Gujarat. They are consuming more opium than the other classes.

22,803. These are people who live in the country villages?—Yes. Some of them live here, but most of them live outside. I observe that the custom of eating opium is diminishing; it is less than it was in former days. Those who have an English education do not like opium eating. Though their parents are opium eaters the children give it up; but unfortunately if they are not under proper control those young people will go to alcohol. It is not because they have left opium that they are obliged to take to alcohol, but it is the change of education, the change of example, that now induces them to go to the other kind of thing.

22,804. A sort of change of fashion?—Yes.

22,805. I suppose if the price of opium were raised very much it would be very difficult to stop smuggling, would not it?—I do not think it would be so difficult as some people suppose, because at present the temptation to smuggle is not small. Opium is not bulky, it can easily be smuggled, and Government require to be very vigilant and very careful in detecting it. If the price is raised a little more I do not think it will be much more difficult to prevent smuggling. It will have a very good effect on the new generation, because as they cannot afford to pay a very high price, they will not contract a habit of opium eating. The unfortunate people who have got the habit will not be able to give it up, but their children will. If you go into a village and ask why the habit is not so common as it was, one of the reasons they give is, "It is too dear for us now" to take to opium eating; we do without it." This

dearness has had some effect on the total consumption, and the total consumption will further decrease. Of course a little exertion might be required on the part of the officers to prevent smuggling, but it is not very difficult. Of course I would not say put a very high duty at once, but it might be a little increased. Those who have unfortunately got the habit might be treated differently. That is the only way I can see how it can be curtailed.

22,806. (Mr. Pease.) Do you think there has been injury or benefit to the general health by the decrease in the habit of taking opium through the increased price?—There has been no injury through giving up the habit of opium eating. I do not think the people do suffer. It is in particular diseases, such as asthma, that it does good as a medicine; but for a person enjoying good health it does no good in my opinion.

22,807. Do you approve of the alteration of the law doing away with the minimum guarantee, and the selling of licences?—Yes, I approve.

22,808. Perhaps you can tell me what your experience is?—The minimum guarantee means this—it creates a motive for the person who takes the farm to sell a particular quantity. If he is not able to sell that quantity, he has to pay a penalty, so that he will try to induce people to purchase as much as he possibly can. When that is taken away he will work more honestly, and in a more straightforward way. Therefore, I think the abolition of the minimum guarantee system has been a benefit as regards opium in this district. I think there is no reason why it should be reimposed.

22,809. You agree with the evidence given by Mr. Lely, that the effect has been good?—I was not present at the time he gave his evidence; but I think it is good. It will curtail the consumption a little. There will be no temptation for any middleman to increase the consumption.

22,810. (Chairman.) How do you think the vendors could increase the consumption?—In the case of alcohol they could increase the number of shops, or do something or other that way.

22,811. Would the vendor be allowed to open more shops?—It depends on the magistrate. With the magistrate's permission the vendor can open more or less.

22,812. Without opening more shops do you think the vendors can sell more?—In the case of opium they cannot do so; but they can do a very great deal of harm in the way of alcohol. It is very true that a person who takes opium would not take more than his usual dose, but he can gradually increase it.

22,813. All shopkeepers will sell as much as they can, will they not?—Yes, because they get profit.

22,814. How did the minimum guarantee make the vendor sell more than he otherwise would?—He would exert himself more if the interest was created for him to do so. He would not care if he was not suffering any penalty—he would be rather indifferent whether he sold a little more or less. It would not matter much as he would only lose his profit; but here besides losing his profit, he would have to suffer a penalty.

22,815. But the principle was, was not it, that the sum of the minimum guarantee vend, should be fixed after inquiry as to the amount that had been sold in past years?—Yes, but it is liable to abuse.

22,816. If the system was worked properly it would be fair enough, but it is liable to be used unfairly; is that what you mean?—Yes.

22,817. The system was intended to stop smuggling?—To stop smuggling, and create an interest for the middleman to stop smuggling and other things.

22,818. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Do you not think that if opium were prohibited except for medical purposes, the people would take to alcohol, which you consider to be a more vicious habit?—I have not observed any case of that kind,—that a person who has left opium has gone direct to alcohol. There are a certain class of people—the Petidars, Brahmins, and high-class people—who will take opium without any objection, but they will not go to alcohol if opium is stopped.

22,819. But if opium were stopped, and there was no supply of opium for those who use it, do you not think those people would take to alcohol?—Mahomedans or high-class Hindus would not take to alcohol, on account

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of their religion. They would take to bhang or some other kind of intoxicant.

22,820. But there are some Mahomedans and Hindus who take alcohol?—The respectable people do not take it openly; they do it secretly.

22,821. When there is a probability that they may take to alcohol, do you not think some stringent measures are necessary in regard to that before opium is dealt with?—I am of that opinion. Before Government takes any active measures about the prohibition of opium they should take some steps to stop alcohol among the Indian people. If they did this it would be considered a great boon by the people.

22,822. (Mr. Pease.) You gave us your views with regard to the minimum guarantee; will you also tell us

The witness withdrew.

RAO BAHADUR CHUNILAL VENILAL called in and examined.

Rao Bahadur
Chunilal
Venilal.

22,826. (Chairman.) You have served Government for a good many years, I think?—44 years in four collectorates, in Thana, Ahmedabad, Kaira, and Broach as deputy-collector.

22,827. You are now pensioned?—Yes.

22,828. What class of people is the use of opium most common amongst?—The use of opium is most prevalent among Rajputs, Girasias, Musalmans, Kolis, Bhats, Charans, and Ghadrils. The Kunbis and some members of the higher castes use it less freely.

22,829. What is the distinction between Girasias and Rajputs?—Some of the Girasias are of Rajput caste. They are called Girasias because they enjoy gas and water allowance from Government. They are the cultivators. A Girasia would not give his daughter in marriage to a Rajput, but a Rajput would to a Girasia.

22,830. What are the Ghadrils?—They are a class of buyers who go about to different Girasias.

22,831. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) What are Charans?—Charans, Ghadrils, and Bhats are nearly alike.

22,832. (Chairman.) What is your experience as to the effects of the opium habit?—I consider the moderate use of opium to be beneficial especially in the old age, and in checking diseases of various kinds. It sharpens the intellect and strengthens the system. It does not produce disease. The moral condition of the opium consumer is certainly much better than that of the user of alcohol.

22,833. Did you ever find it necessary to take it yourself?—Only on one occasion when I had to travel 9 miles in a monsoon. The road was impassable for a cart, and as I could not get a pony I had to walk. I saw I would not be able to do the journey; but I was advised to take a small pill of opium, and with great reluctance I took it. I performed the journey of 9 miles on foot, and at the end I did not feel fatigued.

22,834. How would the people regard an order of Government prohibiting the use of opium except for medical purposes?—In my opinion the people consider the prohibition of opium for non-medical purposes a grievous interference, and they would be most unwilling to bear, in whole, or in part, the cost of prohibitive measures.

22,835. I suppose you would consider that the sale of opium should not be prohibited?—In my opinion the sale of opium, except for medical purposes, in British India should not be prohibited. Such a prohibition could not be extended to Native States. It would be undesirable, both politically and financially. I do not suggest any change in the present system for regulating and restricting the opium traffic, and for raising revenue therefrom.

22,836. Do you think the present system of Excise is good, or can you suggest any improvement?—I think the present system is good. They are gradually improving it, and perhaps may find room for still

what your views are with regard to the selling of licences by auction?—I do not think that is a good thing at all. I have given it as my opinion that as regards alcohol Government should give licences—that the middlemen or farmers should not be employed.

22,823. What is your view with regard to the selling of licences for opium?—I do not know about opium. I have not seen much injury done by the middlemen as regards opium; but as regards liquor shops Government is losing a good deal, and are stimulating the consumption.

22,824. (Chairman.) By middlemen you mean the farmer?—Yes.

22,825. And he has under him shop-sellers?—Yes.

further improvement hereafter. I do not think the system has reached perfection yet.

22,837. How do you regard the abolition of the minimum vend guarantee?—I think it cuts both ways. The minimum guarantee system is in one way good and in another way bad. The abolition of it is also one way good and in another way bad. For instance, if the system was in force, it would be the business of the farmer to see that his sale came up to the amount guaranteed, and that illicit opium is not imported. In another way, perhaps, he might try and extend his sale so as to bring it up to the amount stipulated by him. So in one way it was injurious, and in another way it was beneficial. The abolition was also beneficial and injurious. When a farmer had to sell his opium up to the amount guaranteed by him, of course he would stimulate the sale.

22,838. Properly worked, the sum guaranteed ought always to be less than the probable sales, ought not it?—Yes, that was the intention of the rule.

22,839. If that intention was properly carried out, then, I suppose, there would be no disadvantages in the rule?—No.

22,840. On the other hand, the advantage is that it gives the licensed vendor a strong reason for not buying smuggled opium?—Yes.

22,841. (Mr. Pease.) It would have the effect, would it not, during the earlier months of the period, of making the licensed vendor anxious to sell a large quantity of opium, in order to make sure that at the end of his term he had got up to the quantity stipulated?—The sale would not depend upon the months. Sometimes one shopkeeper might be able to sell 10 times more than another shopkeeper in the neighbourhood. Owing to one or two marriages or deaths among the Rajputs and Girasias, they may require a large quantity of opium.

22,842. You say you consider a moderate quantity of opium to be beneficial; you do not take it yourself. Would you advise other people to follow the course you have adopted?—I would advise other people not to take opium for pleasure, but I certainly should advise them to take it if they needed it.

22,843. You would advise people to abstain from opium except when they require it for health?—Of course healthy people do take it in very small quantities. I should say that in moderation the minimum quantity is 3 grains, and the maximum, 9 grains. It does a great deal of good to people who take that quantity. I have known several cases in which people suffering from asthma, consumption, and bowel complaints have checked those diseases by taking opium. Opium is not good when taken for pleasure's sake; but everything is bad. Alcohol is bad, ganja is bad, bhang is bad; and I should say that daily food is bad—if taken in excess it might cause indigestion.

22,844. (Chairman.) Which of those drugs do you think the most injurious?—Alcohol; next ganja, and then opium, if taken in excess, but not in moderation.

The witness withdrew.

DARASHA HORMASJI BABIA called in and examined.

22,845. (*Chairman.*) You are, I think, Chief Medical Officer, Dhrangadra State, Kathiawar?—Yes.

22,846. What school of medicine do you belong to—are you a graduate of the Grant Medical College, Bombay?—Yes.

22,847. Will you state what opportunities you have had of observing the use of opium among the people?—I have been connected with this State for the last 12 years, and my experience as regards opium habit in others extends over this period and is confined to this State only. The classes of people who generally resort to the habitual use of opium are Rajputs, Khawas (servant class), Bharwads (shepherds), Kathis and Charans (native bards). About 3 per cent. of the population are opium habitués. Besides this figure, there are others who take it on special occasions, such as marriage and death occasions, holidays and occasions of reconciliation between two parties. Most of the habitual consumers of opium contract the habit by following the example of others, and some of them use it for medical purposes, *e.g.*, those suffering from diarrhoea, dysentery, colic, neuralgia, rheumatism, asthma, &c. As far as my knowledge goes, opium is not used as a prophylactic against malaria in this part of the country. Most of the habitual consumers take about five to seven grains morning and evening, *i.e.*, about 15 grains per day. Some only use it in a solid form, but most of them use it as a watery solution. Hardly anybody smokes opium in this State.

22,848. You say “about 3 per cent. of the population”; do you mean 3 per cent. of the total population or 3 per cent. of the adult males?—3 per cent. of the total population itself.

22,849. Have you included in that the giving of it to children?—No, not children: the habitual consumers of opium.

22,850. What is your opinion of the habit upon the people?—As far as my experience goes, there is no moral or physical deterioration of persons who take opium habitually in a moderate quantity, but as regards those who take it in a large quantity there is sooner or later some lowering of the moral and physical powers. As compared with the habit of taking alcohol, opium taking is a less injurious habit, and the latter does not tell upon the constitution so much as the former. Opium even when taken in more than moderate quantity is far less injurious in its immediate and subsequent effects than alcohol also taken immoderately. Opium tends to keep up the moral and physical stamina of persons who use it in a moderate quantity. Its habitual use does not tend to shorten life; in fact some people seem to live to a green old age who have been taking opium from early manhood. After being once used to a habit of taking opium the habit cannot be easily broken off. If forced to so, the consumer suffers in constitution or resorts to some other and more injurious narcotic substances, such as alcohol, hemp, &c.

22,851. Do you think that the habit is going out as education increases?—I believe it is a little, but decreasing if anything.

22,852. Is that decrease balanced by an increase in the drinking of alcoholic liquor?—I cannot exactly say.

22,853. How is the opium habit regarded by the people?—As far as my experience goes the people in general do not look down upon habitual opium con-

sumers, but in fact they are as a rule indifferent to this question. They would not like to put any restriction on the sale or use of opium for purposes other than medical. Opium consumers are as a rule such an innocent set of people, that they are hardly noticed in a wrong light by the masses of people. On account of these causes the people would have no reason to take any prohibitive measures against the use and sale of opium, much less to bear, in whole or in part, the burden of any prohibitive measures that may be taken.

22,854. By “noticed in a wrong light” you mean, I suppose, looked upon as wrong-doers?—Yes.

22,855. Your opinion is that the sale of opium should not be prohibited?—No, it should not.

22,856. In the Native State in which you are employed, how would a request that they should prohibit opium be regarded by the Durbar?—So far as I can see, the Durbar would not take the request kindly.

22,857. (*Mr. Pease.*) You say “forced to give up opium” the consumer suffers in constitution or resorts to “some other more injurious narcotic substances,” can you tell us any instance you have known of that?—If people are forced to give up opium, they suffer from diarrhoea or sleeplessness, or some other ailment.

22,858. I ask whether you can tell us of cases where this happened?—Yes, I have seen some cases like that in which people who have been forced to give up opium actually suffered.

22,859. How were they forced to give up opium?—Their relations or friends may have induced them to give up the habit, or sometimes people themselves give up the habit; and then they either resort to opium again or take some other narcotic substance, such as hemp—something to stimulate them.

22,860. You have observed that that has been the custom?—Yes.

22,861. You say that “opium consumers are an “innocent set of people”; do you mean that none of the bad people are consumers of opium?—I mean that opium eating does not lead to crime.

22,862. Is it not a fact that some of the worst characters are opium consumers?—Not so. The only things that can be attributed to them are petty thefts occasionally. As a rule they are people of good moral character. Opium does not spoil their morals.

22,863. What is the practice of people of bad moral character in regard to stimulants?—Alcohol spoils the morals worse than anything else.

22,864. (*Mr. Haridas Voharidas.*) Perhaps you mean to say that opium eaters are not immoral characters because they eat opium; do you mean to say that?—Yes.

22,865. Their immorality is just the same as other people's?—They have lower moral tone than the others.

22,866. But total abstainers from any stimulant are not, of course, immoral?—Not for that reason only.

22,867. They are moral in the same way as other people?—I mean to say that those who take opium are not worse moral characters than others. In fact they are a better-behaved set of people than those who resort to other stimulants, other narcotics, such as hemp and alcohol.

The witness withdrew.

PRABHASHANKAR MAKARAJI BHAT called in and examined.

22,868. (*Chairman.*) You are the Naib Diwan of the Dhrangadra State in Kathiawar?—Yes.

22,869. What experience have you had of the consumption of opium in Dhrangadra State?—I am acquainted from my lifetime with the Dhrangadra State, of which I am a native. From my experience I state that generally Rajputs, their menials, Kathis, Charans, cowherds, and shepherds, and also some Mahomedans, Baniyas, Brahmins and others consume opium in this State. About 3 per cent. of the population are habitual consumers of the drug. There are others who take it on special occasions, such as marriage, death, festivals, &c., and also as a sign of reconciliation between two parties. Most of the habitual consumers have formed the habit by following the examples of

others, whilst some of them use it for medicinal purposes. Most of the habitual consumers take about 10 to 15 grains per day. Some of them use it in solid form, but most of them use it in liquid form. Opium is very rarely smoked in this State. As far as my experience goes moderate consumption of opium does not deteriorate moral or physical condition of the consumer, nor does it produce laziness or indolence. It imparts more staying powers; but excessive use of the drug enervates the constitution and in some cases perverts the moral senses. Moderate habitual use of opium does not shorten life. In my opinion the people of India are not disposed to have the use of opium stopped for non-medical purposes. The people consider opium as a harmless drug, and consequently its con-

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sumers are not generally looked upon in any degrading light. The consumption of opium having been generally considered innocent, the people of India would not, in my opinion, be willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures. In my opinion the sale of opium in British India, for purposes even other than medical, should not be prohibited, nor could such prohibition be extended to the Native States with which I am acquainted. Nor any further restrictions in the production and sale of opium are desirable, because such restrictions will prove calamitous to the opium-eating people, and will give place to the use of other alcoholic and harmful drugs. Nor in my opinion the existing arrangements in regard to opium with the Native States in Kathiawar could, with justice, be terminated, even if it were thought desirable to impose any further restrictions, on the production and sale of opium in British India.

22,870. Are there any classes of people in your State who are especially criminal—who commit burglaries or robberies?—No, not any special class.

22,871. What is the commonest crime in your State?—Thefts and robberies.

22,872. What sort of people generally commit robberies?—Generally Kolis.

22,873. Are Kolis opium eaters?—Some of them; not all.

22,874. Do Kolis also drink alcohol?—Most of them.

22,875. At what age do people generally take to eating opium in your State?—At the age of 20.

22,876. Is not that very young to take to eating opium?—They contract the habit by following the examples of others. Their friends press them to do so, and they are tempted.

22,877. Is it not a bad habit to take to at the age of 20?—It is certainly bad.

22,878. Among 100 opium eaters, how many do you think eat it in excess?—Only two or three.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. Lalubhai
Samaldas.
(Bhaunagar
State.)

MR. LALUBHAI SAMALDAS, called in and examined.

22,888. (Chairman.) I believe you are Revenue Commissioner at Bhaunagar?—Yes.

22,889. Your father was Diwan of the State?—Yes, and my brother is so at present.

22,890. What is the size of the Bhaunagar State?—About 2,860 square miles.

22,891. Can you tell us roughly what the gross revenue is?—About 40 lakhs.

22,892. Can you tell us anything about the opium habit in the Bhaunagar State?—In this Bhaunagar State the races that chiefly use opium are Rajputs, Kathis, and Musalmans. Even amongst these races the habit is, as far as I am aware, falling off. The new generation therein is, generally, not addicted to the use of this drug; though it is possible they may take to it in their old age, when, according to their belief, it is useful as a powerful tonic. In all the other races the cases of opium-eating are few, and these are generally due to persons beginning to take it as medicine, and afterwards not being able to give it up, or by long contact the opium-eaters of the other races they contract that habit. Sometimes labourers use it after a day of hard work. It is customary amongst Rajputs, Kathis, &c., and sometimes amongst well-to-do Kanbis to offer kasumbha (mixture of opium with water) to guests.

22,893. What effect has the habit upon the moral and physical condition of the people?—The effect on the moral condition is not so bad as it is alleged. It is not incentive to crime, though it generally leads to indolence. In some cases where petty thefts are attributed to opium-eating, they are not the effects of opium, but are due to the persons feeling very badly the want of money to buy opium, which to them is more important than the bare necessities of life. The physical condition of the people using opium is generally weaker compared to the people not using that drug, though in some cases that drug is said to strengthen the physique, but such cases are few.

22,894. What is the general feeling in regard to the proposal to prohibit the use of opium, except for medical purposes?—This question cannot be answered definitely, for the people of India are not of one mind

22,879. Do many people take to it for pleasure, as a luxury; or do they take to it for their health?—Some of them take it for medicinal purposes, while others take it for the purpose of getting more staying power to enable them to work hard. Some people take it for pleasure.

22,880. Do you find that people who take opium in excess are mostly amongst those who take it for pleasure?—Generally I find such cases amongst the lower classes, as cowherds, shepherds; not among well-to-do classes.

22,881. Is that because they cannot feed themselves properly, that opium does them harm?—Yes, generally that is the reason.

22,882. Have you ever heard how it was that opium came to be prohibited in Kathiawar?—When the Kathiawar Political Agency was first established, Government prohibited the growth and sale of opium.

22,883. How did the British Government get suzerainty over Kathiawar?—The British Government succeeded the Peshwa.

22,883a. After fighting the Peshwa, they succeeded to his dominion the country?—By Treaty rights.

22,884. Have you anything else to say?—Yes, I am instructed by His Highness to state that the views I have expressed are also the views of the Dhrangadra State.

22,885. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) If the British Government ceased to supply you with the quantity of opium agreed upon for the consumption of the State, what would you do?—We should request Government to restore the *status quo*.

22,886. What was that?—The Peshwa's State had a right to grow and sell opium. That right should be restored to the Kathiawar States.

22,887. That means the obligation would be cancelled? Yes, when one part is cancelled, the other part is cancelled, too.

as regards the use of opium for non-medical purposes. The Brahmins, Banias, and such of the Rajputs, Musalmans, as are educated, are against the use of opium, while the majority of uneducated Rajputs, Musalmans and others look upon the use of opium with favour.

22,895. Do you think that the educated people are in favour of prohibition being enforced by law?—I do not say that they are in favour of prohibition, but they, themselves, would not like to take opium. They are indifferent.

22,896. If opium were prohibited it would mean that a law would have to be passed, and that if anybody used opium, he would be punished like a criminal, and put in gaol. That is the case now in Burma—a great many people are put into gaol for using opium. What would be the general public opinion about that?—It would be decidedly against it. I do not think Government can do it—at least, they ought not to do it, even if they can do it. It would not be advisable.

22,897. What would the people of India think, if prohibition were enforced, and if extra taxation had to be imposed to meet the loss of revenue?—I think the people of India would be unwilling to bear, in whole or in part, the cost of prohibitive measures.

22,898. What is your opinion with regard to prohibiting the growth and sale of opium?—I do not think it would be advisable to prohibit the growth and sale of opium in British India. The number of people using opium is so large, and the habit of taking it is so difficult to give up, that total prohibition would lead to much discontent and a great deal of misery. Moreover, it is quite possible that, if the sale of opium were prohibited, those of the people who now use opium would begin taking alcohol, which would be more injurious physically and morally. As the prohibition, in my opinion is not advisable in British India, the question about extending the prohibition to Native States does not require any reply; though I may add that even if the growth and sale of opium be prohibited in British India, such prohibition cannot be extended to Native States.

22,899. You say that such prohibition cannot be extended to Native States; but in your Native State there is prohibition of the growth of poppy?—Yes. It was first prohibited in 1820. Major Barrington issued an order by which it was prohibited. All the Chiefs of Kathiawar submitted a petition to Government in 1887, and I would submit a copy of the memorial to the Commissioners.* The views of the State are expressed at full length. It gives the history of the prohibition of opium in Kathiawar. The Government wanted the States to sign a Treaty by which they would bind themselves to accept all the regulations in force in British territory. We objected to that, and we said: "The effect of our accepting this obligation would be, that any regulation which the British Government make in relation to opium, would at once have force in our territories without any reference whatsoever to their rightful and independent rulers. That would be in absolute breach of all those sacred, those inviolable, and those oft-repeated pledges, as regards the security of our independence and abstention from interference in our internal affairs, which the British Government have solemnly given, and hitherto observed, and which we have no hesitation in declaring bind us more than anything else to the throne of England by the ties of loyal friendship and of common interests. Once break down the

The witness withdrew.

Dr. SHIVNATH RAMNATH, L.M.S., called in and examined.

22,905. (*Chairman.*) Are you a graduate of the Grant Medical College?—Yes.

22,906. I believe you are in charge of Sir Jasvatsinghji's Dispensary at Bhaunagar?—Yes.

22,907. How long have you been in charge?—Fifteen years.

22,908. What have you observed with regard to the opium habit in Bhaunagar?—Opium is largely used by the Kathi and Rajput classes in these districts on all occasions when friends and relations meet, and the preparation and distribution of the kasumbha is most important in every one of their entertainments—religious and social. Of the other classes, some of the so-called opium-eaters are those to whom the drug may have been commenced in the earlier period of their life for medical purposes, some are those who take to the drug to stop the usual general debility of advancing age, and a small number use it as an article for mental relief or enjoyment.

22,909. What, according to your observation, is the effect of the habit upon the moral and physical condition of the people?—There is little particular to note about the moral and physical condition of opium-eaters in general, and such degradation of a few only of the opium-eaters is mis-attributed to the drug. Instances can be quoted of persons taking very large quantities of opium who have enjoyed vigorous health and long life, and with immunity from injuries and diseases which attacked and proved fatal to others. It is in those cases of opium-eaters only who are reduced to poverty that those conditions suffer on account of want of food; because opium, to persons habituated to its use, is an article they are more urgently in need of than the barest necessities of life, and they must provide for, even at the expense of the latter.

22,910. Is it regarded as a bad and disgraceful habit?—Not among the classes who consume it.

22,911. What would the people think of the prohibition of opium?—They would not like it. They complain of, and some are unable to buy opium at, the present price, and will be totally unwilling to bear, in whole or in part, the cost of prohibitive measures.

22,912. You are against any prohibition, I suppose?—Yes.

22,913. Do you yourself, as a medical man, think that it is a good thing for the people of this country to take opium in old age?—Not necessarily.

22,914. But you think it does good to some people?—Yes.

22,915. What kind of people should you recommend to take it in old age?—Very old people who have to earn their bread by physical labour.

22,916. You think it supports that sort of persons?—Yes.

"wholesome check created by these pledges, and there will be occasions more than enough when the British Government will find it desirable to act upon that fatal precedent, which, it is apprehended, will eventually cost us some of our best cherished and highly valued rights and privileges, and seriously impair our integrity, which has been time after time guaranteed by the wisest British Statesmen."

22,900. The States of Kathiawar were sort of tributary States under the Peshwa and Gaekwar?—Yes; we pay our tribute, and we are free to do everything else.

22,901. The Government, therefore, naturally has stronger power of interference than it has with the Independent States?—Yes.

22,902. (*Mr. Pease.*) You are aware that in Lower Burma all opium consumers by registering themselves can purchase the drug?—I had no knowledge of that.

22,903. You are personally opposed to the opium habit?—I myself do not take it.

22,904. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) If the Government were to stop the supply for consumption, would they consider themselves free to grow it?—Government ought to give us power.

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22,917. We have been told by some people that opium is an article of mental relief and enjoyment. Do you think it does harm to people who take it for enjoyment and mental relief like that?—If it is not followed up by plenty of good food it does harm.

22,918. Have you seen many people who have injured themselves seriously by taking too much?—Yes.

22,919. Have they ever come to you in the hospital to ask you to try to cure them of the habit?—Yes, I have had four cases of people coming to me to try and cure them of the habit.

22,920. To what classes of people did they belong?—I do not remember exactly what caste they were. I believe one was a Brahmin.

22,921. Did you cure them?—Yes. We do not give opium to any patients in the hospital. I have had 20 cases of opium eaters admitted into the hospital for different complaints. Four of them came to try and leave off the habit, and they left the hospital non-opium-eaters. None of them got opium while they were in the hospital.

22,922. Why was their opium stopped in all the cases while they were in the hospital; do you find that opium eating interferes with the use of other drugs?—I do not like the habit. If they can leave it off it is another thing.

22,923. How do you compare the opium habit with the alcohol habit?—Alcohol is worse than opium. As far as my experience goes, the alcohol poisoning cases were violent, and the opium poisoning cases were not violent at all. People addicted to alcohol often commit crimes, but opium-eaters rarely commit crime. They injure themselves by taking opium in excess, but they are not likely to commit any crime.

22,924. Do you find that the opium habit produces any particular kind of disease of the tissues, or anything of that sort, or does it merely lower the general health?—It lowers the general health by causing a diminution of all the secretions.

22,925. (*Mr. Pease.*) You have said that some people complain that they are unable to buy opium at the present price; you would not be in favour of its being sold at a lower price?—I would be in favour of it.

22,926. You think it would be a general advantage to the people to be able to buy it—to those who cannot buy it now?—Yes. There are some very poor people who are in the habit of taking opium. They have to beg for the money to buy their opium with.

22,927. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) You say you are in favour of lowering the price as it would be a benefit to those who are already in the habit of taking opium?—Yes.

22,928. But would it not also facilitate the means of obtaining the drug by those who are not addicted to the habit; do you not think it would be an injurious thing

* See Appendix XVI. to this Volume.

Dr. Shivnath
Ramnath.
(Bhaunagar
State.)

7 Feb. 1894.

to extend the use?—Education would be a better means of stopping the habit.

22,929. If deterrent measures are to be taken, the higher the price the greater the deterrent?—If you increase the price to twice the amount a person who buys 1 pice worth of opium would have to pay 2 pice. That is not much for him. If he begs for 1 pice he would beg for 2 pice.

22,930. In your printed statement I see that you say that opium eaters often use it for stimulant as others take a cup of tea?—Yes.

22,931. A person in the habit of taking tea could, perhaps, give it up without much inconvenience or

pain?—I believe the pain in leaving off the habit is a matter of degree in the cases of both tea and opium. As opium eaters are not so well educated they cannot curb their minds so well as tea drinkers would. They feel themselves more wretched without a dose.

22,932. You think the pain would be more sentimental, and not that a man would really have more pain or difficulty in giving up the opium habit than in giving up tea?—He will have a motion or two more, and he can have medicine for it.

22,933. So far it would be more painful?—It is a matter of degree.

Adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow.

At the Holkar College Hall, Indore.

SIXTY-SIXTH DAY.

Thursday, 8th February 1894.

(Section A.)

PRESENT :

MR. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P., IN THE CHAIR.

Sir WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.
Mr. A. U. FANSHAW.

Mr. H. J. WILSON, M.P.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT, C.I.E., *Secretary*.

MIR MUNSHI IMTIAZ ALI called in and examined (through an interpreter).

Mir Munshi
Imtiaz Ali,
Minister.
(Bhopal
State.)

Feb. 8, 1894.

22,934. (*Chairman*.) I believe you are Minister of Bhopal?—Yes.

22,935. I believe you have brought a Yaddasht from Her Highness the Nawab Shah Jehan Begam of Bhopal?—Yes. It is as follows:—

1. If native chiefs exercising full powers be asked to put a stop to opium cultivation, a difficult question will arise; that is to say, as long as the cultivation of opium is not of the nature of a criminal act, neither the cultivators of opium can be justly punished, nor can it be stopped. If the duty be increased, it will neither stop the cultivation nor consumption. Habitual opium-eaters will certainly continue to use the drug no matter how high the price may be at which it is available. Should they give up the use of it, it is feared that they may be attacked by dangerous diseases, such as diarrhoea, catarrh, &c., which may have fatal results.

Under such circumstances the commission of crimes and ruin to the people may be anticipated.

2. The land revenue which is now derived from the cultivation of opium will be lost if it is put a stop to.

3. The Darbar will also lose the income which is derived from the export of opium.

4. The cultivators of opium will suffer immense loss, land will be thrown out of cultivation, and no other crop, of an equal revenue value, can be found to take its place from which advantage could accrue to the State.

5. The local traders who deal in opium are sure to suffer heavily. For a large number of them lay out money in the cultivation of the poppy, and when the opium is ready it is exported to other countries. If the cultivation of this drug is put a stop to, it is greatly feared that general discontent will result among cultivators, labourers, and traders, and it is also apprehended that this step will occasion extensive outbreaks and serious crimes.

6. The cultivation of opium is no innovation—it has existed for thousands of years. It will be a difficult task to explain to the ignorant people why, after all these years, it is now to be put an end to.

7. I estimate roughly that the State of Bhopal and its subjects will suffer a loss of not less than 12 lakhs yearly if the cultivation and export of opium be stopped. My Minister will give the exact details of this loss.

8. If the British Government undertake the responsibility of making good the losses that the native States will suffer by discontinuing poppy cultivation, and at the same time will bear the losses that must also ensue in British India, and, furthermore, withdraw from their trade (in this drug), I am of opinion that no just and lawful taxation will ever make up for the loss that will be sustained. If a new tax were imposed to make good such loss, the people of India would not be able to bear the burden thereof.

9. In my opinion the cultivation of opium should not be stopped. For opium is not so deleterious as has been described; it is far better than alcohol.

Will the British Government consent to stop opium cultivation merely for the sake of some imaginary benefits as represented by a body of *padres*, whose experience in administrative matters cannot be considered reliable?—Never!

10. Besides the losses detailed above, I consider that the prohibition of opium cultivation and trade in Bhopal will be entirely contrary to the terms of treaty engagements between the British Government and the Bhopal State.

The Government of India have by virtue of treaties allowed this State full independent powers, more especially in revenue matters, and Government will never approve, in the face of the terms of the treaties conferring those powers, of interference in a purely revenue matter of such vast moment as the cultivation of and trade in opium; which would occasion, not only to the Bhopal State, but also to cultivators and traders, enormous losses. For, throughout Malwa and Bhopal, a great portion of the revenue is derived from opium cultivation, which is extensively carried on. If the cultivation and trade of opium be stopped or restricted, very large losses will be incurred by the State, culti-

vators, and traders. In these circumstances, a summary prohibition of cultivation would not only be difficult, but seems to be impossible. If prohibited by weight of superior authority, it would result in immense losses to the States concerned, and would be keenly resented by the chiefs.

In my opinion, therefore, it is in no way wise to stop or limit the cultivation of opium. Other Chiefs will, I presume, also hesitate in giving their consent, for as the Bhopal State is estimated to lose yearly 12 lakhs of rupees if the cultivation of opium is to cease, other Darbars will similarly suffer losses which they will not be able to bear.

11. I have already instructed my Minister to submit to you full details in writing, and I hope he will do so.

22,936. Will you now lay before us any statement that you desire to present on your own account with reference to the subject before the Commission?—There are two points worthy of consideration with regard to this:—(1.) A large number of men consume opium in this State. About 75,000 men whose age is over 20 years consume opium. (2.) When once a man commences opium, then it is difficult to leave it off. If its use be stopped, it makes a man ill of dysentery and other diseases. Opium is given to children up to the age of three or four years. By its use children do not cry, and therefore allow the females to carry on their household and other duties without interruption. People must take some stimulant. Ganja and charas are used by low men, bhang would not be enough as a substitute for men who take opium, and therefore they would take alcohol in place of opium. Opium is cheaper than alcohol. The use of country liquor even would cost in a day as much as the use of opium would cost in one month. It is incorrect to say that the dose of opium increases gradually. There is always more tendency to increase the dose of alcohol than opium. The use of alcohol is the cause of many fatal diseases. Drunkards are always turbulent, but opium eaters are not. Opium cultivation is the most advantageous—no other crop can vie with it. Cultivators of opium get a net profit of Rs. 10 per bigha. About 25 per cent. of cultivators cultivate opium. The others do not cultivate poppy simply because they cannot get opium land to cultivate. Opium cultivators are always well off. Sugar-cane takes the whole year, whereas opium takes only four or five months to get to maturity. Sugar-cane requires watering in the hot weather mostly when water becomes scarce. Wheat will not pay even the cost of irrigation. Bhopal State exports 1,580 chests of opium annually. Its trade is not only advantageous to those who export it, but also to those who deal in it in the State. A sum of Rs. 14,60,000 is invested in the trade of opium, which would be idle if opium cultivation be stopped, which gives an annual profit of Rs. 3,50,000 to the traders. This State would lose Rs. 3,33,813 annually if cultivation of opium be stopped. Jagirdars of the State would have to suffer a loss of about three-quarters of their income if the prohibition be carried out; and it is feared that they might adopt the dangerous proceedings of their ancestors. If once adopted, this calamity would spread like wild-fire and ruin the country; it would be difficult to check it. Prohibition of cultivation of opium is therefore dangerous, and should not be attempted. A perusal of the treaty, dated 26th February 1818, between the East India Company on one side and the Bhopal State on the other shows that the British Government has no such right. This State has always been loyal, and has always carried out the conditions of the treaty strictly. Bhopal chiefs have always been assured that the Government would not interfere in internal affairs of the State. Therefore it is hoped that the Government would not introduce a change that would cause serious loss to the State, traders, and cultivators, and ruin the country. Interference in such matters is opposed to the policy of the British Government. The trouble and inconvenience that this prohibition would cause to opium eaters have been described above. To overcome this they would try to get opium at any price. Opium would be smuggled and the opium cultivation would be carried on stealthily. If it be proved beyond doubt that opium is injurious mentally or physically or cuts short life, prohibition of its cultivation would be incumbent on each State. But when we see that it is not so, and that the opium eaters of Malwa are as healthy and strong as non-eaters of the N. W. P., and also when we look to the pecuniary losses that would be caused to the State, cultivators, and traders, as well as the dangerous results it is likely to produce in the

country, and will only be supplanted by alcohol, which is costly and injurious, I am sure no one would have the least hesitation in saying that the opium cultivation should not be stopped.

22,937. Can you tell me the number of bighas under poppy cultivation in the State of Bhopal?—25,724 bighas in the average of three years.

22,938. I understand that that represents about one-fourth of the irrigated area of Bhopal?—Less than a fourth.

22,939. What is the State revenue rate on the irrigated land in Bhopal?—The average rate is about Rs. 11 or Rs. 12 per bigha.

22,940. Is it the same rate upon all irrigated land whether it grows poppy or other crops?—The assessment is taken on the irrigated area at the rate I mention; but when the State is resettled at the end of 10 years, if it is found that any land has been thrown out of cultivation, it will be necessary to reduce the rate.

22,941. Therefore, if the cultivation of poppy were prohibited the rates should be reduced generally, and it is to that that you attribute a loss of revenue to the State?—Yes.

22,942. You say that the Bhopal State exports 1,580 chests of opium annually; what export duty does the Bhopal State charge per chest?—Rs. 12 per chest.

22,943. What is the retail price of opium as sold in the bazaar to the consumers?—The price varies; the average is about Rs. 6 per seer.

22,944. Do I understand that there are no excise regulations or license fees charged in Bhopal State?—There are no licenses at all.

22,945. Could you give any detail of the way in which the sum of 3½ lakhs to the traders is made up in your statement?—I estimate the capital employed in the State in the opium business at Rs. 14,16,000, and on that capital I estimate a return of 24 per cent., which accrues to the merchants in two ways; in their dealings with the cultivators, the advances made to them and the interest on those advances, and the subsequent profits made in commerce.

22,946. Do you reckon that that capital could be employed in any other way, and if so at what rate of interest if poppy cultivation were prohibited?—A portion of this capital might be employed in other modes of commerce, but not the whole of it. Because the other profitable commerce has already had its own capital devoted to it.

22,947. The estimate of 3½ lakhs is just 24 per cent. on the capital invested; you have taken it as a loss on the whole capital?—Of course if any portion of the 14 lakhs were to be employed in other channels of commerce it would be necessary to reduce the item of 3½ lakhs; but at present it is impossible to say to what extent it could be reduced.

22,948. Are there any treaties between Her Highness's Government and the British Government relating to fiscal matters, except the treaty of 1818 to which you have referred?—There is no other formal treaty between the British Government and the Bhopal State relating to the special point to which I allude with regard to the interference of the British Government. My remarks and my opinion are based, not only on that treaty, but on the general procedure and relations existing between the British Government and the Bhopal State, which have been continually proceeding since the date of that treaty.

22,949. There is no special treaty of any kind with regard to opium?—None.

22,949a. (Mr. Wilson.) With regard to the question of interest on capital invested in the trade, what difficulty would there be in investing it, if not in trade, at all events in other ways, such as railways and public stocks?—As to railways the native merchants of this country, the Bhopal State in particular, are not accustomed to invest their money in railways. They do not understand that kind of business, and if they were to purchase promissory notes the utmost interest they would get would be 4 per cent.

22,950. Does the objection to railways extend also to a variety of other investments, such as we are accustomed to in England—shares in companies, Government securities, and so on?—In my experience I have not known of these Hindustani merchants investing in shares.

22,951. You have stated in your evidence that people must take some stimulant, is it not the fact that a

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great number of persons in India are precluded by their religious obligations from taking stimulants?—When I say that people must take some stimulant I mean those who are accustomed to it.

22,952. Those who have contracted the habit?—Yes.

22,953. May I take it that you consider that opium eating is very common in Malwa and not common in the North-western Provinces?—Yes, certainly.

22,954. It is so common in Malwa that you are obliged to go outside Malwa to get a standard of comparison?—Practically, so far as my observation goes consumers and non-consumers are equally healthy in Malwa. Therefore it would be difficult to institute a comparison between men who do not consume opium in Malwa and men who do not consume opium in the North-western Provinces. I should like to produce two men, one an opium eater and one not, and I should like you to say which is the opium eater.

22,955. (Mr. Fanshawe.) I understand that there is a regular land revenue settlement in force in Bhopal for ten years?—The new settlement is for ten years, part of the old settlement is for 20 years, and it has not yet expired.

22,956. There is a fixed settlement in force throughout the State?—Yes.

22,957. Under this settlement are the revenue rates on irrigated and unirrigated lands cash rates?—Universally cash.

The witness withdrew.

Ram Krishna
Mahapat.
(Dhar State.)

RAM KRISHNA MAHIPAT called in and examined (through an interpreter).

22,965. (Chairman.) I believe you are Kamasdar of Dhar?—Yes.

22,966. What is a Kamasdar?—Administrator of a district comprising town and country round the headquarters of the city of Dhar.

22,967. You have been for many years connected with the revenue administration of the State of Dhar?—20 years.

22,968. Is Dhar one of the Malwa States of Central India?—A portion of Dhar is in Malwa and a portion is in Nimar.

22,969. You have some information to lay before us with regard to the cultivation and production of opium in your State?—I am well acquainted with the mode of cultivation and production of opium, and can describe it in detail if required to do so. Opium cultivation is distinctly popular in this State. The production varies according to prices. With low prices the least productive land is thrown out of cultivation, but on good land no other crop can advantageously replace opium. It is a troublesome crop, and if the cultivator could find a crop that would pay approximately as well as opium, he would undoubtedly prefer it; but no such crop exists. Even if export should cease, opium would always be cultivated for local consumption, which is quite sufficient to keep up the price to the level which would make good opium land pay. The agriculturists here rarely grow opium on all their land, but only on the best part, and they appreciate the crop particularly as one that brings a certain return of ready money. Any interference with cultivation would cause serious loss and widespread and dangerous discontent. The number of consumers, occasional or habitual, is very large; but I am unable to give accurate figures. Probably about 30 per cent. of the population take opium daily, and many more take it occasionally. Abuse is exceedingly

The witness withdrew.

Wasudeo
Trimbak
Kapsy.
(Dhar State.)

WASUDEO TRIMBAK KAPSY called in and examined.

22,974. (Chairman.) I believe you are Principal of the Dhar Collego?—Yes; it is called the college, but it is a school.

22,975. Is that under the State management of Dhar?—Yes.

22,976. You have lived in Dhar 11 years and have been in the service of the State?—Yes.

22,977. You have at the request of the Dewan tried to obtain as much information as possible regarding

22,958. Both on irrigated and unirrigated lands?—It is cash on all descriptions of lands.

22,959. In estimating the loss to the State if poppy cultivation should be prohibited, what is the crop which has been taken as the crop that would have to be substituted for poppy?—Principally wheat would be substituted, and to a certain extent grain, and one or two other crops like linseed.

22,960. What is the cash rate which you have taken in estimating the loss?—I have deducted Rs. 10 and left Rs. 2 the rate per bigha.

22,961. The rate for those crops is Rs. 2 per bigha, and you have taken the difference between Rs. 2 and Rs. 12 in calculating the loss?—Yes.

22,962. I understand that there is a Mahomedan population of nearly a lakh in the Bhopal State?—Approximately.

22,963. Is it the case that there is an habitual use of opium among that section of the population?—Approximately about a fourth of the Mahomedan population are habitual consumers.

22,964. In this matter would you draw any distinction between the Mahomedan population and the rest of the population, or do you think that the consumption is pretty much the same throughout?—The per-centage is about the same. It does not include children. The children up to four years of age, whether Hindu or Mahomedan, get opium, but they are not included in this estimate.

It is but rarely smoked, but most commonly taken as kasumbha. Children generally get opium during the first two or three years of their lives, and this preserves them from fever, diarrhoea, and other ailments. The habit is resumed later on in life; and from long and extensive experience I can say that it never is productive of evil, but generally improves the health of the consumer. Malarial fever is at certain times exceedingly common here, and the villagers would suffer much more than they do if they had not got opium. All classes of the community consider occasional opium consumption as an innocent pleasure, and would consider restrictions as tyrannical and unjustifiable. No Native Government has ever tried to interfere with the domestic habits of the people to that extent. I can, if desired, give details regarding production and consumption, and an estimate of the loss that would be caused by total prohibition, but the extent of discontent that would be caused by any attempt to interfere with the earnings and daily habits of the people cannot be measured by mere considerations of the loss in money.

22,970. Is there any difference in the cultivation or consumption of opium between the part of Dhar which is in Malwa and the part which is not?—There is more in Malwa.

22,971. Can you tell us what proportion of cultivators in the Malwa districts of Dhar cultivate opium?—I have no figures available to enable me to answer the question.

22,972. Is it a large amount?—I believe $\frac{1}{10}$ th of the cultivators in the Malwa portion cultivate opium.

22,973. (Mr. Wilson.) You state that about 30 per cent. of the population take opium daily; do you include the entire population, or do you refer to adult males?—Children are included in the calculation.

the cultivation of opium in the State. I understand you are personally acquainted with many opium traders, cultivators, and consumers?—Yes.

22,978. Can you give me any facts with regard to the amount of opium cultivation in the Dhar State; do you draw any distinction between the portion of Dhar State which is in Malwa and the portion which is not in Malwa?—Yes; the only distinction that can be made is that in Nimar much opium is not grown but it is in Malwa.

22,979. You have given us certain figures, are they figures for the whole State?—Yes.

22,980. I suppose they principally concern the Malwa part of the State?—They include the other part, but there is not much opium there.

22,981. I see that you give the number of acres on which opium is cultivated at 9,162?—Yes.

22,982. You mean acres?—Yes, if turned into bighas it would be nearly 21,000.

22,983. Then you calculate that it produces 2,625 maunds of opium, and the approximate value is Rs. 5,25,000?—Yes.

22,984. You calculate that about 12,000 families, agriculturists, or 60,000 persons, nearly one-third of the population of the State, are interested in the production and sale of opium?—Yes.

22,985. With regard to the State interest in opium, can you tell me what is the State rate upon poppy lands?—It varies.

22,986. Is there any difference between poppy land and other irrigated lands or is there the same rate?—The opium land is taxed from Rs. 4 up to Rs. 15. The average rate would perhaps be Rs. 9½. There are four classes of opium lands.

22,987. For other irrigated lands which grow other crops than opium, what is the rate?—Other land of a poor sort is taxed Rs. 3 or 4.

22,988. Have you made any calculation of what the loss to the State would be in land revenue, supposing the cultivation of poppy were prohibited and other crops grown?—It would come to Rs. 1,43,000 loss to the State in revenue, to which may be added the income derived from customs.

22,989. That, I understand, is the loss which you estimate—the difference between the land revenue which can be obtained by the State upon poppy, and the revenue which would be obtained on other rates if other crops were substituted?—Yes.

22,990. What in your opinion would be the most probable crop substituted for opium if the growth of the poppy were prohibited?—No other crop would be substituted as profitable as opium. Others may be substituted, but they will not yield so much profit.

22,991. Can you give any idea of what would be most probably substituted?—Generally wheat. To some extent it is done even now. In some portions wheat is grown.

22,992. With regard to the loss to the State, you say further that there would be a loss of customs duties?—Yes.

22,993. Is there an export duty on opium in the State?—Yes; crude opium is not exported. Manufactured opium is sent, and the export State duty on one chest of opium is Rs. 10.

22,994. What number of chests annually are exported from Dhar?—Last year the number of chests was 725½.

22,995. Then that would come to Rs. 7250?—Yes.

22,996. Are there any other profits derived by the State from the opium cultivation?—The total income derived from customs on crude opium within the jurisdiction of the State is Rs. 14,699.

22,997. Does that include the Rs. 7250?—Yes.

22,998. Is there any other item of loss to the State?—There are other losses.

22,999. You estimate the losses to the State at Rs. 1,58,663?—Yes.

23,000. I understand that opium production in the last few years has shown a tendency to fall off?—The opium production has diminished to some extent during the last few years on account of low prices. When prices are high it pays to sow poppy even in poor land. When prices are low only the better class of land is cultivated in this way. With low prices, wheat, &c., pay better than opium on poor land, but no crop can replace opium on good land.

23,001. Besides the loss to the State there are about 12,000 agriculturist families, or 60,000 persons, interested in the production and sale of opium. Have you any figures as to the loss you estimate would result to the cultivators?—The loss to the cultivators is Rs. 83,958.

23,002. How do you arrive at that?—They lose Rs. 3 per bigha.

23,003. Is that the difference in profit which you calculate between growing opium and growing wheat, for instance?—Yes, a loss of Rs. 7 per bigha.

23,004. That is the total of Rs. 83,958?—Yes.

23,005. With regard to the traders in opium, what are your figures with regard to the losses which might be estimated to them?—The loss to the traders is divided into two heads. The export traders lose Rs. 36,275, the local traders lose Rs. 3,828. Altogether the loss would be Rs. 40,103.

23,006. Is that the total loss which you estimate to the traders of Dhar?—Yes.

23,007. Is there any other item of loss that you wish to bring before the Commission?—The loss to the village blacksmiths, coppersmiths, and so on, those who have to do with the cultivators, Rs. 28,452.

23,008. Making altogether Rs. 68,555?—Yes. The total loss under the four heads would be Rs. 311,176.

23,009. What do you think would be the effect on the feeling of the people if prohibition as proposed were carried out?—This loss, coupled with the imposition of new taxes, would certainly cause deep, widespread, and dangerous discontent. The same discontent would be felt by all consumers to whom opium is either a necessity or one of the innocent pleasures of life. Any measures tending to restrict consumption would lead to increased mortality and illness, and whatever the actual increase might be, a very large proportion of ordinary mortality and disease would be by consumers be attributed to prohibitive measures.

23,010. Turning to the consumption of opium in the Dhar State, have you any estimate of the number of the occasional or habitual consumers in the State?—A rough estimate might be given—about 30 per cent. including infants. The habitual adult eaters would not be more than 10 or 11 per cent.

23,011. Is the proportion of consumers in the Malwa district larger than the proportion in the Nimar district?—Yes, there are Thakurates in the Malwa district.

23,012. The proportion there is higher than in the other parts?—Yes.

23,013. At a rough estimate you put it at 30 per cent. all through?—Yes, taking all the population.

23,014. Is there any opium smoking?—No, it is nearly unknown.

23,015. In what form is opium consumed in Dhar?—It is drunk as kasumbha and eaten in a solid form.

23,016. What is the ordinary dose?—It varies from fractions of a grain to four or five grains.

23,017. Is there any tendency to increase the dose?—There is no tendency.

23,018. What is your general opinion with regard to the use of opium?—It is considered beneficial, and as a means of pleasure exactly as a European would take wine. Abuse is exceedingly rare, and the consequences of taking opium as taken here do not in any way appear to be injurious. Opium consumption is not known ever to have caused crime, while alcohol drinking frequently has this effect. Among the Bhils, who take less opium and more alcohol than other classes, murders and other crimes are more common, and in many cases distinctly attributable to alcohol. Opium consumption in moderation is not deprecated by anybody, and occasional or habitual moderate consumers are not held in low esteem on that account. Nor are they in any way incapacitated for any kind of work. My distinct opinion, after long acquaintance with opium eaters, is that opium does no harm whatever. A stimulant is frequently required, or, if not absolutely required, at least desired, and if the people could not get opium, a large proportion would take to the far more pernicious alcohol, or possibly to ganja and similar things.

23,019. (Mr. Wilson.) Is your college a large one?—No; it does not teach boys for the higher examination; it teaches up to matriculation.

23,020. You have told us two or three times that opium does not do harm?—Yes.

23,021. Do you approve of your students taking it in their present state?—They might have taken it when younger.

23,022. You have no objection?—They do not take it now.

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23,023. Have you any objection to their taking it?—If it is taken for ordinary purpose I have no objection.

23,024. If they take it habitually when they are not ill do you approve of it?—I do not think they would take it when they are not ill.

23,025. If you would rather not answer my question you need not do so. The question is do you approve of young men who are not ill taking opium habitually?—I do not approve of it.

23,026. Why not?—Because it will not do good unless there is a necessity for taking it. If they took it without necessity I would not approve of it.

23,027. You have told us that production has diminished during the last few years on account of the low prices?—Yes.

23,028. Are you expecting those prices to improve?—Perhaps they may, there is a tendency sometimes to rise in price.

23,029. Suppose the Chinese demand should diminish, what would become of your State?—If there were no demand for the article the farmers would try to grow something which would pay them. If there is no demand for an article it is no use growing it.

23,030. You do not think that the State would be ruined in that case?—Of course it would be ruined. There is no other thing to substitute.

23,031. Do I correctly understand you to say that you think the ordinary dose is not more than four or five grains?—Yes, the ordinary dose. Those who take it simply in order that they may be able to work the better for it, generally take it in small quantities.

23,032. We had a witness yesterday who told us that in his State the ordinary dose was about three mashas; that is not in your experience?—Those who are adults and have taken it for a long time may perhaps take so

much; it will not do harm to those who are inured to it.

23,033. Am I to understand that there is a very marked difference between your State, where the ordinary dose is up to four or five grains, and the State represented by a gentleman yesterday who said that the ordinary dose was about three mashas?—Certainly, three mashas represent a larger quantity than three or four grains. That is true, but as far as my knowledge goes I think they take it only in very small quantities.

23,034. (Mr. Fanshawe.) In speaking of an ordinary dose do you mean the amount taken at one time or during the day?—Only once.

23,035. Only once?—They take it two or three times; what I have mentioned is one dose; they generally take it twice, once in the morning, once in the evening. By a dose I mean a quantity taken at one time.

23,036. You would draw a distinction between the Rajputs in your state and the rest of the people?—Yes. They take more.

23,037. Have you a fairly large Bhil population?—We have.

23,038. Is the habit of taking opium common amongst them?—Not so much. They do not take opium so much, only a few take it.

23,039. In speaking of opium being grown on poor land when prices are high, are you referring to irrigated land?—Yes, but not so fertile.

23,040. Irrigated land of an inferior sort?—Yes.

23,041. Have you a fixed land revenue settlement with cash rates in Dhar?—Yes.

23,042. Can you tell me within what limits your irrigated land rates vary?—From Rs. 3 to Rs. 15.

The witness withdrew.

RAO BAHADUR VISHNU KESHAVA KUNTE, B.A., called in and examined.

23,043. (Chairman.) I understand that you are Superintendent of the Dewas State, Senior Branch?—Yes.

23,044. You have lived in Malwa from your birth, and your official experience dates from 1853?—Yes.

23,045. During the last 20 years you have come in contact with thousands of opium-eaters, and during seven or eight years you have held charge of the Dewas State, Senior Branch, and have had opportunities of knowing much about opium-eaters and drinkers?—Yes.

23,046. What opinion have you formed with regard to the result of the habit?—I can say without hesitation that its moderate use, so far from undermining the physique, tends in many instances to improve it. Many an old man sustains his strength and is able to do his work well with the help of opium. Opium is kept in almost every house for purposes of medicine. Women of the house use it even without the intervention of a doctor, vaid or hakim, and with good effects. The majority of Hindu women, and many Mahomedans too, give it to their infant children up to three years to great advantage.

23,047. What is your experience with regard to opium and crime?—From my experience and intimate intercourse with opium consumers I can say without hesitation that the habitual moderate use of opium does not lead men to commit crime.

23,048. Is opium considered degrading amongst the persons you have mixed with?—The use of opium is not considered degrading by respectable people in India. Among Rajputs, who are not inferior to any other class of the Hindu society in respectability, the use of opium is specially prized. Among other castes its use, though not general, is not considered degrading.

23,049. I understand that you have come to give us the facts with regard to the production of opium in the Dewas State, Senior Branch, the revenue derived from opium, and the loss sustained by the State in the case of the prohibition of opium cultivation?—The area under opium cultivation, in the Dewas State, Senior Branch, is 9,053 bighas and 8½ biswas, each bigha measuring 165 feet square. The quantity of opium produced in one year is 1,334 maunds and 19½ seers. Out of this, 116 maunds and 9½ seers are locally con-

sumed, and 1,218 maunds and 10 seers are exported. Within the past ten years the area under opium cultivation has permanently fallen by about 10 per cent. owing to a great fall in the price of opium. Independently of this fall the area under opium cultivation varies from year to year to the extent of 4 or 5 per cent., owing to various causes. No other crop can so profitably be cultivated in the place of opium. The number of opium cultivators is about 5,000, and the members of their families, who help them in cultivation, is about 20,000, at an average of four for each. The total number engaged in opium cultivation thus comes to 25,000, or nearly one-third of the entire population of the State, which is 77,000 in round numbers. The average production of poppy milk per bigha in the various classes of land is as follows:—

1st class land	-	-	-	7½ seers.
2nd ditto	-	-	-	5½ "
3rd ditto	-	-	-	3½ "
General average	-	-	-	5½ "

The land revenue is assessed for a term of years, and not at each harvest. The land is roughly classified and then assessed. The average rates per bigha for the various classes of land are as follows:—

1st class land	-	-	-	13½ rupees.
2nd ditto	-	-	-	10½ "
3rd ditto	-	-	-	7½ "
General average	-	-	-	10½ "

The cultivation of opium is not extending. It may be said to be contracting slowly. The Darbar officials do not seek to extend it. The cultivation of opium is popular among the people, as compared with other crops, owing to the fact that no other irrigated crop yields a return equal to that derived from opium. Inclusive of the rent payable to the State as land revenue, the expenses of cultivating opium, and of the crop which precedes it in the rainy season, come to about Rs. 36-6-2 per bigha. The receipts derived by the sale of opium and of the crop which precedes it come to about Rs. 40-2-0 per bigha. The profit to the cultivator in cash thus amounts to Rs. 40-2-0 less, Rs. 36-6-2 expenses and amounts to Rs. 3-11-10 per bigha. But this is not all the profit that he derives. For three months of the year he himself and the members of his family labour in the cultivation of opium, and derive their subsistence therefrom. These are the months during which no other crop can engage that

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labour, and but for the opium cultivation, the maintenance of the cultivator and his family would cost a great deal. Most of the opium land is *dofasli*. The crops which ordinarily precede opium are maize, paddy, black gram, chilli, &c. Maize, the Indian corn, which is the staple food of the cultivator, suffices for his wants and those of his family for three or four months. The dried stalks of the Indian corn serve as fodder for his cattle, until grass is cut and the jawari stalks also become available. The other crops are not generally used by him as food. They are sold in order to meet a portion of the Sarkar demand. The poppy seed is separately disposed of by the cultivator. The price per mani of 240 seers is from Rs. 20 to Rs. 25. The average produce of poppy seed per bigha is $3\frac{1}{2}$ maunds of 20 seers each. The poppy seed which is not used locally is exported to Indore, Ujjain, &c. The quantity thus exported approximately comes to 5,000 maunds of 40 Government seers each. There is much local trade in poppy khali and poppy oil. Poppy heads and dust are not separately sold, and they fetch no price. Except in the city of Dewas, no arrangements exist for vend of opium by retail sale. At the Dewas city the right of selling retail opium is farmed. The retail price of opium is half a tola per anna, or Rs. 10 per seer. The amount of land revenue derived from the cultivation of opium is Rs. 1,03,630-8-3. The tax levied on opium chik is one rupee per dhari in two of the parganas and a little more in the third. It produces annually Rs. 11,122-1-0. Another tax on the export of crude opium is levied at one rupee per bag of 24 dharis in two of the parganas and a little more in the third. It annually yields Rs. 515-4-6. Another tax called "Talai" is levied on chik at 4 annas per dhari. The proceeds of this tax amount to Rs. 2,668-15-0. The revenue derived from the retail sale of opium in the city of Dewas amounts to Rs. 375. Thus the land revenue and taxes derived from opium come to Rs. 1,18,311-12-9. The opium trade is not yet a losing one. It, however, threatens to become a losing one. The exporters of opium from the manufacturing towns now find it difficult to dispose of the stock they have in hand. Merchants who take crude opium to the manufacturing towns have hitherto been able to sell it there at some profit. If the production of opium were to cease, or be stopped, the loss would fall on (1) the State, (2) the cultivator, (3) the trader, (4) the village artisans, such as the carpenter, the blacksmith, the chamar, &c., and (5) the labouring population. (1.) The State, including the Jagirdars, Istamrardars and Thakurs, will not be able to collect the full assessment now levied on opium land, and the share of its loss will be represented by the revenue now derived from opium *minus* that which can be levied on crops substituted for opium. This will amount to Rs. 76,403-4-3. Supposing that it will be possible to levy Rs. 5 per bigha as assessment on the land now under opium cultivation, the land revenue realised will amount to bighas 9,053 biswas $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5 =$ Rs. 45,267-1-0. Deducting this amount from Rs. 1,03,630-8-3, which represent the land revenue now derived from opium, the net loss of land revenue will amount to Rs. 58,363-7-3. Add to this amount Rs. 3,358-9-0, which will be lost on account of cesses appertaining to that portion of land revenue which will be lost, and also Rs. 14,681-4-6, which are collected as taxes on opium. Thus the total loss to the State will come to Rs. 58,363-7-3 + Rs. 3,358-9-0 and Rs. 14,681-4-6 = Rs. 76,403-4-9. (2.) The cultivators will lose the profit which they now realise in cash from the cultivation of opium. Their loss will amount to Rs. 33,855-13-0 at Rs. 3-11-10 per bigha. This is exclusive of the money which will be required for the subsistence of themselves and their families during three months of the year. This will be about Rs. 30 for each cultivator, or Rs. 1,50,000 for 5,000 opium cultivators. (3.) The traders' loss will be the loss of profits which they now realise from opium. This will amount to Rs. 16,013 at Rs. 1-8-0 per dhari. (4.) The village artisans will lose the remuneration they now get from the cultivators. (5.) The labouring population will lose the work which they now get in connexion with opium. Opium cultivation engages them from December to April. No other crop will require labourers during these months.

23,050. Do you wish to make any remark with regard to any particular figure that you have given us in your statement?—With regard to the estimate of Rs. 5 per bigha, on reconsideration, I think that figure is an over-estimate.

23,051. You think it would not be possible to get so much as Rs. 5 assessment on the substituted crop?—Yes.

23,052. Therefore, in your present opinion, the claim on behalf of land revenue would be somewhat larger than the figure you have stated?—Yes.

23,053. Have you any opinion as to the right of the British Government to interfere with the Native States in such a matter as the cultivation of crops?—The Native States have a right to allow to be grown in their land any crop, and the British Government would not, I humbly think, be justified in preventing them from allowing opium to be grown in it. So long as China demands opium the Native States will justly claim the right of exporting direct to China opium grown in their territory, even if the British Government abolish the existing scales at which opium is weighed, previous to being exported.

23,054. Do you consider the prohibition of opium cultivation likely to produce serious discontent among the people?—Yes, I humbly do think so.

23,055. What proportion of the people do you consider consume opium?—About 11 per cent.

23,056. Is that 11 per cent. of the whole population or of adult males?—It is inclusive of children—2 per cent. of children and 9 per cent. of adults.

23,057. Is there much smoking in your State?—No. Cultivators do not smoke, only some worshippers of temples who have nothing to do, who are idlers.

23,058. Are there any *chandru* shops in the State?—None.

23,059. There are no shops licensed for the sale of Chandu in the State, and no shops where *chandru* is sold?—

23,061. Do you inflict penalties on persons for smoking?—A little fine, nothing more.

23,062. Have you any general remarks to make with reference to the consumption of opium in your State?—All agriculturists and others, who follow trade involving exposure, do not *ordinarily* eat opium. But those who do, eat it moderately, take it equal to the size of the green gram or jawari. Gradually, the dose can be increased further a little without harm. In the case of such people, the abuse of opium is generally not known. The use of opium is often due to old age, infirmity of some sort, or liability to great exertions. In old age a moderate opium eater is able to keep up his strength and follow his usual avocations. In the case of infirm persons the same result follows. In the case of persons liable to great exertions opium enables them to grow through their work without fatigue. Opium is generally given to infants up to three years of age. The dose varies from $\frac{1}{16}$ th of a grain to a grain. It produces no deleterious effects. The use of opium is not ordinarily confined to any particular caste or castes. Men take it more freely than women.

23,063. (Sir William Roberts.) You say that all agriculturists and others who follow trades involving exposure do not ordinarily eat opium, but those who do eat it moderately take it equal to the size of green gram or jawari; how much is that?—About half a grain; that is the lowest dose; they take it thrice a day; it is the dose of beginners.

23,064. Children?—No, those who begin to take opium.

23,065. What do they get to generally?—To about 30 grains.

23,066. Is that twice a day or once?—Thirty grains for the whole day.

23,067. Fifteen grains twice a day?—Yes.

23,068. That is the common dose?—A common moderate dose.

23,069. You have seen, I daresay, bad effects from taking opium too freely?—Yes.

23,070. What effects have you seen in those cases where opium was used in excess?—They cannot get through their business well; they are lazy and indolent.

23,071. Can you give us any idea as to the proportion of opium users who take it in injurious excess in that way?—I think not even 1 per cent. or a $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

23,072. Do they shorten their lives when they take it to excess?—I cannot say that.

23,073. I suppose it shortens their useful lives?—It does.

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- 23,074. (Mr. Wilson.) You are Superintendent of the Senior Branch?—Yes.
- 23,075. What is the Senior Branch?—It is the big branch. There are two branches having one common ancestor. The State was divided between two sons.
- 23,076. Will you tell me what are the institutions for improving the administration of the State which would be abolished?—The civil and criminal courts and the schools.
- 23,077. Anything else?—The police and the dispensaries.
- 23,078. You have said that within the past 10 years the area under cultivation has fallen?—Yes.
- 23,079. And that it is not extending?—Yes.
- 23,080. And that the Durbar officials do not seek to extend it?—Yes.
- 23,081. Why do they not seek to extend what is so very profitable?—Because nowadays profits are so very uncertain. Prices fall and rise without our calculation. We cannot calculate upon a certain rise.
- 23,082. Do you think that all this compensation ought to be paid for a source of revenue that is extremely uncertain?—Yes, compensation should be paid.
- 23,083. For an uncertain revenue?—The amount of profit is uncertain. It is certain there will be profits, but the amount is uncertain. There will be no loss as matters stand at present.
- 23,084. You have said that after people begin to take it, the size of a green gram, the dose can be increased a little further without harm?—Yes.
- 23,085. Is it a good thing to increase it?—I have seen and talked with opium eaters and have carefully studied 2,000 cases, and I can say from my conversation and my intercourse with them that it has done no harm to increase the dose to 30 grains.
- 23,086. My question was, is it, in your opinion, a good thing to increase the dose?—I think if it does no harm to those who increase it, it does good.
- 23,087. But it must be done gradually?—Very gradually.
- 23,088. If it were done more quickly it would do them harm?—I think so.
- 23,089. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You say that the land revenue is assessed for a term of years?—Yes.
- 23,090. Are cash rates payable in all cases under this revenue assessment?—Yes.
- 23,091. During the term of this assessment the revenue, from poppy cultivation, of course, is fixed?—Yes.
- 23,092. So that you would not at present be liable to any loss unless the State made a revision of revenue—any loss from the stoppage of cultivation during the period of land revenue settlement?—The State will be liable, I think.
- 23,093. It would probably think it necessary to make a remission, but the revenue is fixed for the term of the settlement?—Yes; but remissions will have to be made.
- 23,094. Is it the case that two crops are grown, as a rule, on land on which poppy is grown?—Yes.
- 23,095. If poppy cultivation had to be stopped, what crop do you think in your State would have to take its place?—Wheat, barley, and peas.
- 23,096. What is the fixed cash assessment or revenue rates on those crops generally?—Only about two rupees. It varies from Rs. 1½ to Rs. 2.
- 23,097. The only export duty which you levy is an export duty on crude opium and not on manufactured opium?—Yes, because Dewas is not a manufacturing town.

The witness withdrew.

MR. KRISHNA RAO MULE called in and examined.

- Mr.
Krishna Rao
Mule
(Dewas State,
Junior
Branch.)
- 23,098. (Chairman.) You are Karbhari of the Junior Branch of the Dewas State?—Yes.
- 23,099. Is the area for which you are minister, the same as that for which the last witness is minister?—He belongs to the Senior Branch and I belong to the Junior Branch.
- 23,100. The areas of the two branches are distinct—the areas from which they derive revenue?—Yes.
- 23,101. You were appointed to your post on the 24th March 1893. Will you tell us what previous appointments you held?—Before joining my present appointment I served the Indore State for 14 years, beginning in 1879, as Private Secretary to His Highness the present Maharaja Holkar, who was then heir-apparent, and ending as His Highness's Vakil at the Central India Agency in October 1893, when I retired from the service of that State.
- 23,102. What opportunities have you had of forming an opinion on the cultivation and consumption of opium?—I was born and bred at Indore, which is a large opium-cultivating and opium-trading place. I have lived in this part of the country all my life, and have had many opportunities of seeing and talking to various opium cultivators, traders, and people who use opium in some shape or other.
- 23,103. I believe you are here to give us details regarding opium production, export, revenue, and consumption in the Dewas State, Junior Branch, including the Thakurs under it?—Yes, I will begin with a few details regarding opium production, export, revenue, and consumption in the Dewas State, Junior Branch, including the Thakurs under it. The area under opium cultivation in bighas of 145 square feet each is 11,683½. The yearly produce of opium in maunds of 40 Government seers is 1,343½. The yearly local consumption is 113½ maunds. The amount annually exported is 1,223½ maunds. This place does not trade with China direct. The aforesaid amount of opium is, therefore, exported to the neighbouring States of Indore, Jaora, Rutlam, and Ujjain, where there are scales at which opium is weighed. The quantity of opium in the hands of traders is at present seven maunds. The annual land revenue derived from opium cultivation is Rs. 1,38,209-13-3. Duty on raw opium is Rs. 10,492-1-6 per year. The local export duty taken by the State is Rs. 480-12-9 per year. Another duty called Tulai, which is the same as Wazan Kashi, is Rs. 2,946-7-3 per year. Amount realised from retail sale is Rs. 410-12-0. The population of the State is 65,723, out of which 12,074, or 18·37 per cent., are estimated as engaged in the production of opium, and the per-centage of opium consumers to the total population is 10·2. The average rate levied by the State per bigha of opium land is Rs. 11-13-3. If the cultivation of opium were to cease or was stopped, the loss would fall on the Darbar, the cultivators and the traders. I make out the loss of each to be as follows:—
- | | Rs. | a. | p. |
|--------------------------|----------|----|----|
| The loss to the Darbar - | 1,06,469 | 14 | 5 |
| " " " cultivators - | 29,208 | 10 | 0 |
| " " " traders - | 17,221 | 12 | 0 |
| Total loss - | 1,52,900 | 4 | 5 |
- 23,104. Have you any general remarks that you wish to make in connexion with the proposed prohibition of the cultivation and consumption of opium except for medical purposes?—If the production and use of opium for non-medical purposes are prohibited throughout British India, such prohibition could not be extended to the Native States. The reason of this is that although Native States are in subordinate alliance with the Paramount Power, still I submit that they have their independence practically secured to them in matters of internal administration, such as the raising of revenue by means of taxes that may suit their peculiar circumstances. I am humbly of opinion that the British Government, even if they stopped opium cultivation in British India, would not be justified in asking Native States to do the same in their territories. The measure is fraught with very great difficulties. It is exceedingly difficult to determine what production and use of opium would be for strictly medical purposes and what would not be so. It is difficult to estimate the number of professional men that would have to be engaged with a view to determine this. In addition to these professional men, a considerable establishment will

have also to be entertained with a view to see that the prohibition is really enforced. The cost of both would be something fearful. And the question arises—who should bear the cost? It would not be proper to ask the Native States to bear it. I humbly think that it should form a part of the compensation that would have to be paid to them if they were called upon to stop opium cultivation. The question of compensation is again not very easy of solution. Compensation should, I submit, be given at present as well as potential loss. It may be practicable to estimate with some approach to accuracy the actual present loss. But it is exceedingly difficult to estimate the potential or future loss. The Native States would be quite justified in claiming compensation for both the above-mentioned kinds of loss. The amount of such compensation would be so appalling that I do not think it would be possible for the British Government, whose resources are, after all, not quite inexhaustible, to be able to provide for it. The compensation that it would be possible to give to the Native States would thus be inadequate; which, with their limited resources and with the everyday increasing and unavoidable calls for improved administration made upon them, would mean to them a very heavy financial strain which they cannot possibly bear. The use of opium is not the dreadful evil it is supposed to be by some. My experience, derived from a careful observation of opium eaters, is that opium taken in moderation is beneficial to health. It is most commonly given to the infants in this part of the country up to the age of three with great benefit to them, and they are weaned from it without the slightest difficulty and without any evil effects on their health. It is often observed to be the stay of old age. It refreshes many a toil-worn man and enables him to bear hard work and fatigue and exposure. It does not promote crime. Not only that, unlike alcohol, it brings no social degradation to those who use it, but that amongst Rajputs, who are generally recognised to be one of the martial races of India, the use of opium is considered fashionable, and is a *sine quâ non* on marriage and kindred festive occasions. When taken in excess, opium, like every other thing, is injurious, but even in cases of excess it is not as obnoxious to society as alcohol: and these cases are so few and far between that no Governmental action need be taken in regard to them. I quite agree with Dr. Ferris when he says in his evidence before the Commission that “in a country like India, having regard to the habits of the peoples, the character of their avocations, the peculiarities of the climate and the particular character of their food, opium is distinctly beneficial, that it is not harmful, that it is not a vice, that it does not promote in any way immorality, that it does not increase, but distinctly decreases mortality.” “That men as a rule with rare exceptions will resort to either a stimulant or sedative” . . . that “opium because it is a sedative absolutely prevents natives from becoming obnoxious in any way,” that “the natives will have the one or the other, the sedative or the stimulant. If the Government prevent the resort to the sedative, then we must expect to find the wealthier classes giving themselves up to the more refined forms of alcohol provided by Europe; while the poorer classes will develop a very wide use of native rum, arrack, and spirits, and the result will be widespread vice, misery, crime, and an increased mortality.” The prohibition of the cultivation of such a harmless drug as opium is thus indefensible. It would mean practicable financial ruin to the exchequers of all the opium-growing Native States; it would ruin innumerable traders in opium. It would bring misery to the poor cultivator and to the agricultural labourer whom no crop that could take the place of opium would give as much to live upon as opium does. All the opium-consuming, opium-trading, and opium-cultivating communities of India would resent this prohibition. It would make British rule very unpopular throughout India. The ignorant masses have already begun to attribute motives to the British Government in reference to the opium question. They are not educated enough to understand that the Government has nothing to do with the agitation, and that their attitude in reference thereto is one of strict impartiality. But it is the habit of ignorant oriental

masses to identify the Sirkar with all such movements. Some have begun to think that it is only to encourage the trade in the wines of the West that the Government have started this question, while others suspect that it is the conversion of India to Christianity that is ultimately aimed at. Ignorance dies hard, and in matters like the present one it is not the sensible few, but the unintelligent many that have to be thought of by the practical administrator. The mists of prejudice that are slowly but steadily gathering round this question may, I apprehend, gain in volume and spread far and wide. It is difficult to say what the consequences may be. So far as I can see, they constitute in my humble opinion a grave political danger which it is on no account advisable for the British Government to incur.

23,105. You have given us the average rate levied by the State per bigha on opium land; can you tell us the average rate on other crops?—About Rs. 2.

23,106. In estimating the loss of land revenue to the Durbar have you taken the difference between the Rs. 11-13-3 and Rs. 2 on the area now under opium?—Yes.

23,107. You speak of the amount exported to the neighbouring States of Indore, Jaora, Rutlam, and Ujjain; is there an export duty levied by the State on that?—Yes. I may add that it is crude opium that is exported; no manufactured opium is exported.

23,108. And is the export duty on the crude opium what you describe as the local export duty amounting to Rs. 480 a year?—Yes.

23,109. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You have been only about a year in the Junior Branch of the Dewas State?—Yes.

23,110. Have you ascertained what is the customary dose of those who take opium habitually?—Fifteen or twenty grains.

23,111. Twice a day?—Yes.

23,112. Much as in the other State?—Yes.

23,113. What proportion of the men, do you think, use opium habitually?—About 10 per cent.

23,114. Mostly among the elderly people?—Yes.

23,115. Do many young men take it?—Not many young men.

23,116. Is it injurious to young men?—Yes, to young men it is injurious, but not to infants.

23,117. Does it make them lazy?—It is not supposed to be beneficial to young men. The habit of taking opium is generally begun at the age of 40.

23,118. It is not considered to be injurious, but beneficial when begun at that time?—Yes.

23,119. How many people go to excess so as to produce sleepiness?—I have not been able to find out the exact number who take it to excess, but I should think, as I have said, that the cases are very few and far between.

23,120. (*Mr. Wilson.*) You have just said to Sir William Roberts that it is not a good thing for young men to take it?—Yes.

23,121. Will you tell me why you did not put that into your printed statements?—It did not occur to me to put it in.

23,122. Is the growth of poppy increasing in your State?—It is not.

23,123. Why not?—On account of the falling off in the prices of opium.

23,124. Suppose the prices should go on falling, what will become of your revenue?—It will be ruined.

23,125. Quite apart from prohibition?—Yes.

23,126. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Have you, like the Senior Branch, a fixed land revenue assessment?—Yes.

23,127. What is the term of years for which the present settlement is in force?—The last settlement was for 12 years.

23,128. Are cash rates charged under that in all cases?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Mr.
Krishna Rao
Mule.
(*Dewas State.*)
9 Feb. 1894.

Sayad Nasir
Ali.
(Narsingarh
State.)

8 Feb. 1894.

SAYAD NASIR ALI called in and examined (through an interpreter).

23,129. (Chairman.) You are general secretary of the Narsingarh Government?—Yes.

23,130. Can you give me any figures with regard to the loss which you estimate would be incurred by the State if the growth of the poppy in Narsingarh were prohibited?—The direct loss to the State revenue would be Rs. 92,750.

23,131. How do you make that up?—I have calculated that the irrigated area, whether opium is produced or not, is assessed at a certain price, deducting the amount which would be realised if another crop were sown in the land. The balance represents the loss the State would incur.

23,132. That is, loss of land revenue?—Yes.

23,133. At what rate is irrigated land at present assessed in Narsingarh State?—The irrigated land is assessed at Rs. 10 per bigha, and the assumption is that it will produce two crops, the first Indian corn, the second opium.

23,134. At what rate have you assumed that it would be assessed if opium cultivation were prohibited?—Rs. 6-4 per bigha would be the loss. There would, therefore, remain nearly Rs. 4.

23,135. Then it will be assessed at Rs. 3-12?—Yes.

23,136. Is there any other loss to the State which you have taken into consideration besides the loss of land revenue?—Rs. 30,000. Customs dues and other dues in connexion with opium.

23,137. Is there any export of manufactured opium from the Narsingarh State?—Crude opium is taken to Indore. It is not manufactured in the Narsingarh State.

23,138. Export duty is charged on crude opium?—There is a dispute between the two States of Rajgarh and Narsingarh, and to settle it, it has been decided that a certain portion of this export dues should be received by Narsingarh and a certain portion by Rajgarh. In order to insure a continuance of the arrangement, there is a post established at a certain place on the main road. It is worked under the Political Agent, and the dues are taken as the opium passes along, and the shares are given to each of these two States.

23,139. I understand the total loss which you estimate, including all heads, is Rs. 92,750?—That is only the land revenue.

23,140. And Rs. 30,000 represents the other?—Yes.

23,141. Do you put the total claim at Rs. 1,22,750?—That is the State loss.

23,142. Besides that you have estimated a loss of Rs. 1,50,000 to cultivators; can you give us any figures as to how you have arrived at that amount?—I estimate that the profit to each cultivator is Rs. 10 per

bigha. After paying the land revenue and taking into consideration all expenses.

23,143. What do you estimate the profit which the cultivator would derive from any other crop that might be substituted?—Out of the Rs. 10 there would be a loss of Rs. 8 to the cultivator.

23,144. Is that the method by which you have arrived at the total 1½ lakhs to the cultivators?—Yes, I have put the loss at Rs. 8 on the total area of the land.

23,145. How many bighas are under poppy cultivation at present?—14,840.

23,146. Is there any other item of loss which you have reckoned?—I omitted to deduct from my total of 1½ lakhs the profits which the cultivator would get from the other crop.

23,147. Then that revised estimate would come to Rs. 1,18,000?—Yes.

23,148. You have estimated a loss of Rs. 65,000 a year to the traders, how do you arrive at that figure?—The profits of the traders are now derived from two source; advances made to the cultivators, and subsequent profits in the ordinary course of trade in disposing of the opium. I calculate that the total profits of the traders per bag amount to Rs. 70. A bag is 200 lbs. weight of opium.

23,149. Does that make Rs. 65,000?—1,000 bags are produce, of which I estimate 800 go out of the State, and 200 are consumed in the State.

23,150. (Mr. Wilson.) Are you aware that the figures that you have given us do not agree with the tabulated statement that was handed in?—I am not aware of that.

23,151. Do you think that the habit of taking opium regularly is a good habit for young men from 20 to 30 years of age?—I am only taking into consideration the claims of Narsingarh. I think the habit is not a bad one.

23,152. Why do you say it is not injurious even to men of 30 years of age? At what age is it injurious?—With regard to the climate of Narsingarh I do not think it is harmful.

23,153. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Is the area, 14,840 bighas, said to be under poppy cultivation, actually under poppy cultivation, or is it the whole irrigated area?—14,840 represents the area under poppy.

23,154. Can you tell me the entire irrigated area of the State?—The total irrigated area is 28,582 bighas.

23,155. Can you tell me whether the population of the State comprises a large number of Rajputs?—About a fourth of the population are regarded as Rajputs.

The witness withdrew.

Lalla Ajudhia
Pershad.
(Rajgarh
State.)

LALLA AJUDHIA PERSHAD called in and examined (through an interpreter).

23,156. (Chairman.) You are a Tahsildar of Rajgarh State?—Yes.

23,157. What is the nearest English equivalent of that?—Revenue officer of the headquarters subdivision.

23,158. You have served for 15 years as Tahsildar in the State, and 15 years previous to that as a Naib Tahsildar (Deputy Tahsildar), and have thus acquired information about opium?—Yes, 30 years altogether.

23,159. What statement have you to lay before us with reference to the cultivation of opium in your State?—The trade and cultivation of opium have been carried on in this State for a very long time. It is said that when opium was not produced in other places this State used to help them. The opium produced in Rajgarh is of a high quality and is sold dear. It adds greatly to the revenue, Rs. 6,95,526, of the State. Bighas 16,091 biwas 9 are under opium cultivation, the land revenue of which at Rs. 6-4-0 per bigha amounts to Rs. 1,00,571; the cesses amount to Rs. 23,677, i.e., a total revenue of Rs. 1,24,248. Opium tends to the population and other improvements of the State. The cultivators reap a profit of Rs. 1,50,855 and traders Rs. 40,000 a year. About 1,100 bags of opium are produced annually, of which 800 are exported and 300 consumed locally. Thousands of rupees have been given to the cultivators for making wells and tanks for

opium cultivation. As the trade of opium is the most beneficial, bankers and traders have advanced money to cultivators of opium. Opium is the mainstay of trade. The traders export opium, and in exchange get other goods from foreign countries. In addition to opium, poppy produces poppy seed also, in which the people trade. Poppy seed oil is burnt in lamps; cultivators use poppy seed throughout the year; oil cake is given to cattle. If opium cultivation be prohibited, there would be a loss of oil and oil cakes as well. As poppy cultivation is the most advantageous, about 80 per cent. of men cultivate opium. The advantage from opium cultivation is that the cultivator pays his rent from opium, and the other crop he produces in that field maintains him throughout the year. This inquiry about opium has caused much anxiety to the cultivators, who cannot bear the loss that prohibition of opium cultivation would cause, as they can produce no other crop of such an advantage as opium is. Likewise Rajputs and others who eat opium habitually are anxious too. The losses would be as under:—

	Rs.			
State -	-	-	-	1,24,248
Cultivators -	-	-	-	1,50,858
Traders -	-	-	-	40,000
Total -	-	-	-	3,15,106

People would object to the prohibition of cultivation of opium. In my experience of 40 years opium has never been injurious to any one. Prohibition of its cultivation would cause enormous losses. Therefore it is hoped that its cultivation will not be stopped.

23,160. You said that the opium produced in Rajgarh is of a high quality and sold dear. What is the price at which it is sold in the bazuars?—Rs. 7 or 8 per seer.

23,161. Is there a special rate on opium land for revenue purposes in the Rajgarh State?—Yes, a special rate of Rs. 6-4 for opium land.

23,162. Is that the whole rate on opium land?—There are two crops. Indian corn is the first and opium is the second. The rate for Indian corn is Rs. 3-12, and for opium Rs. 6-4.

23,163. Making Rs. 10 per bigha?—Yes, the circumstances of both States, Rajgarh and Nasirgarh, are almost identical. They are adjoining.

23,164. Suppose that opium were prohibited, do you think that no more than Rs. 3-12 could be got in the land assessment?—The Indian corn would realise Rs. 3-2, but nothing more.

23,165. How much land is under cultivation?—16,091 bigahs.

23,166. Is your bigha a local bigha?—172½ ft. square.

23,167. Do I understand that you have arrived at your figure for cultivator's loss by assuming that they would lose the whole profit of Rs. 10 per bigha?—No. I have deducted the profit that would still remain on the Indian corn. The Rs. 10 would be the loss solely on opium cultivation.

23,168. What do you estimate the present profit on opium to the cultivator?—The loss per bigha on Indian corn would be Rs. 2, and on opium Rs. 10. Total Rs. 12.

23,169. Do you mean that at present the cultivator gets two crops—Indian corn on which he reckons to get profit of Rs. 2, and opium on which he reckons the greater profit of Rs. 10?—Yes.

23,170. If opium is prohibited I understand that no other second crop can be grown with the maize?—If

opium is prohibited and Indian corn retained no other crop could follow on the maize.

23,171. (*Sir William Roberts.*) Is the consumption of opium non-medically very common in your State?—Yes, it is common.

23,172. Do half the people over 30 or 40 use opium?—It is generally given to children up to age of five; after that it is left off, and then it is again begun at no certain date. After 30 it is generally taken with advantage.

23,173. (*Mr. Wilson.*) What is the weight of a bag of opium?—100 seers or 200 lbs.

23,174. What is the price at which it is sold for local consumption?—Unmanufactured opium is sold for Rs. 5 per seer, and manufactured opium at Rs. 7 or 8 per seer.

23,175. For local consumption?—Yes.

23,176. What is the price of that which is exported from the State?—Unmanufactured stuff is not sold for local consumption, only the manufactured article. There is no rate for the unmanufactured stuff for local purposes. The export price for the unmanufactured article is Rs. 5 per seer.

23,177. And notwithstanding they sell at the same price internally and externally, they get Rs. 20,000 out of it?—The exported opium is crude opium, and on that the charge is Rs. 5 per seer; for the manufactured article locally consumed it is Rs. 7 or Rs. 8 per seer.

23,178. You say that the Rajgarh opium is a high quality and sold dear. Do you consider that a high price?—I consider Rs. 5 on unmanufactured opium and Rs. 7 or Rs. 8 on unmanufactured a good price.

23,179. Are you aware that it is much higher in some other States, and does not that lead to great smuggling?—I do not know.

23,180. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Is it the case as a general rule that maize is grown with poppy in the same year? Pulse can be produced, but generally maize is produced.

23,181. The general rule in the State is to grow maize with poppy?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

KHAN BAHADUR YAR MUHAMMAD KHAN called in and examined.

23,182. (*Chairman.*) You are minister of Jaora?—Yes.

23,183. I believe you have a statement to lay before us from His Highness the Nawab of Jaora?—Yes. I beg to be allowed to read a copy:—

Jaora, 5th February 1894.

To the PRESIDENT and the HONOURABLE MEMBERS of the ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE hitherto watched with utmost attention the proceedings of the Royal Commission on Opium, of which you, my Lord, and you, gentlemen, are the honourable members, as the matter under your investigation is a most important one, in which the interests of my State as well as of my subjects are involved. I therefore seize with readiness the present opportunity afforded me of expressing to you my views on the subject. The main question for consideration regarding opium is whether the production and use of opium for non-medical purposes can be prohibited in the territories of the Native States in Central India. I am strongly of opinion that the stoppage of the growth of opium would entail ruinous losses upon the Native States in Malwa. It would deprive them of the possession of an article from which they derive the greatest portion of their incomes. Taking the case of my State, the total annual rent of land-growing opium amounts to Rs. 4,20,000, or more than half of the total yearly income of the State; this revenue would be lost to the State by the stoppage of the cultivation of opium. There exist no means by which such a considerable loss can be recouped. I do not think that any other crops, such as wheat, cotton, &c., are as profitable as opium. The produce of opium is so valuable that it affords the cultivators the means for paying the rent of

the land under its cultivation at the high rate of Rs. 20 per bigha, while land growing other crops can be assessed only at Rs. 2 per bigha, a striking difference, due to the varying paying capacities of the crops. It is also worthy of notice that opium is the source of revenue to my State in other ways—the taxes levied on the exportation of manufactured opium from my State to other parts of India, and chiefly to Bombay for shipment to China, and on speculative bargains in opium, bring to the State an annual amount of Rs. 64,000. From the above-mentioned facts it would appear that my State derives annually from opium in more than one way an income of Rs. 4,84,000, which will be totally lost if the cultivation of opium is prohibited.

My jagirdars would also share in the losses, and their yearly loss would amount to Rs. 2,50,000. Besides the State and its jagirdars, the other subjects, such as the cultivators and the traders, would also be involved in losses. To the cultivators opium is the most remunerative crop, while to the traders of Malwa it is the most profitable article of commerce. It is impossible for both of them to find a good substitute for it. I estimate the loss of the cultivators to be Rs. 4,20,000, and that of the traders Rs. 1,02,000.

I have taken the opium question into my full consideration, and I have arrived at the conclusion that there are no grounds for the stoppage of the production of opium. The belief that the use of opium is harmful to the people seems to me to be quite unfounded. The consumption of opium is very general among the people of Malwa, and experience shows that its use is, without producing any injurious effects to a certain extent, beneficial to their health. Opium-eaters reach a good old age, and they mostly present a healthy appearance.

I do not think that opium makes any pernicious effects on the morals of the people; it is not an incentive to crime; on the contrary, it makes those who use it quiet and law-abiding.

Lalla Ajudhia
Pershad.
(Rajgarh
State.)

8 Feb. 1894.

Khan
Bahadur Yar
Muhammad,
Khan (Jaora
State.)

Khan
Bahadur Yar
Muhammad
Khan.
(Rajgarh
State.)

8 Feb. 1894.

In conclusion, I would draw your attention to the fact that nothing but harm would result to the Native States and their subjects from the prohibition of the production and use of opium, and that any steps taken in this direction would create considerable discontent.

I have the honour to be,
My Lord and Gentlemen,
Your faithful Friend,
(Signed) MAHOMED ISMAIL KHAN,
Nawab of Jaora.

23,184. As Minister of Jaora you wish to give evidence on your own account?—Yes. As regards the opium question, the primary point under consideration is whether, if the production and use of opium for non-medical purposes throughout British territory is prohibited, such prohibition could be extended to the Native States. In this respect the first question that suggests itself is on what grounds the production of opium is deemed to be undesirable. As far as I think, I do not find any reason for stopping its growth. On the contrary, any restrictive measures in this direction seem to me to be most impolitic and quite uncalled for. The theory that the consumption of opium by the people of India is injurious to them, physically and morally, is fallacious. It seems that a few only have been by religious prejudice or through ignorance of the matter led to entertain it. Malwa, where opium is very generally used, offers an extensive field for observation. It is my native place, and I have passed my whole life in it. I can, therefore, claim to have some experience in the matter. To take, for instance, the case of the population of Jaora State, I say, without fear of contradiction, that more than 50 per cent. are addicted to the use of opium. People of all classes and different castes and nationalities take it, more especially the Rajputs, of whom 90 per cent. can be said to be in the habit of using opium. The cultivators also use it freely, as it sustains their bodily strength and enables them to do hard work in the fields. Opium is consumed in three ways. It is taken in pills or in the form of a solution, or it is smoked. The last method is not generally resorted to. I find that the moderate use of opium does not produce any harmful effects, physical, moral, or mental. In fact, no cases of such ill-effects have come under my notice. On the contrary, it is a general belief, and I think a true one, that in a country like Malwa, where the air is saturated with moisture, opium, if taken in a proper and in a small quantity, proves very beneficial to health. It is said that opium emaciates the body and weakens the whole system. Yes, it does, if taken in very large and immoderate doses, and even then in the cases where proper nourishment has not been obtained, otherwise the opium eaters present a healthy appearance and often live long. The abuse of opium is certainly injurious to health, but it is not generally prevalent. Of the opium eaters one per cent. only will be found to be using it in an immoderate way. Considering the effect of opium on the morals of the people, I fail to discover any connexion between opium and crime. On the other hand, I find the opium eaters to be well-behaved and law-abiding people. It is alcohol, and not opium, that has a perceptible influence in causing crime.

As to mind, its deterioration cannot be ascribed to the use of opium. Opium does not at all affect the mind. People while intoxicated by opium are found to be as clear-headed as those not under its influence. The harmlessness of the moderate use of opium is demonstrated by its being generally given without producing bad effects to the children of very tender age. There is no doubt that the prohibition of the use of opium will entail great hardship upon the people who are given to it, and it is certain that enforced abstinence from opium will lead them to indulgence in other stimulants, most probably alcohol, the free use of which would result in ruining health, causing demoralisation and bringing impoverishment.

23,185. Have you any information to give the Commission as regards the financial aspect of the question?—There is no doubt that the prohibition of the production of opium would lead to results proving disastrous to the Native States as well as their subjects. It is, in fact, impossible for the Native States of Malwa to do without opium. The revenues derived from land form the major portion of their income made up by the rent of the land growing opium. In the case of Jaora State, with the administration of which I am connected, the total annual income is nearly eight lakhs of rupees: of these the amount realised in the form of land revenue is about Rs. 6,40,000, of which Rs. 4,20,000, or more

than half of the total income, are received as rent of the opium-growing land. This revenue will be lost to the State by the stoppage of the cultivation of opium. The jagirdars and other land-owners in the State would in the same way lose an annual income of Rs. 2,50,000. This loss cannot be made up by any other means. There is no other crop which can serve as a substitute for, and prove as remunerative as opium. The land growing opium brings such valuable returns as to warrant its being assessed at the high rate of Rs. 20 per bigha of 150 square feet, the rate of assessment of land producing cereals and other crops being not more than Rs. 2 per bigha. It is this advantage that persuades the State to encourage the growth of poppy, and to increase its cultivation as much as possible. Opium is also a source of income to the State in other ways. The exportation of opium by traders from Jaora to other parts of India and Bombay for shipment to China is taxed at the rate of Rs. 30 per one chest containing 1½ maunds of manufactured opium, or in case of crude opium at the rate of Rs. 15 per maund. This tax brings to the State an annual amount of Rs. 60,000. Besides this, a tax is levied on speculative bargains in opium, very general in Malwa, and produces annually Rs. 4,000. This opium is the means by which the State acquires in three ways an annual income of Rs. 4,84,000, while the jagirdars and other landholders are benefited by it to the extent of Rs. 2,50,000. Thus the total loss to the State and its jagirdars would be annually Rs. 7,34,000—a considerable amount, which the State cannot afford to lose without bankrupting itself. I have stated before that the stoppage of the production of opium would considerably injure the pecuniary interests, not only of the State, but also of its subjects. By subjects I mean the agriculturists and the traders. The former would be prevented from raising a crop which is most advantageous to them, and which cannot be replaced. Comparing the profit derived by the cultivators from opium with what accrues to them from other crops, there is found to be an excess in case of opium to the extent of Rs. 12 per bigha. There are at present 33,500 bighas, under opium cultivation in the territories of Jaora State. Calculating the loss at the rate of Rs. 12 per bigha, the total yearly loss to the cultivators will amount to Rs. 4,02,000. As for the traders, they would also be involved in losses. There is no doubt that opium is a most profitable article of commerce, and the trade in it affords the merchants a good and sure means of acquiring profit. There are three stages of the trade at each of which the merchant gains. First, the local trade or the purchase of crude opium from the cultivators and its sale to the local manufacturers; second, the local sales of the manufactured opium; and third, its exportation to Bombay for shipment to China. Estimating the gains of the merchants at the first stage to be Rs. 6 per maund, at the second stage to be Rs. 20 per maund, and at third Rs. 6 per maund, the total gain per maund amounts to Rs. 32. The yearly produce of opium in the Jaora State territories is estimated to be 4,000 maunds: of this one-fourth is sold in crude form to residents of foreign States, while the remainder goes through the regular process of the manufacture and is exported to Bombay. According to the above calculation the trade in opium benefits the merchants of Jaora to the extent of Rs. 1,02,000 in a year. The suppression of opium would deprive the merchants of a lucrative trade.

23,186. The Commission would be glad to hear your general view of the question?—Considering the question in all its aspects, I have arrived at the conclusion that any attempt to interfere with the rights of the Native States and the privileges of their subjects in regard to the cultivation, sale, and consumption of opium will result in grave complications and will produce considerable discontent. The appointment of the Opium Commission and its proceedings have already created a feeling of alarm and uneasiness among the people. I take this as a strong indication of the temper of the public on this subject which it would not be wise to disregard.

23,187. What is the retail price of opium in Jaora?—One rupee for ten tolas.

23,188. Can you say what is the total export from the State of Jaora?—Opium is exported from Jaora in two ways. It is exported to Bombay for shipment to China in chest, that is, manufactured.

23,189. Can you give us the number of chests?—I cannot give the exact figures, because they vary. The average number of chests, I estimate, is 1,000 in the year.

23,190. What is the export duty on the manufactured opium?—30 rupees per chest which contains 1½ maunds of manufactured opium.

23,191. There is also a tax on the export of raw opium?—In a crude form. All the opium produced in the territories of Jaora does not go out in a manufactured form. There are two outlying districts belonging to our State where there are no capitalists who manufacture opium. Therefore, the traders of other foreign States buy opium in the crude form and take it out. We tax that opium in the crude form at Rs. 15 per maund.

23,192. These two forms of export duty are included in your estimate of the loss to the State, which you put at Rs. 484,000?—Yes.

23,193. You calculate the loss to cultivators at the rate of Rs. 12 per bigha?—Yes.

23,194. Is that the total profit which you estimate the cultivator derives from the cultivation of opium?—As I have said, comparing the profit derived by the cultivator from opium with what accrues from other crops, there is found to be an excess in the case of opium to the extent of Rs. 12 per bigha.

23,195. Your revenue rate of Rs. 20 per bigha on opium land is higher than we have heard in several other States. Has it been fixed long?—I have given this rate as an average rate. Our highest rate is Rs. 35 per bigha. The land in the territory of Jaora is considered to be the best producing land, the richest soil in Malwa.

The witness withdrew.

KHAN BAHADUR CURSETJI RUSTAMJI THANEWALLA called in and examined.

23,203. (Chairman.) You are Diwan of the Rutlam State, Malwa?—Yes. The present Maharaja is a minor, and I am the administrator, subject to the control of a Political Superintendent.

23,204. You are of opinion that, even if the production and use of opium for non-medical purposes were prohibited in British India, the prohibition could not be extended to the Native States, especially to those where the growth and use of opium have been quite free from restrictions?—Yes.

23,205. I believe there are three kinds of opium arrangements prevailing in the Native States generally?—Yes.

23,206. In the States of Central India generally, and in Rutlam, the cultivation and the use of opium are absolutely free?—Yes.

23,207. Are you of opinion that in Central India the consumption of opium is a deep-rooted and almost universal habit?—Very deep-rooted.

23,208. Are you of opinion that the proposed prohibition would meet with opposition—give rise to discontent, and excite a spirit of lawlessness amongst existing criminal tribes?—Yes. When a system of monopoly was tried some years ago the result was exactly what we are now afraid of.

23,209. Do you consider that the Arms Act, not being in force in the Native States, would increase the difficulty of suppressing any lawlessness that might arise?—Certainly. I do not know about big States like Gwalior or Baroda or Indore.

23,210. You have given some statistics with regard to the loss per bigha which would be incurred by farmers and cultivators in your State; would you explain to us exactly what these figures are?—There is, first, the loss to the State of Rs. 17-6 per bigha.

23,211. What is the total area under poppy cultivation in Rutlam?—About 18,000 bighas. All over irrigated land is assessed at a particular rate, whether poppy or any other vegetable is cultivated.

23,212. What rate is that?—The average rate is about Rs. 17 per bigha.

23,213. Can you give us any idea of the per-centage of the irrigated area in Rutlam which is under poppy cultivation at present?—18,000 bighas under poppy cultivation.

23,214. What proportion does that bear to the whole irrigated land?—Hardly one-fourth is under some other cultivation.

23,196. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Is poppy grown as a rule as a single crop in Jaora?—Maize precedes it without any exception.

23,197. You have stated that 33,500 bighas are under poppy cultivation?—Yes.

23,198. Can you tell me what the total irrigated area is?—That is solely under poppy cultivation. There are 1,500 bighas more.

23,199. Have you a fixed settlement in force?—Yes, it is not a very regular settlement. There has been no regular survey, but it is fixed. We levy it in cash. The settlement with the cultivator is yearly. The landholder has the option to eject the tenant if he likes after a year, but it is not always the case. Generally, they are not ejected, because they are good tenants, and are kept on.

23,200. Is your cash rate fixed on the class of land or with reference to the crops?—On the class of land, and with reference to the crops which it grows. There are two qualities of land growing opium, one called Adan and the other Rankur. The producing capacity of Rankur is not as much as Adan. The rate for Rankur is Rs. 5 per bigha, while for Adan the average is Rs. 20.

23,201. Is the rate fixed on the class of soil or with reference to poppy cultivation?—On the class of soil—that is, on irrigated land.

23,202. Also fixed on the supposition that that class of land will, as a rule, grow poppy?—Yes.

23,215. Then the area under poppy cultivation amounts to two-thirds?—Yes.

23,216. The State would lose the whole of the land revenue at present assessed on the opium land?—No. We would get the next best crop, which would be cotton or wheat, and for that we would get between Rs. 2 and Rs. 3 per bigha.

23,217. You estimate the loss to the State at Rs. 17-6?—Yes. On the average we now levy Rs. 17 per bigha, if wheat were cultivated instead of opium we should get about Rs. 3 per bigha, and the net loss would be Rs. 14. To this I have added excise duties and some miscellaneous taxes on the juice which is produced; that comes to about Rs. 3. Hence the total average loss would be, as I have said, Rs. 17 per bigha.

23,218. Have you worked that out to the total of what your claim in respect of the State would be?—Yes. The loss of opium cultivation, after deducting the rates which would be realised for wheat and other crops, would be about Rs. 2,52,000. Then we have some kind of excise duty Rs. 6,700; then other miscellaneous duties. And we levy Rs. 25 per chest on opium exported. In that way the total revenue which the State now derives from poppy cultivation is (minus what is expected to be derived from other crops) Rs. 3,13,000.

23,219. Then with regard to the loss to cultivators?—The loss to the cultivator is Rs. 10 per bigha, minus the produce which he would get from cotton or wheat.

23,220. At what total do you calculate that?—I have not worked it out.

23,221. At 18,000 bighas it would be Rs. 1,80,000?—Yes.

23,222. Do you consider that there would be a net loss to the cultivator of Rs. 10?—Yes. If poppy is not cultivated he loses the benefit of the irrigation; the irrigation would be of no use to him.

23,223. In calculating the Rs. 10 you have allowed for the profit, whatever it may be, which he would make on any other crop?—Certainly.

23,224. With regard to manufacturers and traders you estimate that at Rs. 8-10 per bigha?—Yes.

23,225. Have you calculated what the amount would be?—About a lakh and a half.

23,226. I do not know whether you have any figures that you wish to lay before us as to the way in which you have arrived at the Rs. 8-10 with regard to traders?—In the answers which I have given to Colonel Robertson's questions I think the details have been

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Muhammad
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(Rajgarh
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Khan
Bahadur
Cursetji
Rustamji
Thanewalla.
(Rutlam
State.)

Khan
Bahadur
Cursetji
Kustamji
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given. They buy from the cultivators, make the juice up into balls, and then sell it.

23,227. What is the total number of chests which you export in the year on an average?—About 2,200 from Rutlam.

23,228. Are there scales at Rutlam?—Yes. It sends out 2,200 chests; 200 are consumed locally.

23,229. So that you put the production of Rutlam State altogether at about 2,400 chests?—Yes, the production may be more, because all the produce is not exported in a particular year.

23,230. I gather from your statement that the State of Rutlam would suffer a loss of about 25 per cent. of its whole revenue supposing the cultivation of poppy to be prohibited?—Yes.

23,231. And that it would involve the Native State in financial difficulties of a serious nature?—Yes.

23,232. Do you wish to add anything further?—Yes, I should like to add that there is attached to the Palace at Rutlam what is called an Abdarkhana, where respectable persons coming to see His Highness or the Dewan are treated with a drink of a solution made of opium (kasumbha). The Jagirdars, as also the servants of His Highness, and citizens who frequent the Darbar office, partake of the drink. If respectable Jagirdars and Thakurs are not offered the kasumbha drink, they would feel that they are not treated properly. On a birthday, the Dasera Holiday, and at the time of certain Darbars, the Thakurs, Jagirdars, officers and others are treated with kasumbha. The Darbar is dissolved after all the persons have resumed their seats after having taken the kasumbha. No pansupari, flowers, garlands, &c. are given in such Darbars, the kasumbha taking the place of all these things. The Abdarkhana institution has been in existence from time immemorial. During the minority of His late Highness, the Political Superintendent of the State had to maintain it, and it has been maintained up to this time, though nowadays it is used principally by persons of the middle class. Formerly it cost much, now the cost is much reduced. The importance of the kasumbha drink is so great that in friendly letters and invitations the Thakurs, Rajas, Dewans, and others generally endorse in their own autograph as follows: "After reading this letter, do 'you take kasumbha drink as a treat from me in 'honour of yourself.'" This request is considered complimentary, and is made by one not inferior in rank to the other. When a friendly letter with such a request is received, the request is in certain cases literally carried out by at once having a kasumbha party in honour of the person who made the request. With the time-honoured custom prevailing amongst the chiefs, nobles, and the people generally, it would, I

need not submit, be quite impossible to enforce any prohibition of the use of opium except for medical purposes.

23,233. (Mr. Wilson.) Is it a fact or not that this ancient custom of offering kasumbha is very often satisfied by the pretence of taking it, not really drinking it?—That will depend upon the person himself. Many are not accustomed to drink, but in a party they are obliged to join. They may drink a very little; just as when wine is offered one may take a whole glass or only a sip.

23,234. Some put it to their lips and do not drink any of it?—I have not seen that. I have been there a year and a half only; but I have never seen a case in which those who have joined have not drunk the kasumbha at all.

23,235. Have you been there long enough to know that this custom is rather going out of fashion?—I should think not. I have not been long there, but I know the custom is not going out of fashion, because they would not allow me to abolish the institution, which, as I have said, attaches to the Darbar itself.

23,236. You speak of the difficulty of making both ends meet in your revenue. Supposing there is no interference with the cultivation of the poppy by the British Government in any way, do you think the decreased demand in China is likely to increase your difficulty?—The demand in China has decreased, but I do not think it will much affect Malwa, because the opium from Malwa is liked in China, and there is always a market for it, though the prices may differ now and then.

23,236a. If the demand for opium from India should get less, do you think that the British Government will give a preference to Malwa opium, and will be willing to let go its own Bengal monopoly?—As far as the facts go, to the best of my knowledge, English opium does not fetch in China the price that Malwa opium fetches.

23,237. (Mr. Fanehawe.) Have you a fixed land revenue settlement in Rutlam?—Yes; as far as the present land revenue system is concerned the assessment is fixed. I do not know whether after a few years we may revise it.

23,238. What is the term of years?—Ten years generally, but they are repeated.

23,239. Are cash rates in force on irrigated and un-irrigated land?—They are all cash rates.

23,240. In Rutlam is poppy grown as a single crop, or is it grown in conjunction with another crop?—Throughout all Malwa we have opium grown with some corn. In this part it is generally grown with maize, in other States there is bajri.

The witness withdrew.

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KUNWAR JASWANT SINGH, called in and examined.

23,240a. (Chairman.) Do you hold an official position in the State of Sailana?—Yes.

23,241. What?—I am Regent of the State.

23,242. In the event of poppy being prohibited what loss do you estimate would result from such prohibition? The amount of poppy land in Sailana is, I believe, 6,419 bighas?—Yes.

23,243. Producing 2,407 maunds and five seers of opium?—Yes.

23,244. Yielding a revenue of Rs. 1,60,475 by rent of poppy land and Rs. 10,000 by duties into the State Treasury every year?—Yes.

23,245. That, I think, works out at land revenue Rs. 25 per bigha?—Yes.

23,246. I suppose that poppy land in Sailana is of very high quality?—It is very rich land.

23,247. If poppy cultivation were prohibited have you made any calculation as to the reduction in land revenue which would result from such prohibition?—Yes; the loss would be Rs. 1,60,475.

23,248. I presume if poppy cultivation were prohibited you would not lose the whole of the assessment?—The loss will be Rs. 1,47,637 if wheat is grown instead of opium.

23,249. That would be land revenue which you would lose if wheat were substituted?—That would be the loss if wheat were grown.

23,250. So that instead of receiving Rs. 1,60,000 you estimate that you would only receive something like Rs. 13,000?—Rs. 12,838.

23,251. What are the duties in the State which bring in Rs. 10,000 per annum? Are they export duties on opium, or what?—Export and transit duties.

23,252. How many chests are exported from the Sailana State?—In Sailana State opium is very seldom manufactured; it is exported in the crude state.

23,253. What do you put the loss at altogether, supposing poppy to be prohibited?—Rs. 1,47,637.

23,254. That is the whole amount?—And Rs. 10,000 duties.

23,255. Rs. 1,57,000 altogether?—Yes.

23,256. You consider that there would also be a loss to the cultivators?—Yes.

23,257. Have you any figures showing what that would amount to?—Rs. 1,28,380.

23,258. You consider the profit on any other crop would be much less than they at present get from the cultivation of opium?—It is not estimated what other crops would yield.

23,259. Have you made any allowance for any other crop?—No.

23,260. I do not know whether there is any other item of compensation which you wish to lay before the

Commission?—No; we have already shown you the loss; that would be the compensation.

23,261. Turning from the question of loss and compensation, what is your opinion generally with regard to the consumption of opium?—Generally speaking, opium is consumed by all castes in this district, it is not known making any deleterious effect in moderate doses. On the other hand, experience teaches us that it prevents a great many diseases in a climate like that of Sailana. Consequent on the consumption of opium no case has been seen of unnatural death, as it has been seen with those who indulge in alcohol, the excess of which they cannot help. Opium is used medicinally, also as a family medicine, among those who are not habitual eaters of it, to spare the cost and trouble of having recourse to medical men, and it cures them satisfactorily. Opium is in general consumed all over India. Its stopping seems impossible, and if stopped, it would inevitably arouse a great discontent and dissension among the people, and it is not known where this would end. The people eat it in small doses, and there might be a few using it in somewhat large doses too; but it is not seen producing any evil effect either on the brain or on the body. But the estimation of these cannot be given. This drug is also given to infants, where it is considered absolutely necessary, to preserve them from the effects of cold, and practically it does prove so. The obituary among children is much less by its use. It is also given to domestic animals in certain diseases. All respected members of various communities are in a body opposed to its stopping. They say it will go hard to satisfy such an overwhelming number of men, and are afraid lest it may not bring forth some grave consequences, which might produce great anxiety to the British Government, which does not seem to derive any real benefit from this, besides loss and vexation. The respected members of communities do not think it degrading to eat opium. Every man in the decline of age is recommended to its use, in order to add to his longevity; otherwise he is more susceptible of many diseases arising from cold. So in the form of a tonic they consume it. The poor and hard labourers use it as a stimulant in making them earn their livelihood. A large number of men do not use beer or alcohol, being forbidden by caste prejudices; so they ordinarily have recourse to the use of this drug, and are much safer by this than those who consume alcohol. The consumption of opium is very popular and is not considered any vice.

23,262. (*Sir William Roberts.*) What are the doses generally used by those who take opium in your State?—From one to six mashes.

23,263. Is that amongst people who are middle aged and past middle age?—Generally they take it in middle age.

23,264. Do young men sometimes use it habitually?—Sometimes.

23,265. Does it agree with them as well as with the old people; is it good for them?—Yes.

23,266. You have not seen any ill-effects even in young men?—No, in moderate consumption.

The witness withdrew.

KHAN BAHADUR N. M. KHORY called in and examined.

23,291. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are a pleader of Mhow?—Yes.

23,292. Do you reside in the cantonment there?—Yes.

23,293. Are you connected in any way with the Government either in the cantonment or in the Native State of Indore?—I hold no service from the Government.

23,294. Will you give us your opinion with regard to the cultivation of poppy in Central India?—The cultivation of opium is popular in Central India. Amongst the ryots the extent of opium land one possesses decides his rank. In the estimation of his neighbours he rises higher or lower in proportion to the number of bighas of opium land he holds. The opium crop leaves to the cultivators a larger margin of profit than other crops. Sometimes the crop of sugarcane grown in the opium fields about one and the same time adds to that margin of profit. Mr. Aberigh MacKay in his "Chiefs in Central India," Vol. I., calculates

23,267. I suppose they sometimes use it in excess?—Excess is bad in everything. If you take bread in excess you will suffer from indigestion.

23,268. You state that the excessive use of opium is uncommon in your State?—It is not common.

23,269. You say it is given to children and infants?—Yes.

23,270. I gather from your statement that you think that more good than harm arises from that practice?—Yes.

23,271. That is your deliberate opinion?—Yes.

23,272. Have you had much opportunity of judging on that point?—Yes.

23,273. Whether children are injured by the practice of giving them opium?—They are not injured.

23,274. (*Mr. Wilson.*) What opportunity have you had of judging of the effect on children?—I am a Rajput, you know, and Rajputs are famous for opium consumption; I am, therefore, well acquainted with the subject.

23,275. You are not a medical man?—No.

23,276. In reference to infants, you say that opium is given where it is considered necessary to preserve them from the effects of cold?—Yes.

23,277. Other witnesses have said that it is given to keep them from crying; what do you think is the real reason?—To preserve them from the effects of cold.

23,278. Not to prevent them from crying?—Sometimes.

23,279. What proportion of the people do you think take opium?—Nearly 40 or 50 per cent.

23,280. Including children?—Including children.

23,281. Do those who do not take it suffer very much from not taking it?—Their health does not require it; if their health required it they would take it.

23,282. They only take opium if their health requires it?—Yes; it is not a luxury, it is a stimulant.

23,283. What parts of India have you been in?—In Malwa.

23,284. All your life?—All my life.

23,285. Have you travelled in other parts?—I have seen many parts of India.

23,286. What parts?—Rajputana, and I have visited almost all parts of India.

23,287. (*Mr. Funshawe.*) You state that 6,419 bighas are under poppy cultivation in your State; what is the total irrigated area in the State?—The whole area is under poppy.

23,288. You say that 40 or 50 per cent. of the inhabitants of your State take opium; does a large proportion of those consist of middle-aged men or not?—Men of middle age.

23,289. Are the inhabitants of Sailana largely Rajputs?—Yes.

23,290. Have you a fixed cash rate on irrigated and unirrigated land?—Yes.

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the profits at from Rs. 20 to 30 a bigha in a good year and from Rs. 15 to 10 in a bad year. The area under poppy cultivation has steadily increased since Sir John Malcolm's time. The ruling chiefs and merchants are also largely benefited by the opium traffic. Some of the former can ill afford to lose the revenue derived from this source. The prohibition of poppy cultivation would therefore be in my humble opinion attended with bad results all round, and cause great discontent. In my long experience in Central India I can trace no crime or acts of violence to the influence of this drug. The general belief is that when used in moderation it works as a stimulant and beneficial to health. To the poor and working class it is regarded as a blessing. It is the commonest remedy employed by the natives in the treatment of their ordinary ailments, such as cold, &c. In cases of infants it is chiefly resorted to. The habit of using opium has taken such a firm root that to interfere with it is to cause inconceivable misery, more specially when the principles of morality and humanity are not in any way affected by it. There

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is another danger that is to be averted. To prohibit the use of opium is to increase the consumption of alcohol, which would be followed by disastrous results. Out of these two evils I would sooner prefer the lesser. Besides, a report is flying about that the British Government are forcing the Indians to substitute alcohol drinks for opium against their own religious precepts. This must be the doing of mischief-makers, but the report must be nipped in the bud.

23,295. You state that the area under poppy cultivation has steadily increased since Sir John Malcolm's time?—Yes.

23,296. We have had evidence before us to show that recently the tendency has been in the other direction?—It may be so within this last one or two years, but I am not aware of it. The more I study the authorities the more I come into contact with the people; my profession brings me into contact with all classes of people in Malwa, the more I find that the cultivation is highly appreciated by the people. Mr. Mackay in his "Chiefs in Central India," after making personal inquiries, came to the conclusion then that the area had been steadily increasing since Sir John Malcolm's time.

23,297. (Mr. Wilson.) What is the date of the book to which you have referred?—It was published in 1879. I should like to say that opium, as compared with liquor or alcoholic drinks, is much cheaper. One seer is equal to 80 tolas, and one tola is equal to 180 grains. At that rate, if a seer of opium is purchased by the labourers, or working classes, they have simply to pay between Rs. 5 and Rs. 8, but 1 rupee's worth of opium will last the consumer, if he takes the highest quantity, say, 7 or 8 grains, for seven or eight months. One and a half rupee's worth of opium will last him for a year or more. The people here think that the Government wants to prohibit the use of opium and introduce alcoholic liquors. I am quite sure that that is not the intention of Government, but that is the common report. Moreover, according to Dr. Lyon, in his "Medical Jurisprudence of India" (page 257), alcoholic drinks are more liable to be abused than opium.

The witness withdrew.

MR. R. M. DANE called in and examined.

23,306. (Witness.) The following is a list of witnesses who are present and who have prepared abstracts of their evidence, which I ask may be printed in the Appendix:—

Muhammad Hidayat Khan, of Karpardaz, Khilchipur;
Pandit Surajbali Bujpai, Head Pandit, High School and Octroi Collector;
Thakur Kesari Singh of Piploda;
Rai Bahadur Bala Parshad, Diwan, of Sitamau;

23,298. (Chairman.) In your judgment, alcohol is more deleterious than opium, and you think that the expenditure upon alcohol would be larger, if prohibition were enforced, than the expenditure upon opium at the present time, because opium is much cheaper?—Yes.

23,299. (Mr. Fanshawe.) What is the length of your experience in Mhow?—I have been on this side of India for 22 years. I was at Mhow first for five years as master of one of the high schools; then I was at Indore as master of the Rajkumar College, and then I have been here for the last five or six years, so that I have had 10 years' experience of Mhow itself. During my practice as a lawyer I have had experience of the whole of India, because I am required everywhere.

23,300. I am speaking particularly of Mhow?—I have had 10 years' experience of Mhow.

23,301-2. Can you tell me, speaking generally, what the moral and physical effects of opium have been in Mhow, so far as you are able to express an opinion?—During my experience as a lawyer I have found that no crimes or acts of violence can be traced to the use of opium, but that crimes and acts of violence can be traced to the use of alcoholic drinks.

23,303. What have you to say about opium as regards its general effect on the people, physically and morally?—My personal observation leads me to think that the lower classes, the working classes and servants who take opium, are better behaved, and more hard-working and honest than those who do not take opium, but who are addicted to alcoholic drinks. The native servant class have a thieving propensity, as a rule, but those who take opium lose that propensity.

23,304. Leaving alcohol out of consideration for the moment, can you express an opinion as to the general effects of opium eating, so far as you are acquainted with it—has it caused harm or not, speaking generally?—The general effect of opium eating is not bad, in my humble opinion.

23,305. Have you come across any special cases of the excessive use of opium in Mhow?—I have not.

Mr. R. M. Dane.

The Rev. J. F. Campbell.

The Rev. J. F. CAMPBELL called in and examined.

23,308. (Chairman.) You are a missionary of the Canadian Presbyterian Church at Rathum, and you have been a missionary in India for over 17 years, excepting one furlough?—Yes.

23,309. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—Without paying special attention to the matter and thus coming to know the full extent of the evil, I have seen enough to know that it is a very real evil; e.g., men, even young men, emaciated, men unfit for work, &c. when from any cause unable to get their usual dose, men spending for opium what was greatly needed by themselves and their families for food and clothing, men appealing for medicine to deliver them from its thralldom. It is less injurious to those who are well nourished than to others, less when eaten or drunk than when smoked, which is a comparatively rare mode of using. I remember of only once being told of its use to prevent fever; and the user said it was injurious, which was emphasized by his fellow cultivators who did not use it. It is of less value as a medicine to those who habitually use it. Until lately I do not remember ever hearing the habit defended; the habitual user seemed always either pitied, blamed, or despised. Some begin through illness or suffering or frailty, or to meet strain, some for gratification of lust. It is generally given to children, to keep them quiet till two or three years of age. Cultivators find it one of the most profitable crops for irrigated land, for which a high rate has to be

paid. But of late years the price of opium has gone down, and if it continues to decrease it will become unprofitable. If either from that cause or its suppression it should cease to be cultivated, the loss would come first on the cultivator but ultimately on the State, which could not get more for the land than the people could afford to pay. I remember distinctly one case in which a man said he cultivated it only because required to by his Sarkar. It requires much labour and expense, and there is risk of failure. Some say that sugar-cane is more profitable though requiring longer time. On other land *also* is spoken of as perhaps the most profitable crop. Of late, rumours among the people that opium is to be suppressed in the interests of the English liquor traffic seem to show that an effort is being made to stir up opposition to its suppression. Immediate suppression would be resented by many as a hardship, but the system adopted in Burmah of requiring all present users to register themselves and prohibiting others from beginning, has been warmly commended by those whom I have told of it. The principal hindrances to mission work from opium in this country seem to be (1) that it lowers and weakens the moral nature, and makes it irresolute, sluggish, and shrinking from the troubles and difficulties involved in becoming a Christian and leading a Christian life, and (2) that the person who is addicted to it and

* See Appendix XIII. to this Volume.

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shrinks from the pain of giving it up, and yet knows that this would be required, is thus deterred from seeking to become a Christian even when convinced that here lies truth and salvation.

23,310-11. (*Mr. Wilson.*) The general tendency of your evidence is that practically all the people you have met with regard it as a bad habit, and would like to be delivered from it?—That is certainly the general result of all the conversations I have had on the subject.

23,312-13. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Has the nature of your work brought you into contact with the cultivating classes, and the people of the districts generally?—Yes, more or less. For several years I spent three or four months in district work, and in that time I went over a large part of the district to the west of Indore, as far as Central India extends.

23,314. Would that be among the Native States?—Yes.

23,315. Have you seen many cases yourself in which men have deprived their families of food and clothing owing to their having taken up the opium habit?—I cannot say how many cases I have seen, but I have known cases which came under my notice without making special inquiries.

23,316. We have been told by a number of medical witnesses that opium enables many persons who are suffering from rheumatism and other ailments to do their daily work, and that without opium they would practically have starved—do not you think that this must be taken into consideration on the other side?—I have certainly, in some cases, been told by men that, unless they had their usual supply of opium they could not do their work—whether that was the result simply of their becoming habituated to it, and consequently unable to do their work without it, I cannot say.

23,317. I am speaking of old men suffering from rheumatic pains, &c., who have to support their families, and who could not work without opium, and who would consequently starve; has that come within your experience?—I have certainly been told of old people taking opium for that purpose.

23,318. When you speak of the habitual user of opium being blamed and despised, do you speak of the excessive use?—The question of what is excess is difficult to answer. What I had in my mind was the habitual user, as distinguished from the occasional user, either for medicinal or social purposes. I meant the man who has become so addicted to it that he could not do without his usual dose. I do not wish it to be understood that I mean that every person who habitually uses opium is despised as compared with everybody else, but that he is despised in that regard. In other respects he may be respected, but he will not be respected as much as he would be if he were free from the habit.

23,319. I have no doubt that you are well acquainted with Hindustani? We have been told by a great many witnesses that the word "Afmi" or "Afimchi" means an opium eater in excess—is that your experience?—I have always understood it to mean an habitual user, one who could not do his work unless he had opium. I have not gone into the question of excess, I have simply divided the consumers into habitual and occasional users.

23,320. What conclusion do you wish to be drawn from the single instance you have quoted of a man who cultivated poppy because he was required to do so by

the Sarkar?—I have often been told by the cultivators when I expressed an unfavourable opinion with regard to the opium traffic that the Government caused them to do it, but I remember only one particular case in which a person said he would prefer not to grow it, but that he was required to do so by his Sarkar. I understand that many witnesses have expressed the opinion that there are many such cases; it may be so, but I do not know it.

23,321. You are referring to the Native Government, I suppose?—Yes, in the case I referred to.

23,322. Do you think that cultivators in this part of India would grow a crop to please the Durbar if it did not pay them?—There are different ways in which things may pay people.

23,323. But if it did not pay them in any way?—Certainly not, but it would not pay them to offend the Sarkar.

23,324. I mean financially, as affecting their own pockets?—To offend the Sarkar would affect their pockets.

23,325. Do you think the cultivators would grow a crop by which they would be out of pocket merely to please the local Sarkar?—No, unless they believed it to be to their advantage; taking all things together, I do not suppose they would.

23,326. Have you found the opium habit a practical hindrance to mission work in the fields in which you have laboured?—Yes, in the ways I have spoken of. I can give you an illustration. We lately had a man who expressed his desire, as the result of the preaching he heard, to be a Christian. The apothecary who worked under me found out that he was an opium eater, and he told him he could not continue the habit as a Christian, and the man immediately went away.

23,327. Have you had any other instances like that?—Yes, I have had other cases. I remember a man who for a long time professed his conviction, and who attempted to give up opium. He became very ill in consequence, and had dysentery. He went to the hospital, and when he recovered he took opium again. The man was in my service and I had to dismiss him at last.

23,328. Was the question of his becoming a Christian involved in that case too?—I certainly understood so. If he had not been an opium eater he seemed to be a hopeful inquirer, but he did not continue so.

23,329. (*Chairman.*) Is it a *sine quâ non* in your community that they do not admit opium eaters?—I should think so; I do not think we should allow a person to be a communicant who was an habitual user of opium.

23,330. Can you explain to me how it is, if the opinions expressed to you are so general as you represent them to be, that with such a large number of native witnesses whom we have been examining during the last few days, your opinion has not been confirmed?—There may be different reasons for it. I suppose one's judgment is very often affected by bias; that bias may be produced in different ways—certainly I know plenty of natives who would give an opposite opinion.

23,331. I have been looking through the list of witnesses submitted for our consideration, and I confess I do not see their names on the list of witnesses?—I have nothing to say to that.

The witness withdrew.

The Rev. W. A. Wilson called in and examined.

23,332. (*Chairman.*) You belong to the Canadian Presbyterian Mission of Rutlam?—Yes.

23,333. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—I have been in India about nine years, saving time of furlough. I have been for some years in the habit of making inquiries among the villagers in district work as to the extent and effects of the use of opium. About three years ago I visited two opium dens in Ujjain. I have been frequently told that opium is almost universally given to children till they are about two or three years of age, that old people with failing strength and growing infirmities frequently resort to it, that others take it to relieve suffering from illness and other causes. I know the case of a life apparently destroyed by it, and other cases where men

have been unfitted for business and their characters deteriorated till they became utterly unreliable. I know of no confirmed opium eater ever becoming a Christian. I have been asked for medicine to enable users to break off the habit. I have found a general belief among the people that by its use weak or diseased people can do more work with it than without it. I have found those who use it invariably unwilling to acknowledge themselves addicted to the habit. Until recently I have found none willing to defend the habit. Opium smoking is said to be bad and only bad. Opium smoking is said to be resorted to by depraved characters to inflame and feed their lusts. Cultivators say the cultivation of opium costs much hard labour and care, and yields little profit, but they wish the present order

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of things continued, as they realise a little ready money and can realise a second crop on the ground in the year. Though the excessive use of opium is an undoubted evil, and though its use is, I believe, except as a medicine, to be wholly deprecated, a policy of restriction seems in the circumstances the only feasible one.

23,334. (*Mr. Wilson.*) I believe the Canadian Presbyterian Mission is the only mission in this part of the country?—No, there is a branch of another mission in Mhow, and in Bhopal there is also a branch of the Friends' Mission. With these exceptions we are the only mission in Malwa West, except some work being carried on by Roman Catholics from Mhow. Our mission is the chief mission.

23,335. Is your mission entirely, as its name implies, Canadian?—Yes.

23,336. Is there an anti-opium society in Canada?—Not that I am aware of.

23,337. You say that until recently you found none ready to support the habit, what do you mean by that?—Since returning from furlough, about three months ago, I made it a point to ask some educated gentlemen in Neemuch their opinion as regards the opium habit. Previously I had chiefly asked villagers, but on this occasion the first educated gentleman I asked was disposed to say that it was not looked upon with disrespect. That was the first experience I had of anyone saying that.

23,338. I do not understand whether the change you appear to have discovered was because you asked a gentleman of another class of society or because some change has come over the matter lately?—He was a gentleman of another class, but it may be due to another cause.

23,339. You say a policy of restriction seems to be the only feasible one, can you explain that a little further?—I mean that so long as public opinion in India is so opposed to prohibition it would be impossible for Government to carry out a policy of prohibition. It would be the duty of the Government to try to educate the people, but not to impose upon them laws that would not be carried out, for that would be impracticable.

23,340. You think some further restriction might be imposed, but you do not think prohibition is feasible?—No, I think the Government should have no connexion with the opium traffic that would lead anyone to suppose it was stimulating it. Government should in no way stimulate it, but on the other hand should do its best to restrict it, and so abolish the evils connected with it so far as it can.

23,340a. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You belong to the same society as Mr. Campbell, I believe?—Yes.

23,341. Is it a settled policy with your mission not to admit opium eaters as church members?—I do not know that we have ever discussed the matter as a mission. I think the practice of individual missionaries is not to admit those who are confirmed opium eaters. I do not know of any that have been received.

23,342. Do you take up any attitude in regard to the use of alcohol?—I take up very much the same attitude as in regard to opium, that is, that until the people are ready for a prohibitory law it would be unwise for Government to pass such a law. The Government cannot move faster in its legislation than the moral education of the people will permit.

23,343. In principle, you disapprove of alcoholic liquor?—I think its use save medicinally is bad.

23,344. Equally as bad as opium?—In some respects alcohol is worse in its effects than opium.

The witness withdrew.

MR. CYRUS P. ANKETELL called in and examined.

*Mr. Cyrus P.
Anketell.*

23,357. (*Chairman.*) You are a native of Ceylon, and you have lived in various places in India since 1873?—Yes.

23,358. Where have you lived?—I have lived mostly in southern India until a year ago, when I came to Mhow.

23,359. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—I have been always interested in the opium question ever since I learnt at

23,345. From your experience in India have you known opium eaters who were robust and useful men, men that you could not distinguish from their neighbours as opium eaters?—I have met such men.

23,346. I suppose the use of opium amongst infants has not come much under your notice?—No, except that I have been told again and again that it is given to children until they are about three years of age.

23,347. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) I understand that your statement that no one was willing to defend the opium habit is founded on your experience mainly of one class—the cultivating class—am I correct in understanding that?—In my work among the villagers I found nobody defending it previously, and I do not know that among the same class anyone would defend it now to me.

23,348. Has it been your experience that opium is used very largely as a domestic remedy by the people for pains, coughs, &c., and by old men as a restorative?—When I have asked them as regards the prevalence of the habit, I have invariably received the answer that it is given to children and used by old people when they become infirm.

23,349. Do I understand you to say that no one spoke in favour of it being used by old men as a restorative?—They do not defend the habit. They do not say that it is a good thing. I do not know whether they knew my sentiments and answered so as to please me.

23,350. Those who know the natives of India are aware that they have a tendency to speak according to what they believe to be their questioner's views?—I am aware of that.

23,351. We have had a great deal of evidence, especially among the Rajputs, that the opium habit is widely diffused. Surely it would be an anomaly that the habit should be the custom of the country and yet that no one should speak in favour of it. Supposing we apply this to England and say that 50 to 60 per cent. of the people take beer and yet that no one speaks in favour of beer, would not that seem rather unintelligible?—I can only state the facts.

23,352. You said you limited it to a class of villagers?—The villagers whom I consulted. There are doubtless plenty now who will defend it looking to the attitude of the question.

23,353. Have your nine years been spent in Central India and in this part of the neighbourhood?—I was nine months in Mhow and the rest of the time, excepting when on furlough, I spent in Neemuch and the country round about.

23,354. You gave us your views as to restriction, and said that you wished to see the connexion of the Government with the opium trade done away with, but so far as these Native States, in which your experience lies, go, I do not know that there is much connexion between Government and the opium trade?—No, there is not.

23,355. Therefore in expressing that opinion you are rather expressing an opinion about the whole of India and not as regards your personal experience?—That is so. I would like to say that I have visited some opium dens at Ujjain and one at Ratlam. In the den in Ratlam there was not one among the smokers who defended the habit, but indeed, perhaps with the exception of one or two—there were eight of them—they pleaded with us to have the opium den closed, and some of them asked for a medicine to enable them to break off the habit. Two of them followed us to the street and pleaded to have some arrangement made to save them from the effects of the habit.

23,356. In speaking of an opium den you mean a place where opium is smoked; were they smoking Chandu or Madak?—Both; there were two places, one for high castes and the other for low castes, who were smoking *madak*.

school that the English people forced opium on the Chinese through a war, and they trade in opium for the sake of revenue. The thousands of candidates who appear for the various examinations of the five large Universities in India annually get this impression from their usual school books. Therefore, the rising generation of the educated classes cannot be persuaded to believe on the good intentions of the British Government as long as the opium trade is carried on. This, I believe, is not a matter to be slighted. In the interest

of the Empire it is not wise to let the body of the educated people, who are now beginning to lead the country, to grow from their school days with the impression that the British Government would not hesitate to sacrifice its moral principles for the sake of revenue. What I have always learnt and heard it said is that opium is a great evil. My experience in Mhow is only one year, but I availed myself of every opportunity of making a minute inquiry for my own satisfaction. I have not found a single person defend smoking or a large dose. I made a careful search from experienced medical men and villagers to find out if a moderate use of opium habitually was harmless. They all agree that unless milk, ghee, native sweetmeats, and such nourishing food are also taken even a moderate eater loses his health. It is, therefore, a question whether it is the nourishment or the opium that gives him that health. To a poor man who cannot afford to pay for such luxurious nourishments opium is sure ruin. I consider school the best representative gathering in a city. In our school at Mhow there are boys of all classes and castes, and I found only 3 or 4 per cent. of the boys whose parents used opium. I tried to ascertain from the headmaster of another school how many opium eaters' children attended his school. He replied that the teachers thought that such an inquiry would offend the boys and the parents. I make this statement simply to show that these are unfailing indications to prove that opium eaters are a disreputable class of people. A man who drinks may give it up at any time and can be without it when he has no money, but an opium eater is entirely disabled from his daily duties even if he misses one dose. As far as the British territories are concerned, the loss of revenue can be made up partly by the Disestablishment of the Church. This measure will greatly please the natives and make the Church of England, too, more spiritual in India. As far as my experience of 20 years goes in South India, I may safely say that the discontent will be insignificant there. Compared to the whole population of India, therefore, those who would make any serious complaint for the sake of opium itself cannot be a large number.

23,360. (*Mr Wilson.*) Can you tell me in what way you learnt at school that the English people forced opium on the Chinese? Do you mean when you were at school yourself?—Yes; the subject was introduced to my notice by a "Reader." Nothing there was stated about the policy of the British Government, of course, but it said that it was dangerous to give opium. I found this statement also in one of the London Readers published by the Christian Vernacular Education Society. It is translated and used very widely almost all over India. I found the statement also in the Third Reader Royal V., where it is mentioned only as a medicinal drug. I also read about it in studying geography, where we learn about the export of opium from India and the import into China. But every student learns that the English force opium on the Chinese in their English and Indian Histories, where the policy of the government is condemned mostly. To make my answer clear, I quote the following as an example from Collier's British Empire, Senior Class Book, page 316:—"A dispute arose with China about the trade in opium, a drug which the Chinese love to smoke and chew, although hundreds die from its poisonous effects. The Emperor, alarmed at the growth of the practice, forbade the importation of opium; but British merchants who made great profits by the trade still smuggled it into the country. The mandarins in authority seized and destroyed many cargoes of the forbidden drug. . . . War was declared in 1840." To make a good impression of the British government among the people in this country either opium must be stopped or the importation of all such text books from England.

The witness withdrew.

MR. HARBHAJAN DAS called in and examined (through an interpreter).

23,380a. (*Chairman.*) What is your position in the Canadian Mission High School of Mhow?—I am a master.

23,381. Are you the head master?—I am assistant master to Mr. Anketell the last witness.

23,382. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—I am a native of this place, and I know several villages also. I am closely acquainted with great many who used opium smoking and chewing. Smokers become very unhealthy and weak sooner and more than the eaters. I

23,361. You wish to tell us that in several books used in colleges and schools there is a reference to this subject?—Yes.

23,362. You speak about making a "careful search." What induced you to make that search?—I had always been under the impression that opium was very bad and injurious, but I was surprised to hear when the Commission came that many people spoke in favour of opium, and I thought I would make an impartial inquiry for myself. I took every opportunity to inquire, when travelling on railways, of my schoolboys, from doctors, and every one I met.

23,363. Your first impressions were against the opium trade?—Yes.

23,364. And seeing some of the evidence given before this Commission you wondered if it was correct?—Yes.

23,365. And you accordingly made inquiries?—Yes.

23,366. What do you mean by the school being the best representative gathering in the city?—We have all classes of boys there, rich and poor, of all castes and all religions.

23,367. Do you think they would admit to you that their parents used opium?—The boys do not like to say that at once, but if I asked one of the boys and he denies it another boy would say, "His father uses opium, sir," and in that way I found out. They would not come forward and say it because they were ashamed.

23,368. What is your age?—Thirty-six.

23,369. Do you regard the use of alcoholic beverages with the same hostility as you regard the use of opium?—I do not favour alcohol, but since my late inquiry I think opium is worse than alcohol, because an intoxicated man is not drunk for very long, but an opium eater to be useful must be intoxicated all his life, because he is unable to do his work without his usual dose of opium.

23,370. Would you favour the prohibition of alcohol as well as opium?—Yes, if it could be done I think it would be good for the country.

23,371. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) What school were you brought up in in India or Ceylon?—In India and Ceylon as well.

23,372. At what place in India?—I learnt at Salem.

23,373. What pay do you receive in your present position as headmaster of this school?—Rs. 65.

23,374. Do not you think that if the Commission wishes to ascertain the views of the people of India on this subject of opium they would naturally look to the Rajputs, and the people who are resident in this part of India instead of to a person who belongs to Ceylon like yourself?—There may be a tendency to do that.

23,375. You are aware, I suppose, that the use of opium in the South of India is comparatively very small?—Yes.

23,376. You would not ask us to draw any conclusion as to the possibility of discontent arising in other parts of India from your experience of the South of India?—No, I would not say anything about other places because I have not been long enough here. I think the discontent arising from the loss of opium itself would not be very great, but the discontent arising from the loss of money may be great.

23,377. That is the distinction you make?—Yes.

23,378. Is it the case that you have many boys of the better class in your school—sons of Rajput gentlemen and so on?—We have more of the poorer classes.

23,379. Have you boys of the Bania or Mahajan class?—We have a few.

23,380. Only a few?—Yes, a few.

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Mr.
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in the country is that such persons become impotent. Opium eaters are not respected, and in our language, "afimi," an opium eater, is used contemptuously, and would provoke a person. I also know of people who have been reduced to poverty by using opium. From my birth I have lived and moved among the opium eaters, and my experience is that they cannot be trusted. When an opium eater has not his usual dose he is in a miserable state, and is unable to do any kind of work whatever till he gets his doses. When he is too poor to get it, he begins to borrow or steal. In all cases of fever in our family and our relatives we mostly get treated by native doctors, and I do not remember any instance in which they prescribed opium.

23,383. Of what place are you a native?—Mhow.

23,384. How old are you?—Twenty-seven.

The witness withdrew.

Miss O'Hara,
M.D.

MISS O'HARA, M.D., called in and examined.

23,390. (Chairman.) We shall be glad to hear what you have to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—I have been in India over two years, and have had charge of the Mission Hospital here since March 1st, 1893. During that time I have seen many women and children who used opium to their own injury, but only mention those cases which are registered as fatal, or diseased by the use of the drug. Two cases of acute poisoning had a fatal termination. Two women were in-patients who were slaves to opium. Eighty-one children were treated whose vital functions were so interfered with by the use of opium that life was only a miserable existence, soon to terminate in death unless effective treatment were used. Opium in the hands of those who do not understand its properties is sure to cause evil; and until the women of India are more enlightened than they are at present, it would be well if some measure could be adopted by means of which the health, and even the lives, of themselves and their children could be protected from the use of this injurious drug.

23,391. (Mr. Wilson.) Of what University are you a doctor of medicine?—Queen's University, Kingstown, Ontario, Canada.

23,392. You say that you only mention those cases which are registered as fatal or diseased by the use of the drug; will you explain what you mean?—I only thought about my evidence before this Commission a week ago, and I then went to my yearly register to see the cases, and these cases I have mentioned are the cases which were registered as having been diseased, or having died from the use of opium during the past year. The register is for the whole hospital year, beginning from the 1st of March up to the present time. I had no intention of giving evidence when I registered the cases.

23,393. These cases were not cases of general disease complicated by the use of opium, but cases in which you believe opium was the cause of the ailment?—Yes, opium was the cause.

23,394. Out of those 81 cases which you mention of children, did many of them recover?—I think many of them did recover after the drug had been withdrawn and nourishing treatment had been given. I could not say all of them recovered, but many of them did. Some of these children were brought from the village, and their mothers brought them only for a few times, and then got tired of it and stayed away.

23,395. Do you think these mothers, who bring the children to you, are at all conscious that they are doing the children any harm by giving opium?—Some of them are, and some are not. The day before yesterday a woman came to me who had found out that she had done harm by giving opium. She told me that she had had seven children, and they had all died at an early age. I asked her what they had died of, and she said that opium was the cause of the sickness.

23,396. We have had a great deal of evidence that opium has a very beneficial effect in preserving the lives of children, but I gather your opinion is the opposite to that?—I do not believe in it at all—directly the opposite. I believe it is a direct injury to children.

23,397. One reason why it is given is to prevent the children from crying; speaking from a medical point of view, do you think that is an advantage?—No; I do not think it is an advantage to take the life of a child to prevent it from crying.

23,385. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You state that you know several villages, do you mean you have visited these villages, or have you been an inhabitant of them?—I sometimes go to these places.

23,386. Do you think from your experience that the word "afimi" is used of an eater of opium in moderation?—If a man eats opium at all whether in small or large quantities he is called an afimi. In our country a man who drinks a little is held up to reprobation, but in England a person who drinks a little is not held up to reprobation.

23,387. Afimi is used in that sense?—Yes.

23,388. A man who drinks a little would be called a drinker quite as much as a man who takes a large quantity?—Yes.

23,389. Has your experience been in Mhow itself?—Yes.

23,397a. (Sir William Roberts.) I think you admitted that you had seen disease produced among these children by opium?—Yes.

23,398. Do you mean organic disease?—I think it tended to that direction. It was principally dysentery, diarrhoea, and glandular disease that was caused by it.

23,399. Produced by the mothers giving the children opium?—Yes, in this way; digestion was interfered with, and all the functions of the body in such a way that they became diseased.

23,400. From your medical education you know that it is often very difficult to trace the sequences in the production of ailments, is it not?—Yes.

23,401. You also know that dysentery and diarrhoea are not very uncommon amongst infants who do not take opium; how did you distinguish these cases with regard to their being caused by opium?—The same way as I distinguish any disease from another—by the history of the disease and by the symptoms.

23,402. Do you mean by the fact that opium had been given to them?—By the way the mother has treated the child—how much opium she has given it and so on.

23,403. You take it generally that opium was the cause, because it had been given to them; that impressed your mind?—Yes.

23,404. We have had once or twice mentioned to us cases of what are called opium marasmus, a condition that I can easily understand might arise; have any of these cases fallen under your observation?—Almost all the 81 cases are cases of that description. They would amount to it in the end. They have marasmus and all kinds of diseases. At the first history of the case they will have constipation alternating with diarrhoea, and this goes on until the system of the child gets into such a condition that he has constant diarrhoea and dysentery.

23,405. Were they a very defined group?—Yes, very defined.

23,406. I mean in regard to their symptoms and course?—Yes.

23,407. The symptoms were of diarrhoea and dysenteric purging?—In the end, yes, and also of emaciation. The child has an old appearance that they get from nothing else except opium to my mind.

23,408. Did you notice what quantity of opium the mothers gave in this case?—They will say "So much," holding up their fingers to indicate; they do not tell you how many grains.

23,409. Would it amount to two or three grains?—More than that sometimes.

23,410. Have you recognised that the children of these natives and the natives themselves are more tolerant to opium than Europeans?—If they were not given it I do not think they would be. I think they become tolerant to it by the constant use, just as people become habituated to anything else; but a new-born child in India is not more tolerant to it than one in England or America, as far as I know.

23,411. The dose given at first is very minute, is it not?—Yes.

23,412. Have you ever seen it given?—No, the mothers tell me about it.

23,413. I presume your experience is almost entirely hospital and dispensary experience?—Yes, of the mothers and children.

23,414. Have you seen healthy children who are given opium?—Yes; I have seen children who were tolerably healthy who used it in small quantities.

23,415. Is it your impression that the habit of giving opium to infants is so common, that it may be said to be given to 80 or 90 per cent. of the children about here?—Yes. I meet some people who do not take opium. I met a young man yesterday who has no connexion with the Canadian Mission. He was here yesterday listening to the evidence, and he told me that he was very much surprised at what he had heard, because his mother had taught him when he was little not to use opium. She had counselled her children not to take opium, or give it to their children. The young man was a Brahmin, and had no connexion with the Canadian Mission.

23,416. I understand that the fatalities among these children cannot be very great?—They are.

23,417. How is it that the population is increasing in those States?—If you were to question the mothers you would find the mortality is very great indeed.

The witness withdrew.

KHAN SINGH RAMSINGH called in and examined (through an interpreter).

23,424. (*Chairman.*) Where are you living now?—I live with Mr. Wilkie at Indore.

23,425. Are you in his service?—I am a catechist of the mission at Indore.

23,426. Is that the same mission which has been mentioned two or three times before us to-day?—Yes.

23,427. How long have you been in this part of India?—I have been 16 years in Central India.

23,428. How long have you been a catechist of the mission?—About three years.

23,429. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—I am 65 years old, have lived all my life in India, was formerly a Sikh, became a Christian when about 25 years old, have lived in the Punjab, Bombay, Rajputana, and Central India, was as a young man a soldier, and have served in different positions under the Government, the last being that of Kotwal of Sirdarpore, Central India. I have seen much of the use and effects of opium in all parts of India, and, so far as I have heard, the people all say it is bad and produces only bad effects to the extent it is used. Children are injured by it, and some die; homes are broken up and wives are separated from their husbands; those who eat it gradually become more and more enslaved; require more opium to enable them to do any work; gradually lose their strength and require rich food, or they grow emaciated; when the habit becomes fixed most serious consequences, even death, follow, if they do not get the needed supply; and in that case they resort to all manner of evil courses to get it, hesitating at nothing. I have never heard of opium being used either to prevent or drive off fever. Those who eat opium may, as long as the influence of opium remains, do as much work as others, say for an hour or so, but after the *nasha* passes off they are not able to do as much as others. I would not think of taking opium to help me through some stress of work, and I do not think any wise person would think of opium at such times, unless he previously

The witness withdrew.

MR. JOSEPH NAMAJI called in and examined (through an interpreter).

23,440. (*Chairman.*) You are 28 years old?—Yes.

23,441. Your father was a soldier in a native regiment and afterwards a policeman at Ahmednagar?—Yes.

23,442. What are you yourself?—Catechist in the Canadian Presbyterian Mission.

23,443. How long have you been connected with the mission?—I have been a catechist for four months.

23,444. How long have you lived at Indore?—I have been here during that time. Before that I lived a year at Mhow. Since then I have been here engaged in this work.

23,445. What were you engaged in at Mhow?—I was a catechist there also.

23,446. And before that?—I was a catechist at Ahmednagar in the Church of England S. P. G. Society.

23,418. You consider the fatalities are considerable in number?—Yes.

23,419. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Are the children to whom you have referred brought in from some distances around, or only from some of the villages near to you?—Some of them were brought from some considerable distance, one child was brought 20 miles. Most of them are brought from the villages and the city.

23,420. Is your hospital the one which the women would know most about, and to which they would bring their children?—Yes.

23,421. (*Chairman.*) What proportion are these 81 children out of the total number of children you have had through your hands during the year?—I do not know; I did not count up to see how many there were.

23,422. You have no idea?—The number of patients since the 1st of March is over 7,000.

23,423. Of women and children?—Yes.

had acquired the habit. When I was Kotwal I saw prisoners accustomed to take opium suffer much from the want of it, as it is forbidden to them in jail; but after a few days, when a gradually reduced dose was given them, they got rid of the habit, and then generally became stout and healthy again.

23,430. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Was opium ever permitted to be given to prisoners in jail?—It is not permitted.

23,431. Have you heard of such a case?—In the case of prisoners becoming very ill they are sometimes given a small dose of it.

23,432. Do you agree with the witness who told us that the use of opium tended to cure people of stealing?—No, it is not the truth; I think they will steal more. If they do not get opium they will certainly steal.

23,433. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) In what regiment did you serve?—I was a prisoner at the battle of Chilianwala. I was in one of Ranjit Singh's regiments. I served in a Sikh regiment in the Punjab first under the Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

23,434. Have you been in a British regiment?—The regiment was afterwards transferred to the British Government.

23,435. You have spoken of your being Kotwal at Sirdarpore, what pay were you receiving then?—Rs. 30, a horse and the expense of keeping the horse.

23,436. Do you think there is no such thing as the eating of opium in moderation?—If a man can get opium he will increase his dose daily.

23,437. Are you aware that some number of people of middle age take to the habit of eating opium?—I am aware that the practice exists, but a good man will not take it.

23,438. Do you consider that taking alcohol is a bad habit?—Drinking much liquor is bad, but I do not condemn moderation. They are both bad.

23,439. (*Chairman.*) How long have you been a Christian?—Nearly 40 years.

23,447. How long were you there?—14 years.

23,448. Then you began at 12 years of age?—Part of that time I was a school teacher, and for two years a catechist.

23,449. Did you begin to be a school teacher at 12 years of age?—Yes, a pupil-teacher.

23,450. In fact all your life you have been a pupil-teacher or catechist?—For about 14 or 15 years I have been either a teacher or a catechist.

23,451. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—Opium was given regularly to our first child for a time but, it became first thin, then sick, and finally died. The doctors all said that opium caused the disease, and because of the opium the medicine given had no effect. An intimate friend of mine was a dooly-bearer and was led to begin taking

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opium through the influence of a fellow-bearer. In 10 years, though a young man, he became old and unable to do any work. His wife left him and he was forced to live by begging till he died. I am surprised to hear within the last few weeks that opium eating is good, as the people I have met with all say it is bad, are afraid of those who begin it and speak of its being so difficult for them to give it up, except when force is used; and so far as this new idea is circulated great and serious evil must result. My old schoolmaster was an opium eater, and many times urged me to have nothing to do with it as it was a very bad habit, which he wished very much to get rid of but could not leave it off.

The witness withdrew.

The Rev. J. WILKIE called in and examined.

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J. Wilkie.

23,456. (*Chairman.*) You are a missionary of the Canadian Presbyterian Church, and have been for the past 14 years in and around Indore amongst all classes of the community, except when at home once on furlough?—Yes.

23,457. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—Opium is used by large numbers of the people; in the villages by children and old people, and in the city by many of almost all classes. Its results, so far as known to me, are in almost all cases injurious. Many children die, and many more suffer seriously. Amongst the older people it gradually dries up the body except when rich food is taken. In all cases the dose has gradually to be increased, or the end sought for is not attained; and in proportion as its use increases the strength decreases. Those taking it work, probably, as well as their companions as long as the influence of the opium lasts, but when that is gone they become listless and careless. More than once we have had to dismiss men from our employ because of this. It is not generally resorted to in times of emergency or exposure, so far as I can learn, except by those accustomed to it, whose physical strength does not enable them to bear what their companions can undertake. The people in many cases blame opium for their bleeding at the nose, asthma, impotency, diarrhoea, &c. It is much used to relieve pain, and I have heard it is used for fever; but, so far as I know from inquiry or personal observation, the people do not value it either to ward off or cure fever, but use it to relieve the accompanying pain. Even with opium in their hands they prefer quinine for fever when they can get it. It has a sadly demoralising effect on its users. When the required amount cannot be obtained its users hesitate at no course, however low, and at such times they are excessively ill-natured and quarrelsome. It seems to destroy the will power, hence those who begin its use seldom give it up, except when under compulsion, as amongst the prisoners in the jails. It is, I believe, different from the drink habit, in that it more quickly and more completely enslaves its victims. It is generally regarded as a disgraceful habit, and hence is so generally concealed, till concealment is no longer possible. I would be glad to see the whole traffic in it, as an intoxicant, brought to an end; and do not believe the result would be a very serious loss to the people in Central India. The agricultural classes—the great mass of the people—now cultivate it at a loss, they say, and hence this year in the villages around Indore, much less is sown than usual, and in some cases gram and wheat are sown in its place. The villagers say they only get now from Rs. 18 to Rs. 22 per dhari, or 5 seers, whereas a few years ago they received Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 for the same amount; and that they cannot cultivate it with any profit at that rate. To the most of them it would make no difference financially whether opium were cultivated or not. If the price of opium falls still lower, the greater number of the present cultivators will probably cease to grow it, except when specially ordered to do so by the authorities. The traders have in many cases lost heavily in late years, and, except by those given to gambling, it is regarded as a very uncertain article of trade. As no special or expensive machinery is required for the preparation of opium no loss would follow under this head were the trade stopped. The stock of opium would speedily be sent out of Indore and turned into money—probably at enhanced prices—were it intimated that the British Government were about to raise the opium tax; and so the merchants would have all their capital in their hands, and would lose only the interest of that

23,452. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) I gather that your father was a Maratha, is that so?—Yes.

23,453. Was your father a Christian?—He was not.

23,454. When you say that all the people you have met say that opium is bad, are you referring to the people of Ahmednagar particularly?—I refer to wherever I have been—Ahmednagar, Mhow, or Indore.

23,455. Do you think four months' experience at Indore entitles you to come before the Commission and speak as to the views of the people of this place?—I have met a large number of men and I think I can speak on their behalf.

money, till it could be turned into another branch of trade. The owners of the land would probably suffer somewhat, as they might not obtain the present rent for the opium land; but as that forms but a small part of the land now cultivated, and as attention would then be directed to other things that could be grown on such land the loss would probably be only temporary in its character. I believe the great mass of the people would soon cease to either use or wish for opium, except as a medicine, were it made increasingly difficult for them to get it, and this could be done by the British Government intimating that after a certain date the tax on all opium passing through British territory would be greatly increased. The immediate effect would be the shipment of all stocks on hand to the sea-board, and as it would not then pay to cultivate it the farmers would not sow it. For medicinal purposes the rulers in Central India could easily secure the growth of the quantity required in certain small restricted areas, and by taking possession of the whole amount grown could command their own price. The possibility of smuggling to any serious extent would thus be removed.

23,458. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Can you give us any information about the Canadian Presbyterian Mission in this part of India? How many stations have you got, and how many missionaries?—We have two ordained missionaries and one lady doctor, and two Zenana ladies at Mhow. I am the only ordained minister at Indore, but there are two lady doctors and four Zenana ladies. There are two ordained missionaries and one doctor in Rutlam. There is one doctor—his wife is also a doctor in Ujjain. There is one lady doctor, two Zenana ladies, and one ordained missionary in Neemuch.

23,459. Have you a considerable number of schools, colleges, and institutions of that kind?—We have one college, three high schools, and a large number of vernacular schools in all our stations and in the districts around.

23,460. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You say: "I would be glad to see the whole traffic in it as an intoxicant brought to an end;" do you take the same view with regard to alcoholic beverages?—The same views.

23,461. You regard both the opium habit and the alcohol habit as vices?—I regard them both as bad. I should like to see them both stopped by legislation or otherwise.

23,462. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) We have had a large number of persons before us who have stated that they have not increased the dose of opium over long periods. Some of these persons were in a high position. Do you think your experience enables you to lay down the general proposition that in all cases the dose has to be increased?—I am only speaking of what I have actually seen and heard. I have had no practical experience myself, of course, but that is what I have heard.

23,463. The result of information which you have received?—Yes, from talking with the people and asking them about it.

23,464. Have you made it a practice to speak to people on this subject for some years, or have you taken it up lately?—During the first four years of my stay in Indore I spent the cold season in the district, and I was brought a very great deal into contact with the people, and was led to feel that there were serious evils connected with it. In Indore I have not given so much attention to it until comparatively lately, but I have been constantly met with it, and I may say that within the last few days I took pains to gather together

a number of people representing several different classes that I thought I could rely upon, and my belief was confirmed—my old impressions were confirmed.

23,465. Do you think, looking at the subject as a whole, that the evil of it predominates, is that the impression that was confirmed?—I think it is a very serious evil that ought to be, if at all possible, brought to an end.

23,466. In speaking of the preference of people for quinine, does that apply to your experience of the villages in this part of India?—My experience both in the villages and wherever I have come into contact with the people. I am not a doctor, but I have made it a practice to take medicines with me when I go out in the villages. I have also a dispensary where I give medicines to all those connected with me, and I know those who can get quinine prefer it to opium. I have asked people whether they would use opium for fever, and I have never had an affirmative answer.

23,467. The evidence before us has shown that the medical and non-medical uses of opium are very much mixed; would not you recognise that as a very serious difficulty in attempting to restrict the use of opium for what are called non-medical purposes?—I do, but I do not recognise it as an insuperable difficulty at all. Of course, I may be wrong. Salt is not a natural product of Central India, but it is used by the people and can be imported by them if they want it. In the same way a sufficient quantity of opium can be grown and retained by the Princes of Central India, and those people who wanted it could go and get it.

23,468. You do not use salt for medical purposes?—No.

23,469. It is a different thing?—Yes, but if the price of opium is made so high that the people can only use it as a luxury they will gradually give up its use.

23,470. Is it not the case that opium is used as a common domestic remedy, and as a protection against many pains, and so on?—The people, so far as I know, use it to soothe their pains, and it is the only remedy they fall back upon in all cases of trouble, but not as a cure for disease. I do not think as a rule they think it will cure the disease, but they use it to relieve the pain because they cannot cure the disease.

23,471. Do you think it would be practicable to make arrangements so that they could use it for that purpose, it seems to be a very legitimate purpose?—I do not see why people could not get it in the same way as they get anything else. It would be better if they had to pay a higher price for it than that the present arrangements should continue.

23,472. What would your arrangements be to ensure that they get it for medical purposes?—I say that even although the difficulty would be great, there is greater difficulty caused by the present arrangements.

23,473. You think there should be some further restrictions?—I should like to see the whole traffic in it as an intoxicant stopped, and I think it could be done were it made increasingly difficult for the people to get it—where the people constantly get it freely they will continue to use it.

23,474. You are not prepared to make any suggestion for the allowing of it to be obtained for medical purposes?—It is not for me to make arrangements for the rulers of Central India. I have simply mentioned certain lines—whether other and better lines could be devised it is not for me to say.

23,475. (Chairman.) Do you wish us to understand that the great mass of the cultivators of Central India are actually cultivating at a loss at the present time?—I do not exactly say that.

23,476. You said “the agricultural classes—the great mass of the people—now cultivate it at a loss, they say”?—I said that they say so.

23,477. Do you wish us to believe that?—I can only believe men who make a statement of that kind over and over again. They have no interest to tell me an untruth, and I must accept their statement until I am sure they are speaking wrongly. Whether it is so or not I do not know, but I must believe it until I hear differently.

23,478. Can you give me any reason why these people should go on cultivating that, which they say to you, brings them loss, if it be a loss?—No, but I imagine that when they say they cultivate at a loss they mean that they have to pay a high rent for opium land; higher than for other lands.

23,479. To the State or to the landlord?—It happens that in some cases the State is the landlord. They have to pay a higher rent for opium land than for other lands, and in the meantime, whilst matters are in an unsettled condition, when it is not known whether opium will go up or down, they cultivate it a little, nothing like so much as they did before, hoping that things would readjust themselves.

23,480. Do you state on your own knowledge that they pay a higher rent for opium land to the State than for other lands?—Yes, a higher rent than for wheat lands. They pay a higher rent for wet land than for dry land. Wet land is used for opium, sugar-cane, and such things.

23,481. Do they pay a higher rate for opium land than for other irrigated land?—No, I did not mean to convey that impression.

23,482. Why, if they pay the same rate for opium land as they do for other irrigated land, do they grow opium on irrigated land at all if it does not pay them to do so?—I believe the explanation is that they are now in a more or less unsettled condition. I understand that they are not growing so much opium as before. I do not know the whole of Central India. I am speaking of a limited area of land in Indore, and I say they are not growing so much as they formerly did, for this reason, that they are actually growing wheat and gram on land which, in former years, was used for growing opium.

23,483. The first reason you assigned was they paid a higher rent for opium lands?—I said they were actually growing wheat on irrigated land. I should have used the term “irrigated land” instead of “opium land.”

23,484. You draw a distinction between irrigated land and opium land?—I mean the land in Central India, which is actually set apart for opium itself. In a certain section they will have four fields. They will take one or two of them for opium, one for sugar-cane, and one will lie fallow. If you take the whole quantity of dry and wet land together the actual amount which is used for opium is, I am given to understand, comparatively small. I should like to make an additional remark with regard to my statement about the substitution of wheat for opium. In Canada an acre of wheat is supposed to produce, as an average crop, 30 bushels, or about 900 seers, and at the rate at which wheat is sold to-day—in fact even at a lower rate—they would realise fully Rs. 60 per acre for their land in Central India if they paid the same attention to it, and if they could raise the same crops of wheat on their land as in Canada, and if they were to give the same attention to wheat land as they do to opium land they would raise as large crops as in Canada in Central India.

23,485. Do you speak as an agriculturist?—No; but I know something about agriculture.

23,486. Can you give me any reason why it is that the great mass of cultivators are cultivating at a loss: we have had no evidence from the cultivators themselves to that effect?—I believe—I do not say it with conceit—that we have an opportunity of getting the opinions of the common people in a way that the officials cannot, for the very reason that they are officials. The natives will naturally ask, “What does the official want?” and they will give an expression of opinion according to what the officials want. They know we are missionaries, and they give us their opinion in a way they would never think of giving it to officials belonging to the Native States or to the British Government. In that way, as missionaries, we have a better opportunity of getting at the inner thoughts of the people than the officials.

23,487. Do not you think you might have suggested to them that they had an opportunity of stating their complaints to this Commission?—I do not think that was my place—it was the place of the Commission; I am not an agent for the Commission.

23,488. Is there any rule in connexion with your Church as to the use of alcohol with regard to converts coming into your Church?—I think it is our practice not to admit those who take alcohol, but there is no rule to that effect that I know of.

23,489. The practice with regard to opium and alcohol is the same?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

*The Rev.
J. Wilkie.*

8 Feb. 1894.

Dr.
J. Buchanan.

DR. JOHN BUCHANAN called in and examined.

8 Feb. 1894.

23,490. (*Chairman.*) What are your qualifications?—I am a Minister of the Canadian Presbyterian Church, doing medical mission work, and working just now at Ujjain. I have been five years in India, and I have experience daily in the dispensary, having worked for some time past without an assistant. As I have no hospital assistant I am brought more especially into contact with the people than others who have a number of assistants might be.

23,491. (*Sir William Roberts.*) What diplomas have you?—I graduated in Arts and Theology in Queen's, Kingstown, and I graduated in Medicine in the University of Vermont.

23,491a. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—I have been a little over five years in this country engaged in medical missionary work. Especially in my dispensary practice I have seen the evil effects of the free use of opium in the hands of the Indian people. Many small children suffer greatly from a severe form of diarrhoea which takes frequently the dysenteric form, due to opium being given to the children, and it is, I believe, the cause of many deaths. Bronchitis and pneumonia are often seriously complicated by the free use of opium given by the mothers to the children. Those addicted to the opium habit present usually a wasted appearance. In many cases I have found a kind of asthma that I have been in the habit of writing down as "opium eater's asthma." Sympathetic pains are also complained of by such patients, which I think are due merely to the drug. So far as I have seen, those who use the drug are much weaker after using it. Many people ask for medicine that will enable them to break off the habit. I never knew a man addicted to the habit who did not wish to be freed from it if that could be done without the pain and sickness that such persons experience in trying to leave off the habit without medicine. My practice has been when giving opium as a medicine to keep the patient in ignorance of what drug he is taking, as even this knowledge might induce him to continue the use of the drug and so become an opium eater. My former assistant, Pooran Lal, who was in Ujjain previous to my being appointed there, refused to administer opium in any form because so many were being injured by the drug that he was afraid he might help to increase its daily use, and also because so much opium was used that the ordinary dose would have little effect upon those patients. I have felt that there was much weight in his view, but still I am unwilling to give up the use of the drug as a medicine unless it should be absolutely necessary. People begin the use of opium chiefly, I think, either to administer to their lusts or to relieve pain, and they are in a short time unable to break off the bad habit. While I say that opium is a valuable drug I think it is very dangerous to have it so easily attainable, because while it relieves pain the patient is often deceived into believing that he is really benefited, when he is merely relieved. Thus he is induced to take the drug day by day till it becomes his master. I have found that even ordinary labourers in Ujjain can describe the effects of the drug. Those who use the drug are usually ashamed to say so publicly; so much disrespected is the habitual user of opium that the word "afimi," applied to all such persons, has also a figurative signification—a "sot," a useless fellow. I think there should be some restriction put upon the sale of opium, because so long as it is so easily attainable a great temptation lies before the people to use opium for every slight complaint that many lives will be ruined.

23,492. I presume, like the rest of the medical witnesses we have had before us, you have not seen any organic changes produced by the opium habit?—I think there has been organic trouble. I speak of the "opium eater's asthma." It seems to me it is either organic or it may be due to the action on the nervous system.

23,493. Functional?—Yes, I think it produces a real disease among the people.

23,494. It is the first we have heard of it. I was interested in what you said about your fearing to prescribe opium unless people might get addicted to the habit—have you recognised the difference in susceptibility to opium on the part of the natives of India and on the part of Europeans?—I have not noticed it. It was a rule laid down by our professors at college that if you have a nervous person, especially one with a

hysterical tendency and weak mind, and who was subject to headaches or anything of that kind, not to let them know that you are giving them a particular medicine, such as chloral or opium. Where you have susceptible cases, and where the drug is so common as it is in India, it becomes more dangerous to let them know you are prescribing opium which has ruined so many people.

23,495. I suppose you recognise that the opium habit exists in what may be called a moderate degree in a great number of instances?—I am quite aware that people go on for years taking opium, some taking it in small quantities others in larger quantities, but I think usually there is a gradual increase in the amount of opium taken.

23,496. I presume you have seen many opium eaters who have not injured their health?—I do not think I have seen any person with whom I have had conversation on the subject and who was addicted to the opium habit that I did not find had injured his health. You will find men who have been using it for 20 years who will tell you that before they used it they were strong, and now, although they may be fairly strong, they will not have much flesh, they waste away. I have asked the coolies working in the construction work what the effects of the drug are, and so far from hearing that it is beneficial I hear that it causes waste, and "dries up a person."

23,497. I think you are connected with this Presbyterian Canadian Mission?—Yes.

23,498. All those who come in contact with you would know that the mission you are connected with looks with disfavour on opium?—I do not think so. I have just come home from tour, and the people I have met are quite unconscious of our views on the subject. So far as I am aware no missionary has ever been over this ground before. These men who are addicted to the habit come to me personally, and, wishing to get medicine, they naturally tell me all their failings and their habits, so that I may be able to prescribe accordingly.

23,499. I think you have been a little over four or five years in this neighbourhood?—A little over five years.

23,500. Is it your impression that the opium habit tends to shorten life?—Yes.

23,501. You have no record that would enable you to put something before us in the nature of evidence on that head?—I can only speak from my experience. I have seen children brought in whom I am certain would have recovered if their mothers had not been giving them opium. It seems to be most disastrous particularly when given in lung disease to children. The children get into a weak condition, without any tone to their condition, and the use of opium also prevents their clearing the lungs of the matter accumulated.

23,502. You have only a general impression?—A general impression and an actual practice.

23,502a. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Where were you before you were at Ujjain?—I was here for a short time learning the language, and then I was at Mhow for a little while helping there.

23,503. You say from your experience that emaciation always follows the use of opium?—Yes.

23,504. We have had before us 50 or 60 big stout Sikhs who have taken opium for years?—I have never found a man yet who did not say that before taking opium he was much stronger and stouter although he might have a fair appearance. I am prepared to say that every man who takes opium does not become a complete wreck, but he becomes very much weaker and is injured by it.

23,505. I am speaking about loss of flesh. I understood you to say that opium eating always caused a loss of flesh?—I have never seen a man yet who was addicted to the opium habit who expressed himself as being anything like as strong as he was before using the drug and they are all anxious to have relief from the drug, if they can get it without suffering pain.

23,506. But can you say that opium eating always leads to loss of flesh?—I think it leads to deterioration in flesh and muscular power.

23,507. (*Chairman.*) Are these habitual consumers mostly men after middle life?—I think a great many of them begin in young manhood, between 20 and 25. A good many of them begin at that age, sometimes

from social customs, when opium is passed round at festivals and the like; sometimes to gratify their lusts and passions, and sometimes to relieve pain.

23,508. Do you think they develop it as a habit at that age?—I think it develops very often into a habit before they are 35 years old.

The witness withdrew.

The Rev. NORMAN H. RUSSELL called in and examined.

23,509. (*Mr. Wilson.*) I think you are a missionary of the Canadian Presbyterian Mission stationed at Mhow?—Yes.

23,510. You have heard the evidence of Mr. Wilkie and Mr. Campbell and others, do you substantially agree with the statements they have brought forward?—Those statements about the matters I am acquainted with I support.

23,511. Have you anything to say with regard to this question?—I and my brother missionaries speak not only for ourselves but also for a class of the people, the Native Christian population, natives of the soil whose duty it is to go over all the villages and towns of Central India and find out what are the stumbling blocks which prevent these men coming to a knowledge of the truth, and improving morally; and therefore I believe we are in a better position to judge of the opium habit than any other class in India. It has come under my notice that when a man eats opium he requires rich food to counteract its effects, and in the case of poor men it leads to much more suffering than in the case of those who can get these rich foods, such as milk, sugar, sweetmeats, and so on. This also causes great expense to the family of a poor man. The opium eater generally is looked down upon, and I know a man in a responsible position near Mhow of whom the people say when his opinion is quoted on any subject, "Oh, he is an opium eater, and what is his opinion worth!" I would like to mention that in the cantonment of Mhow there is an opium den which I have visited in person, and in which I found 49 people smoking opium or preparations of opium. They told me that over 50 people smoked opium there, and that there were a great many more people in Mhow who smoked opium in their own houses.

23,512. (*Sir William Roberts.*) Do you take the same view with regard to alcohol as with regard to opium?—Yes, I am a total prohibitionist with regard to both. I mean, of course, making due allowance in the case of both for all medical necessities.

23,513. You would not take the same view with regard to tobacco?—No.

23,514. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) With reference to what you have told us as to your position in the matter of ascertaining the feelings of the people of the country I think I am correct in understanding that you speak of the feelings of one class, the cultivating class?—Not necessarily, we deal with all classes of people.

23,515. You spoke about going out among the villages?—We find all classes in the villages, and our people go into the large towns and cities also. There is one class which is not reached by our mission, and that is probably the class which has given so much evidence in favour of opium before the Commission, I mean the ruling class.

23,516. How many natives of India have you in your Church?—It is difficult to give you statistics, we are just at the end of our official year.

23,517. Can you tell us generally?—We have about 700 altogether in this part of India.

23,518. You made some remarks as to opium eaters not being trustworthy, would those remarks apply to opium eaters in excess?—I would agree largely with what my brother missionaries have said in this matter, we look down upon a man who is an habitual eater.

23,519. He may eat opium habitually in excess or moderation?—It is difficult to say what is moderation.

23,520. Without doing harm to health or character?—I have found very few who habitually use opium who did not suffer from it.

23,521. You know no habitual users of opium who do not go to excess?—It depends on what is meant by excess. If it means that a man suffers from it to any

extent then I think it is the case with all habitual opium eaters, and I speak for my agents as well as myself.

23,522. Does it affect his carrying on his ordinary duties and earning his livelihood and being a respectable citizen?—A man who takes drink at home has his work interfered with more or less, and if he gives way to the habit it interferes more with his work; a man who becomes an habitual user of opium must deteriorate mentally and physically, and I must say my men have been constant observers of such cases, people who are deteriorating mentally and physically day by day.

23,523. You draw a parallel between drinking and opium eating. Surely you recognise there is a moderate use of drink, may not there be a moderate use of opium?—I would not undertake to say yes to that.

23,524. (*Chairman.*) You have spoken to us as speaking on behalf of the native Christians who have a special knowledge, as you say, of hindrances in their work, and Mr. Campbell to-day mentioned opium as one of the hindrances to mission work, I suppose you would agree with him in that?—Yes.

23,525. Do not you think your native agents, being naturally anxious to spread Christianity, and finding opium an hindrance to their work, may take a more prejudicial view of the question than other persons who are not looking at it from exactly the same point of view?—In the first place I would like to say that native Christians and native agents are not interchangeable terms. An agent is one merely employed as a catechist, &c. Outside these are the native Christians, and they have their say through their elders in matters pertaining to the discipline of the Church and such other matters, and they agree with us in this. Why should we raise an obstruction to a man joining our Church if it were not a very serious matter with us, and why should we come before the Commission and offer evidence which, so far from making us friends, will draw down upon us a certain amount of ill feeling from those whom we count our friends, the rulers of India? Some people may say we are fanatics; we do not look upon it in that way. We wish to lay before the people of England through the Commission our opinion that we think opium is a serious evil, and I do not see at all where the prejudice comes from. If there were a prejudice it would be all the other way, a prejudice in order to add to our numbers, that would be the natural aim of the workers.

23,526. To minimise evils?—To minimise all things which keep people out of the Church.

23,527. Do you mean that opium is not so much an hindrance to people becoming Christians as the feeling amongst native Christians that opium eaters should not be admitted into the Church?—No, we want to help all classes. We love the opium eater in the sense that we use the word love. We want to help him and cure him of his habit, but we, *i.e.*, the native Christians and ourselves, consider that a man who eats opium is not trustworthy.

23,528. To put it shortly, the difficulty which is made as to taking opium eaters into your community arises not from your point of view, the point of view of the missionary, but from the point of view of the members themselves?—Along with ourselves; we of course are members, and have a very large influence.

23,529. That is the point I wish to impress upon you, whether in the first instance it was the objection of the missionaries to admit opium eaters into the community?—I could not go back to the origin of the matter. I found that spirit among the native Christians when I came here. I believe it came from the fact that they are Christians, from the feeling that "Whatsoever causes my brother offence, that I must give up."

The witness withdrew.

Dr.
J. Buchanan.
8 Feb. 1894.

The Rev.
N. H. Russell.

Mr.
E. J. Drew.
8 Feb. 1894.

MR. EDWIN J. DREW called in and examined.

- 23,530. (Mr. Wilson.) Do you live at Mhow?—Yes.
 23,531. You carry on an ice business there?—Yes.
 23,532. You have lived in India 23 years?—Yes.
 23,533. Do you employ a number of wood-cutters to fetch wood for your purpose?—Yes.
 23,534. Some of these men are opium eaters?—Yes, four of them.
 23,535. Do you find a difference between the opium eaters and the others as to their trustworthiness?—A vast difference, the opium eaters are quite untrustworthy.
 23,536. Do you as a matter of fact in a practical way draw a broad distinction as regards advancing money to an opium eater and one who is not an opium eater?—Yes, a vast difference. I advance a non-opium eater money up to Rs. 100 to buy carts to go into the jungle to bring the wood back, but on no account would I advance more than Rs. 15 to an opium eater.
 23,537. Have you any opium eaters in your factory?—No, I object to them. They are altogether untrustworthy, and I would not trust them there.
 23,538. Have you seen many men ruined by this opium habit?—Yes, quite a number.
 23,539. You regard the opium habit as a blight and a curse on the country in which you live?—Undoubtedly.
 23,540. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Will you tell me the number of men you employ in wood cutting, is it a large body?—35 to 40.
 23,541. Are these four men, so far as you know, excessive opium consumers?—Yes, I should say so.
 23,542. You have some large experience of India. We have had a good deal of evidence, especially in this part of India, that the Baniyas and Mahajans, a successful

trading class, are opium eaters; and this does not seem to affect their power of doing business?—My evidence in reference to this is very much like the evidence which has been already given. People of this class who consume opium counteract the effects by the fact of their having money and being able to get plenty of food.

23,543. You would admit that among a class of this kind the opium habit does not necessarily tend to untrustworthiness or unbusinesslike habits?—He would certainly be an untrustworthy man if he increased the dose.

23,544. A large number of them take opium in moderation and they are practical business men?—It is very difficult to find out that. I do not want to give my evidence from hearsay.

23,545. You admit the force of that argument?—Yes, I do, just the same as those who drink in moderation.

23,546. What are your views as regards drink?—I think drink is an evil, the same as opium, because it tends to destroy a large amount of life. I look upon the evil effects of opium, because of the great number of children it has destroyed, in the same light as I would look upon the effects of Suttie, infanticide, and other evils, done away with in India long ago.

23,547. You are an advocate of complete abstinence?—Abstinence from all that is evil, decidedly.

23,548. I mean as regards alcohol and opium?—Yes, because I believe both have a tendency to drag down humanity to death.

23,549. Would you like to see complete abstinence enforced by legislation?—I leave that to the Commission. I think we should have prohibition of opium decidedly. I would not, however, condemn medical authorities. They have a right to use it if it is necessary for medical purposes.

The witness withdrew.

The Rev.
J. Wilkie.

The Rev. J. WILKIE recalled and examined.

23,550. (Witness.) I fear that I have made an impression on the Commission that I have not done my best to get evidence. I appointed a council to deal with the matter; it was only on Saturday last, I heard that I was

to give evidence, and I then did all I could to procure those who could give evidence about those who wish for the prohibition of opium.

The witness withdrew.

Mr.
Hewett.

MR. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT, Secretary to the Commission, called in.

23,551. (Chairman.) I think you have some petitions to bring to our notice?—I have 12 petitions from the residents of Ajmere signed by 823 persons. They are in the vernacular or in English and are all to the same

effect, stating that the people of Rajputana find the use of opium very valuable and praying that the traffic may not be discontinued under any circumstances.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to Monday, the 12th February, at Bombay.

At the Collector's Office, Amedabad.

SIXTY-SIXTH DAY.

Thursday, 8th February 1894.

(Section B.)

PRESENT:

SIR JAMES B. LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. ARTHUR PEASE.

Mr. HARIDAS VEHAIDAS DESAI.

Mr. PEMBERTON, Assistant Secretary.

RUNCHORDAS JAISHANKAR BAKSHI called in and examined.

Runchordas
Jaishankar
Bakshi.
(Jamnagar
State.)

8 Feb. 1894.

23,552. (*Chairman.*) You are Joint Revenue Commissioner, Jamnagar State?—Yes.

23,552a. Where is the Jamnagar State?—In Kathiawar.

23,553. What is the revenue?—25 lakhs.

23,554. Do you remember what the population is?—Nearly 375,000 in the Jamnagar State.

23,555. What class generally consume opium in your State?—The Rajputs, Charans, Kathis, Bhats, and other Hindus and Mahomedans use opium.

23,556. What is the effect of the habit?—If used in moderation it will not injure the physical state, but if used in excess it will ruin the body.

23,557. Does it affect their morals?—Yes, a poor man if he cannot get opium will probably indulge in petty thefts.

23,558. That is if they are too poor to buy the opium?—Yes.

23,559. Would the people like or not like to have the use of opium prohibited?—No, not at all.

23,560. But if the order was made that they could use it for medical purposes, but not for other purposes, would they like that?—No, they would not.

23,561. What would they think if prohibition led to extra taxation?—They would think it tyranny.

23,562. Then you are against prohibition?—Yes.

23,563. Do you know the arrangements which at present exist for the supply of opium to Native States in Kathiawar?—Yes.

23,564. Could those arrangements be stopped?—The nature of the existing arrangements with the Native States in respect of the transit through the British territory is that opium is brought by a pass obtained from the Political Agent and necessary pass fee of Government

paid on it. These arrangements could not with justice be terminated.

23,565. If they were terminated what would the Native States do?—They would go their own way.

23,566. Grow their own opium?—Yes, sow their own opium.

23,567. Supposing, in spite of what you say, the arrangements were terminated; what compensation would the State claim?—The State does not wish to have any compensation in cash. If the Political Agent will not supply opium the State will make arrangements of their own.

23,568. Has any estimate been made as to what the compensation should be?—Yes. It was made for the information of the Commission. It was estimated that our State would lose Rs. 20,000.

23,569. Do you mean Rs. 20,000 a year or once for all?—A year.

23,570. What are the arrangements for alcohol in the State?—It is leased.

23,571. Does the distiller get a lease?—No, the merchant.

23,572. Is there one farmer for the whole territory?—Yes.

23,573. Can the farmer establish as many shops as he likes?—Yes.

23,574. Do you know at what price the farmer sells a bottle of liquor?—Rs. 2½ a quart bottle.

23,575. (*Mr. Pease.*) You mention that there are some people who take opium to excess; do you think anything can be done to prevent people taking opium in excess?—No.23,576. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Are there different rates of price for liquor, according to quality?—From 10 annas to Rs. 2-8-0.

The witness withdrew.

BHAROT UMLA VAJA called in and examined (through an interpreter).

Bharot Umla
Vaja.
(Jamnagar
State.)23,577. (*Chairman.*) You are, I believe, a servant of the Jamnagar State?—Yes.

23,578. And by caste a Charan?—Yes.

23,579. Do you own any land?—I own a village under assignment.

23,580. What sort of people consume opium in your State?—In the Jamnagar State, Rajputs, Kathis, and Charans consume opium. Some Musalmans also consume it.

23,581. What is the physical effect of the consumption of opium upon the people?—It gives vigour and strength to a man, and makes him comfortable. It does not derange his mind, but, on the contrary, it improves his intellect.

23,582. What is the moral effect?—It does not affect the moral conduct.

23,583. If opium is taken in excess, what then?—It would, of course, injure in every way; but even food would do the same if taken in excess.

23,584. If opium were prohibited except as a medicine, what would the people of India think?—People would think that the Government were doing an act of injustice.

23,585. If prohibition was carried out in British territory could it be extended to Native States?—No. If prohibition were prohibited in British territory the ruler of my State would not follow.

23,586. (*Mr. Pease.*) Do many people take to excess in your State?—There are many who take a moderate dose; but there are some who take in excess.

23,587. What do you consider a moderate dose?—Up to 18 grains.

Bharot Umla
Vaya.
(Jamnagar
State.)
8 Feb. 1894.

23,588. Do you take opium?—Yes.

23,589. How much?—Fifteen grains at a time, twice a day.

23,590. (Chairman.) How long have you taken that? Twenty-five years.

23,591. (Mr. Pease.) Have you taken the same quan-

The witness withdrew.

MALEK ALI NOWRANG called in and examined (through an interpreter).

Malek Ali
Nowrang.
(Jamnagar
State.)

23,593. (Chairman.) You are from the Jamnagar State?—Yes.

23,594. What class consume opium in the Jamnagar State?—Rajputs, Kathis, and Charans, and some Musalmans. It is also given to little children.

23,595. What effect has it on the physical and moral condition of the consumers?—The use of it keeps children in good health, and gives them rest. To the adults it gives strength, and it does not affect their mental or moral calibre. It prevents the wounded from getting tetanus, and it helps to heal sutures properly.

23,596. What happens if it is taken in excess?—It becomes an intoxicant, and it would injure in many ways.

23,597. Do any people wish that it should be prohibited except for medical purposes in your State?—No; they would consider it a great oppression.

23,598. Do you, yourself, take opium?—Yes.

23,599. How much?—From 12 to 24 grains.

The witness withdrew.

MATHURBHAI VARAJBHAI called in and examined (through an interpreter).

Mathurbhai
Varajbhai.

23,607. (Chairman.) You are patel of Dani Limbda, Ahmedabad?—Yes.

23,608. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—In the Ahmedabad district it is customary among the Kolis, Patidars, Rajputs, Bhats, Charans, Girasias, Kathis, Musalmans, &c. to eat opium and to cause others to eat it on occasions of wedding and funeral.

23,609. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—Those opium eaters who are in good circumstances, that is who can feed themselves with milk and ghee, are always strong and healthy in body, while those who are poor, that is who cannot feed themselves with milk and ghi, are a little weak in body. Again, opium produces no effect on the moral condition of those opium eaters who are in good circumstances. But Kolis and certain other classes of people being poor, a change takes place in their moral condition and they commit thefts and other offences, when, after having once formed the habit of opium eating, they are not in possession of enough money to procure opium.

23,610. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes?—I am of opinion that the people are not disposed to refrain from using opium for non-medical purposes.

23,611. Would they be willing to bear the whole or part of the cost of prohibitive measures?—I do not think so.

23,612. Do you think the sale of opium should be prohibited except for medical purposes?—There should be no prohibition, for, if the practice of using opium which has prevailed from ancient times among the people mentioned in the first answer be stopped, they would feel greatly aggrieved at heart, and perhaps misunderstandings might arise. Not only this, but the poppy is cultivated in India and opium is manufactured therefrom and then exported, with the result that a large sum of money is received in India and the people are benefited thereby. At the same time many persons carry on trade in opium, and if it be stopped the people will sustain heavy injury. I am therefore of opinion that the poppy should be allowed to be cultivated in all those places where it has been hitherto cultivated,

tity all that time?—The same quantity; I have not increased it. For a year I took it in a small quantity very secretly; but after a year I began to take it openly, and have continued taking the same quantity.

23,592. Does it affect your health?—I keep the same good health which I had before I began to take opium.

23,600. (Mr. Pease.) How long have you been taking that?—The last 25 years.

23,601. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) What is your age?—50.

23,602. (Chairman.) What did you begin it for?—I commenced it in company with others as a habit. I had piles, and by the use of opium they were cured. When I began I took six grains at a time, and I gradually increased it to the present dose.

23,603. How long have you been taking the present dose?—Sixteen years.

23,604. Except for the cure of piles, are you benefited by it?—I keep good health. If I did not take it I should be just like dead.

23,605. (Mr. Pease.) Have you ever tried to give it up?—No, I have not even thought of giving it up. If I gave it up I think I should die.

23,606. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Did you ever take opium later than the usual time you generally take it?—Yes, sometimes 15 or 20 minutes later; and during that time I felt very much pain.

and that the present arrangements for preventing its unlawful use should be continued, so that trade might increase among agriculturists and other people. From this it is not to be inferred that the production of opium would be stimulated and that its consumption would increase among the people by reason of its becoming cheap, for the number of opium eaters is much smaller now than it was before 1878, and day by day the number is decreasing. The reason is, that education is advancing among certain classes of the people mentioned above, and that consequently they cease to be opium eaters, and learn to drink liquor. There would thus be fewer opium eaters.

23,613. Do you think prohibition could be extended to Native States?—Perhaps the prohibition could be extended to the smaller Native States, but in my opinion it is highly impossible to extend it to the larger ones.

23,614. You said that "Kolis and certain other" classes of people being poor a change takes place in "their moral condition, and they commit thefts and "other offences"; are there many such people?—No, very few.

23,615. You say that the number of opium eaters is much smaller now than it used to be before 1878, and that the reason is that education is advancing; is not opium much dearer also since 1878, and is that not another reason?—Yes; both on account of the spread of education as well as the enhancement of the price of opium.

23,616. You say that opium eating is decreasing and the people are learning to drink liquor by reason of the spread of education; do you mean English or vernacular education?—I mean both.

23,617. Why should vernacular education incite people to drink liquor, seeing that liquor is prohibited by the Hindu and Mahomedan religions?—Owing to the company and example of people educated in other ways the students of vernacular education also take to drinking liquor.

23,618. Which is the worst intoxicant in your opinion—how do they rank?—In point of injurious quality I put alcohol first, next ganja, and then bhang and opium.

23,619. You are hereditary patel of the village?—Yes. I am a shareholder in the village.

23,620. What is your caste?—I am a Kanbi.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. GIRDHARLAL HIRABHAI called in and examined.

Mr. Girdharlal
Hirabhai.
(Idar State.)

8 Feb. 1894.

23,621. (*Chairman.*) You are Deputy Minister of the Idar State?—Yes.

23,622. What is the revenue of Idar State?—Between three and four lakhs. I am not sure of the exact sum.

23,623. What is the title of the ruler?—He is called Maharaja.

23,624. He is a Rajput of the same clan as the Maharaja of Jodhpur?—Yes, he is an off-shoot of Jodhpur.

23,625. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I am acquainted with the Ahmedabad district and the Native States of Idar, Sachin, Palanpur, and Radhanpur. My experience as regards opium consumers is only general. I have known Musalmans, Baniyas, Kanbis, and a few of the higher castes as consumers.

23,626. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—Their moral and physical state was good.

23,627. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—The people use opium so commonly for non-medical purposes that, in my opinion, they would be quite unwilling to bear in whole or even in part the cost of prohibitive measures.

23,628. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes; and could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?—In my opinion the sale of opium, except for medical purposes, should not be prohibited in British India. Such prohibitions could not be enforced in the Native States with which I am acquainted.

23,629. To what class do the people in your State chiefly belong?—Rajputs, Baniyas, Kanbis, Kolis, and Jungle Bhils.

23,630. Do the Bhils and the Kolis take opium?—Yes.

23,631. Much?—I have never seen them take it, but they take it a little.

23,632. Do the Bhils and Kolis also drink liquor?—Yes, they take liquor also.

23,633. What are the arrangements for sale of liquor in Idar?—Licenses are given to the liquor sellers, and they pay some fixed amount. The licenses are generally sold by public auction, and particular sums are given for each shop.

23,634. That is, the license of each shop is sold by auction?—Yes.

23,635. Can you tell us what price liquor is sold per bottle?—I could not. It is not my function; there is a separate officer for that.

23,636. Does Idar get its opium from British Government?—Yes. There are some arrangements made

between the British Government and the State whereby the State gets opium. If they were to take it from Bombay a pass is given, otherwise it is purchased in Rajputana, but with the permission of the Political Agent.

23,637. What would happen if those arrangements were stopped?—They could not be stopped because the British Government has pledged itself.

23,638. They could not be justly stopped you mean. Supposing it was stopped, justly or unjustly, what would the State think?—It would be oppression. The Maharaja could not withstand the wishes of the British Government; but it would be oppression if it were stopped, and these arrangements upset.

23,639. Was the cultivation of opium prohibited when these arrangements were made?—Yes, I think so.

23,640. Before that was there any cultivation of poppy in Idar?—I believe so.

23,641. Have you not seen any cases of injury from excessive use of opium?—No, I have not.

23,642. Is liquor often drunk to excess?—Yes, it is drunk to excess, and the one who drinks becomes mad, and does injury and speaks nonsense.

23,643. Has this system of liquor license come down from very old times?—I believe it has. The State derives a revenue from it.

23,644. Have you ever heard of any time in these Mahi Kantha States when no revenue was derived from liquor?—I do not know about that.

23,645. You have never heard of any such time?—No, I have not.

23,646. Is your State in the Mahi Kantha?—Yes.

23,647. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Is it within your knowledge that a large quantity of opium used to go to the Samlaji Fair at Idar for sale?—Yes, and formerly the traffic depended on that. Some large quantity came from Udarpur, Dungarpur, and some other Rajputana States also.

23,648. They are bordering States?—Yes.

23,649. Who were the traders who purchased the opium from the fair?—The Gujarat merchants purchased it, and other people from the Gaikwar States, and British Government States; but principally Gaikwar traders.

23,650. (*Chairman.*) Was it for export, or for consumption there?—It was exported to that part. It must have been sold or consumed somewhere else, but I do not know.

23,651. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Has that been discontinued lately?—Yes, it has been discontinued by British Government.

23,652. Do you know whether the State received any compensation from Government?—I do not suppose so, but the Idar State does receive some benefit from other arrangements made by the British Government with the Idar State.

23,653. They get opium passed free?—Yes, and that is a source of revenue.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. AJITRAI SHIVADAS called in and examined.

Mr.
Ajitrai
Shivadas.

23,654. (*Chairman.*) You are the District Abkari Inspector for Ahmedabad?—Yes.

23,655. May I ask where your home is?—I am a native of Ahmedabad.

23,656. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—The Girasias and Kathis who live in the southern part of this district have always been using and been addicted to the habit of eating opium, and the habit is still prevalent among them. Kasumbha is prepared twice a day, that is in the morning and evening, when poor Wasavas (low class labourers) (such as barbers, potters, Ravanyas, havaldars, Charans, Bhats) who are habitual opium eaters are supplied with opium according to their requirements. This is a mark of generosity. On wedding and funeral occasions the use of opium is indispensable among these people, for their reputation on account of the dinners given on those occasions

depends on such use. It is a custom among these people that when guests come to them from abroad on any unusual occasion, or on ordinary business, the village barber on behalf of the guests invites the resident householders of the village to drink kasumbha. All those that assemble in response to the invitations are supplied with kasumbha by the guests at their own expense, and pieces of opium have also to be given according to the requirements of the persons invited. If one omits to do this, he is not considered respectable. Another class of people residing in this district are the Patidars and Kanbis, who have always followed the usage mentioned below. On a wedding occasion one may use opium at his pleasure, but when a respectable old man dies, the use of opium in honour of his memory is indispensable. During the first eleven days after the death of the deceased, when people of the surrounding villages, with whom such formalities are usually interchanged, come in crowds to offer condolence, kasumbha has to be supplied to them and their servants, and opium has also to

Mr.
Aittrai
Shivadas.
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be distributed among them. Afterwards on the last or thirteenth day all persons with whom such formalities are usually interchanged, and all relations come from abroad and assemble. This gathering is called Saraoni and if expenditure on a large scale is contemplated, it is called Gam Saraoni. The greater the quantity of opium one dispenses on this occasion the more credit he gets. Formerly twenty pounds was the maximum and five pounds the minimum quantity used. But since the Opium Act came into force, and smuggled opium ceased to be imported, these people have been reducing their expense on account of opium. At present the maximum quantity amounts to four pounds, while the minimum is half a pound. The reason assigned for this is that they are unable to procure opium, as Government have adopted prohibitive measures, and as opium is sold at a high price. In consequence they have reduced their opium expenses and I think that in future they will be still further reduced. The Kasbatis and Molesalams who form part of the Musalman community use opium in the same way as the Girasias, and being Giras-holders they cannot command respect without the use of opium. This being so, opium is a necessity on every social occasion involving expenditure. Besides the above-mentioned classes of people, the Brahmins, Banias, Rabaris, Shepherds, Dhers, Kolis, Thakardas are also obliged to use opium according to their respective means on funeral occasions. In short, my experience is that in villages, as distinguished from towns, opium is equivalent to a mark of according welcome to visitors, and as such it is indispensable.

23,657. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—The consumption of opium does not produce any bad effect on the moral condition of these people. The intoxication resulting from the use of opium is of a very mild and sedative character. If an opium eater gets good food, the effect on his physical condition is not injurious, but on the contrary he becomes strong and energetic. If a person eats opium immoderately and does not get good and nourishing food, he becomes weak and indolent, and if this state of things continues, it results in his death. Certain habitual opium eaters foolishly contract an evil habit under the supposition that if intoxication is to be induced, they must do something after eating opium, that is to say, must eat some food, then smoke tobacco and then go out for a ride, etc. If this be not done, they imagine that opium has not produced any intoxication, and under that belief they again eat opium. But this is a false notion, and hence these foolish people involve themselves in danger. This, however, is a fault of the opium eater and not of opium.

23,658. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—The practice of using opium for non-medical purposes has been prevalent in India for many years past, and the disposition of the people seems to be in favour of its continuance. I do not think that any class of people would voluntarily agree to bear, in whole or in part, the cost of prohibitive measures.

23,659. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—No. I am not of that opinion, for the practice of using opium has been prevalent in British India for many years past, and I think that if it were suddenly prohibited the disposition of the people would change. I am, therefore, of opinion that if the

measures at present adopted under the sanction of the law be continued, the result will be that after a few years the consumption of opium will decrease as the moral condition of the people goes on improving.

23,660. Could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?—No. I am not sure that this could be done. There are no large Native States in the Ahmedabad district, but having had frequent opportunities of meeting and conversing with the servants and subjects of other Native States, I have found that the practice of drinking opium, and of causing others to drink it, prevails largely among the Girasias and Rajputs, and therefore it seems difficult to prohibit the practice at once.

23,661. (Chairman.) You say that poor Vasawas (such as barbers, potters, &c.) who are habitual opium eaters are supplied with opium according to their requirements, that is by the rich people—rich Girasias?—Girasias and other landholders supply it.

23,662. Do you think that the custom of eating opium is decreasing?—Yes; decreasing day by day.

23,663. What reason is there for that?—Since the Act I. of 1878 was passed the price of opium has been advanced, and strict measures were taken at the time to prevent smuggling, the people have not taken so much.

23,664. Is it also a matter of fashion?—Yes; the rising generation is not inclined to take to opium.

23,665. Is this change in the fashion followed by any increase in the use of alcohol?—Yes, the use of alcohol is spreading, but not on account of the decrease in the use of opium.

23,666. What is the reason, do you think, for the spread of the use of alcohol?—I think people use alcohol more because its intoxicating effects are sudden on the body.

23,667. Are you speaking of Native or English spirits?—Both kinds of spirits.

23,668. At what price does Native liquor sell in Ahmedabad?—Rs. 3-12-0 per gallon or six bottles.

23,669. Do you know the price at which the lowest kinds of brandy, gin, &c. are sold?—The lowest kind of brandy costs Rs. 1-4-0 per bottle; the lowest kind of gin costs Rs. 2 per bottle.

23,670. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) Do you consider the habit of taking alcohol worse than taking opium?—Yes.

23,671. Has any measures similar to those with regard to the prohibition of opium been taken for restricting the possession and sale of liquor?—There is a law prohibiting the possession and sale of more than a gallon.

23,672. What quantity of opium can be possessed?—No one can possess or sell more than 2 tolas.

23,673. Are not the measures with regard to opium more strict than those in regard to alcohol?—Yes, there is an apparent difference; but I think that 2 tolas of opium would be quite enough to kill a man while a bottle of country liquor would not do so.

23,674. Would a gallon of country liquor take the life of a man?—A gallon of liquor would make a man intoxicated; but I cannot say whether it would kill him.

23,675. (Chairman.) Is there any limit with respect to the sale of European liquors in the amount that a man can buy?—No, there is no restriction as regards the possession and sale of European liquors.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. JOSEPH BENJAMIN called in and examined.

Mr. Joseph
Benjamin.

23,676. (Chairman.) You are a medical practitioner?—Yes.

23,677. Where did you study medicine?—At the Byramji Jijibhai Medical School at Poona.

23,678. Did you take any degree?—No, I passed through the school.

23,679. Have you been in Government employ?—Yes, I was 10 years in Government service.

23,680. As a hospital assistant?—Yes.

23,681. What opportunities have you had for seeing opium consumers?—While I was in medical charge of the taluka dispensaries at Sanand, Modasa, and

Pnantej (all of this district) from March 1884 to April 1892 I had frequent opportunities of seeing opium used among the different communities there. At Sanand, where its use was seen the most, it was found prevalent among the Girasias (Rajputs), Kadvas, Patidars (Kanbis), Audich Brahmins, Bharots, and some Shravak Banias (Jains). At Modasa and Prantej it was found used by the Mahomedans.

23,682. When do people take it, and in what form?—Persons, who are habituated to take opium, generally take it in its crude form, some once a day in the morning; the majority twice a day, viz., in the morning and evening; and a few thrice a day, viz., in the morning, afternoon, and at night. Among the

Rajputs, Kanbis, and Musalmans opium is served to guests on festive and other occasions in the form of kasumbha opium diluted with water). If no kasumbha is served to guests on these occasions the host's honour is lowered in the estimation of the guests who use opium. Some persons in the larger cities smoke opium in the form of chandul; such persons are generally the dregs of society, and are mostly gamblers. Some persons take opium in small doses, whereas others take from about half a drachm to as much as a drachm and a half of it per diem. The habit of opium eating is seen more in Gujarat than in the Deccan; and it is more prevalent in villages and towns than in cities. Hindus are in the habit of giving opium mixed with other drugs in the form of Balgolis (children's pills) to their children from their infancy till they are able to walk about, simply with the object of keeping them quiet. Such children are oftentimes very peevish, and occasionally accidents from overdoses do occur among them. Opium is also a favourite mode of administration among suicides. When several opium eaters assemble together they give kasumbha to each other, and they are very fond of sweet things. Kasumbha is also given to one another when a reconciliation takes place between two contending persons.

23,683. What is the effect of the opium habit so far as you have observed?—I have seen persons who habitually take opium in large doses not enjoying very good health. They were generally found dull, drowsy, and inactive. They generally spend hours together in idle talk in the company of other opium eaters. While attached to the Ahmedabad jail a Mahomedan prisoner was admitted in October 1892 into the jail, who used to take more than a drachm of opium a day before admission. On admission he was found to be almost a skeleton. He had no particular disease, but it was the opium that had entirely broken down his constitution. As he was not considered a fit person to remain in jail he was released, and we soon afterwards learnt that he died in a week after his discharge from the jail. It is my humble opinion that the habit of taking opium for its own sake is to be condemned, because it does not do any good to such persons.

23,684. Is opium a common medicine?—As a medicine opium is invaluable, and is one of the best remedies we possess. In chronic ailments, such as diabetes, chronic bronchitis with profuse expectoration, in diarrhoea and dysentery, in all painful diseases, and in general debility of old age opium doses oftentimes prove beneficial. I have seen persons suffering from anæmia, bleeding piles, diabetes, bronchitis, and phthisis, and chronic diarrhoea and dysentery, &c., use it. In such persons it seems to do good. In ague it has been found very useful in the cold stage. At Modasa I saw opium used by the people in cases of tetanus, and oftentimes with good effects. However, opium is not required in health, and therefore in health its use is to be deprecated.

23,685. Is opium used as a domestic medicine without medical advice?—Yes, it is used.

23,686. In the villages?—Yes.

23,687. Is there any other medicine which they use largely in the villages without medical advice?—No, there is no other medicine which is used as largely as opium.

23,688. How do people acquire the habit of eating opium?—Some people acquire the habit of eating opium for aphrodisiac purposes, but it has the contrary effects. The habit of eating opium, when once acquired, is not easily broken off. On the contrary, after the habit has been once established, opium eaters are required to increase its doses to produce the effects they felt with its smaller doses in the beginning. However, when I was attached to the Poona District jail from October 1882 to February 1884, and the Ahmedabad jail from August 1892 to January 1893, I generally found that prisoners addicted to opium whose opium was disallowed in jail lost weight slightly in the beginning, but ultimately gained much in weight.

23,689. Do you think the habit of eating opium has any effect upon the character of the consumers?—Though opium does not make persons prone to commit any crime of a serious nature, opium eaters of the pauper class do commit petty thefts for its sake, if they do not get it to eat.

23,690. What is the popular opinion of opium eating?—The habit of opium eating is looked down upon with contempt, and consequently the habit is gradually

getting less as education is spreading among them, and therefore no prohibitive measures are required. Besides the people are too poor to bear partly or wholly any burden of the expenses for prohibitive measures against opium, nor would they be willing to bear any such burden.

23,691. According to your experience as a medical man, which causes the most damage to health, the habit of eating opium or the habit of drinking alcohol?—Alcohol.

23,692. Do you think the drinking of alcohol is as much as it used to be, or is there any change?—Alcohol is increasing, especially in cities.

23,693. Is that increase an increase in the consumption of European liquors, or of native liquors, or of all kinds of liquors?—All kinds, both European and country liquors.

23,694. Is it not the case that under the excise system the price of liquor has been greatly raised?—Yes, it has been raised.

23,695. Still you think the rise has not caused any decrease in consumption?—No.

23,696. In some places where the price of liquor has been greatly raised it has been said that the people who used to drink liquor have taken to drinking bhang and other things instead; have you ever heard of that taking place in this part of the country?—No. It has not taken place so far as my experience goes.

23,697. As a medical man, what is your experience of the use of children's opium pills?—They are given by ignorant women simply to keep their children quiet.

23,698. Is it not also said that while the children are being suckled their bowels are apt to be very loose, and that the opium has a useful effect in checking the bowels?—If the bowels are loose these children's pills might do good, but not otherwise. They have their disadvantages also, because opium checks secretions, and if there be any bad milk of course poisoning takes place in the system.

23,699. You say that occasional accidents from overdoses do occur among children; is that a general report, or have cases been brought to you?—I have seen two or three such cases.

23,700. Did those children recover, or did they die from the dose?—One died.

23,701. What led to the overdose, was it a mistake, or what?—A mistake.

23,702. You mention the case of a man who came into the jail in a very emaciated state, and was sent out and died; did that man have any other organic disease?—No other organic disease; he was simply emaciated.

23,703. It was a case of atrophy?—Yes.

23,704. You say that the habit of opium eating is looked down upon with contempt; how does that agree with your saying that it is so prevalent among the land-holding class?—It is not so prevalent as it was before.

23,705. I suppose it is among the young generation that it is looked down upon with contempt?—Yes. Even the people who take opium admit that they commit wrong in taking it.

23,706. Admit that it is a bad habit?—Yes.

23,707. You are not in favour of prohibition, all the same?—No, I am not in favour of prohibition.

23,708. You think the thing will cure itself?—By the spread of moral education among the Rajputs, Girasias, and Kanbis, the habit is getting less. So by the increase of education it will get less and less in the future. Besides, legal measures have not always the desired effect, as experience has shown in the case of tobacco in James the First's time, as well as when the Emperor of Turkey prohibited the smoking of tobacco; in spite of the orders it increased.

23,709. (Mr. Pease.) Where have you had experience of the smoking of opium?—I saw it here.

23,710. Is there any smoking in Ahmedabad now?—Yes. Only 15 days ago I saw a smoking club, and I saw one at Poona some 10 years ago.

23,711. How many persons were in this club you saw 15 days ago?—Four persons. When I went there three were lying down on the ground, and one was smoking.

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23,712. What class of people were they?—They were all Mahomedans whom I saw. One man was shampooing the legs of another.

23,713. You say the habit is more prevalent in villages and towns than in the cities; that is contrary to the evidence we have had in other places; are you quite sure that that is so?—Yes; so far as my experience goes, I have seen it used more at Sanand than it is in the large cities.

23,714. Would you be at all apprehensive that a person who had been accustomed to take opium and had had it stopped would lose his life by it?—No, because persons addicted to opium have left off the habit and did not die.

23,715. Is it your experience that that is a very general impression—that persons would die if they gave up their opium?—No, they say they would suffer a great deal.

23,716. Not that they would die?—I had three cases

The witness withdrew.

Rawal Shri
Harisinghji
Rupsinghji.
(Bhaunagar
State.)

RAWAL SHRI HARISINGHJI RUPSINGHJI called in and examined.

23,720. (Chairman.) You are a relation, I think, of the Maharaja of Bhaunagar?—I am his first cousin.

23,721. And you are a large landholder?—Yes.

23,722. Where were you educated?—At the Rajkumar College.

23,723. Please tell us what your experience is as regards the opium habit?—My experience extends to Kathiawar only. The Rajputs living in this province are, as far as I know, opium eaters from 30 to 40 per 100.

23,724. That is, per 100 of grown-up men?—Yes.

23,725. What is the effect of the habit?—Opium, I believe, has no effect on the morals of a man, but it no doubt makes him physically indolent if taken in large quantities.

23,726. What do you think are the medical effects of opium?—I have not studied the subject with regard to the therapeutic properties of opium, and have no data to come to any definite conclusion as to its being a cure to any malady.

23,727. If opium was prohibited, and other taxation had to be imposed, what would the people think?—People would not like it, of course. India is already a poor country.

The witness withdrew.

Khuman
Bhoj
Oghad.
(Bhaunagar
State.)

KHUMAN BHOJ OGHAD called in.

23,735. (Chairman.) Are you a Kathi?—Yes.

23,736. Have you much land?—Yes.

23,737. Will you tell us what you know of the opium habit in Bhaunagar?—A great part of the population of this country takes opium. Warlike clans use it at the time of war for keeping up the spirit. And I believe opium is necessary for these men. Some of the opium eaters are weak, but not, as I think, owing to opium. Opium is a specific for asthma, chronic dysentery, &c. It prolongs the life of men suffering from these diseases. Opium is less injurious compared with other narcotics, and does not lead to much physical and moral deterioration. The majority of the people are for the use of opium for non-medicinal purposes.

23,738. If prohibition was ordered by the Government, and an increased taxation became necessary, what would the people say?—The people are poor, and any increment in taxation, the necessary consequence of the prohibition of the use of opium, will cause dissatisfaction in their minds, and they would be unwilling to bear the cost.

23,739. Do you think any change in the present system advisable?—I am a Kathi by caste and do not take opium. But from my experience I say that any change in the present system is not advisable.

The witness withdrew.

cured of opium eating—three Kolis who used to take opium, and I gave them medicines.

23,717. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) It appears from what you say that the habit of eating opium cannot be given up without some pain or suffering to the man who wants to give it up?—In the beginning he will have some pain, but if proper medicine is given he will have very little pain.

23,718. He requires some treatment; he should not be left alone?—No, he requires some treatment.

23,719. What medicine do you give just to keep him well during the time he does not take opium?—This is my treatment:—Aromatic spirits of ammonia, spirits of chloroform, tincture of ginger, peppermint water; with tincture of opium equal to a quarter of the opium that the patient has been in the habit of taking. Then I gradually decrease by ten minim doses the tincture of opium. I keep the other medicine the same; but reduce the quantity of the tincture of opium.

23,728. Do you think if opium was prohibited for non-medical purposes, do you think the people would take to anything else?—Yes, they would drink alcohol.

23,729. How do you compare alcohol with opium?—Alcohol is very bad, of course, compared with opium.

23,730. Alcohol is much worse?—Yes.

23,731. What would be thought if the British Government prohibited opium in its own territories, and wished prohibition to be extended to the Native States?—They would not like it.

23,732. Would they think that the Government had a right to ask them to do it?—I do not think that it would be possible to extend its prohibition to the Native States, as it would be a fruitful source of annoyance as well as it would be looked upon as tantamount to an interference with the rights and privileges of the States themselves.

23,733. Is opium greatly used as a domestic medicine?—Yes.

23,734. (Mr. Pease.) Do you think there is a tendency to increase or decrease the quantity of opium taken in Bhaunagar?—I cannot say; I have no experience.

23,740. You say warlike clans use it at time of war for keeping up the spirit. What do you mean by that?—By taking opium before setting out to fight they will remain in good humour for fighting, and if they are wounded they will bear the pains of the wounds very easy. It is an old custom.

23,741. You say that opium is less injurious compared with other narcotics; how does it compare with alcohol?—Opium is much better than alcohol, as alcohol produces violent effects, while opium does not. Opium is not so injurious as alcohol is.

23,742. You say that you do not yourself take opium; why have you avoided it?—I have not used opium because I do not like it. It is not a necessity. However, if I went on a warlike expedition I would certainly take it.

23,743. Among grown-up men in your caste, how many do you think take it, and how many do not take it in a hundred?—About 50 per cent. of adults in my caste take opium.

23,744. Do they take it in moderate doses, or in excess?—A few take in excess.

23,745. (Mr. Pease.) What do you consider to be excess?—Anything over five grains twice a day would be excess.

Mr. DESAIBHAI KALIDAS called in and examined.

Mr. Desaibhai
Kalidas.

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23,746. (*Chairman.*) You are a District Government Pleader in Kaira?—Yes.

23,747. And you belong to the Mahudha Desai family?—Yes.

23,748. The office of Desai is an hereditary office, is it not?—Yes.

23,749. A sort of headship over a certain number of villages?—Yes. The Desai and Mazmudar formerly were serving Government as the Chief Adviser of Government for the land revenue and accounts.

23,750. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I am a native of the Kaira district, and belong to the Mahudha Desai family. Being the Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor for the district for the last 30 years, and having had for the most part of that period to stay at Ahmedabad, I am closely acquainted with the different races of people consuming opium in the two districts of Kaira and Ahmedabad, and I am also tolerably acquainted with the habits of such people in the Native States and Agencies having connexion with Gujarat. The custom of eating and drinking opium exists in a greater or less degree in all the castes inhabiting the parts noted above. Of these, Kolis, Kathis, Girasias, Rajputs, and Bhats use more of it than other people. On occasions of marriage and death the Patidars, Kolis, Rajputs, Girasias, Kathis, and Bhats offer opium for eating and drinking as a sign of hospitality. But among other castes it is not now used for such purposes. The custom of offering tea instead of opium is gaining ground, and has become almost universal. Even among the new generation of Rajputs, Kathis, Kolis, and Girasias the habit of using opium is getting less and less day by day. People who as messengers (khepias) or otherwise have to travel on foot use opium to allay the effects of fatigue; and the Barvatis (marauding outlaws) also resort to that drug for removing the effects of the constant toils of their life. In my opinion, however, the number of habitual consumers of opium is now going down, and the drug is used more as a sign of affection and hospitality, of good omen, and peace and goodwill re-established than anything else. On such occasions the drug is offered and drunk in the form of kasumbha (*i.e.*, opium mixed with water and sipped from the offerer's palm) among the Rajputs, Kathis, Girasias, &c. The habitual consumption of it is, however, slowly but surely decreasing, owing to a variety of causes, such as education and a healthy public opinion, and, I believe, that the consumption of it as a habit will without any extraneous interference slowly die out.

23,751. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—The habitual moderate consumption of opium has never any baneful effect on the moral and physical condition of the people. On the contrary, with a good diet it improves the physique immensely and increases the capacity of work of the consumer. Taken in a moderate quantity, opium allays fatigue and the effects of sleeplessness, and sharpens memory. It prevents cough and bronchitis, and goes a great way in keeping the body free from disease. In Gujarat opium is eaten and drunk, but it is hardly ever smoked in the province. It is greatly used for medical purposes, and very serious and often incurable diseases are avoided or checked thereby. Those who take to it now do so not so much out of a liking for it, but for the sake of health and avoiding diseases. Taken in excess, opium like every other intoxicating drug would certainly do harm; but in Gujarat its consumption is moderate and is never such as would be followed by baneful effects to the body. By a moderate use of it memory is sharpened, capacity and energy for work increases, the intellect becomes developed and brighter, and courage and other manly qualities are greatly strengthened. Its use in excess is not favoured, but if moderately used it is never disfavouredly regarded by any class of people in Gujarat or other parts of India.

23,752. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes; and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—The use of opium for non-medical purposes is not disfavouredly regarded by the people. On account of its merits and good effects it is in favour with all

classes of people, and they are not willing to see its use prohibited. Consequently they are quite unwilling to bear in the least the cost of prohibitive measures.

23,753. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—In my opinion there is no necessity for prohibiting the sale of opium in British India for non-medical purposes; because the beneficial effects of a moderate use of it being unquestionable, a prohibition of its sale would work mischief rather than good. The habitual consumers of it would be put to a great deal of annoyance and pain, and the lands specially fitted for opium cultivation, which support so many families in the country, would be put to a great loss without any the least advantage to the people and the country at large. Again, a prohibition of the sale of opium would give a great impetus to the use of liquor, which unfortunately has already spread far and wide over the country, and the moderate consumer of opium, who even yet keeps himself aloof from alcoholic stimulants out of religious motives, would, as the result of such a prohibition, be tempted to resort to alcohol, and this would in my opinion be a very serious evil.

23,754. Could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?—For the reasons I have stated no interference is in my opinion necessary for prohibiting the sale of opium in the Native States also.

23,755. You say that among other castes the use of opium as a sign of hospitality is going out, and that the custom of offering tea is gaining ground and has become almost universal; how long is it since the custom of offering tea has become common?—It has increased every day since the introduction of the British Government.

23,756. I suppose it is only the superior class of persons that offer tea?—Nowadays all the people give tea in hospitality; but chiefly the Brahmins, Patidars, and Banias.

23,757. Do you think that the great decrease in the habit of consuming opium, which you say is occurring, is a matter chiefly of fashion, or is it because experience shows that the use of opium is pernicious?—No; on account of the high tax on opium, and the poverty of the people. With the high taxation they cannot get sufficient opium. Since the introduction of the British Government the people are quite changed in their views. By the increase of shops they are inclined to take alcohol instead of opium.

23,758. You say that the use of alcohol is increasing owing to the increase in the number of shops; but has it not always been the case from time immemorial that liquor was brewed and sold in India?—Yes, but very little; because only the lower classes were using it who could not get opium.

23,759. It was the fashion or custom which prevented people in old days from using liquor, and not the want of shops, was not it?—They were prevented because it was a disgrace amongst them to take liquor; but it was no disgrace to take opium. The people who took liquor required to keep it as secret as possible. Nowadays the number of people who take liquor has increased; and they are more powerful.

23,760. You mean it is less disgraceful now than it used to be?—Yes. Unless the Government takes some measures India will be ruined sooner or later by alcohol.

23,761. But is it not the case that in Bombay the Government has increased the taxation on liquor and on palm juice very much, and the people have complained very much?—There was a great cry on account of the Government prohibiting the flowers of the Maura tree, because they were used by the people to eat. Sometimes they made juice from it, which had the effect of making people intoxicated. The poor people not being able to get opium for the purpose of allaying their fatigue, made an outcry when the Maura was prohibited, not because of any increased taxation on European liquor.

23,762. Was not the cry also about Tari, palm juice?—Yes, also on account of that. Palm juice and Maura juice were the drinks of the poor people.

23,763. Do you consider that alcohol is prohibited by the Hindu religion?—Yes.

Mr. Desaihbhai
Kalidas.

23,764. Do you consider that opium is not prohibited?—No, it is not.

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23,765. (Mr. Pease.) Do you think the habit of taking opium is a bad habit?—It produces some good effects, and, therefore, for those who take it in moderation it is good, and for those who take it in excess it is bad.

23,766. You say that owing to a variety of causes, such as education and a healthy public opinion, you believe the consumption of opium is a habit which will, without any extraneous interference, slowly die out; would you be glad that it should die out?—There are certain cases in which the effects are good. It is the immoderate consumption I wish prohibited.

23,767. You used two expressions which seem to differ a little in their tone. You say, the habitual moderate consumption of opium has never any painful effect on the moral and physical condition of the people; and you also say that the result of education and a healthy public opinion will be that the habit will slowly die out; reading these two together, would it, in your opinion, be a good thing if the habit did die out?—It would not be a good thing; but it will die out. The new English education has produced a different effect altogether, and people have a dislike to opium whether it is beneficial or not. They think alcohol more respectable, and they use it more. The

people are being guided by the English educated people nowadays, and, therefore, will be in favour of prohibition; but the majority will not like it.

23,768. Do you think that a healthy public opinion will cause the habit to die out?—People of the upper classes do not now take it, and the others are also following their example.

23,769. (Chairman.) You mean they are following in a blind way, not because they have come to the conclusion that it is a bad thing, but out of fashion?—Opium is very dear nowadays, and very difficult to get. The people are following the habit set them by others of not eating opium.

23,770. (Mr. Haridas Vekaridas.) Is it to be understood from what you say that there is a greater facility in procuring alcohol than in procuring opium?—No doubt.

23,771. If a young man about 20, in good health, takes to opium in moderate doses, would you consider it a good habit?—No.

23,772. Would it be a good thing for a man of 40, feeling weak and requiring to keep in good health, to take it in moderate doses?—No doubt.

23,773. If he takes it in excess it would be injurious?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

SHETH JAISINGHBHAI HATHISING called in and examined (through an interpreter).

Sheth
Jaisinghbhai
Hathising.

23,774. (Chairman.) I believe you are a native of Ahmedabad?—Yes.

23,775. Are you any relation of the gentleman who built the Hathising Temple?—Yes; I am his son.

23,776. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—The districts of which I have some knowledge, though not minute, are Ahmedabad, Kathiawar, Radhanpur, Palanpur, Marwar, Meywar. My general remarks regarding them are as follows:—In the Ahmedabad district, mostly the Hindus, the Kanbis, and Girasias are in the habit of taking opium. Consequently I believe the consumption of opium by them is more than that by other castes of Hindus who use opium. In towns the practice of taking opium is comparatively much less than in villages, where opium is considered to be a special treat to friends and guests; and it is used by almost all castes of Hindus and by Mahomedans in villages for non-medical purposes. Mahomedans in towns also take opium. In Kathiawar, Radhanpur, Palanpur, Marwar, and Meywar, all castes of Hindus and Musalmans consume more or less opium. The Rajputs, Kathis, Girasias, &c., I believe, consume opium much more than any other castes among Hindus, while the Musalmans are not much more backward than they in point of consumption of opium. It would be very hard for them to leave the habit of taking opium, which has come down to them from their forefathers.

23,777. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—Opium does not tell badly upon the moral condition of people. It does not corrupt the physical condition of people if used moderately. As it is believed to give some vigour to the constitution in old age it is taken by some old men.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. MOTILAL KHUSHALJI called in and examined.

Mr.
Motilal
Khushalji.
(Idar State.)

23,783. (Chairman.) You are medical officer of the Idar State?—Yes.

23,784. Where did you receive your medical education?—In the Grant Medical College.

23,785. Did you take a degree there?—No.

23,786. How long have you been medical officer in the Idar State?—Seven years.

23,787. Before that, where were you?—I was at Wadhwan, Junagadh, and Bhaunagar.

23,788. What races have you observed use opium?—All kinds of people, but for the most part Rajputs and Musalmans.

23,789. To what districts does your evidence apply?—Junagadh, Bhaunagar, Wadhwan, Mahuda, Idar, &c.

23,790. To what extent is opium used among the population of the districts to which your observations apply?—The minimum dose of opium and the maximum dose taken by the aforesaid races is three grains and one tola respectively.

23,791. What effect has it upon the physical and moral condition of the people?—Opium, when taken internally in small doses, produces at first some excitement of the vascular and nervous systems shown by increased fullness and rapidity of the pulse, exaltation of the mental functions, and very pleasant sensations.

These after a time are succeeded by a feeling of drowsiness, and at last by a sound sleep, often accompanied with perspiration. On awakening the individual usually feels nausea, headache, and much weakened; his bowels are constipated, appetite is lost, tongues becomes furred, and there is increased thirst. The stimulant effect of opium is transient and does not last more than half an hour. Habitual opium eating produces general pallor of the skin, emaciation, general weakness, premature old age, &c. In fine, it shortens life.

23,792. What is the method of consumption?—It is used by the natives in the form of—

(a.) Bal Goli used for children as a hypnotic.

(b.) In combination with some other powders, e.g., cinnamon, nutmeg, saffron, &c., to check diarrhoea and dysentery; also as a hypnotic.

(c.) External application in combination with water as an anodyne in neuralgia, rheumatic pains, and also over the eyelid in some cases of severe conjunctivitis.

(d.) It is also taken alone as an aphrodisiac.

23,793. In making post-mortem examinations have you ever discovered any serious organic lesion, or any lesion at all, attributable to opium?—No.

23,794. Is it difficult for an opium consumer to give up the habit, and when given up is it likely to result in the use or abuse of other drugs or of alcohol?—No, it is not. There was an opium eater who used to consume half a tola by taking twice a day. This habit he thought to give up, and he succeeded in doing so without any need of taking any other narcotic drug instead of opium. After leaving the habit of taking opium he lived for 10 years, dying at the age of 54 in good health.

23,795. What effect has the habitual use of opium on the mental faculties, and does it interfere with the consumer's ability to conduct his business successfully?—When I was superintendent of the Junagadh Central Jail Hospital there were some prisoners who used to take opium. They were advised to give it up by-and-by. They did so and preserved good health.

23,795a. Have you any other observations which you may desire to make?—I, from my own experience, can say that by taking opium it does not produce any ill consequences and effects. Nay, a man can live long and preserve good health without at any time suffering from any ill consequences, i.e., opium in no way impairs the health and mental faculties. E.g.—all Chinese, who are supposed to take opium as the Indians use tobacco, can preserve their health and mental faculties, by which they are able to make so many inventions.

23,796. Do you think from your observations that the habit of consuming opium is decreasing or increasing?—To a certain extent decreasing.

23,797. What reasons do you think there are for that?—The poverty of the people and the heavy tax.

23,798. A previous witness said that the people followed the example of their rulers and of the educated class, and that as the rulers and the English educated class consumed alcohol, so the fashion among other people tended towards alcohol and not towards opium; do you think that is true?—I do not think so.

23,799. You think it is merely on account of the increased price?—Yes.

23,800. Do you think the use of alcohol is increasing?—Yes.

23,801. Native spirit or European spirit?—Country and European, both.

23,802. What do you suppose the reason of that is?—For pleasure, and from the association of people.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. RAISINGHI SHIVSINGHI called in and examined (through an interpreter).

23,821. (Chairman.) You are a Thakur of Kunvar?—Yes.

23,822. What is the size of your estate?—Five villages.

23,823. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I am personally acquainted with the Ahmedabad district only. In that district it is customary among

23,803. Formerly in Native States and in British territory there was only the farming system, that is, a man was farmer of spirits for a district and could open as many shops as he liked, and sell liquor cheap; was not that the old custom?—I have no experience of that.

23,804. In your experience has liquor become cheaper or dearer?—They generally use country liquor, and that is cheaper.

23,805. Do you mean to say that country liquor is cheaper now than it was 30 years ago?—No, it is dearer.

23,806. Drinking cannot have become more popular because spirit is cheaper; what other reason is there?—The society in which people at present live leads to the vice.

23,807. You mean that the old social rules which used to restrain it do not now restrain?—Yes; the old rules are not considered.

23,808. Which do you think the most enticing thing, alcohol or opium?—Alcohol.

23,809. Do people drink alcohol quietly in their own house, or do they meet and drink it in company?—Of course they drink in their own home, but generally in company.

23,810. (Mr. Pease.) You say the stimulant effect of opium is transient and does not last more than half an hour. I think we have often been told that men were able to do work for several hours as the result of a dose of opium; what is your opinion?—In my opinion the stimulant effect does not last more than half an hour.

23,811. You say it is not difficult for an opium eater to give up the habit?—Yes. I have seen myself that if an opium eater desires to give it up he can do so. In the beginning he finds a little inconvenience, but not afterwards.

23,812. Have you not heard again and again from opium eaters that they cannot give up the habit?—It depends on the firmness of the mind.

23,813. Have you not again and again heard from opium consumers that they could not give up the habit?—Yes, I have heard so; but if they at all intend giving it up they can do so.

23,814. Have you known many cases in which persons have given up the habit?—Yes; when I was connected with the Junagadh Central Jail Hospital there were plenty of prisoners who had been taking opium, and gradually had given it up.

23,815. Of course they were under constraint then—they had no choice; but have you known persons perfectly free who have had the strength and purpose to give up taking opium?—One instance came to my notice.

23,816. I said many cases?—No.

23,817. I think your experience differs from that of everybody else we have had before us. They have all declared that a man can give up opium, but it requires a very great effort?—I said that.

23,818. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) When you were in charge of the Junagadh Central Jail Hospital did you give anything to the prisoners who took opium to keep their health up until they were habituated to not taking opium—some sort of medicine to prevent any pain or consequences from the opium being suddenly given up?—No medicinal drug. Sugar-candy was mixed with kasumbha and given to them.

23,819. Did you gradually diminish the opium?—No, it was done quite suddenly.

23,820. And you gave him medicine in the meanwhile?—Yes.

the young and old of all the communities, viz., the Rajputs, Girasias, Kolis, Kunbis, &c., to use opium. Among them there must be at least 50 per cent. of habitual opium eaters (adult males).

23,834. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—The consumption of opium does not affect the moral and physical condition of the opium eater. On the contrary, it does him good, for in

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Khushalji
(Idar State.)
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Mr.
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Shivsinghi.

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the case of old persons, opium preserves health. Opium is not as injurious to the body as liquor, but on the whole it is beneficial.

23,825. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—The people of India are not willing to stop the use of opium: on the other hand, they would be glad if the use of liquor were prohibited. The prohibition of the use of opium would affect the health of habitual opium eaters, and, therefore, the people would never consent to bear the cost of prohibitive measures.

23,826. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—In my opinion the sale of opium in India should not be prohibited.

23,826a. Could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?—In my opinion even if the Native States propose to introduce

such prohibitive measures into their territories it will be very difficult to accomplish the object.

23,827. You say, "on the other hand they would be glad if the use of liquor were prohibited," do you think it would be right to make the use of liquor a criminal offence, punishable, so that a man could be fined or sent to jail for drinking liquor?—I think it will be much better to prohibit the use of alcohol, but it would not be advisable to consider the use of alcohol as a crime and put the drinker in jail.

23,828. (Mr. Pease.) You say that in the case of old persons opium preserves health; do you think it a good habit for young persons to take opium?—If a young man in health takes opium it would not do him harm or good.

23,829. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) If a young man in health takes opium as a habit, would he not have to take it at a particular time in the day, and if he did not take it regularly would he not suffer, and so far is the habit not injurious to him?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Mr.
Vajesingh
Jinaji. (Morvi
State.)

Mr. VAJESINGH JINAJI GIRASIA called in and examined (through an interpreter).

23,830. (Chairman.) You are a Deda Girasia?—Yes.

23,831. You come from Morvi?—Yes.

23,832. What part of Kathiawar is Morvi in?—The State of Morvi is situated in the northern part of Kathiawar.

23,833. How much land do you own?—I have a share in two villages.

23,834. What have you to say with regard to the consumption of opium?—I am now 50 years of age. I have been taking opium for the last 30 years. I take nine ratis (one rati is equal to two grains) every day. I acquired the habit of taking opium by company only. I have not suffered physically by the habit. I feel lethargic when the effect of opium is gone. I have never suffered from dysentery or such like diseases since I have been taking opium. The habit of taking opium is considered honourable among Girasias.

23,835. How long have you been taking nine ratis? 30 years.

23,836. At first you took smaller doses?—When I began to take opium it was only in one rati doses; but I gradually increased it.

23,837. How long have you taken the present dose?—I have been taking the same quantity about 12 years.

The witness withdrew.

Mr.
Bhaosinghji.
(Morvi State.)

BHAOSINGHJI (MORVI BHATAT), called in and examined (through an interpreter).

23,847. (Chairman.) Are you one of the family of the Ruler of the Morvi State?—Yes.

23,848. Do you own a share of land?—Yes; I have two villages.

23,849. Among Rajputs of your clan is the opium habit very common?—Generally only a small proportion take opium.

23,850. Has there been any change in that respect among Rajputs; is it more common or less common than before?—It is on the decrease.

23,851. Can you give us a reason for that?—It is because opium has become dearer.

The witness withdrew.

Mr.
Nagji Nathu.
(Morvi State.)

Mr. NAGJI NATHU called in and examined.

23,855. (Chairman.) You are the Chief Judge, I believe, of the highest Court, subordinate to the Court of the Ruler, in the Morvi State?—Yes.

23,856. Will you tell us what you know about the consumption of opium in Morvi?—The disposition of the people of this part of the country at least is in favour of the use of opium for non-medical purposes. I have some experience of the greater part of Kathiawar. A moderate use of opium is in many cases found to be

23,838. Among your clan what proportion of grown-up men take opium in each hundred?—About 40 per cent.

23,839. Do the other 60 per cent. take it on occasions of hospitality, and that sort of thing, or do not they take it even then?—The occasional users of opium are many; and those who do not take it at all are very few.

23,840. Is the habit of taking liquor common among Girasias, or uncommon?—The habit of taking alcohol is not so general as that of opium.

23,841. From your personal experience, which do you think is the worst to take?—The habit of opium is much better than that of alcohol in my experience.

23,842. (Mr. Pease.) How often do you take opium?—Twice a day.

23,843. How do you feel if you do not get your opium at the regular time?—I find myself dull.

23,844. Did you ever try to give it up?—No.

23,845. Are you glad now that you began when you were 20 years of age to take opium?—Yes.

23,846. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Even now, at this age, if you were quite well, and did not take opium, would you consider it advisable to take to the habit?—Yes.

23,852. You use opium yourself, I believe?—Yes.

23,853. Will you tell us how much you use and what effect it has upon you?—I have been in the habit of taking opium for the last four years. I take four ratis a day. I was suffering from continuous cold and cough and I was advised to take opium. I am cured of the disease and I have improved in health. I can now work more efficiently; and I can say opium has done me no harm.

23,854. How old are you?—34.

physically beneficial. If any restriction will be placed upon its use the opium eaters will, it is feared, have to resort to alcoholic drinks, which besides being prohibited by religion would bring in disastrous results. As a result of the above observations the people are not willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures such as they exist even now, much less that of any further prohibitions. I do not think that a prohibition on the use of opium can be extended to this

State even if it be deemed advisable to set a prohibition on its manufacture and use in British India; as its use in the State cannot be done away with looking to the habits and manners of the people. Under the existing arrangements the Morvi State is prevented from growing opium for any purpose whatever. It has to meet its wants from British territory, or other Native States out of Kathiawar on a payment of a pass fee of Rs. 700 (less Rs. 233-5-4 refunded by Government to the State) per chest of opium of about 140 lbs. No such pass fee is levied on opium taken by other Native States outside Kathiawar as far as I know anything about them. The State has besides to keenly protect the British monopoly in opium at sometimes an extra cost. These arrangements are considered detrimental to the interests and also to the recognised rights of the State, besides being very hard on the opium-eating classes who have to pay very heavy price for opium owing to these restrictions. Any further restriction is therefore calculated to produce a greater hardship on

the people. The question of compensation does not arise as an adoption of the prohibition of the use of opium is not deemed advisable. But on the other hand, considering the effect of the existing arrangements on the people, the levy of pass fee should be abolished or the State should be allowed to manage the cultivation, manufacture, and sale, within its own limits, of opium that may be required for the use of its people.

23,857. What are the arrangements about liquor in the Morvi State?—It is farmed.

23,858. Do you happen to know how much it sells per bottle?—From 8 annas to 1 rupee.

23,859. Was poppy ever cultivated in Morvi?—Yes, formerly, but it was prohibited by Government in 1847.

23,860. Does what you have stated represent the views of the Durbar?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Rao BAHADUR NARSIRAM called in and examined (through an interpreter).

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Narsiram.

23,861. (Chairman.) Do you live at Kaira?—Yes.

23,862. I believe you were formerly Daftadar to the Political Agent at Kathiawar?—Yes, and I have also served in Gujarat. I have been in the Revenue Department, the Judicial Department, and also in the Settlement Department.

23,863. What experience have you had as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—My experience has been in the Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach and Panch Mahals districts of Gujarat, in the Jhalavad and Gohelvad Prants of Kathiawar, and part of the Mahi Kantha. In all nearly all classes use opium in one form or other. The chief consumers are Rajputs, Kathis, Patidars, Kanbis, Bharots, Charans, Rabaris, Bharwads, Musalmans, Dharalas and other low castes.

23,864. What is your experience as regards the effect of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people?—The moderate use of opium, which is general, in no way injuriously affects the moral or physical condition of the people. People above 40 years of age take it for the preservation of their health. Nearly all labourers use it to enable them to endure fatigue, and to freshen themselves for their work. The old custom of using opium on occasions of marriage, funeral or holiday ceremonies, which some 30 years ago was very general, is now dying out, although it is continued by Rajputs, Charans, Patidars, Dharalas and some others as a matter of honour. The youths of such families in giving up opium have taken to alcohol on such occasions to the injury of their health. Opium is given to infants with benefit to their health. Until I had personal experience amongst my friends of the benefits conferred by opium on elderly people I did not believe in it, but from that experience I am convinced that opium taken in moderation is in no way physically injurious, and that in old age it is positively beneficial. Really religious Hindus and Musalmans will not willingly touch alcohol, whereas they willingly take opium for medicinal purposes.

23,865. In your opinion would the people of India be disposed to give up opium for non-medical purposes?—The people of India are not in any way disposed to give up opium for non-medical purposes, because they see that those who take it moderately in no way suffer physically. They would, therefore, not be willing in any way to bear wholly or even in part the cost of prohibitive measures.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. SARANGDHAR MULSHANKAR called and examined (through an interpreter).

23,873. (Chairman.) I believe you are Abkari Officer of the Junagadh State?—Yes.

23,874. What have you to say with regard to the consumption of opium?—I am acquainted with the Sorath Prant in the province of Kathiawar. The total population of this State, according to the last census

23,866. Should the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes, and could the prohibition be extended to the Native States?—The prohibition of the sale of opium in British India would be looked on as an unwise and evil measure, as opium with many, the labouring classes in particular, is just their life, and necessary to sustain their life and enable them to earn their daily bread. Any such prohibition, if extended to Native States, will equally be looked upon as an uncalled-for measure.

23,867. You have stated that the use of opium is dying out, although it is continued by Rajputs, Charans, Patidars, Dharalas, and some others as a matter of honour; and that the youths in such families in giving up opium have taken to alcohol to the injury of their health?—I think even in the case of Rajputs, Charans and others the habit has been decreasing, but alcohol has taken its place. In my estimation the consumption of alcohol has ten times increased within the last 20 years.

23,868. Some classes of people have always drunk alcohol, have they not?—In former times the lower classes used alcohol, but they had to distil themselves. There were not any shops. If there was a shop it was located outside the village in an isolated part. Now there are many shops located in the hearts of the towns and villages, and people have free access to them.

23,869. The increase in alcohol has taken place among the higher classes who did not formerly drink it?—Yes.

23,870. As the price has been increased very largely, I suppose among the lower classes who used to drink there is less drunk now, is there not?—The higher classes and well-to-do people can afford to purchase European liquors, and the lower class take native liquor.

23,871. The increase in the consumption of liquor among the higher classes, I suppose, is due to the weakening of the influence of the old social and religious rules?—Yes.

23,872. You say that opium is given to infants for the benefit of their health; do you think it is given for their health, or merely to keep them quiet?—Among the higher classes opium alone is not given to the children. A very small quantity mixed with other spices in the form of a pill is given to the children for the benefit of their health. And among the lower classes, and those who are not well-to-do, it is given also for quieting the children when the mothers are at work. This is done until the child is weaned.

report, is 484,100, out of which about 5,380 persons take opium as a stimulant. This number, for the most part, consists of Rajputs, Kathis, Khawas, Kolis, Babrias, Mehers, Musalmans engaged in military service, Zamindars, Girasias, &c. Although there is a religious prohibition to resort to any sort of intoxicating

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drug, a long-standing custom has made the use of opium common among the above-mentioned classes. Native physicians, as well as European doctors, prescribe opium in certain diseases. Judging from the amount of opium consumed here during the last five years, the average consumption per year comes up to 179 maunds. Opium is taken here mostly in two ways:—(1) in the solid form, or (2) liquid form called kasumbha. Very few persons are known to smoke opium. In the whole of the Junagadh State there are only five shops for smoking chandul, and they are in the capital. Opium is taken by males of advanced age, and also by some females. Moderate consumers of opium take it daily from 2 to 10 grains. It is given even to children until they are five years old. Females take it only as a cure for asthma, cough, diarrhoea, &c., and also as a stimulant to enable them to perform their household duties with energy and swiftness. It is given to children in very small quantities, with a view to keep up their spirits, and in the belief that they thereby become strong. Opium, poppy-seeds, and poppy-heads are used as a cure for rheumatism, hard breathing, asthma, and diarrhoea, also for healing wounds and relieving pain arising from boils, &c. They are also used for cattle. It is a custom among Girasias to carry with them a small quantity of opium when they go on a journey, and to offer kasumbha to the members of the family with whom they put up. This custom has to be observed even if the guest is not himself an opium eater, and he to whom the kasumbha is offered, does not accept it so long as he does not prevail upon the guest to take even a drop of it. This brings on the habit of taking opium. Opium is taken also to calm and soothe the nervous system, and to invigorate the body. Out of the total number of opium eaters in this State, 4,035 use it moderately, and 1,345 in excess.

23,875. What is your experience as regards the effects of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people?—I consider that the habit of taking opium in moderation as a relief from pain is beneficial, but that of using it otherwise or in excess is injurious to the body and the mind, inasmuch as it brings on physical and mental debility, drowsiness, &c., and produces a hankering after sweet things, which, when not obtained in the right way, tempt the opium eater to commit theft, &c. Again, when the required immoderate quantity of opium is not to be had the victim is induced to steal it.

23,876. What, in your opinion, is the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes?—I think that the people of India are not disposed to have the use of opium prohibited except for medical purposes, and certainly not all of a sudden; as such a measure would entail a great hardship on habitual opium eaters, who would either injure their health, or be induced to resort to other stimulants of a worse nature.

23,877. Do you think they would be willing to bear the cost of prohibitive measures?—When the people do not wish to have the use of opium prohibited they would not like to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures, if adopted.

23,878. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited, except for medical purposes, and could such prohibition be extended to the Native State with which you are acquainted?—I think the sale of opium in British India should not be prohibited except for medical purposes, until the people are enlightened enough to give it up of themselves; nor should such a prohibition, even if it is enforced in British India, be extended to the Junagadh State, before the people in general are sufficiently educated, as it would affect materially the physical and moral condition of habitual opium eaters, and would therefore be viewed by them as an uncalled for restriction.

23,879. What is the nature of the existing arrangements with the Native States in respect of the transit of opium through British territory, and on what terms, if any, could these arrangements be with justice terminated?—At present opium is imported into this State from Mundaser and other districts under the following arrangement. A Parwana is obtained from the Political Agent for the number of chests to be imported. When this Parwana is shown to the British Officer in charge of the district where the purchase is made, he allows the chests to be exported by routes sanctioned for the purpose, on payment of a pass-fee of Rs. 700 per chest of opium (containing $3\frac{1}{2}$ maunds)

He at the same time gives a pass under his own signature, and when this is produced before the Political Agent, one-third of the pass-fee is remitted to the State by the British Government, in consideration of certain conditions to be observed in the interest of the British opium monopoly. From the Native State point of view the present arrangement by which Native States' subjects are taxed for increasing the revenue of the British Exchequer, is detrimental to the recognized rights of the States as well as to the convenience and liberty of the people. I do not therefore think there is any necessity of restricting it still further or doing away with it altogether, but if Government are inclined to do so I think the best way would be to allow the State authorities to cultivate and sell opium in their own territory according to their requirements.

23,880. What would be the effect on the finances of India if the sale and export of opium were prohibited?—It is plain that the adoption of prohibitive measures would be a great financial loss to Government from every point of view.

23,881. In your opinion could any change short of total prohibition be made in the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the opium traffic, and for raising a revenue therefrom?—I think no change whatever is necessary. But if Government are inclined to restrict the opium traffic and, at the same time, raise a revenue therefrom, it could be done only by raising the price of the drug and by doing away with the compulsory cultivation of opium. The demand for opium would be reduced by the first measure, and the second would lessen the supply of the same. But Native States like Junagadh, who prefer to cultivate opium, should at any rate be allowed to do so, within their own territory, to meet their requirements.

23,882. What States are included in the Sorath Prant?—Kathiawar is divided into four divisions, of which Sorath is one, and in it there are Junagadh, Porbandar, Jafraabad, and Jetpur.

23,883. I presume the population you have given is of Junagadh only?—Yes.

23,884. Can you tell us how long it is since the five shops for smoking chandul were established?—Five years ago a very small shop was opened by a fakir; since then in the last three years four more have been opened; but they are limited.

23,885. What class of people frequent these shops?—Chiefly Mohamedans from the north and north-west of India.

23,886. Are these shops licensed?—Only permits are given.

23,887. You have said that 5,580 people take opium, of whom 4,035 use it in moderation and 1,345 in excess; how did you get these figures?—It is customary for the opium vendors to take the names of the consumers as well as the quantity they consume. I being the Excise Officer of the Abkari Department get all the statements from the opium vendors.

23,888. What dose did you fix in making this calculation as the dividing line between excess and moderation?—From 2 to 12 grains a day was considered to be a moderate dose.

23,889. You say that the British Officer allows the chest to be exported on payment of a pass fee of Rs. 700. Ought not that to be Rs. 600?—Native States have to pay Rs. 700 as a pass fee if the opium is purchased for local consumption; but if the opium goes to Bombay for export it has to pay Rs. 600 only.

23,890. What do you mean by the words compulsory cultivation of opium?—The State sends agents to Rajputana to purchase opium, and there they have heard from different people that the cultivation of opium is compulsory.

23,891. Do you think that the Raja ordered it to be cultivated or what?—I myself went to Rajputana to purchase opium; and I found that the officers of the State compel the cultivators to grow opium. If they do not do it they are forced to do it even by uprooting the other crops.

23,892. When are you speaking about?—Two years ago.

23,893. In what State did you hear that?—I learnt that at Rutlam Mandsaur. I learnt it from the opium traders chiefly, and a few cultivators told me also.

23,894. When we were in Rajputana we heard that cultivators were very fond of cultivating poppy?—Some people may like to grow opium but many do not.

23,895. Was that unwillingness because the price had gone down?—No; but opium growing entails a great deal of labour and expense, and the rate of rent is very high.

23,896. The land revenue is a fixed revenue; if the price goes down it will not be profitable to the cultivator, will it?—It will not be profitable.

23,897. Is not the fact that the price has gone down lately a sufficient explanation of the cultivators complaining and not wishing to go on cultivating?—Yes.

23,898. As the price used to be much higher, do you not think in those days the cultivators used to cultivate freely and willingly?—Yes.

23,899. (*Mr. Pease.*) Did you find many persons in these five smoking shops?—There were only 50 people in the five shops, and those 50 people were strangers.

The witness withdrew.

HAKIM ABDUL RAZAK called in and examined (through an interpreter.)

23,904. (*Chairman.*) Where do you live?—At present I live in Junagadh. My original home was in Rampur. I have lived in this district for 20 years, of which the last eight years have been spent in Junagadh.

23,905. Are you in the service of the State?—Yes.

23,906. What service?—I am employed to administer medicine to people according to the Yunani system.

23,907. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I am acquainted with Gujarat and Kathiawar, some people whereof use opium in the liquid form called "kasumbo," some use it in the solid form, and a few smoke it. Opium is taken both by the Hindus and the Mussalmans, and by the higher as well as lower classes of people. It is prescribed by native physicians as a cure for certain diseases and pains. It is administered to children in very small quantities until they are about four or five years old. Opium in the form of kasumbha is usually offered to all who attend the courts of Kathi chiefs.

23,908. What is your experience as regards the effects of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—Opium eating or smoking does not produce any effect on the moral condition of a man. I have heard from those who resort to it that they are thereby enabled to keep up their spirits and work harder with less fatigue. If opium is taken immoderately it acts like poison, and if it is taken for years, even moderately, it gives rise, in the long run, to diseases of various natures, which are, however, remediable.

23,909. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India with regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes?—Opium eaters should not be forced to give up at once the habit of taking opium, because by so doing their health suffers, and they are in danger even of losing their lives. In my opinion those who do not take opium should not be allowed to contract the habit.

23,910. Do you think the people would be willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—The present condition of most of the people is such as would not permit them to bear the burden of any extra expenditure.

23,911. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes; and could such prohibition be extended to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—Government would not be able to make the people give up the habit of taking opium of their own free will. But if they do so forcibly such a measure would give rise to smuggling and many other offences; because those people would obtain opium in one way or another, and failing that they would resort to other poisonous drugs, which would affect their moral condition.

23,912. What is the nature of the existing arrangements with the Native States in respect of the transit

23,900. Do you think that the number of consumers is more or less than it used to be in former years?—I have not got the data to make a comparison; but it is believed that the use of opium is decreasing.

23,901. (*Mr. Haridas Voharidas.*) Do you know that Inamdar of Khadia was bringing smuggled opium for his use, and the quantity was great?—That was discovered, and he was politically tried and fined when Mr. Haridas was Dewan.

23,902. You say, "But Native States like Junagadh who prefer to cultivate opium, should at any rate be allowed to do so, within their own territory, to meet their requirements"; what do you mean by that?—I mean that Native States like Junagadh would be free from the obligation of not growing poppy in their territory, in case the British Government stopped the required quantity of opium.

23,903. (*Chairman.*) Does the evidence you have given us represent the views of the Durbar?—Yes.

of opium through British territory, and on what terms, if any, these arrangements could be with justice terminated?—The existing arrangement is best known to the State authorities, but it seems to work well, and a great number of the people who used to take opium have since the late restrictions given up the habit.

23,913. What would be the effect on the finances of India of the prohibition of the sale and export of opium?—Government finances will evidently suffer, because the opium revenue will entirely cease, and Government will have to incur a heavy expenditure for adopting preventive measures.

23,914. Do you think any change short of total prohibition should be made in the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the opium traffic and for raising a revenue therefrom?—Such an arrangement should be made as would prevent people in future from contracting the habit of taking opium as a luxury.

23,915. Is the custom of giving opium pills to children dangerous or not?—In this country, which is near the sea, and the air is moist, and where colds and coughs prevail, we give these pills to the children to a certain degree to cure or moderate various diseases.

23,916. You have said, "In my opinion those who do not take opium should not be allowed to contract the habit"?—Yes. I consider that it is a bad and unnecessary habit; and I think that people should be stopped from getting into such bad habits which over-master them. Therefore though I would allow those people who are in the habit of taking opium—whether they do harm to themselves or not—to continue taking it, I would prevent people who have not adopted the habit and who are in good health and do not want the drug taking it unnecessarily.

23,917. How are you going to prevent them taking it?—The people who are in the habit of taking it might be registered, and they might get it; and other people might be forbidden to get it.

23,918. Supposing a man secretly or in an underhand way got hold of opium and took it, would you punish him?—Yes; I would punish him by fine, or perhaps in some other way.

23,919. (*Mr. Haridas Voharidas.*) Do you smoke tobacco?—I do not smoke tobacco, nor do I even chew betel-nut. Even tea-drinking is not one of my habits.

23,920. (*Chairman.*) How do you compare opium with alcohol?—Alcohol is the worst of all intoxicants: a man neither looks after his life nor his property when he takes to it. Charas and ganja are less injurious; but they, too, make a man who takes them rather incapable of looking after things. Bhang is still less injurious; and opium is the least injurious. It does not make a man incapable at all of transacting his business if taken to the extent of a grain or two occasionally for medicinal purposes. But if it is taken as a habit it is not good; when taken in excess it is very injurious.

The witness withdrew.

Mr.
Sarangdhar
Mulshanker.
(Junagadh
State.)

8 Feb. 1894.

Hakim
Abdul Razak.
(Junagadh
State.)

Vaidya
Raghunathji
Indraji.
(Junagadh
State.)

VAIDYA RAGHUNATHJI INDRAJI called in and examined (through an interpreter).

8 Feb. 1894.

23,921. (Chairman.) Where do you live?—Junagadh.

23,922. Are you an hereditary Vaid?—Yes; practising under the Hindu system.

23,923. Is that your only profession?—Sometimes I read Purans.

23,924. Is not your brother a great antiquarian and writer?—Yes. My brother, Bhagwan Indraji, was a great antiquarian. He has got the title of Ph.D.

23,925. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I am acquainted with Kathiawar where the Rajputs, Kathis, Aits, and others use opium diluted with water, which is called "kasumbha." Opium eaters take opium in the solid form. Some administer opium to children when they are one or two years old. It is prescribed in the Sanskrit works on medicine as a cure for various diseases, and is beneficial when taken in moderation to relieve pain. In Junagadh itself 900 persons take opium, and the quantity daily consumed by them amounts to 7½ lbs. Females are not, so far as my knowledge goes, addicted to taking opium. The Girasias consider the drinking of kasumbha as respectable.

23,926. What is your experience as regards the effects of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people?—Labourers who have very hard work to perform can, with the help of a little opium, do it without feeling fatigue. Its consumption produces no effect on their moral condition. By administering opium to children in a very small quantity they get a sound sleep and keep good health.

23,927. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes?—Those who are addicted to opium eating should not be made to give up that habit at once, because a sudden stoppage would ruin the constitution of habitual opium eaters. Again, if opium is prohibited the habitués would be tempted to obtain it by smuggling, or they would resort to other stimulants of a worse kind.

The witness withdrew.

MR. DEVKARAN MAUJI called and examined (through an interpreter).

Mr. Devkaran
Mauji.
(Dhrol State.)

23,935. (Chairman.) I believe you come from the Dhrol State, Kathiawar?—Yes.

23,936. What cases are heard in your court?—Cases of landholders against the State, as well as cases between one landholder and another.

23,937. What is the revenue of the Dhrol State?—Two lakhs a year. The revenue of the Ruler of the State is two lakhs, and three lakhs are assigned to his kinsmen, and to a class of people called Mul Girasias.

23,938. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—Rajputs, Charans, Khawas, Bharwads, and Musalmans eat opium to a great extent. A few people of other castes also eat it.

23,939. What is your experience as to the effect of the consumption of opium upon the moral and physical condition of the people?—I understand that if people eat opium in moderate quantity their moral and physical condition is not affected thereby; but if taken in excess, it is possible that their physical condition suffers.

23,940. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes?—Many people are disposed to eat opium for non-medical purposes.

The witness withdrew.

MR. LALBHAI MORARJI DESAI called in and examined (through an interpreter).

Mr. Lalbhai
Morarji Desai.
(Sayla State.)

23,945. (Chairman.) You are Karbhari of the Sayla State?—Yes.

23,946. What are your duties as Karbhari?—I am Prime Minister.

23,928. What is your opinion as to the willingness of the people of India to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—When the people are against the prohibition of opium eating they cannot be expected to willingly bear in whole or in part the cost of any prohibitive measures.

23,929. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes; and could such prohibition be extended to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—I do not think it necessary to prohibit the sale of opium except for medical purposes, but if such a measure were adopted it would be received with dissatisfaction by the native princes and the people.

23,930. What is the nature of the existing arrangements with the Native States in respect of the transit of opium through British territory?—The nature of the existing arrangement is known to the State authorities, but the arrangement itself is, so far as the interests of the people are concerned, not bad.

23,931. Do you think any change short of total prohibition should be made in the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the opium traffic, and for raising a revenue therefrom?—The only change I think necessary is that steps should be taken to induce the people to desist from forming a new habit of taking opium.

23,932. What steps would you take with that object?—Those who do not take opium should be prevented from coming in contact with opium eaters; and opium should also be made dearer. There are three reasons for taking opium. First, when a man has some disease; second, when he is in company with others; and third, when he gets old and feels himself weak.

23,933. You think the second reason objectionable?—Yes.

23,933a. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) Do you wish the extracts taken from the Sanskrit works on medicine to be put into the Appendix?—Yes.*

23,934. Have you written a book on Hindu medicines?—Yes. I have shown in that book the different qualities of medicinal plants and their use.

23,941. What is your opinion as to the willingness of the people to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—The people are not at all willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures. But the Thakur Sahib, of Dhrol, is of opinion that, if prohibitive measures are carried out, there is every probability of the public peace being broken.

23,942. Could prohibition in your opinion be extended to the Native States?—Such prohibition should not extend to Native States.

23,943. What is the nature of the existing arrangements with the Native States in respect of the transit of opium through British territory, and on what terms, if any, could those arrangements be with justice terminated?—My chief is of opinion that no change should be made in the present arrangements for the purchase of opium on payment of the prescribed duty under a permit from the political agent and for its transport through British territory. My chief at present gets as revenue in the shape of duty and license fees about 1,500 to 2,000 rupees a year, but he is not willing to prohibit the sale of opium in his territory on receiving compensation for loss of revenue, because such a prohibition would cause hardship to many, and result in the commission of crimes by the people.

23,944. Are you authorised to give evidence for the Ruler of the Dhrol State?—Yes.

23,947. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—Owing to my service in three States, namely, Bansda

* Not reproduced.

State, in Surat Agency; Rajpipla, in Rewa Kantha Agency; and Sayla, in Kathiawar Agency. My experience is that many persons of the classes of Rajputs, Kathis, Bhats, Brahmins, Baniyas, Kanbis, Bharwad, Kolis, and Musalmans are habituated to consume opium above the age of 40 with a belief to sustain their health at an advanced age, and, in my opinion, that belief is well founded and warranted by experience. They take opium twice a day, in the morning and in the evening. Many of them take it in liquid form and very few in solid. Sometimes young children are given opium in a little quantity for having a sound sleep.

23,948. What is your experience as regards the effect of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people?—If opium be taken moderately it does not affect their moral condition, nor does it tell upon their morality even if it be taken in a large dose. It gives much stimulus to the eater to work. It does not affect their health also. It ensures efficiency of work. It also tends to cure certain diseases. When the habit of taking opium is once formed the consumers, in my opinion, cannot without much difficulty and inconvenience do away with that habit.

23,949. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes?—Except under some exceptional circumstances the habit of taking opium should not, in my opinion, be contracted for non-medical purposes.

23,950. Would the people of India be willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—Any further taxation occasioned by the prohibitive measures, if they be taken, will go very hard with the poor raiyats. It is not therefore desirable. This is my opinion, and further I am directed by the Thakur Sahib to state that under the treaties made by Government with the chiefs any new arrangement regarding opium

The witness withdrew.

Mr. WAGHJI FATEH called in and examined (through an interpreter).

23,959. (Chairman.) I believe you are a Jamadar residing in the Wadhwan State?—Yes.

23,960. What is your caste?—I am a Chauhan.

23,961. What have you to say with regard to the opium question generally?—I have been in the habit of taking opium for the last eight years. I take it in the form of kasumbha. I take it twice every day, in the morning and in the afternoon. Each time I take about eight grains of opium. It has never been found to be injurious to my health. It has produced no bad effect on my mind or energy. There has been a decided improvement in my health, as I can endure fatigue in my duty of breaking in horses. When I had no such habit I was unable to do so. I cannot give up this habit. I have seen others resuming the same habit after they had renounced it and were unable to do without it.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. LADHA DAMODAR called in and examined.

23,967. (Chairman.) I believe you are the State Vakil of Gondal, which is a first-class State in Kathiawar?—Yes.

23,968. Do you appear to give evidence on behalf of His Highness the Thakur?—Yes.

23,969. What is the revenue of the State of Gondal?—Thirteen lakhs.

23,970. Does that include Jagirs?—No, exclusive of the produce of Jagirdars' estates.

23,971. Is there much Jagir land?—Yes; certain Bhayats and Girasias hold land and villages to the extent of about two lakhs.

23,972. What have you to say about the cultivation of the poppy, and the opium question generally?—The cultivation of the poppy or the manufacture of opium within the limits of the Gondal State is not permitted except under restrictions by the Durbar for medicinal or horticultural purposes. All opium required for consumption in this State is purchased from the Government store. The right to sell opium is farmed out every year. If the farmer wants to purchase opium for consumption at Bombay or in Central India in preference to obtaining it from the Government warehouse at Rajkote, he can do so under a permit signed by the

cannot be made without the consent of the latter. He therefore wishes that any new burden should not be imposed.

23,951. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—Any sort of prohibition is likely, in my opinion, to entail a serious hardship upon the consumers. Therefore no steps should be taken to prohibit the sale.

23,952. Could such prohibition be extended to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—If the prohibition is not desirable even for the British districts, it cannot be extended to the Native States. Having a clear regard to the treaties made with them and the prevalence of the habit of consuming opium in Native States, any such prohibition there will engender discontent.

23,953. What is the revenue of the Sayla State?—About a lakh.

23,954. Does that exclude assigned land?—Yes.

23,955. Is there much other land which is assigned land?—Yes.

23,956. You say, "except under some exceptional circumstances the habit of taking opium should not be contracted for non-medical purposes," you think that the habit is a bad one?—Yes.

23,957. Do you think it ought to be left to the individual to decide for himself, or do you think some law is wanted? You further say, "Any sort of prohibition is likely, in my opinion, to entail a serious hardship upon the consumers." What do you mean by saying that the habit should not be contracted for non-medical purposes, do you mean it is not a good thing?—Yes.

23,958. Do you mean that it ought to be made a punishable offence?—No.

Mr. Waghji Fateh.
(Wadhwan State.)

23,962. Is the habit of taking opium common among your caste?—The habit is common, but it has been greatly diminished.

23,963. Why has the habit been diminishing?—Because opium has become dearer.

23,964. (Mr. Pease.) Do you know people who can break in horses without taking opium?—If the horse-breakers feel fatigued they would take opium.

23,965. Are there not a great many men who break in horses who do not take opium?—Yes.

23,966. You say, "I cannot give up this habit," what have you done to try and rid yourself of the habit?—I have not tried; but many people who thought of trying it suffered pain, so I think if I tried it it might be very painful to me.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. Ladha Damodar.
(Gondal State.)

Political Agent. One third of the full pass fee on opium which is paid by the farmer is refunded to the State. The farmer sells opium at the rate fixed by Government. The transport from one place to another within the State limits, of any quantity of opium exceeding 10 tolas in weight, is prohibited, except under cover of a permit granted by the Revenue Commissioner of Gondal. The farmer is required to keep an account book of his purchase and sale of opium. To prohibit the sale of opium is likely to create disaffection amongst opium eaters. In my opinion such prohibition ought not to be extended to the States. The annual income derived from the farming of opium sale, inclusive of the pass fee, amounts to about Rs. 10,000.

23,973. Is opium consumed much in your State?—Yes. The Inland Revenue amounts to about Rs. 10,000 a year.

23,974. What class of people consume opium?—The Rajputs, Kathis, Girasias, Kolis, and Kanbis generally take opium.

23,975. Do many take it in excess?—No, most of them take it in moderation.

23,976. Do you wish to add any further remarks?—Yes. I am instructed by His Highness the Thakur Sahib of Gondal to convey the Durbar's views on the

Mr. Ladha
Damodar.
(Gondal
State.)

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subject of the inquiry into opium. If the growth and sale of opium be prohibited in British India, such prohibition cannot be extended to Native States. If the British Government would not supply opium for consumption as agreed upon by the treaty, the *status quo ante* should be restored, i.e., the State may grow poppy and sell opium. As regards the effects produced by

opium on the moral and physical condition of those who are addicted to it, the Durbar are of opinion that the deteriorating effects of a moderate indulgence in the drug are not so great as are believed to be produced from it in some quarters, though it must be admitted that the habit of indulgence in all intoxicating drugs is to be deprecated.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. Bapumia
Shermia.
(Dholka
State.)

Mr. BAPUMIA SHERMIA called in and examined (through an interpreter).

23,977. (Chairman.) I believe you are Kasbati of Dholka, are you not?—Yes.

23,978. The Kasbati is the head-man of the Mahomedan community, is he not?—I am the head Mahomedan of the town.

23,979. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—Opium is consumed among the Girasias, Rajputs, Musalmans, Brahmans, Kanbis, Kolis, Banias, and other classes of people forming part of the population of Ahmedabad, Kathiawar, Marwar, Kaira, Panch Mahals, Meywar, Malwa and Bombay.

23,980. What is your experience as regards the effects of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people?—If one eats opium punctually and moderately after the age of 40, it gives much support to his body, being like a prop supplied to a falling house.

23,981. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes?—If one does not cause his caste men to drink kasumbho on occasions of wedding, funeral, and social gathering, or omits to give the same to

guests, he loses his reputation. And if persons between whom a feud exists drink kasumbo together, they are thereby deemed to have been reconciled.

23,982. Would the people be willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—The people of this country are not able to bear the cost of prohibitive measures or any part thereof.

23,983. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—Considering the reasons I have set forth, I am of opinion that the sale of opium should not be prohibited. And such prohibition is dangerous.

23,984. Could such prohibition be extended to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—I do not think that in the Native States with which I am acquainted the people can do without opium if its use be stopped therein.

23,985. Does the custom of offering kasumbo on the occasion of weddings, funerals, &c. prevail among the Musalmans of your caste?—Yes, on all such occasions.

23,986. What is the size of the town of Dholka?—There are about 16,000 inhabitants, of whom about 6,000 are Mahomedans.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. Khodidas
Vishvanath.
(Wadhwan
State.)

Mr. KHODIDAS VISHVANATH called in and examined (through an interpreter).

23,987. (Chairman.) I believe you are Judicial Officer of the State of Wadhwan?—Yes.

23,988. How long have you served?—Thirteen years.

23,989. We shall be pleased to hear what you have to say with reference to the opium question?—I am acquainted with the province of Kathiawar in general, and the territories of Limri and Wadhwan in particular. Having served in Limri and Wadhwan for a period of nearly 26 years, I have had occasions to be acquainted with the history of the opium arrangements with the Native States of Kathiawar, and had an opportunity of knowing what classes of people consume opium, and in what quantity it is consumed. My experience is that the habit of taking opium is generally to be found amongst Rajputs, Kanbis, Banias, Bharwads, Rabaris, Kolis, Musalmans, Khavas, and Kathis. From what I have heard and known and observed, I am of opinion that the habit of taking opium does not in any way affect the moral condition of those who take it. For during the period of the 26 years of my service in Native States, when I have served as a magistrate for some time, and as a Sarnyadhish, I have not come across a single case in which any offence was committed by one taking opium, simply because of having been a habitual opium eater. Not only that, but I know of no instance of a man who was otherwise intellectually sound having suffered in any way with respect to his intellect, after having addicted himself to the habit of taking opium. As to the effect of opium on the physical condition of the people, I am of opinion that if taken in moderate dose it does not tell on the physical constitution, but when taken in excess it is certainly injurious to health. I am however of opinion that to those who lead a sedentary life, the habit of taking opium, even in a moderate dose, is physically injurious; but for those who have to work hard bodily for their bread, the habit of taking opium is beneficial, as opium is known to have that power of allaying fatigue from hard work. I have observed that the use of opium for non-medical purposes by the classes mentioned above is regarded as a necessary habit with them. But those of these classes who are educated dislike the use of opium except for medical purposes. The people on this side of India view with regret even the present arrangements of opium which burden them with the additional cost of prohibitive measures; and it is but

natural that they must be quite unwilling to bear any further cost, either in whole or in part, of prohibitive measures. As most of the labouring classes have to take opium to keep up their strength by being free from fatigue, and as most of the classes of people mentioned above use opium in accordance with the prevailing custom of their race on several occasions, I am of opinion that the prohibition of the sale of opium except for medical purposes, is not only not advisable but it will be a real hardship on them. The history of the opium arrangements with the Native States of Kathiawar clearly shows that they have been already debarred from making any income from the cultivation of poppy. Not only that but they have to pay a pass-fee at the rate of Rs. 700 per chest, from which a remission of one-third of that amount is allowed. No pass-fee was charged for nearly 60 years under the arrangements of 1820 A. D. I am of opinion that this pass-fee is an indirect taxation or the opium consuming classes in the Native States by the British Government, and that also on a commodity which is not the product of the British district. It is a sort of transit duty which kind of levy is thought by the British Government as one likely to hamper trade, and the Native States of Kathiawar have at the advice of Government abolished this kind of taxation on goods passing through their territories. Under these circumstances it is but fair and just that the British duty on opium ought to be abolished. When the agreements regarding the purchase and sale of opium for consumption in Native States were last taken in 1887, it was agreed by the parties concerned that no further restrictions would be placed on the same. Hence it is not open to the British Government to disturb the present arrangements, and much less so to prohibit the sale of opium except for medical purposes. For it will not only increase the already heavy responsibilities on the States but it will prove extremely injurious to, and hard on, those who take opium except for medical purposes.

23,990. You say, "I am of opinion that to those who lead a sedentary life the habit of taking opium, even in a moderate dose, is physically injurious; but for those who have to work hard bodily for their bread the habit of taking opium is beneficial." Who are the class of people you are referring to as leading a sedentary life?—I was referring to the Brahmans and

Banyas who take opium in moderate quantities, but who do not work.

23,991. How does the effect show in those people?—Costiveness, and other kinds of diseases.

23,992. You have said, “The people on this side of India view with regret even the present arrangements of opium which burden them with the additional cost of prohibitive measures”; what measures do you refer to?—I am referring to the measures which were adopted in 1878.

23,993. Are you authorised to answer for the Ruler of your State?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

At the Collector's Office, Ahmedabad.

SIXTY-SEVENTH DAY.

Friday, 9th February 1894.

[Section B.]

PRESENT:

SIR JAMES B. LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., IN THE CHAIR.

MR. ARTHUR PEASE.

MR. HARIDAS VE HARIDAS DESAI.

MR. PEMBERTON, Assistant Secretary.

SETH MAYABHAI PREMABHAI NAGARSHETH called in and examined (through an interpreter).

Seth Mayabhai
Premabhai
Nagarsheth.

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23,995. (*Chairman.*) You are a Bania, I think?—Yes.

23,996. Your family were formerly engaged largely in the opium trade, were they not?—Yes.

23,997. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I know Ahmedabad, but I am not personally acquainted with any talukas.

23,998. What is your experience as regards the effect of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people?—By eating opium moderately a person of mature age remains healthy, and it imparts strength to a person of such age.

23,999. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—The use of opium for non-medical purposes is agreeable to the people. If it were stopped they would feel much aggrieved at heart. Besides, the people of India would thereby be subjected to great hardship; and if the Government of India were deprived of its large revenue, a heavy tax would have to be imposed upon the people, and this would create dissatisfaction among them.

24,000. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—The sale of opium should not be stopped. If

it be stopped the people would be subjected to great hardship.

24,001. Could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?—I think that if the sale were stopped in Native States this would be likely to result in a breach of the peace.

24,002. Is it your opinion that the custom of eating opium is increasing or decreasing?—It is not within my knowledge.

24,003. Is it within your knowledge that many people take opium in excess, and injure their health by so doing?—No, I have not heard of such a thing.

24,004. Owing to the arrangement made in 1878 has opium become much dearer?—Yes.

24,005. Do you think that the opium people use now is mostly opium that has paid duty; or do you think that there is still a good deal of smuggling?—I do not know.

24,006. (*Mr. Pease.*) Do you think that the taking of opium by persons in health is a good habit?—No. I know only that old people would be benefited by taking opium.

24,007. Do you think that anything could be done to prevent the young people beginning the habit?—So far as I know, very few young people take to the habit of opium. I cannot suggest any means of preventing young people taking to the opium habit.

The witness withdrew.

MR. NANABHAI DAJIBHAI called in and examined (through an interpreter).

Mr. Nanabhai
Dajibhai.

24,008. (*Chairman.*) You are deputy-assistant political agent?—Yes, now in Kathiawar.

24,009. You have served formerly in the Mahi Kantha?—Yes.

24,010. How long have you been in Government service?—Altogether 20 years.

24,011. May I ask where your native place is?—Near Nariad, Kaira district.

24,012. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I am personally acquainted with the whole of Mahi

Mr. Nanabhai
Dajibhai.

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Kantha. I was personal assistant to the political agent there for about eight years, and Diwan of Idar for four years. The consumption of opium is generally restricted in the districts to the Rajputs and well-to-do Kolis. The well-to-do Bhils, who are a sort of wild aboriginals of the hills, also consume opium whenever they have some festive occasions and meetings wherein their differences are squared and enemies made friends. The drinking of "kasumbo" (opium filtered through cotton) is amongst them a conclusion of peace and friendly tie winding up all past differences and animosities. Any settlement of disputes without an exchange of kasumbo is not considered final. Amongst the Rajputs opium is offered as a treat, just as a cup of tea or wine is offered amongst the Europeans and Parsis. At all the gatherings that take place on the occasion of marriages or death ceremonies there is a free use of opium, and even non-consumers of opium are then pressed to have a taste of it. This custom is prevalent more or less amongst the cultivating, commercial, and other classes of people in the whole of Mahi Kantha. Opium is not smoked at all in any part of Mahi Kantha. Some workmen and talukdars or landholders are habitual consumers of opium and cannot do anything without it.

24,013. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—The effect of such consumption on the morals of the consumers is not so bad as is the consumption of liquor or other drugs. Some of the poorest consumers of opium take to petty thefts to enable them to purchase the drug. The physical condition of the opium consumers does undergo some change, which is marked by effeminacy of appearance and a sort of dulness on their faces.

24,014. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes; and as to their willingness to bear, in whole or in part, the cost of prohibitive measures?—The people of India have a general disposition in favour of the use of opium on various occasions of festivity and do not understand the word prohibitive measures. They have willingly borne the cost of the restrictive measures heretofore.

24,015. In your opinion should the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—The sale of opium should not be prohibited in British India, and if it is done, people will be very much discontented, and they will be taking to more harmful stimulants, such as liquors, wines, &c.

24,016. Could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?—I do not think such prohibition should be extended to Native States; because the discontent there will be a good deal greater. Payment of compensation to the chiefs for such prohibition will fill their pockets and leave their subjects discontented.

24,017. I suppose you have seen a good many cases where people take opium to excess, and do themselves harm?—Very few.

24,018. Amongst Thakurs, and other people in Mahi Kantha, cases of excess do occur sometimes?—There are very few instances; I knew of only one; with very old people, not with young Thakurs.

24,019. Have the young Thakurs to some extent given up the habit?—Yes, to some extent.

24,020. Have they taken to anything else instead?—Liquor.

24,021. What kind of liquor?—Country and British.

24,022. Do they often do themselves harm with liquor?—Much harm; I have seen young Thakurs come out of colleges ruined entirely; not attending to anything; doing no work, but only drinking; their States have gone to wreck and ruin; we have a Rajkumar college at Rajkot, where the sons of the chiefs are sent for education; when they come of age they are given their estates. Many who come out of this college take to this habit of liquor and are ruined.

24,023. How do you explain their inclination to take to liquor nowadays?—If they once get into the habit they continue.

24,024. What prevented them in old days from taking to liquor?—Because it was condemned by society.

24,025. Society and religion?—Yes.

24,026. And the old social and religious rules allowed pium to be taken, but did not allow liquor?—Allowed

opium, but not liquor. There has been no diminution of opium. It is taken by even the most religious persons. There is nothing unchaste in it.

24,027. Why have the old restraints ceased to have effect upon these people?—Times are changing; they come more in contact with people who use liquor.

24,028. You mean European and that sort of people?—Exactly.

24,029. But among Europeans the habit of using liquor has decreased?—May be, but not in this country.

24,030. You say the physical condition of opium consumers does undergo some change, which is marked by effeminacy of appearance, and a sort of dulness in their face; do you mean there is always some change whether the dose is moderate or excessive?—When excessive. When moderate that change of course is not to be seen.

24,031. Can you suggest any change in the present system of excise on opium which would be an improvement?—I cannot. The present duty is so heavy that I think it does not admit of being raised.

24,032. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Do you think it would be advisable when a person is young and in good health to take opium?—I do not think it advisable for persons in good health to take any drugs.

24,033. You think opium would benefit those who require it for the sake of health, whether they are old or young?—Yes, I have known instances where it has benefited both young and old persons, when they required it.

24,034. You condemn the habit of taking opium for the sake of pleasure?—Yes, I do, just as I condemn taking all drugs for the sake of pleasure.

24,035. Would you condemn in the same degree the habit of taking alcohol as you do the habit of opium?—Yes, in a greater degree.

24,036. Do you not make some difference in the injurious effects of alcohol and opium?—Opium is better than alcohol.

24,037. (Mr. Pease.) Do you think that there is any alteration in the practice of taking opium on festive and ceremonial occasions?—No. Even though opium has been made costly people have to use it on ceremonial occasions, and get it at any cost.

24,038. Do you think it is taken in smaller quantities?—Yes, but they cannot do without it. They ought to give an appearance of it at least in the ceremony.

24,039. We were told at another place that oftentimes now people merely touch opium and do not take any of it; is that the custom here?—Yes, that is the custom, to a certain extent, here also.

24,040. People do not feel obliged to taste it?—They do taste it; if they did not there would be a quarrel about it. Those who do not taste are made to taste by pressure.

24,041. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Have you declined such offers yourselves?—Many times.

24,042. And was there any quarrel?—It was a very quarrelsome business. I had to steep my lips in the opium. If I did not do that they would say I was not friendly.

24,043. In form and in practice opium is now gradually being taken less, is it not?—That is what I mean.

24,044. (Chairman.) Has no official agent been deputed here from Kathiawar?—What I have said about Mahi Kantha applies to Kathiawar also. I have been deputed from both the places.

24,045. Do you know the history of Kathiawar well?—Yes.

24,046. When did the British Government assume the suzerainty over Kathiawar?—In 1802.

24,047. After a war with the Peshwa?—Yes, after the British got Ahmedabad.

24,048. Before that the Peshwas had the suzerainty?—Yes.

24,049. Was there any fighting in Kathiawar?—Plenty.

24,050. Between the British and the chiefs?—Between the British and the chiefs and between the chiefs themselves.

24,051. After the fighting was the Gaikwar and the British Government jointly suzerains?—The Gaikwar

authorised the British to do the whole thing, and the British did it on behalf of the Gaikwar and the Peshwa.

24,052. The British did it on behalf of the Gaikwar and on behalf of itself in place of Peshwa?—Exactly.

24,053. Was it then that the order was issued prohibiting the growth of poppy?—The treaty related to the opium trade; it did not relate so much to the growth. The trade was vetoed even from very early days, that is, it had to be carried on under certain restrictions.

24,054. That trade, I suppose, went to Diu?—Yes, and other places.

24,055. The opium came down from Malwa, and was exported from the ports of Kathiawar?—Yes.

24,056. To China and other places?—Yes. Before the advent of the British there was no restraint on the opium trade; the whole thing went on as free as possible; it was only the British Government that restrained it.

24,057. Do you know when the order prohibiting the growth of poppy came into actual force?—In 1878.

24,058. But it was prohibited before that, was not it?—Not so strictly. There was moral compulsion, but not legal.

24,059. How do you mean?—It was discouraged, but it was not held criminal to cultivate poppy before 1878.

24,060. There was some cultivation in Kathiawar?—Yes.

24,061. Did the Baroda opium go Kathiawar way?—Yes, it was smuggled into Kathiawar.

24,062. Before 1878?—Yes.

24,063. Is Diu now a place of any importance?—No much.

The witness withdrew.

Dr. HARI BHIKAJI called in and examined.

24,072. (Chairman.) I believe you are the Chief Medical Adviser of the State of Gondal, in Kathiawar?—Yes.

24,073. May I ask where you received your medical education?—In the Grant Medical College, Bombay.

24,074. Did you take a degree?—I was one of the Hospital Assistant's class.

24,075. Will you tell us what has been your experience in reference to the opium habit?—I have been in the medical service of Gondal State for 18 years. At present I am chief medical officer of Gondal State and superintendent of the State Jail at Gondal. I am also superintendent of the Baiba Sahib Asylum at Gondal. I have seen opium eaters physically ruined, I have not seen any person morally ruined by the abuse of opium. I have not seen persons smoke opium. In the part of the province over which my experience extends the opium eaters mostly use the drug in the crude form, but some drink it as kasumbha. Young men contract the habit of eating opium for vicious purposes, or from seeing other men take it. Old men or middle-aged men begin the habit by taking it to revive the natural powers. I have seen infants dosed with opium by mothers generally to keep them quiet; but this habit is risky and dangerous. The habit of using opium in young men is considered a disgraceful thing; in elderly people it is excused. Opium eaters are practically a well-behaved class of people. The intemperate use of opium causes deterioration, producing emaciation, gastric disorders, and, no doubt, short life. Opium is probably the commonest remedy used by natives to relieve their ordinary ailments; it is chiefly resorted to in cases of dysentery, diarrhoea, diabetes, chest affections, rheumatism, and neuralgia. As a medical man I use opium largely in the treatment of nearly all the above diseases among my patients. Opium is taken also in malarial fevers, but I put no faith in it, as a febrifuge. I am convinced if opium were prohibited it would mean an increase in the consumption of alcohol and ganja.

24,076. Is the Baiba Sahib Asylum at Gondal, of which you are superintendent, a lunatic asylum?—No, an infirmary for people unable to obtain their livelihood.

24,077. A sort of poor house?—Yes.

24,064. I suppose there are Portuguese merchants there now?—Yes, but it is not a place of much importance.

24,065. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) Can you cite any instance of the fight between the British and the other States in Kathiawar?—Of course wherever the forces went there was opposition and fighting.

24,066. Do you mean to say the British met with opposition, or the Gaikwar?—The Gaikwar's force was under British control. It was arranged in a curious way, so that it was difficult to tell what power it was.

24,067. Perhaps you know there were three powers in Kathiawar, the Gaikwar, the Peshwa, and the Junagadh; and these three powers used to send their forces to collect the tributes from the States?—I am alluding to that.

24,068. When the British Government conquered the Peshwa, it stood in the place of the Peshwa towards the Gaikwar. Before that the Gaikwar used to manage in its own right as well as that of the Peshwa. The British Government and the Gaikwar then ruled together. Afterwards Junagadh made a treaty with the British Government?—Yes and the British Government undertook to levy Zortalabi—tribute levied by force. The Gaikwar withdrew, but gave a force, called Gaikwar's contingent force. It contributed to the force, but withdrew from having anything to do with it; and it left it under British control. Thus the whole thing remained in the hands of the British.

24,069. When did the Gaikwar withdraw, do you remember what year that was?—1810. We got the treaty in 1820.

24,070. Did not the British Government at one time save the Gaikwar from his brother?—That was at Baroda, not in Kathiawar.

24,071. Do you know what year that was?—I do not remember. That is in the Baroda history.

24,078. You say, "I have seen opium eaters physically ruined"; have you seen many?—Many in the asylum. They come there.

24,079. Is it not the case that sometimes people take to opium because they are physically ruined?—They are not under the impression that they are physically ruined by opium.

24,080. Is it not the case that sometimes people take to opium because they suffer from consumption or asthma?—They take it for those complaints. It is an ordinary medicine in Kathiawar where my experience has been.

24,081. Is it not rather difficult to say, when a man comes into the poor house, whether he is physically ruined from opium, or whether it is some other disease besides the opium that has ruined him?—He takes a little opium to relieve the disease, and then he becomes a confirmed opium eater; and after knocking about he comes to the asylum in a bad state of health.

24,082. In such cases, how do you make out whether it is the opium that has ruined them or the disease that they took opium for?—They say what their complaint is, and that some of their friends advised them to take a little opium. They take it for some days, and they become confirmed opium eaters.

24,083. In the Gondal State is the opium habit very common?—Yes, a good many people use opium. I see many persons using it.

24,084. Among a hundred people who take opium regularly more or less, how many people do you think ruin their health by it?—About 10 per cent.

24,085. By ruining their health you do not mean that they come to the point of death?—No; physically ruined—weakened.

24,086. Does it affect their minds?—They become lazy and stupid.

24,087. Lethargic?—Yes; but I am speaking only of those who indulge in it to excess.

24,088. You say, "opium is taken also in malarial fevers, but I put no faith in it, as a febrifuge"; it is taken by people under medical advice for malarial fevers?—No, not under medical advice, because in

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India there are millions of people beyond the reach of skilled medical aid. In such cases they use opium. It is the only remedy known and believed in by the people.

24,089. The people who take it like that, take it for every kind of thing?—Yes, a little pill. In my opinion there is no harm in that.

24,090. Is there much alcohol used in Gondal?—It is very slightly used.

24,091. What class of people use alcohol in Gondal?—Only the low class people—Girasias, Rajputs, and such people; not the Banias or Brahmins or Mahomedans.

24,092. *Mr. Pease.* What is your practice with regard to persons who have been accustomed to take opium who come into the State Jail?—When a man is sent to jail, if he is a confirmed opium eater, he asks for opium for some days; but I do not allow it, and after a week or ten days he does not feel the want of it.

24,093. Have you known any prisoner who has permanently suffered from having opium stopped?—No. I only notice that he is a little less bright and a little more lazy than the others.

24,094. Do they increase in weight after the opium has been stopped?—If they have been confined a long time in the jail.

24,095. What is your practice in the Baiba Sahib Asylum?—I allow those who are opium eaters to eat

opium; and I allow those who smoke ganja or tobacco to smoke.

24,096. Do you try to break them of the opium habit while they are there?—No. If they are not allowed opium for a day they are sure to leave the asylum the next morning and go into the town.

24,097. (*Chairman.*) It is a fact, is it not, that in jails in India generally, when a man comes in who is addicted to the habit of opium, it is treated like any other luxury to which he is addicted, and stopped, just as is done in the case of smoking?—Even smoking is stopped in our jails.

24,098. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) How many years were the British administration at Gondal?—Fourteen years.

24,099. Were you appointed during that administration?—Yes. I have been in the service for the last 18 years; so that I was there during the administration.

24,100. The arrangement of the jails is something like the British jails, are they not?—Our arrangement is according to the Jail Manual of the British Government.

24,101. You follow the same arrangement now?—Yes, that of the British Administrators.

24,102. Have you any experience of the dealings with opium eaters in jails of other Native States?—I have very little experience of other Native States except Gondal and Kathiawar. I have not even seen the big towns in Kathiawar.

The witness withdrew.

Assistant-Surgeon TRIBHOVANDAS MOTICHAND SHAH called in and examined.

Assistant-
Surgeon
T. M. Shah
(Junagadh
State).

24,103. (*Chairman.*) You are Chief Medical Officer, I believe, of the Junagadh State?—Yes.

24,104. Were you educated at the Grant Medical College?—Yes.

24,105. And you took your degree there?—Yes.

24,106. Did you get the gold medal there?—Yes.

24,107. How long have you served in the Junagadh State?—For the last eight years.

24,108. Where did you serve before that?—I was in British service.

24,109. Your services have been lent to the Junagadh State?—Yes.

24,110. How many dispensaries are there in the State?—16.

24,111. They are all under your superintendence?—Yes.

24,112. Will you tell us the population of the State, and the amount of opium consumed?—The entire population of the Junagadh State is 484,190. The number of habitual opium eaters, excluding infants, is 5,380, and the per-centage of opium eaters to the population is therefore 1.15. The average of the quantity of opium sold in this State during the last five years is 179 maunds. The minimum quantity in Samvat 1,947 was 163 maunds and the maximum in 1,949 was 203 maunds. This quantity of opium represents not only that consumed by opium eaters, but includes also that used for medicinal purposes, for infants, for cattle, and for external application. It is therefore impossible to arrive at the correct average per each habitual consumer. However, dividing the gross amount by the number of habitués, we get an average of 55 tolas per head per annum, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas by weight equal to 30 grains per day. The quantity of opium consumed per head per annum of the entire population amounts to $9\frac{1}{2}$ annas by weight, equal to 120 grains. The average per head per annum of the male population (including male children) is $1\frac{1}{2}$ tola.

24,113. Is the habit limited to any particular caste?—The habit of taking opium is not limited to any particular class or race, but it pervades, more or less, all castes. However, some particular classes resort to it more freely, openly and customarily.

24,114. Is it prohibited by religion?—The precepts of both Hinduism and Mahomedanism strictly prohibit the habitual imbibition of every intoxicating drug, but opium causes no real intoxication; and its medicinal use is so frequent and popular that it has, more or less,

ceased from the category of religious prohibition. The use of opium is not therefore regarded as disgraceful. However, it is not approved among the higher classes. While the habit of taking bhang, smoking ganja, or drinking liquor is decidedly considered disreputable among all respectable classes in this province.

24,115. Are native physicians in the habit of prescribing opium?—Opium is extensively prescribed by native physicians, both Yunani and Hindi. It is a remedy *par excellence* in coughs of various origin, pains of various causation, bowel complaints, fevers, and several other maladies. Opium is no less popular and remarkable for its use in European practice. In extent of utility opium surpasses all drugs. If physicians and surgeons had to select one single drug for the treatment of all diseases that human flesh is heir to, their choice must fall on opium. In short, the usefulness of opium as a remedy is inestimable.

24,116. To what extent are opium, poppy-heads, and poppy-seed used by people?—Opium, poppy-heads, and poppy-seeds are largely used as medicine by the people for themselves and their cattle. Poppy-seed is besides extensively used as a condiment and as an adjunct to other preparations of medicines. Its supply is now dear and limited, but formerly when the growth of poppy was free, the oil of poppy-seed was abundantly used in place of the common oils in dietary.

24,117. What is the mode of taking opium?—Opium is taken for the most part in the (a) liquid form as kasumbha, or (b) in the solid form as a bolus or pill, or (c) it is smoked. It is difficult to ascertain the exact extent of these three modes of taking it; however, as far as this province is concerned, smoking of opium is rarely practised. Smoking is here properly regarded as the most injurious form of its consumption.

24,118. Is the habit confined to males, females, or children?—Opium is taken, at all ages. There are to be met with in India, habitués in opium from babies a few days old to persons octagenarian and centenarian. For the most part males and infants consume it. Very few women are known to use it habitually.

24,119. What leads to its commencement?—The answer for the sake of convenience may be divided into two parts; that relating to children and that pertaining to males.

A. Children.—(a) The sad custom of administering opium to infants prevails in this province from times immemorial, among mothers of all castes and creeds, rich and poor, young and old. As the uncivilized Indian woman is habituated to imbibe unnecessary de-

coctions in child-bed, and as she inflicts self-punishment by providing dirty clothes and a dark corner of the house during her confinement, so she doses the innocent baby with opium under cover of the custom and credence of doing it good. Mothers give it as crude opium in the liquid and solid form or in the shape of bala goli (infants' pills). Bala goli usually contains, besides opium, many other drugs, such as cardamom, cloves, nutmeg and its mace, catechu, atees, &c. The quantity of opium in them is usually very small.

(b.) Besides this routine custom, mothers begin to give opium to infants when they are cross, restless, and crying, or when they suffer from colic and diarrhoea.

(c.) Opium is also given to infants in order to cause them to sleep, so that the mother may go out for work or she may enjoy sound sleep at night.

(d.) Over-lactation is the rule among Indian mothers. They go on suckling children for two, three, four or more years, and even throughout the next pregnancy. Opium is given to infants by some mothers to avert the evil effects of suckling during pregnancy.

(e.) Opium is administered under the belief that the child thereby keeps good health and gathers flesh.

The administration of opium is continued till the child attains from one to four or five years of age, and then it is given up either suddenly or gradually. In rare instances this habit is continued on to adult life. Weaning children from the habit of opium is easy and not attended with risk, difficulty, and embarrassment that attends in ridding an adult or old person of his opium eating.

B. Adults or old persons acquire the habit of opium under various circumstances:—

(a.) As mentioned above in some instances the habit has commenced in infancy or childhood, and then continued onwards. This is not at all unfrequent among the children of Girasias and Chiefs (landholders).

(b.) Opium habit is contracted for the relief of diseases, such as cough, rheumatism, neuralgia, colic, diabetes, and diarrhoea. This class of habitues is mostly met with among the more advanced, that is, after 40 and 50 years of age. Opium is extensively used for external applications for pains and inflammations.

(c.) Opium eating commences sometimes under compulsory circumstances; some attendants of chiefs thus take to opium. Rarely an opium-eating friend leads another, not in the habit, to follow his example.

(d.) Opium is commenced for sexual enjoyment. It is not an aphrodisiac in its true sense as strychnia, but it possesses the power of deferring and checking the discharge of all bodily secretions. Emission of semen is thus delayed under the influence of opium and the period of sexual intercourse is therefore prolonged. This is a physiological fact which is borne out by the experience of opium eaters. Good many persons are enticed to opium on this account. On questioning opium eaters I learn that this effect is not permanent. This effect is produced so long as the drug acts physiologically. If the drug were taken occasionally, it would continue to produce the same effect. But when taken habitually, the system becomes inured to its use, and that effect ceases unless the drug were taken in a larger dose. This is one of the reasons of opium being increased in quantity.

(e.) The warriors of this country take opium when proceeding to the field of battle, with two objects—one for the purpose of stimulation and another to prevent the discharges from bowels or bladder, so that the body may not be soiled at the time of death. It is considered not only a disgrace in this world if the body were thus soiled, but it is believed that the soul and body would thereby be rendered impure for the next world.

(f.) Amongst certain classes and castes opium eating is customary. Rajputs, Kathis, Mahomedans and many other Chiefs and Girasias use kasumbha as others resort to tea, coffee, or wine. Kasumbha is offered to all guests, and even pressed with vigour. On all festive occasions this liquid of opium is freely distributed. As the Arab uses his coffee, so the Kathi relishes his liquid opium. As a Hindu or Parsi holds a tea-party, so a Rajput celebrates his kasumbha party. As a European puts forth a glass of wine before a friend, so a Mahomedan throws open his silver or golden box containing opium before his guest. To make the reunion of friendship after dissension, kasumbha is drunk together among these classes of people.

(g.) In company and association, many persons fall victims to opium. Thus in the Kacheri or Dehra of the several Darbars and Chiefs of Kathiawar, most of the attendants acquire its habit. They get it for

nothing, and 5, 10, or more pounds of opium are consumed per month in such companies.

(h.) Dealers of opium, cultivators of poppy and others, that come in daily contact with it, are liable to be embraced by the drug. I learn from reliable sources that dealers who frequently smell it, feel its want when they do not get it.

(i.) Labourers and persons undergoing fatiguing exertion and exposure take opium.

24,120. In your experience, does opium sustain mental and physical labour?—Opium is the sovereign of stimulants. It is called *raj niso*. It calms and soothes the nervous system and at the same time it is said to regulate, invigorate, and sustain both physical and mental force. Men and animals both are benefited by it when undergoing a fatiguing journey. The Chinese are remarkable for their minute handiworkmanship, and their mental and sedentary labour is sustained by opium. Habitues of opium affirm that when taken in moderation, ideas flow readily and harmoniously, and this is borne out by the statement of Surgeon-General R. Harvey, who says, "opium sharpens the mental faculties, brightens the wits, and improves the logical powers." The same may be alleged in favour of other stimulants when taken in moderation.

24,121. What hold does opium take on its habitues?—Opium forms an unfeeling snare in which victims are entrapped, some willingly and others unwillingly. Opium takes the most powerful hold on its victims; it is periodic and most punctual in its calls. Other narcotics will allow a latitude of time and may be taken earlier or later, but the repetition of this so-called king of narcotics can not be delayed. Its orders are imperative, and any dilatoriness on the part of its subject is immediately punished by mental and physical disturbance. In the case of allied drugs strong and irresistible desire is the main factor of inducement. In the case of opium, the physical disturbance is supreme and imperious in its demand. Bhang, ganja, and alcohol may be taken at odd times in larger or smaller quantity, and hours, days, or months may be stepped over without taking them. Any such irregularity is inadmissible under the sway of opium. Were it not for the firm, imperious, and inseparable fetters that it lays on its devotees, it would have been, opium eaters declare, a most happy gift of God.

24,122. Do the consumers themselves condemn the habit?—Addiction to opium is contracted in various ways mentioned above, and when taken as a remedial or necessary measure it is a blessing, but its addiction originating in luxury or custom becomes a life-long curse to the consumer. He must obey the dominative summons of uncle opium, otherwise he is not the right man in the right place. Its habitual use is condemned by its most devoted consumers. I have the word of Durbars and Khans that they would not like to bequeath the habit to their posterity, that they would not conscientiously advise friends to its daily use, and that they would warn others to avoid the pitfall in which they have *molens molens* jumped.

24,123. Is it harmful or beneficial when taken in moderation?—In numerous instances when taken in moderation no harm is apparent; on the other hand many persons have evidently thrived and have been benefited in general health after its addiction. As many cases may be cited wherein positive harm has accrued to the consumers, I would not advise anyone to take it when in perfect health.

24,124. What are its effects mentally, morally, and physically?—Morally.—Opium holds the supreme rank among all narcotics known in this country. An opium eater never broods evil ideas; his language is neither indecent or impolite, and inclination to crime is the last to enter into his head. He is a quiet creature doing no harm to society. On the contrary, it is reputed to reclaim vicious persons to the right path; young men given to licentiousness, debauchery, and bad company, and addicted to disquieting drugs like alcohol and hemp are brought round by contracting the habit of opium. I know of instances wherein opium was substituted for alcohol and ganga with much benefit to the individuals addicted to the latter drug. Herein lies the supremacy of opium to other intoxicants. All over the world different individuals, societies, and nations have their own customary luxuries and stimulants, alcohol prevailing in one place, opium in another, while tobacco, bhang, and coca in others. Alcohol reigns supreme in Europe and America, tobacco perhaps extends into the dominions of all nationalities.

Assistant-Surgeon
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Bhang has its limited sphere in India, and opium rules in China, and possesses a small territory in India. In the hot discussion about the use of opium in India this fact ought not to be lost sight of, that the number of persons that use opium when compared to the entire population is infinitesimal; I believe the per-centage of alcohol consumers will far exceed that of opium eaters here. While in Europe and other countries all classes, high, middle, and low use it either in moderation or in excess. Cigar, cheroot, bidi, or hubblebubble is seen riding between the lips of Christians, Mahomedans, and Hindus. The luxury of tobacco is thus most general and the least harmful. The use of opium, as far as India is concerned, causes no great harm, while liquor is the most powerful drug and causes the greatest harm to society, physically, mentally, and morally. Mentally.—Opium is not known to cause any particular mental disease. An opium eater is never excited violent, or unmanageable. If taken in excess for a long time it will cause general dulness of the mental faculties. Physically.—When opium is taken in increasing or excessive quantity it produces evil effects on the constitution. Irregularity in point of the time and quantity is also certain to cause evil effects on the consumer. The effect is then more soporific and narcotic rather than stimulant. The secretions and excretions are not then free, and the refuse matter is retained in the system. Constipation, loss of appetite, emaciation, sallow complexion, sunken cheeks, languid appearance, drooping lids, &c. combine to form a characteristic opiumised type. Such examples are few and far between, and are the result of abuse of opium. It is alleged that such symptoms met with in opium eaters are the result of prior illness for which the habit of opium was contracted, or are due to insufficient food and bad sanitary surroundings. They may be partly due to these causes, but they are in my opinion due also to the abuse of opium. Opium does not, however, attack and disable the vital organs of the body as alcohol does. Excessive consumption of opium by persons of limited means brings about financial ruin, and to some people it proves a curse and misfortune in this way.

24,125. Are there not cases of poisoning by opium: can you say anything on that?—Poisoning with opium is in adults generally suicidal, and in children it is accidental. The symptoms that follow a poisonous dose of the drug are characteristic of narcotism, drowsiness followed by slow pulse, deep stupor, stertorous breathing, contraction of pupils, constipation and tympanitis. In the accidental poisoning of children either the child gets hold of a lump of opium and swallows it, or the mother by mistake gives a large or a double dose. Out of 28 cases of opium poisoning treated at the Junagadh Hospital in four years from 1890 to 1893, there were 19 children, six females, and three males. Thus suicide with opium seems to be more frequent in females than in males. Out of them, two children, one female, and one male died, and the rest recovered. Criminal poisoning with opium is not so common as to necessitate any stringent measures to check it.

24,126. What is the maximum daily dose of a moderate consumer?—The maximum daily dose of a moderate consumer may be set down from two to ten grains. The consumption of opium in large quantity is not at all unfrequent. Opium in varying quantity from a quarter to two tolas in weight is taken by several persons per day, I have seen a Parsi that used to take daily about 8 to 12 grains of morphia hypodermically and could take ten tolas of opium instead at a time. Even such large consumers can not be marked out, unless they confess it, and they do not apparently appear to be the worse for it. It is therefore rather arbitrary to set down a maximum moderate dose.

24,127. Do opium eaters increase the dose?—All consumers do not go on increasing its amount, but some do increase it either voluntarily or involuntarily. By far the greater number of habitues are moderate and regular, and do not go on increasing the quantity. Some increase it voluntarily, because when the system becomes accustomed to a certain dose, that dose is not enough to produce its original effect, and an additional quantity is therefore taken. Some people augment its quantity under pressure of friends and guests. In some instances the dose is increased during illness. Opium of inferior quantity leads to its increase.

24,128. What are the effects of stopping the opium?—The effect of sudden stoppage depends upon the

quantity and the length of time one is taking it. If the quantity is small or the time of habit short, the effect will not be serious or severe. The symptoms narrated below would then be manifested in a mild form. If the supply of opium be suddenly withheld from a confirmed opium eater, he suffers from severe pains and cramps all over the body, and especially the calves, profuse perspiration, sneezing, yawning, watering from eyes and nose, more or less severe diarrhoea and vomiting, anorexia, insomnia, languor, disinclination to work, and restlessness, and the habitué often declares that he would die. I have seen the effect in several instances of both total and partial stoppage of opium supply. It is said that when Government increased the tax on opium, and prohibited its growth in several provinces, the immediate effect on the poorer classes in the territories concerned was an increase in mortality and disease.

24,129. Have you ever weaned opium consumers from their habit?—I have weaned three classes of consumers from its habitual use. (1) Some with whom it did not agree and felt tired of their bondage to it. (2) Some that could not afford to continue its consumption. (3) All the opium eating criminals that are admitted in the Central Jail of Junagadh. The former two, of course, volunteered to give it up, and the latter were compelled to do so. The following are some instances:—Kala Vira, aged 28 years, inhabitant of Junagadh, took about 50 grains of opium per day. He contracted the habit by association five years since. He became emaciated and suffered in general health and therefore decided to give it up. He was treated first with morphia injection, and subsequently solution of morphia was given by mouth. His treatment was begun on 11th December 1893, and terminated on 20th January 1894. The next was Kalu Rahman, aged 30 years, resident of Junagadh, addicted to opium by persuasion of friends since eight years. He took about 78 grains daily. His circumstances were straitened and he wished therefore to leave it off. His bowels were very costive and his general health poor. He was treated with morphia injection and morphia solution from 11th November to 16th December 1893. There was another, Parshotam Bhagwandas, aged 40 years, of Ahmedabad, took about 20 grains of opium per day. He contracted the habit since six years for bad health. It did not agree with him; he got debilitated. He wanted to leave off the habit as he was reduced to starvation. He was treated with subcutaneous injection of morphia. Treatment was commenced on the 11th August 1893, and ended on the 6th September 1893. Opium is sometimes given up or lessened in quantity by the consumer himself gradually decreasing its amount. At the hospital liquor morphia is substituted in the form of a mixture, and its quantity slowly diminished, or morphia is injected hypodermically and then the quantity of injection lessened. In the jail a pseudo-kasumbha is substituted. A solution of burnt sugar is prepared, and this liquid simulates the colour of kasumbha. The required quantity of opium is mixed with this liquid before it is given to the prisoner. The quantity of opium is gradually decreased, but the quantity and colour of the liquid continue the same; and the prisoner believes that he is taking the same quantity of opium daily. A small quantity of quinine is added to the sugar so as to replace the bitterness of the reduced quantity of opium. The proportion of opium eaters to the numbers of prisoners admitted in the Junagadh Central Jail during the last five years is as follows:—

	Admissions.	Opium eaters.
1888-89 - - -	689	62
1889-90 - - -	520	29
1890-91 - - -	461	44
1891-92 - - -	431	34
1892-93 - - -	360	20
Total - - -	2,461	189

The per-centage of opium eating prisoners is therefore 7·6. The term of imprisonment of the prisoners addicted to opium, of course, varied, and therefore all of them could not be made to give up its habits. I hand in a list* of those that did give it up showing the name, the quantity he was taking at the time of admission

* See Appendix XVII. to this Volume.

the number of days taken in leaving off opium, the quantity of opium consumed during these days, and the total quantity of opium that would have been required by each during the term of incarceration if the habit were not given up.

24,130. How would the absolute prohibition of opium be regarded by consumers and by the native public?—Such a prohibition would prove a dire calamity to the consumers. Some of them would die or their lives would be shortened. Some would be victims to diseases, and others would find immediately a relief in other intoxicants whereby they will be far worse off. The public would deem its prohibition a great hardship, and promoters of such an act would at least be bitterly cursed, if nothing more serious may turn up. There exists no necessity for such a prohibition, unless the Government wish to inflict an uncalled for hardship upon the people, and they wish to replace opium by alcohol, and deprive the nation of a comparatively harmless luxury. In fact, a total prohibition of either opium, alcohol, or bhang is out of the question. Hundreds of people, rich and poor, feel the want of a slight stimulant after being knocked up with mental or bodily labour during the day.

24,131. Do the people consume country spirits or hemp drugs?—People of this province do make use of hemp drugs and country spirits. Opium, bhang, and liquor all in medicinal doses are beneficial. In moderate doses even they are all apparently harmless. But human nature is unable always to keep them in moderation, and the ignorant masses are often led to their immoderate consumption. The quantity habitually taken is not enough to tickle and exhilarate their spirits, and the limits of moderation are therefore transgressed, and then each and all intoxicating drugs become evils to human society.

24,132. Would the prohibition of opium lead people to resort to other intoxicating stimulants?—The prohibition of the cultivation and the sale of opium would, in my opinion, most decidedly lead people to resort to other forms of intoxicating stimulants, such as hemp drugs, dhatura, or country spirits. Let rather opium take the place of these drugs than allow them to replace opium in India. To eradicate all vices from society is an impossibility. To render the entire population honest and righteous is not feasible. To deprive India of an innocent stimulant, which they and their forefathers so long enjoyed, is not easy. Not only would the people, after such a restriction, take the intoxicant secretly, but they would be obliged to contract a second evil of smuggling. Fair and restrictive checks may be placed in order to limit the use of stimulants, and such checks may even be augmented step by step, but a wholesale and oppressive prohibition ought not to be broad cast over a population that is ignorant and dumb to a great extent. "Choose the lesser out of two evils" is a motto applicable to the whole world, and is well worth a consideration for the subject under review. Hemp, opium, and liquor are the three chief stimulants extensively used in this country. The opinion of medical men, that of persons that have actually experienced the effects of these three stimulants, and that of persons that have devoted their best attention to the subject will declare with one voice that liquor does the greatest harm, hemp the next, and opium the least. If we have to choose the lesser evil, our choice must fall on opium. The wisest course therefore in India would be to let the total import and distillation of spirits be first prohibited, let the growth and manufacture of hemp drugs be then restricted, and then lastly let the cultivation of poppy be checked. No prohibition or heavy taxation will succeed, without discontent and a general cry, in utterly annihilating the consumption of opium which has life-long attachment to masses of ignorant people for generations. True enlightenment and civilization is likely to give a far more powerful blow in the long run to the use of intoxicants than Government interference. Let all children be taught with their alphabet that it is a sin to touch intoxicants. Let them be impressed as they grow up that intoxicants are impurities that ought not to pollute the holy shrine of human body. Let such precepts be followed by example of parents and elderly people, and the effect of rooting out these enemies of society would be marvellous in the course of a few decades.

24,133. Which is the cheapest stimulant?—Bhang is the cheapest stimulant, opium is dearer, and liquor the most costly.

24,134. Out of alcohol, hemp drugs, and opium which has the more injurious influence on the physical and moral condition of the people?—Alcohol exercises the most injurious influence on the moral and physical condition of the people of India. Its injurious effects on the body, and particularly in regard to crime, are increasing, and will culminate in future as the use of alcohol is daily increasing. It is supplanting the use of both bhang and opium in India. Europe and other liquor-using countries are deploring the evil effects of it, particularly from a criminal point of view, and India will have at no distant date to send up the same cry to heaven. It is most striking to an impartial observer that no due attention is paid to alcohol, the king of evils, while such a hot war is waged against the humble, the innocent, and the honest opium. The records of criminal courts, the officers of police, and the houses of debauch afford full and unequivocal evidence of the crimes of liquor consumers, the brawls of spirit drinkers, and intolerable behaviour of drunkards. A person under the full influence of alcohol is not a man, but an animal, devoid of all sense and forgetting himself, his family and his God. An excessive consumer of ganja will sometimes approach a drunkard, but an opium eater is a different type altogether. He is never known to be disorderly, impudent, or transgressing the limits of law or justice. He is ever himself and conscious of his acts.

24,135. How did you get the number of habitual consumers?—Through my State authorities.

24,136. From the shops?—Through the Dewan.

24,137. Do you know how he got it?—He sent orders to the different Mahals, and got answers from the different officers.

24,138. You say that smoking is popularly regarded as the most injurious form of opium consumption. I should like to ask you, as a medical man, whether you would have expected that smoking would have been more injurious than eating?—No.

24,139. Do you think it really is more injurious than eating?—I have no experience.

24,140. You say, "as I have mentioned in some instances, the habit is commenced in infancy or childhood, and is then continued afterwards; this is not at all infrequent among children of Girasia and Chiefs"; do you mean it is continued afterwards without any stop at all?—Without any stopping at all.

24,141. Is that because the child has a craving for it, or for any other reason?—The habit has been contracted and it is continued. Elderly people also take opium.

24,142. Yes, elderly people; but this is a new thing. We have always been told before that it is a very common custom to give it to children up to between three and four years, but that afterwards it invariably stops until they get to 18 or 20?—It is not invariable; but they do contract the habit.

24,143. You have seen a child go on?—Yes, without any stopping at all.

24,144. Do you think that is because the child craves for it, or because there has been so much opium used in the family that the child gets at it?—There is a natural craving, and in order not to oppose the craving the opium is continued.

24,145. I suppose you think that is very bad?—It is bad.

24,146. I presume from what you say that there are two reasons why opium injures poor people: (1) that they starve themselves of other food in order to buy opium, and (2) that they take it irregularly, when they can get it?—Yes.

24,147. You say, "criminal poisoning with opium is not so common as to necessitate any stringent measures to check it"; I suppose it would be very difficult to poison a man with opium without his knowing what you are doing?—Yes, very difficult.

24,148. Because of the taste and smell being so strong and so well known?—Yes.

24,149. Is the practice of taking morphia hypodermically at all common in Bombay?—No.

24,150. Do you stop the opium of habitual consumers in the Central Jail at once or by degrees?—By degrees.

24,151. How long does it take you to stop it?—It varies; sometimes it takes days and sometimes it takes weeks.

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24,152. Do you think there is some danger in stopping it at once?—There is.

24,153. Would it set up diarrhoea?—Yes, and vomiting, restlessness, and sleeplessness.

24,154. The opium habit is treated like the tobacco habit in cases of prisoners, and stopped as part of the jail discipline?—Yes.

24,155. I see you generally cure patients of the habit by the injection of morphia, but the cases you give are all recent cases; have you any confidence that the cure would be permanent;—Yes, of course; a man ought to be willing to give it up. If he is, it is permanent.

24,156. Are you aware that in China the medical missionaries are in the habit of trying to cure opium smokers in the same way by hypodermic injection, and that the result has been that a great number of shops have been set up by Chinamen in which injection is carried on, and the Chinese poor people find that cheaper than smoking, and take to it as a habit?—There is no such thing in existence here.

24,157. Is there not some risk that people may learn it, as they did in China?—The people do not know how to use the instruments here; it is always left to the medical man to use them.

24,158. They have had to legislate to put down these injection shops in Hong Kong, and in China they are still going on?—I do not doubt that.

24,159. You say that the prohibition of opium might lead people to take other drugs, and among those other drugs you mention dhatūra; is dhatūra ever used as a stimulant in this country?—Yes, as an intoxicant.

24,160. How is it used?—Smoked.

24,161. With tobacco or by itself?—Even by itself.

24,162. It grows wild all over the country, does not it?—Yes, almost all over the country.

24,163. Does bhang grow wild in the Bombay Presidency?—No.

24,164. I see you have given the doses of opium in your table as vals; how much is a val equal to?—Six grains.

24,165. (Mr. Pease.) Is it not a fact that often young children suffer in health when the opium is stopped?—If it were stopped suddenly they might.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. APPAJI GOVINDRAO KALE called in and examined.

Mr. Appaji
Govindrao
Kale (Pali-
tana State.)

24,180. (Chairman.) You are Medical Officer of the Palitana State, are you not?—Yes.

24,181. Where did you get your medical education?—In the Bombay Medical College. I am a Government servant lent to Palitana State.

24,182. To what districts of the Presidency and to what races are your observations applicable?—I have been in Kathiawar for the last 26 years, and have had independent charge of dispensaries. During this time I have come very often in contact with opium eaters. From my personal experience I can say that my observation is applicable to Kathiawar and to all races in the district.

24,183. To what extent is opium used among the population of the districts to which your observations apply?—I possess no statistics and cannot give my opinion as to the extent of use of opium.

24,184. What are the effects of its use and abuse on the moral and physical conditions of the user?—The opium eaters are generally well behaved men. They are always firm minded and never excited or unmanageable. Opium soothes the system and sustains both physical and mental forces. Labourers use it very often to get themselves refreshed from fatigue. When taken in moderation it is not only harmless, but strengthens the system and even prolongs the life. I have seen some opium eaters who had passed the age of 80 years, and in good health. Irregularity in time and quantity causes constipation, loss of appetite, emaciation, &c.; but such cases are very few. It does not injure the organs as alcohol does.

24,185. State the methods of consumption and effects of the drug in each form of consumption?—Opium is used in the forms of kasumbha or watery solution and pills, but very rarely smoked. Both these forms are

24,166. Do you subject them to any special treatment when the opium is stopped?—Children are not brought under treatment.

24,167. If the opium is suddenly stopped what is the effect upon the child?—There would be more or less the same symptoms as in an adult, that is to say, diarrhoea, looseness of bowels, vomiting, and restlessness.

24,168. With regard to opium smoking, do you not think there will be a material difference between the effect of opium taken into the stomach, where it mixes with the gastric juice and undigested food, and opium which is inhaled into the more sensitive tissues of the lungs?—The effect, if inhaled, would be more rapid; the ultimate effect would be the same.

24,169. (Mr. Haridas Vekaridas.) Have you served in malarious districts?—Yes.

24,170. Where did you serve before?—In the Konkan.

24,171. As a British medical officer?—Yes.

24,172. Is rice grown in the Konkan?—Yes.

24,173. Was opium used there to prevent or cure fever?—Not to my knowledge.

24,174. You have served in Ahmedabad also?—Yes, for six years, as teacher in the Medical School.

24,175. Is there fever here?—There is fever almost everywhere after the rains have ceased.

24,176. And you do not use opium?—No, opium is not used.

24,177. (Chairman.) Is there not an idea among some people who live in malarious countries that those people who are habitual takers of opium have better power of resisting malarial fever than others?—Not on this side of India.

24,178. No such idea prevails?—No.

24,179. Is there not an idea on this side of India that if a man was going to make a journey into the jungles or forests of a malarious country, and had to sleep out at night, by taking a pill of opium he would avoid chills which might bring on fever?—No. To prevent fatigue he might take it, but not with the object of preventing malaria.

equal in their effects. Opium stimulates the system slowly, and brightens the intellectual power.

24,186. Is opium used as a prophylactic, and if so, for what diseases and with what result?—Opium is used as a prophylactic for malarial fevers, and with good result.

24,187. Does the use of opium as habitually indulged in by natives lead to consequences as serious as those which follow the use of alcohol? Contrast the two, taken moderately and in excess?—Opium eaters are never violent as are those who use alcohol.

24,188. In making post mortem examinations have you ever discovered any serious organic lesion, or any lesion at all, attributable to opium?—I have never found any organic lesion in opium eaters.

24,189. Is it difficult for an opium consumer to give up the habit, and when given up, is it likely to result in the use or abuse of other drugs or of alcohol?—Opium can be given up, but the difficulties depend on the quantity and period of the habit.

24,190. What effect has the habitual use of opium on the mental faculties, and does it interfere with the consumer's ability to conduct his business successfully?—I have never known it to have any prejudicial effect on the mental faculties.

24,191. You say that opium is used as a prophylactic for malarial fever, and with good results; do you mean by the people themselves or by doctors?—I got to know of it through having charge of the Chamardi Dispensary in the Kathiawar district. It is rather malarious, and most of the people take opium there as a prophylactic.

24,192. Do you think they were taking it as a prophylactic, or because of the pains which follow malarious fever?—As a prophylactic—preventive.

24,193. Have you seen many excessive opium eaters?—Very few.

24,194. Have you seen poor people made unable to do their work by the use of opium, and so reduced to beggary?—Very few.

24,195. Do you think the same number of people eat opium nowadays as there were 20 years ago, more or less?—I think less.

The witness withdrew.

MUHAMMAD BIN HADI called in and examined (through an interpreter).

24,199. (*Chairman.*) You are an Arab Jamadar of the Palitana State, I think?—Yes.

24,200. How long has your family been in India?—I do not know the time; but my father came to India from Arabia.

24,201. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I am acquainted with Palitana, Bansda, and Dharampur. In Palitana almost all people of every caste are addicted to opium eating, except a few educated men, who are State employés. Among the latter also there may be a few who eat opium. Opium is used among these people on occasions of marriages and funerals. Some use opium on account of certain diseases.

24,202. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—Generally opium does not produce any baneful effect on the moral and physical condition of the people, save on the poor people who do not get good food.

24,203. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—The use of opium, except for medical purposes, should not be prohibited. There are certain classes of labourers who can only work if they take opium. If they eat one or two pice worth of opium, they can earn about half or one rupee, and thereby support their families. Opium is the parent of poor people. The people will not be able to pay in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures.

24,204. In your opinion should the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

RAI SAHIB NARSILAL REVADAS called in and examined (through an interpreter).

24,213. (*Chairman.*) You have served Government as a Mamlatdar?—Yes.

24,214. And you are now pensioned?—Yes.

24,215. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I am acquainted with the districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira, Panch Mahals, Broach, and Surat. Opium is eaten in large quantities in the first three districts and in small quantities in the remaining two districts. The practice of eating opium prevails to a large extent generally among the Rajputs, Girasias, Kathis, Musalmans, Bhats, Charans, Gadhris, and Kolis, while a very small proportion of opium eaters is met with among the Kanbis, Baniyas, and Brahmans. In many districts opium mixed with other articles is given to young children, and it is also taken as medicine. Opium is ordinarily eaten every day, and, besides, it is used in large quantities by the aforesaid classes of people on occasions of wedding and death.

24,216. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—I have heard from opium eaters themselves that if opium be taken according to a fixed measure it increases the strength of the body, and I am personally convinced that if opium eaters can get substantial food, they remain healthy and strong in body, and that opium is also very efficacious in the case of cough, diarrhoea, &c. But it is undoubtedly true that if it be eaten in excess, and substantial food be not

24,196. Do you attribute that to opium being dearer, or to some other reason?—On account of opium being dearer.

24,197. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) When you were in Government service and had charge of dispensaries, did you prescribed opium as a prophylactic for malarious fever?—No.

24,198. Have you had cases of malarious fever in your district?—Yes.

24,205. Could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?—In Native States it will not be possible to make this prohibition, and if made, many persons will lose their lives.

24,206. Be good enough to state fully what is your personal experience as to the effect of opium eating on yourself as regards your physical health, your capacity for transacting your business, and your power to give up the practice, if necessary?—I have been eating opium for the last 32 years, and it keeps me in excellent health, and active in discharging my duties. If I feel myself a little sluggish, I eat a little more opium than my ordinary dose, with the result that my body becomes active again. I cannot leave off the habit of opium eating.

24,207. How much opium do you take a day?—One eighth of a tola three times a day.

24,208. How old are you?—About 60 years of age. I have got a son; and when we sit together some people call him my father.

24,209. Are there many Arabs in Palitana?—About 50 in the service of Palitana.

24,210. Is it general among them to take opium?—About 15 out of 50 take it.

24,211. (*Mr. Pease.*) How many men out of every hundred in Palitana State do you consider are habitual opium consumers?—About 30 per cent. of male adults.

24,212. Thirty per cent., taking the people in the service of the State; but there must be a greater percentage or lesser one in other castes?—Yes.

taken along with it, it produces a baneful effect on the body.

24,217. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—In my opinion the people are not disposed to give up the use of opium for non-medical purposes. I do not think that any class of people will be willing to bear the cost.

24,218. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—Not at all. Should this be done, however, the consequence would be very bad. The aforesaid classes of people consider the eating and serving of opium to be a token of the highest respectability, and they have been habituated to this practice for many years past. The prohibition would, therefore, produce a very bad effect upon their minds, and encourage liquor drinking in place of opium eating.

24,219. Could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?—Perhaps it will be possible to extend the prohibition to the smaller Native States; but it will, in my opinion, be extremely difficult to extend it to the larger States. Further, the manufacturers of and dealers in opium would suffer much loss.

24,220. A Mamlatdar is a magistrate and collector of a subdivision of a district, is it not?—Yes.

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Bin Hadi.
(Palitana
State.)

Rai Sahib
Narsilal
Revadas.

Rai Sahib
Narsilal
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24,221. Have you seen and cases of poor people who by taking opium in excess have been unable to do work and have come to beggary?—A few.

24,222. In your opinion is there any change going on in the way of dropping the habit of opium eating?—Yes.

24,223. What are the reasons for this change?—The real cause is education; but partly the dearness of the drug.

24,224. What kind of education?—All kinds of education.

24,225. Do you think the people who give it up through education take to any other stimulant?—I cannot say that it is on account of education that the habit of opium eating is decreasing and the habit of alcohol is increasing, but I can say that the alcohol habit is increasing.

The witness withdrew.

Parakh
Sakaichand
Nihalchand.

PARAKH SAKAICHAND NIHALCHAND called and examined (through an interpreter).

24,233. (*Chairman.*) Are you a banker?—Yes, I deal also in bills of exchange.

24,234. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I am acquainted with Mahi Kantha, the Ahmedabad district and some portion of Kathiawar. There it is customary among such classes as the Bhats, Charans, Rajputs, Kolis, and Kunbis, and to a small extent among such classes as the Brahmins and Banias to eat opium.

24,235. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—Opium eating has no baneful effect on their moral condition, nor on the physical condition of those who are able to eat good food. But if one eats opium in excess, and gets scanty food, his body is weakened.

24,236. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—From ancient times it has been customary to use opium on occasion of wedding, funeral, and social gatherings. If the custom were stopped, the people would be dissatisfied. Prohibition is impossible, and this country is unable to bear any part of the cost of prohibition.

The witness withdrew.

Sheth
Hatisingh
Gulabchand

SHETH HATISINGH GULABCHAND called in and examined (through an interpreter).

24,245. (*Chairman.*) Are you a merchant of Sadra?—Yes.

24,246. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I have experience of the Mahi Kantha Agency, where opium is used by the Bhats, Charans, Girasias, Kolis, and Kunbis to a large extent, and also by other classes, the Brahmins, Banias, &c. to a small extent.

24,247. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—The consumption of opium has no baneful effect on the moral condition of the people, nor on the physical condition of such opium eaters as are able to eat good food. But one who eats opium in excess, and gets scanty food, is weakened in body.

24,248. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear, in whole or in part, the cost of prohibitive measures?—From ancient times it has been customary to use opium on occasions of marriage, funeral, and social gatherings, and therefore the people would be dissatisfied if such use were prohibited, and likewise,

24,226. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) I believe you were in the Revenue, Survey, and Assessment Department?—Yes, for nearly 12 years.

24,227. And while making assessments you had to deal with the cultivators direct?—Yes, I had.

24,228. Did you notice any marked instances of taking opium amongst them?—No. I may have seen a few instances taking a moderate dose, but not any excess. Kolis, Gadhri, Musalmans, and Bhats were seen taking opium to a great extent.

24,229. Did you see people who owned land taking opium?—Yes.

24,230. Many?—Yes, there were many; but there are not so many now.

24,231. Do the cultivators drink alcohol?—No, very few.

24,232. Who are the cultivators chiefly?—Kunbis.

24,237. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—No. For, besides opium, the poppy and the oil produced therefrom are used for eating purposes, and by its being exported from one country to another it becomes an article of mutual trade. And the poppy is also used for medical purposes.

24,238. Could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?—I am acquainted with the Native States of Mahi Kantha. It is not possible to prohibit the sale of opium in those States, as they contain many persons who habitually eat opium and use it according to ancient practice.

24,239. Do you think the use of opium is decreasing?—Yes, it is decreasing.

24,240. What are the reasons for that decrease?—Prices being raised.

24,241. Before the arrangement made in 1878 was opium much cheaper?—Before that opium could be bought very cheap.

24,242. (*Mr. Pease.*) What was the price before 1878?—From 5 to 7 tolas per rupee.

24,243. What is the price now?—3½ tolas per rupee.

24,244. What experience have you of persons being weakened who take opium in excess and get scanty food?—I have seen a few such cases.

in my opinion, they would not be willing to bear, in whole or in part, the cost of prohibitive measures.

24,249. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—No; for, besides eating opium, the people use the poppy and its oil, and further, the poppy becomes an article of trade by its being exported from one country to another. The poppy is also used in medicine.

24,250. Could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?—I am acquainted with the Native States under the Mahi Kantha Agency. It is not possible to prohibit the sale in those States, as they contain many habitual opium eaters, as also persons who use it according to ancient customs.

24,251. Do you think people generally would disapprove if the use of opium except for medicine was prohibited, or do you think that the dissatisfaction would be confined to the opium eaters?—Besides the opium eaters many persons will also be displeased, such as Talukdars, who lose their revenue, and traders who lose their business.

24,252. Are there any great number who would be pleased?—No one in Mahi Kantha would be pleased by prohibition so far as I know.

The witness withdrew.

MIA SHRI ABHESINGHJI called in and examined (through an interpreter).

Mia Shri
Abhesinghji.

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24,253. (Chairman.) What is the size of your Taluka ?
—12 villages.

24,254. Is all that your property ?—Yes.

24,255. Do you take rent from your tenants in kind or in cash ?—My revenue is in kind.

24,256. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted ?
—I am a fourth class Talukdar in Mahi Kantha, and am fully acquainted with it. I therefore state from my knowledge that in all parts of Mahi Kantha sepoys belonging to the Rajput, Thakarda, and Musalman communities are generally habitual opium eaters. Further, the Kanbis, Baniyas, and Brahmans also eat opium in small quantities. Those who are not addicted to the habit of opium eating, take it on occasions of wedding and death, as well as when they are guests of other persons. Opium is also given to young children.

24,257. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people ?—Opium eaters usually remain morally pure. I have not observed any instance in which immorality was practised by them. I have observed instances in which some of those that drink liquor and smoke ganja practised immorality. If an habitual opium eater takes it according to a fixed measure, he remains healthy. If he takes it according to a varying measure, that is, in a greater or less quantity, his health is disturbed. I have, however, observed fewer instances of injury having been caused to one's health by opium eating than by drinking liquor or smoking ganja. According to my experience an opium eater lives longer than one who drinks liquor.

24,258. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures ?
—People in the district I have seen use opium for non-medical purposes and are unwilling to discontinue such use, for I have heard many habitual opium eaters say that they would die in a few days if they did not get opium to eat. The people are not at all willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures, as they are unable to pay more taxes than those now payable by them.

24,259. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes ?

The witness withdrew.

MR. CHOTALAL PRANJIVANDAS called in and examined (through an interpreter).

Mr.
Chotala
Pranjivandas.

24,271. (Chairman.) You are Thandar of Bavisi ?—Yes.

24,272. What is the meaning of Thandar ?—I have criminal and civil power.

24,273. Over what Talukas do you exercise those powers ?—The Bavisi district, which comprises many petty States.

24,274. Do the chiefs of these petty States manage their own revenue work ?—Yes.

24,275. You were appointed by the political officers to do the criminal and civil work for them ?—Yes.

24,276. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted ?
—Bavisi district. Habitual opium eaters are met with in large numbers generally among Thakardas, Rajputs, Musalmans, Patels, Bhats, and Charans, and in small numbers in other communities. Generally all classes of people use opium, but the Thakardas, Rajputs, Patels, and Musalmans in particular use it on occasions of wedding, betrothal, and death, as well as at the time of receiving guests. In some places even the Baniyas and Brahmans use it on similar occasions.

24,277. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people ?—Opium is eaten from ancient times, and its consumers regard it with fondness. When taken moderately it gives strength and keeps up health, but when taken in excess it becomes injurious and affects the moral condition of the opium eater.

—I do not think that the sale of opium in British India except for medical purposes should be prohibited. There are two reasons for this:—Firstly, if the sale were stopped, habitual opium eaters would die in large numbers for want of opium, and this would have a very bad effect in the country. Secondly, there would be a heavy deficit in the Treasury of Government.

24,260. Could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted ?—The prohibition cannot be extended to Native States in Mahi Kantha. The reasons for this are set forth in the fourth answer.

24,261. How long has your family been converted to Mahomedanism ?—My ancestors were converted to Mahomedanism in the reign of Akbar.

24,262. Are there many Talukdars who have become Mahomedans in Mahi Kantha ?—There are five besides myself who have become Mahomedans.

24,263. Do you think the opium habit is commoner among the Mahomedan Talukdars and landowners than among the Hindu Talukdars and landowners ?—About equal.

24,264. What caste do your cultivators belong to ?—Mostly Kanbis, and some Kolis.

24,265. Do the Kanbi or Koli cultivators often take opium ?—Kanbis used to before the arrangement of 1878, but they do not take much now.

24,266. Then they used to take it, but do not take it so much now ?—Yes.

24,267. Is the habit of taking opium decreasing at all in Mahi Kantha ?—Yes.

24,268. What reasons do you give for that ?—Because Government has made opium dearer. If it were made cheaper people would take it again in the same way. I think also that the spread of education has led to some reform. Reformed notions have had effect in decreasing the habit.

24,269. Is there any change in the habit of drinking alcohol in Mahi Kantha ; is it as it was, or has it become less or more prevalent ?—There is no change.

24,270. What class of people drink *daru* ?—The Musalmans and Hindu Talukdars use alcohol, and the lower classes also use it.

24,278. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures ?—Looking to the present consumption of opium in this part of the country, it is necessary that the free use of opium should be allowed to continue as heretofore. There is no likelihood of the people being willing to bear the cost of prohibitive measures.

24,279. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes ?—In my opinion the sale of opium should not be prohibited.

24,280. Could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted ?—Not without difficulty.

24,281. How long have you been Thandar ?—15 months.

24,282. Before that what appointment did you hold ?
—Before that I was general manager of the Court of Wards' Estate, and before that I was a Mamlatdar of the Idar State.

24,283. Do you think that the habitual use of opium is more common or less common than it was ?—Much less common than it used to be.

24,284. What do you attribute that to ?—Since the arrangements in 1878 opium has become much dearer.

24,285. Is there any other reason ?—No.

24,286. Is the custom of drinking liquor the same as before, or less common ?—A little more.

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24,287. What do you attribute the slight increase to?—More shops are opened, and the inclination of the people is attracted.

24,288. When were more shops opened?—Before 1872 the number of shops was restricted. Since then it has been free and more shops have been opened in Mahi Kantha.

24,289. Generally speaking, as far as I know, in Bombay and other parts of India the tendency has been to reduce the number of shops in the last 20 or 30 years; why have they been increased in Mahi Kantha?—There are no more distilleries; but retail shops are open without any restriction.

24,290. Is the licensing of liquor shops in the power of the Talukdars and the Thakurs, or is it in the power of the political officer?—It is in the power of the political officer when the political agency has to manage the State; otherwise it is in the power of the rulers of the State.

24,291. In your district of Bavisi is the power of licensing shops in your hands, or that of the owners of the State?—It is not in my hands; it is in the hands of the political agent.

24,292. Are there any other districts like Bavisi in which the political agent manage the excise for the States?—Yes, there are four others.

The witness withdrew.

Mr.
Ishavarlal
Ochavram.

Mr. ISHAVARLAL OCHAVRAM called in and examined.

24,300. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are special magistrate and municipal commissioner of Ahmedabad?—Yes.

24,301. What experience have you had, and what is your opinion on the question of the opium habit?—I am a banker, and have been successively Chief Justice of Dhangadra for two years, and Dewan of Cutch for three years, and Government official in charge of Jetpur Taluka for four years. In all these States there are opium eaters and drinkers; and I have had many opportunities of observing the effects of the opium habit. It is attended with very evil consequences when taken by poor men who have not the means of purchasing rich food. I think the sale of alcohol should be prohibited first; and that the prohibition of opium should follow. It would be desirable to allow those who have already formed the habit to register themselves, as is now done in Burma, and with this exception, the sale should be prohibited for other than medical purposes.

24,302. Is Dhangadra one of the States of Kathiawar?—It is one of the first class States of Kathiawar.

24,303. Where is Jetpur Taluka?—It is very near Junagadh, 22 miles north of Junagadh.

24,304. What size is the Jetpur Taluka?—It is a subdivided Taluka. Government appointed me to preside over the Taluka, because it is co-shared on account of primogeniture not obtaining there. It is a large State, yielding 10 or 12 lakhs of rupees.

24,305. You say, "It would be desirable to allow those who have already formed the habit to register themselves, as is now done in Burma, and with this exception, the sale should be prohibited for other than medical purposes." Are you aware that in Burma, if a man who is not registered takes opium he is fined and very often imprisoned; would you like that done here?—No. I mean prohibition in the sense of restriction. I believe that the evil of opium is a great deal exaggerated. That it is bad there is no doubt, but there are many things which are much worse, and attended with far more pernicious consequences.

24,306. Do you carry on business now as a banker?—I have three firms here, at Bombay, and at Paritagarh.

24,307. Do you think the habit of taking opium amongst those classes with whom it is common is increasing or decreasing?—It is decreasing, by the blessings of education it is decreasing.

24,308. Would it, in your opinion, be better to trust to education and the efforts of temperance societies, or would it be desirable to make the taking of opium a criminal offence?—Not exactly a criminal offence; but

24,293. Out of the whole of Mahi Kantha, how much is included in these five districts which are managed by the political agent, and how much is included in the Independent States—the other States which manage things for themselves?—Much the greater part of Mahi Kantha is occupied by the Independent States, which manage their own excise.

24,294. Where the political agent manages, what becomes of the revenue?—It is taken by the political agent and used for general public purposes of improvement in the country that pays it.

24,295. When you said that since 1872 liquor shops had been increased, were you speaking of the Independent States or of the five districts managed by the political agent?—My remarks applied simply to the Bavisi district.

24,296. Is there only one farmer of liquor for the whole of Bavisi?—Only one for opium; but five for alcohol.

24,297. May they establish as many shops as they like?—Yes, in their own circle.

24,298. Do you know whether that is the case in the other districts of the Independent States?—I do not know.

24,299. (*Mr. Pease.*) Have you known many cases in which the moral condition of the opium eater has been injuriously affected by excess?—Only a very few.

it certainly would be desirable to make opium as dear, and to put it out of the reach of the people as much as possible.

24,309. (*Mr. Pease.*) Have you seen the evil consequences of the opium habit in those who are well-to-do?—It does no harm to those who are well-to-do, and those who can afford to take rich food with it.

24,310. Have you seen many instances of poor men who have suffered from the habit?—Those who have come before me, I could not say many. In Kathiawar, in my experience, there are one in a hundred who take opium, so that it is not possible to see "many instances." The "many instances" are rather with regard to alcohol.

24,311. Do you say you estimate that those who consume opium are not more than one in a hundred of the population?—I am speaking of my experience of Kathiawar; here it is much less.

24,312. What do you think it is here?—In Ahmedabad district, with a population of 925,269, only 1,345½ lbs. of opium is used, while in our adjacent State of Junagadh, with a population of 484,000, 179 maunds, or 14,320 lbs. have been used.

24,313. Do you think there is much smuggling from Baroda into Ahmedabad?—There is very little—if any at all.

24,314. Do you know anything with regard to the smoking of opium in Ahmedabad?—Very few are addicted to it.

24,315. Have you had any opportunity of seeing the effect of opium smoking upon those who are addicted to it?—I have not seen any opium smokers here.

24,316. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) You have said that the evils of the use of opium are rather exaggerated; do you think that the advantages of the use of opium are also exaggerated?—As far as I have read the current evidence which has been taken before the Commission, I cannot say (of course medical use excepted) that there are any advantages.

24,317. Do you think that the advantages of the use of opium are exaggerated?—Any advantages beyond medical advantages which may be attempted to be shown are exaggerated. I know persons who are taking opium in small quantities with other things mixed, and they take rich food, and the opium is advantageous to them in old age—but that is in the sense of medicine. I wish it to be understood that alcohol is the greatest evil. There is hardly a comparison between the evil of opium and the evil of alcohol. Alcohol should be stopped first, before any action is taken with regard to opium, because if opium becomes dear people may resort to alcohol.

The witness withdrew.

PANDIT GANESH GOPAL called in and examined.

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24,318. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are a B.A. of the Bombay University?—Yes.

24,319. And are you a landowner in the Ahmedabad district?—Yes.

24,320. How much land do you hold?—About 2,000 acres.

24,321. Have you ever followed any other profession than that of an agriculturist?—I have been the manager of two cotton mills; I have been a teacher in the Government High School, and also in missionary and private schools. At the present time I am an agriculturist.

24,322. Was this land inherited by you from your father?—No; it is Government assessed land, and I have purchased the occupancy right.

24,323. With what particular mission were you connected?—I was connected with the Irish Presbyterian Mission in Surat; I was also connected with the Scotch Mission, the General Assemblage Institution in Bombay.

24,324. You have always remained a Hindu?—Yes, I am still a Hindu.

24,325. For how long were you a manager in the mills?—About 10 years.

24,326. Was that in Ahmedabad or Bombay?—In Ahmedabad.

24,327. What have you to say with regard to the opium question?—One, who is addicted to the vicious habit of taking opium in any of its forms, is easily known from a number of people not given to it, for usually his eyes are drooping, his face pale, his whole physical system is dried up and wasted. He looks a helpless person, a prey to the cruel habit. The rich who have plenty of nourishing food, such as ghee and milk, do not so soon fall a prey to the drying up and wasting influences of opium as the poor, who cannot afford to take these nourishing articles of food. Though they (the rich using plenty of ghee and milk) withstand the degrading influences of opium for a short time, still those influences are slowly but easily working their way on them, and thus we see many noble and rich men reduced to penury and the consequent degradation owing to the vice of opium. The case of the poor working classes is certainly deplorable. Like other intoxicants, opium acts on the animal system in raising it for a time and then the reaction follows, and a corresponding depression is the consequence. To raise up the system again the poisonous dose is necessary. The craving for it at stated times is almost irresistible. The victim of it will rather do anything than forego the pleasure, as he calls it, of his dose. The depression that follows the excitement caused by opium is greater than follows that caused by either ganja or alcohol, and consequently the craving for it is much keener. I think it is, therefore, the worst of the three intoxicants, alcoholic spirits, ganja, and opium. Opium is an older Indian vice than alcoholic spirits, and consequently is not looked down upon with the same disapprobation as those spirits. Notwithstanding this fact it is at the same time true that an afimi is not considered a respectable man. He is considered a useless man, as he can do very little or no work, and he is not trusted, as he will do any immoral or disreputable act to satisfy his craving for his dose. If Government decide upon total prohibition of opium the opponents of prohibition say three dangers are likely to follow :—

1. Government will lose a large portion of its revenue, and so fresh taxation will have to be levied, for which the poor country is ill prepared.
2. Those who are addicted to the vice will have to suffer, even to the extent of death in many cases.
3. If opium cultivation and growth is stopped, people will take to some other intoxication, namely, either ganja, or alcoholic spirits, or both.

In answer to these objections, I think (1) no Government has any right to raise any revenue by making its subjects vicious. Unrighteous revenue will not really help the Government in any way. If reform in this particular matter is decided upon, it will naturally be followed by reform in the system of administration, which is more costly in this country than in any other country on the face of the earth. In this way it will

be seen recourse to fresh taxation may not be necessary. The wise, experienced, and highly paid financial officers could devise means by which such taxation will not be necessary. (2.) It will no doubt be a hardship on the poor victims of opium, but the hardship will be only temporary. Many a person addicted to the vice of intoxicants (opium included) have been restrained by kind hands, by watching them, and not allowing them to indulge in the vicious habit. The temporary sufferings caused by their not being able to get the drug will be like unsavory medicines which give relief from sickness and restore health and vigour. (3.) If opium growth and cultivation is stopped, except for medicinal purposes, it is absolutely necessary that the prohibition of the importation and manufacture of alcoholic spirits should accompany, if not precede, that prohibition.

24,328. Does the description you have given of the appearance of the opium eater apply to all opium eaters, or to excessive opium eaters?—The opium eater can be distinguished from the non-opium eater, as I have said, even if he takes the drug moderately. But very few do take it moderately; they begin moderately, but go to excess in a short time.

24,329. You say, "I think it is, therefore, the worst of the three intoxicants—alcohol spirits, ganja, and opium." Do you think that people in Government employ, or in the employ of companies, or working as barristers, &c., are as often made unfit for their employment by opium as by alcohol?—I do not know about people in Government service; but many weavers and spinners in our mills were so much reduced and wasted physically by opium eating that they had to give up work, they could not attend to it.

24,330. Was not that the case with respect to alcohol drinking?—Alcohol drinking is also equally bad; but the instances that have come under my notice are all opium eaters.

24,331. Is it not the case that a man is not called an afimi unless he takes opium largely?—He is called bandhani generally here, that is he has a binding of opium upon him, and he cannot do without it. He is called afimi when he goes to great excess.

24,332. You say, "No Government has any right to raise any revenue by making its subjects vicious." Is it not the case that before 1878, in the Bombay districts opium was very cheap and easy to be got, and that since then Government has made it dearer and it is not so easy to be got?—As far as I understand the consumption of opium has increased notwithstanding the raising of the prices.

24,333. Is it not that the consumption of Government opium has increased? Before 1878 was it not the case that most of the opium which was consumed did not appear on the Government papers at all?—It might not have appeared, because there was not that vigilance on the part of the Government.

24,334. If Government has made opium very dear and so raised the revenue, do you call that making its subjects vicious?—To keep the monopoly in its own hands is not a good thing.

24,335. You think it ought not to sell opium at all?—I think it ought not to allow it to be produced at all. I think that would be the proper course.

24,336. Would you make the eating of opium a criminal offence?—Yes, I would.

24,337. Do you think that if Government shut up all the shops and forbade the use of opium in British districts, opium would come in from Rajputana and the Central Indian States, or not?—If no smuggling is allowed it might not come. Government is supreme; it can stop it from coming.

24,338. You think it can stop it from coming?—Yes, if it means to stop it from coming it can stop it.

24,339. Through the police, and I suppose informers will have to be employed?—By making arrangements with the Native States of Rajputana. Whatever means Government now employs for preventing smuggling might be employed. I am not prepared to say how Government should proceed in the matter, but I think Government can make all these arrangements.

24,340. Would the Native States be very dissatisfied if they were ordered by Government to stop the sale

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and production of opium?—I do not know the sense of the Native States. If they are of the same opinion as I am, they would be very well satisfied with such an arrangement.

24,341. Would you give them compensation or not?—If they are wise rulers they can recoup their revenue by other means.

24,342. Is it not the case that opium is a domestic medicine, and very much used by the people as a medicine without consulting doctors?—In cases of dysentery and diarrhoea it is used.

24,343. Would it not be difficult to supply it for medicine, and not supply it for other purposes?—No; I do not think it would be very difficult.

24,344. Can you suggest any way?—Yes.

24,345. How?—Supposing it is to be so arranged that only medical dispensaries and hospitals have a supply of it and give it for *bonâ fide* medical purposes, it can be got.

24,346. In order that all the people in the villages should be able quickly to get it, you would have to multiply the number of dispensaries very greatly, would you not?—There might be a shop or two in a group of villages, and along with other things they might sell opium, but for *bonâ fide* medical purposes only.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. JIWANLAL CHOTALAL called in and examined.

Mr.
Jiwanlal
Chotalal.
(Jasdan State.)

24,355. (Chairman.) You are, I believe, in charge of the Jasdan Dispensary?—Yes.

24,356. Jasdan is a third-class State in Kathiawar, is it not?—Yes.

24,357. Where did you receive your medical education?—In the Indian Medical Department.

24,358. Did you go to any school of medicine?—No, in my time there was no school.

24,359. Then you simply learned in a hospital?—Yes, as a medical pupil.

24,360. What hospital did you learn in?—In the Civil Hospital of Admedabad, and other dispensaries.

24,361. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium in the different races of people with which you are personally acquainted?—I have experience of Jasdan Taluka for the last 16 years. Here I have seen opium consumed by many of the Kathis, Charans, Musalmans, Kolis, &c. I have seen them taking in 1 to 20 grs. dose twice a day.

24,362. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—If opium is habitually taken in moderation, non-medically, I am of opinion that it has not any special effect on the morality of the people, but it is not beneficial to the physical condition of the user. In its abuse it is certainly a bad thing, but not worse than alcohol. In its medical use it is a most useful drug in many organic diseases. If taken in excess the consequences of habitually indulging in opium are not so serious as those of alcohol; but in moderation the latter is better than the former. The opium taking habit can be given up, but not without some difficulty. In this respect hemp and alcohol are better than it. The habitual use of opium has no effect on the mental faculties of the consumer, and does not interfere with the ability of conducting his business except some laziness.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. JATASHANKAR JAGJIVAN called in and examined (through an interpreter).

Mr.
Jatashankar
Jagjivan.
(Rajkot State.)

24,372. (Chairman.) I believe you are revenue officer of the Rajkot State?—Yes.

24,373. What is the size of the Rajkot State?—It yields three lakhs of rupees.

24,374. What is your experience as regards the effects of the consumption of opium on the physical and moral condition of the people in your district?—I have not

24,347. Are there in every one or two villages men to be found whom you could trust to sell opium for medical purposes only?—If a search were made, I think they could be found.

24,348. (Mr. Haridas Vehiridas.) You know that alcohol is prohibited by the Hindu religion?—Yes.

24,389. And opium is not?—No; it is not so strictly prohibited, though intoxicants are prohibited.

24,350. Perhaps you also know that the effects of alcohol are violent, whilst the effects of opium are stupefying. Would you not therefore consider that the effects of alcohol are worse than those of opium?—Yes; I think so. As a habit, I have said that opium is the worst of the three, though all are bad. Opium is the worst as a habit; it is very difficult for the victim of it to give it up.

24,351. Would you not modify it in the other sense, and say that alcohol is worse than opium?—They are sisters in that one respect.

24,352. What do you think about it?—When the stated hour comes the afimi must have his opium or else he will lose his life.

24,353. (Chairman.) Are you a member of the temperance association here?—Yes, I am.

24,354. Are you an officer of the association?—Yes, I am one of the secretaries.

24,363. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—In regard to the use of opium except for medical purposes, some people of India commence the habit for the sake of enjoyment which it first affords, and it is not highly condemned by the Hindu and Mahomedan religions as alcohol is for higher classes. They would not like to bear any cost of prohibitive measures.

24,364. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—The sale of opium in British India should not be prohibited as it is the cheapest stimulant for poor classes.

24,365. Could prohibition be extended to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—I cannot say for certain, but I think for the above reasons prohibition in Jasdan State would not be welcome.

24,366. Are there many habitual opium eaters in Jasdan?—There are some, but how can I say whether there are many without comparison.

24,367. Do you think there are more opium eaters than alcohol drinkers?—Yes.

24,368. What castes or classes in Jasdan most drink alcohol?—The Kathis, Rajputs, and lower caste Hindus use alcohol.

24,369. What castes take opium most?—With regard to opium there is no exception; the Kathis, Charans, and Musalman Kolis take it generally.

24,370. You have said, "If taken in excess the consequences of habitually indulging in opium are not so serious as those of alcohol, but in moderation the latter (alcohol) is better than the former (opium)?"—That is a mistake.

24,371. What do you mean by that?—If opium and alcohol are both taken in moderation opium taking is better than alcohol.

observed any instances in which opium eating has resulted in immorality; but opium, when taken in excess, weakens the body.

24,375. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive mea-

tures?—I am unacquainted with the disposition of the people of Hindustan; but in my part of the country men have been eating opium from ancient times, and they regard the use of it as honourable, and offer it in the shape of “kusumbho” at social gatherings. The Girasias wish to use opium for non-medical purposes. The people are not willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures. Such prohibition will lead to the public peace being broken.

24,376. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited, except for medical purposes?—I am of opinion that the sale of opium, except for medical purposes, should not be prohibited in British India.

24,377. Could such prohibition be extended to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—Such prohibition should not extend to Native States, as such a step will be a great grievance to the people and will, it is feared, result in the commission of crimes by the people.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. DAYABHAI NATHABHAI called in and examined.

24,385. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are revenue assistant of the Idar State?—Yes.

24,386. How many years have you served in the Idar State?—18 years.

24,387. Where did you learn English?—Ahmedabad.

24,388. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—My experience is confined to the Idar State, in which all my service has been passed. The habitual consumers of opium are Hindus and Musalmans.

24,389. What is your experience as regards the effect of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people?—According to my experience the effect of opium consumption is not very injurious either morally or physically. The consumption is usually moderate, and it is for the purposes of checking diseases, such as dysentery, asthma, or general weakness, or to enable the user to undergo hard labour. Even the few who take it in excess are not so much injured as if they took alcohol.

24,390. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—The principal consumers are Rajputs, Musalmans, Charans, Bhats, Kanbis, and Kolis. Besides the purposes above named, it is used in these provinces on the occasions of marriage and funeral ceremonies in the form of kasumbha. Guests attending the ceremonies, even though non-opium eaters, are required as a matter of courtesy and honour to take kasumbha. Such usage has, however, owing to the increase in price of opium and the restrictions put on it, been declining of late years, but the Darbars and

The witness withdrew.

RAO BAHADUR DULERAI GIRDHARLAL called in and examined.

24,401. (*Chairman.*) You are, I believe, personal assistant to the political agent at Mahi Kantha?—Yes.

24,402. How long have you been in the service?—20 years.

24,403. Have you ever been in the political department?—Yes, I was for 10 years in the Baroda Residency, eight years in the Palanpur superintendency, and I have been for upwards of one year in the Mahi Kantha agency.

24,404. Where is your home?—Ahmedabad.

24,405. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts, with which you are personally acquainted?—I am personally acquainted with the districts under the Baroda, Kathiawar, Palanpur, and Mahi Kantha agencies. The chief consumers of opium are Rajputs, Kathis, Mahomedans, Charans, Bhats, Kunbis, Kolis, and Rabaris. It is used by other classes also, but not to so great an extent.

24,378. How long have you been in the service?—Forty-seven years.

24,379. Are you a native of Rajkot?—Yes.

24,380. Is the excessive use of opium common?—About 1 or 2 per cent. of opium eaters take it in excess, and about 30 per cent. of the total population take it in moderation.

24,381. Is there any class of people in the Rajkot territory who would like to see the use of opium prohibited except for medical purposes?—No.

24,382. Do you take opium yourself?—No; I do not take it.

24,383. Is opium taken as much as it was formerly taken in the Rajkot State?—Fewer people take it now than formerly.

24,384. In your opinion what is the cause of that?—It is owing to the spread of education, and also because opium has become dearer.

Talukdars still keep up the custom liberally. The people will be quite unwilling to bear any part of the cost of prohibitive measures.

24,391. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes, and could such prohibition be extended to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—The sale of opium for non-medical purposes should not be prohibited, nor should such prohibition be extended to any Native State. Such a measure as total prohibition, or even further restriction than at present, will produce general discontent.

24,392. Has opium got much dearer in Idar since the new rules were made in 1878?—Yes.

24,393. Can you tell us what the price was before, and what it is now?—It used to be 10 or 12 tolas for a rupee; now it is 3½ tolas for a rupee.

24,394. Did the people complain much about raising the price of opium?—They complained, but what is the use of their complaining.

24,395. Do you mean that nobody would listen to them?—Yes.

24,396. What is the system in Idar with regard to liquor, is it farmed?—Yes.

24,397. Is it one farm for each Taluka, or one farm for the whole State?—Different circles are farmed, and each farmer has one circle.

24,398. How many villages are there generally in one circle?—From one to 15.

24,399. Where a circle contains a number of villages, can the farmer have as many shops as he likes, one in each village?—No; he is not allowed to have as many shops as he likes. He must sell where the distillery is.

24,400. Are the farms sold by auction?—Yes.

Mr.
Jatashankar
Jaggiwan.
(Rajkot
State.)

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Mr.
Dayabhai
Nathabhai.
(Idar State.)

Rao Bahadur
Dulerai
Girdharlal.

Rao Bahadur
Dulerai
Girdharlal.

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often heard of cures resulting from its use. It does not find favour with the rising generation, and so its use is decreasing. The educated native condemns its use and only habitual opium eaters consume it. The general disposition of the classes who have not contracted the habit would not appear to be in favour of the use of opium except for medical purposes. But among the lower classes, who are generally illiterate, the habit preponderates; it is customary to distribute opium on occasions of social gatherings, marriages, and deaths, and I fear that owing to want of education and better associations young people may be contracting the habit, and adding to the already large number of habitual opium takers. As opium is thus largely used by the classes mentioned above, and is moreover regarded by the people as an article of daily requirement, they would look upon prohibitive measures as extremely harsh on them, and they cannot, therefore, be expected to be willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of such measures.

24,408. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes, and could such prohibition be extended to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—Opium is a drug which has been in use in India from time immemorial. Its use is regarded amongst certain classes as an article of daily requirement; it is not looked upon as poison if used in moderation. On occasions of social gatherings, as I have already mentioned, it is offered by hosts to guests as an exhibition of ordinary hospitality, just as tea or cheroots are offered in other countries. The use of the drug is on the decrease, but this is probably due to the tendency of the people to indulge in alcohol instead, and to the drug being in less favour with the rising generation than it is with the old people. I am therefore of opinion that the present restrictive measures are sufficient, and that further prohibitive measures would only result in serious discontent and dissatisfaction among the people, which Government would not consider it advisable to engender. Opium eating is an evil which had better perhaps be left to time and the wider spread of education to cure. There are thousands of opium eaters in India, and as it is not easy to shake off the habit of taking opium after one gets into it, it cannot fail to lead to serious consequences if the sale of opium, except for medical purposes, is prohibited.

24,409. You say, "It does not find favour with the rising generation, and so its use is decreasing. The educated native condemns its use, and only habitual opium eaters consume it." Can you give any reason for that feeling?—It is owing to the spread of education.

24,410. You say the opium habit is not so injurious as the alcohol habit; why should the spread of education tend to decrease the opium habit?—People have come to think that opium after all is a bad thing and has bad effects, and so far as one can it is better to avoid all intoxicants. Owing to education they are able to form an opinion for themselves.

24,411. Has the spread of education also diminished the habit of drinking alcohol?—No. On the contrary, it has acted the other way. Owing to religious scruples, formerly, whenever people wanted to indulge in intoxicants they used to resort to bhang, ganja, and opium; but by the spread of education most of them have shaken off religious prejudices, and have taken up alcohol, bearing in mind the fact that it is used by civilized nations.

The witness withdrew.

24,412. I believe you have had some experience of the Native States?—Yes.

24,413. What do you think the Native States would think of a request from the Government to join in prohibiting the use of opium?—The question of revenue is concerned, and they would not like it. The prohibition that was ordered in 1878 was looked upon with disfavour by the Native States, because a large area was under opium cultivation, and there are several States which did not get as much compensation as they expected. Viewed from the point of revenue to the State it would not be liked.

24,414. Viewed from another point, what sort of view would the Thakurs, Rajputs, and Chiefs generally take of such a request?—Viewed purely from a point having reference to the good of the people, the traffic in opium should be discouraged, but they have to consider the question of revenue.

24,415. We had before us a witness from the Bavasi district, Mr. Chotalal Pranjivandas, and I put the same question about alcohol to him. He said that the habit of taking alcohol was increasing, because since 1872 the farms in the Bavasi district were allowed to establish as many shops for the sale of liquor as they liked. He also said that this business was in the hands of the political agent. As personal assistant to the political agent, I should like to ask you whether it is correct that the farmers were allowed to establish as many shops as they liked?—In that respect I would correct the statement of Mr. Chotalal Pranjivandas. It is in this way. When we established our different agencies we introduced reforms gradually. In 1872 we found it was necessary to take the Abkari arrangements into our hands, and since then we have been introducing the system of farming out the right to open a distillery, and to sell liquor at different shops. We allow the farmers to open one or two shops with our express permission and sanction. They are not at liberty to open as many shops as they like. It is one of the conditions laid down in the agreement that a man shall open a distillery at a certain place, and retail liquor at certain places; he cannot open a shop at any place other than that mentioned in the license.

24,416. Before 1872 there were distilleries all over the country?—Yes.

24,417. In the other districts that are not managed by the Mahi Kantha agency is the farming system generally in force?—They have adopted rules based and modelled on our rules.

24,418. (Mr. Pease.) Do persons take the drug as a preventive, or is it taken only to cure fevers?—It rather acts as a preventive.

24,419. Do persons ever take it who have not had fever to prevent fever?—It is taken under certain circumstances—generally to ward off fever which people think is due to moisture.

24,420. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) It is taken to ward off fever and to bear the pain of fever?—Sometimes they take it before the fever is on and sometimes after the fever has left them. There are various modes in which opium is used. It is used as a medicine.

24,421. Do you know how many shops a distiller is allowed to open?—For each village we generally allow one shop, if we think it necessary. There are several villages without any shop. Often one village has to go to another village to get its supply of liquor.

RAO SAHIB MOTILAL HIRABHAI called in and examined.

24,422. (Chairman.) I believe you are district police inspector at Ahmedabad?—Yes.

24,423. How long have you been in the service of Government?—24 years.

24,424. Have you been in the police all the time?—Yes.

24,425. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I have served in the Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach, and Surat districts, and am also acquainted with parts of Kathiawar, Palanpur, and Mahi Kantha. Except in Surat, where the use of opium is less, owing to toddy and spirit being more freely consumed, opium is in general use in all the other districts and agencies by

Rajputs, Girasias, Kanbis, Musalmans, and Koli Thakadas. A few Brahmans and Baniyas also take it. It is either eaten dry or in the form of kusumbha, and Girasias smoke it in the shape of chandul.

24,426. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—The moderate use of opium does no harm to the consumer. Taken in excess and without nourishing food it is injurious. According to my experience no moral harm results from moderate use of opium, except to smokers of chandul. Opium eating does not tend to the commission of crime.

24,427. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to

Rao Sahib
Motilal
Hirabhai.

bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—The races I have mentioned use opium at marriage and funeral ceremonies, by distributing it to guests, either as Kasumbha or raw. It is regarded by them as essential to their honour and position so to use it. Many of them give it in the form of pills to their children. They regard it as beneficial to their health, and as preventing disease. They would, therefore, not consent to bear, wholly or even in part, the cost of prohibitive measures.

24,428. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes, and could such prohibition be extended to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—It would not be advisable to prohibit the sale of opium in British India, nor would it be desirable to do so in Native States.

24,429. Where have you seen chandu smoking?—In Ahmedabad.

24,430. When did smoking chandu begin in Ahmedabad?—After 1878.

24,431. Do you know what sort of people first introduced it?—Musalmans.

24,432. Natives of Ahmedabad?—Yes; the poor Musalmans introduced that custom.

24,433. Were those poor Musalmans natives of Ahmedabad?—Yes.

24,434. Where did they learn the habit?—From Hindustan.

24,435. Were these opium smokers men of good or bad character?—They were generally bad characters.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow at 10.30.

At the Collector's Office, Ahmedabad.

SIXTY-EIGHTH DAY.

Saturday, 10th February 1894.

[Section B.]

PRESENT :

SIR JAMES B. LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., IN THE CHAIR.

MR. ARTHUR PEASE.

MR. HARIDAS VEHARIDAS DESAI.

MR. PEMBERTON, Assistant Secretary.

MR. VAKHATCHAND UMEDCHAND called in and examined (through an interpreter).

24,448. (Chairman.) I believe you are Revenue Assistant and Naib Manager of Manavdar State in Kathiawar?—Yes.

24,449. Who is the ruler of the State?—The ruler of the State is a Pathan. The emperors gave him the title of Babi.

24,450. What is the size of the State?—It yields 2½ lakhs of rupees.

24,451. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I have experience of the three talukas of Manavdar, Bantwa, and Gidar in Kathiawar, and Vasna and Pethapur in Mahikanta. The Babi Chiefs, Rajputs, Musalmans, Sardars, Khasgis, Girasias, Kanbis, and some among the Brahmins, Baniyas, and other castes, consume opium either in crude form or in the shape of kasumbha.

24,452. What is your experience as regards the effects of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—Opium eating does not appear to have made any change in the moral condition of consumers. The drug does not produce any baneful effect on the

24,436. In what way were they bad characters?—They were uneducated men who committed thefts and other offences.

24,437. Were they men with homes of their own, married men?—Yes, married men.

24,438. Is smoking still going on?—No; the shop was closed by Government order.

24,439. Do the people still smoke in their own homes?—I do not know.

24,440. (Mr. Pease.) I see from the report of 1891 that it was thought that there would be about a thousand chandu smokers in Ahmedabad; would that accord with your view?—Some years ago there may have been that number, but I cannot say how many there are at the present time.

24,441. Do you think the thousand people have given up smoking?—They may have given it up.

24,442. Is it your opinion that there are very few opium smokers at the present time?—Yes.

24,443. We have heard of one smoking club, do you know of any more?—No, only one.

24,444. How many people attended there?—Ten people at a time.

24,445. How many persons do you think were in the habit of going there?—About 50 persons.

24,446. When was that?—Some years ago.

24,447. (Chairman.) Do you think that a thousand people were smoking three years ago?—I should think there were only about a hundred or two hundred people.

people taking it moderately. It keeps young men in vigour and old men in good health. Crimes do not seem to have resulted from opium eating.

24,453. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—It is customary among the classes of people above-mentioned to use opium on occasion of weddings and funerals, on holidays, and at assemblage of guests. It is administered to young children for a certain period to keep them in good health. Some use it for cough, asthma, &c., and in old age. Some labourers also eat it. For all these reasons, it becomes a sort of support in life and labour. People are not willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures.

24,454. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes, and could such prohibition be extended to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—In my opinion it is not just and fair to prohibit the sale of opium in British India as well as in the Native States above mentioned.

Mr. Rao
Sahib
Motilal
Hirabhai.

9 Feb. 1894.

Mr.
Vakhatchand
Umedchand
(Manavdar
State).

10 Feb. 1894.

Mr.
Vakhatchand
Umedchand.
(Manavdar
State.)

10 Feb. 1894.

24,455. Where does the opium come from?—It comes from the Rajputana Government Treasury, and from Rutlam and Bombay.

24,456. What proportion of the pass-duty is remitted?—One-third.

24,457. How many opium shops are there in the State?—There are 23 shops.

24,458. Do you know how many liquor shops there are?—There is only one liquor shop.

24,459. Why is there only one liquor shop; is there no custom for liquor?—There are very few drinkers.

24,460. I believe at present the State is managed by an agent appointed by the British Government, during the minority of the ruler?—Yes.

24,461. And do you speak for the State?—Yes; I speak on behalf of the State as well as on my own account.

The witness withdrew.

SHETH ASHARAM DALICHAND called in and examined.

Sheth
Asharam
Dalichand
(Chura-State)

24,462. (Chairman.) I believe you are minister of the Chura State in the Kathiawar Agency?—Yes.

24,463. What is the revenue of the Chura State?—It yields from 90,000 rupees to one lakh.

24,464. Are there many jagirdars?—Yes, there are eight villages.

24,465. How long have you been minister?—Four months.

24,466. Do you speak for yourself only, or for the Chief of the State?—As regards the benefits derived from opium farming I speak on behalf of the State, and with regard to other information as to the benefits and injuries from opium, I speak from my own experience.

24,467. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I am acquainted with Halar, Gohelwad, and Jhalawad Prants in the province of Kathiawar where I have served in various capacities for nearly 30 years. The consumption of opium is, in the said districts, chiefly confined to the non-mercantile classes. It is given to children in their babyhood, and also used as a stimulant for transport and riding animals when they are tired. Old men generally take to opium eating for keeping up their health.

24,468. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—The moral capacities of a man are never affected by opium in whatever quantity it be taken; but in my opinion the habit of taking opium tends to some moral improvement, e.g., it makes a man more calm, and sometimes a better thinker also. Its consumers suffer physically only when it is taken to an excess.

24,469. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—The people on certain occasions do indulge in opium drinking as a luxury, and resort to it for the purposes of refreshment also. They would not like to see the use of opium prohibited even for non-medical purposes. They would certainly not be willing to bear the extra expenses that would be entailed upon them by such a prohibition.

24,470. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes, and could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?—Any prohibition on the sale of opium except for medical purposes would cause great hardship to those who are its habitual consumers. If the prohibition is not desirable even for the Zilas, it cannot be extended to the Native States. Having a clear regard to the treaties made with them and the prevalence of the habit of consuming opium in Native States, any such prohibition there will engender discontent.

24,471. How many opium shops are there in your State?—There is only one shop in the capital.

24,472. Is the owner of that one shop the farmer for the whole district?—Yes.

24,473. Is the farming put up to auction?—Yes.

24,474. Every year?—Yes, generally, but sometimes the farm has been given for two years and sometimes it is farmed for five years.

24,475. How many liquor shops are there?—One.

24,476. Is that also farmed?—Yes.

24,477. For the whole Taluka?—Yes, for the whole State.

24,478. Can the opium farmer and the liquor farmer open other shops if they like in other places?—Not without the permission of the Durbar.

24,479. By the "Zillas" I presume you mean the British Districts?—Yes.

24,480. If the British Government prohibited the import of Malwa opium into your territory what would the Durbar say?—The Durbar would be unwilling to see it on account of revenue, and the people would be much dissatisfied.

24,481. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Would the Durbar take any measures to satisfy them?—If opium is prohibited from being imported the Durbar may take some measures to get the poppy grown in his own territory.

24,482. You say "The moral capacities of a man are never affected by opium in whatever quantity it may be taken." What do you mean by that?—Sometimes a man is a very bad character and very active in all bad dealings though opium makes him quiet.

24,483. Would he take to lying a little?—I do not think all opium-eaters speak lies except where they take kasumbha.

24,484. Would you apply that to well-to-do people who get good food and can afford to take opium as much as they like; or do you refer to the poor people?—It injures the health of poor people who do not take nourishing food, but the poor people have great refreshment in opium because there is no other thing which they can find.

24,485. But when they are poor and take opium in excessive quantity, would they not be inclined to commit little thefts?—No, because by taking excessive quantities of opium the physical activities are lost, and therefore theft is not an easy thing.

24,486. If they did not get money would they die?—They would go begging. You know that wherever there are Girasias they give opium free.

24,487. Do you think it is desirable for a young man in good health to take opium?—I do not think it is desirable if he has health.

24,488. Do you think it is objectionable?—Of course it is objectionable for a healthy man.

24,489. Those who are in need of taking opium for the sake of health may take it, but not otherwise?—Not otherwise. We sometimes use it in entertaining guests. Intoxicating stuffs are always used for luxury.

24,490. But that is occasional and not habitual?—That is so.

24,491. (Mr. Pease.) You speak of persons who take it to excess and suffer, are those persons who have taken it in the first place merely for pleasure?—Sometimes they take opium for pleasure and sometimes they are compelled to take it as a remedy to restore their health.

24,492. I was alluding only to those who take it in excess. Are those who take it to excess persons who have taken it in the first place for illness, or often-times those who have taken it for pleasure?—The habit of taking opium for pleasure is decreasing now.

24,493. Have you known many persons who have suffered in their health from taking opium to excess?—Yes, very poor people who are not well off, and who take it in excess and do not take nourishing food physically suffer.

24,494. (Chairman.) Some people begin to take opium habitually day by day, after they are 40 years of age,

when they begin to feel their strength a little declining. Do you consider that taking it for pleasure or taking it for medical purposes?—After 40 years of age if the

people are habituated to take opium it is for medical purposes, and not for pleasure, only to keep up health and spirit.

The witness withdrew.

Sheth
Asharam
Dalichand.

10 Feb. 1894.

Mr. CHATURBHAI JIVABHAI called in and examined (through an interpreter).

24,495. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) I believe you are revenue officer of Wankaner in Kathiawar?—Yes.

24,496. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I am acquainted with two States Wadhwan and Wankaner, in Prant Jhalawad, Kathiawar. My total service in these two States is 17 years. In these States, Rajputs, Girasias, Kathis, Kolis, Musalmans, Brahmans, Banias, Bharwads, Rabaris, and others, except the Bohras, consume opium.

24,497. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—From the experience that I have had in my service in the Revenue Departments of these two States, I can say that opium, if taken in moderation, does not produce any baneful effect on the moral and physical condition of the people. Labourers eat it to mitigate their fatigue. Young children are administered opium pills which, instead of causing any injury, make them healthy. If a man above the age of 40 finds himself weak, a moderate use of opium by him improves his health. The habit of opium eating contracted by young men for the sake of pleasure only is injurious to health.

24,498. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—I am of opinion that the habit of opium eating in excess is bad. But it is necessary to continue the long-standing practice of using opium or kasumbha on marriage and funeral occasions and when entertaining guests. Opium is also essential to habitual opium eaters, because if they do not get it their health is sure to suffer. The people should not bear the cost of prohibitive measures, because the present tax on the drug is too heavy to be borne by them; and the arrangements made under the Treaty between the British Government and Native Chiefs should not be deviated from without the consent of the Native Chiefs concerned.

24,499. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes,

and could such prohibition be extended to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—The sale of opium should not at all be prohibited, because it has no baneful effect whatsoever, but in some respects it is beneficial. Such prohibition could not extend to Native States. The opium agreements entered into with the Native States should be observed by the contracting parties. If the stipulation as regards the quantity of opium to be supplied to a Native State which is very essentially required by the subjects of that State, is not observed, the Native State concerned will understand that its liberty to grow poppy in its territory, which existed before the years 1820, is restored to it.

24,500. Is it advisable for young men in good health to eat or drink opium as a habit?—No, it is a bad habit.

24,501. Is it beneficial for labourers to take opium after the fatigue of the day?—Yes.

24,502. (*Chairman.*) How many shops for the sales of opium are there in the Wankaner State?—There is one opium-farmer who keeps four or five shops in the State.

24,503. Is there one liquor farmer?—There is only one liquor shop in the State.

24,504. What is the title of the Chief?—Raja Sahib.

24,505. Is the ruler a Rajput?—Yes, he is a Jhala Rajput.

24,506. At what price is the opium sold?—At the rate of 12 rupees a pound.

24,507. At what price does liquor sell?—The country liquor is sold at 10 annas per bottle, and English liquor is dearer.

24,508. (*Mr. Pease.*) Is there as much liquor consumed at marriages and funerals and when entertaining guests as there used to be 20 years ago?—The consumption has decreased.

24,509. Has it decreased to any considerable extent?—Not much; it is on account of its dearness.

24,510. Are you authorised to speak for the State?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. RUSTAMJI HORMASJI called in and examined.

24,511. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are a pleader in the courts, are you not?—Yes.

24,512. Are you a pleader of the High Court?—I am a pleader of the Agency Court.

24,513. In what agencies?—Mahi Kantha Agency, Idar State, and also Palanpur Agency.

24,514. Should, in your opinion, the growth of poppy, and manufacture and sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes, and could such prohibition be extended to the Native States?—It should not be prohibited, as a very large number of high class Hindus, Rajputs, and Thakardas in general, and also Mahomedans, use it as an essential article of daily consumption. Opium can be taken without any religious objections, and those people who are forbidden by their religion to take spirituous drink, freely take opium as a substitute for it. I know that particularly in Native States opium is largely used, and prohibition cannot safely be extended to the Native States. Any forced prohibition of opium will be seriously felt by habitual opium eaters who keep themselves lively by use of the drug; and I am quite sure that its prohibition would be substituted by some like intoxicating drug, as without it they will find it very difficult to pull on. Again, Native States will not be agreeable to such prohibition, as they will be great losers of revenues derived from the cultivation of poppy, and manufacture and sale of opium in their States.

24,515. What is the nature of the existing arrangements with the Native States in respect of the transit

of opium through British territory, and on what terms, if any, could these arrangements be with justice terminated?—The nature of the existing arrangements with the Native States is satisfactory, and more than sufficient, and there is no necessity of terminating the existing arrangements. If it is at all on some substantial grounds to be terminated with justice, it must be done by awarding the Native States full compensation for it, otherwise it would be taken by the said States as a breach of faith by the British Government, and will further be a cause of lowering its prestige, and the day must be far distant when such a state of things occurred.

24,516. What would be the effect on the finances of India of the prohibition of the sale and export of opium, taking into consideration the amount of compensation payable, the cost of the necessary preventive measures, and the loss of revenue?—The effect on the finances of India will be very serious, as a very large amount of revenue is annually recovered from the sale and export of opium, and the prohibition of opium would put the revenues to substantial losses. India, as present situated, cannot make up the said losses by any other source of income. If fresh taxes are imposed on the people to cover the said losses, it will cause great dissatisfaction amongst the people, and the said item of losses cannot be recovered either by fresh taxes, as already the people in the country are over-taxed, and cannot bear the fresh burden. The prohibition will force the revenues of the country to lose the large income derived from the sale and export of

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opium, and will bring an additional burden for the amount payable as compensation to the Native States and the cost of the necessary preventive measures, which, I am sure, will bring the revenues to a further loss, as such expenditure will have to be met from the remaining revenues of India. The amount of such expenditure and compensation will be very large indeed. To the Indian Exchequer the losses will be very heavy. The greater part of the income from opium is derived from its export trade, and if that is put a stop to, the Government of India and the cultivators would lose its income without any benefit to the people, for whose moral welfare the matter is taken in hand, as the Chinese are accustomed to the use of opium from time immemorial, and the habit is so strong now with them that they will not give up its use at once. India, by the prohibition, will lose its income, but countries like Persia and others, which grow poppy and manufacture opium, will gain by it, and the consumption by the same people will be the same. If on moral grounds the prohibition of the use of the opium is at all quite necessary, it is premature to begin at first in India. All opium-producing countries must be consulted, and they must be induced to enter into some sort of arrangement as to the total prohibition of opium. Then, and then only, it will be in some way effective, as the people who are habituated to it will in course of time give up its use and forget all about it. But this could not be done in one day.

24,517. Should any change short of total prohibition be made in the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the opium traffic, and for raising a revenue therefrom?—No change is necessary to be made. The present system is very strict, and any change to further restrict or regulate its use and make it dearer than now to raise revenue therefrom, will be hard on the opium using communities of India, who are to a great extent poor.

24,518. What is your experience as regards the effects of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people?—The use of opium generally is very moderate, and as tea and coffee are a necessity with civilized people, so opium is a necessity for its eaters and smokers. Early in the morning, up from bed, after cleaning their mouths they take opium, and they are equally smart and strong as those who do not use it. Its use makes one calm and quiet, and when there is serious mental work to be done, it is used by persons of great ability. It also drives away drowsiness when late hours are to be kept, for which, also, it is taken by many, such as watchmen, chowkiats, &c. Again, those who have to maintain bodily labour find it very useful, as by its use they do not feel the fatigue of the labours that they have to do. Opium eaters generally lead a long life. It does not excite one and make him go out of his senses as spirituous drinks. As far as crimes are concerned it is almost *nil*, as during my 17 years' experience in the courts I have come across no case in which it was alleged that an offence had been committed under the effects of opium. Generally the moral and physical condition of opium-consumers is satisfactory, and no way inferior to those who do not use the drug. There are a few, about one in a hundred, who take opium in very large quantities, who alone look sleepy and inattentive. Some restrictions, if necessary, might be made for them only. In small villages, where medical aid cannot be got, opium is largely taken as a medicine for diarrhoea, dysentery, cough, &c., and almost any ailments in which pain has to be relieved, and during cholera epidemic it is freely used by non-consumers. It is also believed, but how far it is true I cannot say, that the effects of snake-bites in a confirmed opium-eater are minimized to a certain extent.

24,519. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear, in whole or in part, the cost of the prohibitive measures?—It is never objected to. It is considered as a necessary article of consumption for opium eaters to keep up their body and make them lively; and the consumers are not looked down upon by the general non-consuming communities; and the disposition of the general public is in its favour and for its continuance. They are quite unwilling to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures, as such costs are thoroughly unnecessary.

24,520. Are you a native of Bombay?—Yes.

24,521. Did you read in any college?—I attended Sir Jamsetji Jijibhai Institution for Parsis.

24,522. Do you use opium yourself at all?—Very little, occasionally.

24,523. Do you think the custom of using opium habitually, daily, is declining?—I think it is declining to a great extent.

24,524. I should like to know what the reasons are for its declining, can you tell me?—In the first place the spread of education has made the people learn that it is not a necessary article of daily consumption; in the second place opium has now become dearer than before, and people cannot afford to take it.

24,525. What is the case as regards liquor; is the use of country liquor declining?—In my district I can say that there is no change; it is the same as it was before. In the Mahi Kantha, particularly, liquor is cheaper than in British districts.

24,526. Are European liquors sold in Mahi Kantha?—Very little. They are used by European officers and other people who can afford them, but these people are very few.

24,527. In Mahi Kantha is daru distilled by kalals?—It is distilled by the kalals themselves—those who take the farms of these liquors distil it.

24,528. Are they kalals by caste?—They are kalals by caste—liquor distillers.

24,529. Do you know what the ancient custom was as regards the kalals making liquor in olden times in the Mahi Kantha country?—There was no restriction as there is now. All the kalals of the villages used to distil liquor and sell it at their convenience, but now there are restrictions.

24,530. Formerly it was a free business?—Yes; every kalal used to distil liquor. They sometimes arranged between themselves and sold by turns.

24,531. I suppose in those old days liquor must have been very cheap?—It was very cheap indeed. It is now cheap in the districts, so that it must have been very cheap previously.

24,532. (Mr. Pease.) Is it a frequent custom in the courts here to ask a witness whether he is an opium-consumer?—Sometimes from the look of a man it is apparent that he is an opium eater, and sometimes questions of that nature are put to witnesses.

24,533. What is the object of putting such questions to them?—The object is to put them in the wrong box; but generally in the districts in which I move, opium is not taken in any way objectionably.

24,534. What do you mean by putting him in the wrong box?—Showing him to be a man in whom no reliance could be placed.

24,535. Is that the general impression, that the person who is an opium-consumer is one upon whom no reliance can be placed?—That may be the impression in civilised places like Bombay, but in the districts where there are people from Native States and others there is not that impression.

24,536. Is the question put in those districts?—Sometimes it is put.

24,537. If that is not the impression in the districts, why is the question put in the districts?—Because judicial officers are not officers of the class who take opium. Sometimes judicial officers administering justice take strong views with regard to opium-eaters.

24,538. You say it does not apply here; but do you think that there is any justification for that view in other places, that a person who takes opium is not a reliable witness?—If he is a thorough habitual opium eater, then I think it is not safe to entirely depend upon what he says.

24,539. I gather from your evidence that you think the taking of opium is a bad habit for people in health?—If a man in failing health takes opium, I do not think it is in any way objectionable; but if a person is in health it is certainly a bad habit.

24,540. (Chairman.) I suppose when the question "Are you an opium eater?" is put to a witness in the courts, the insinuation meant to be conveyed is that he is an excessive opium sot?—Yes, a man who takes large quantities of opium, and whose head is not expected to be in the right place, and who cannot give rational answers.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. MAGANLAL TRIBHOVANDAS called in and examined (through an interpreter).

Mr. Magandal
Tribhovandas.

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24,541. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are the secretary of the Talukdari Association of Ahmedabad?—Yes.

24,542. Have you come to give evidence for yourself only, or on behalf of the Association?—I have come on behalf of myself only.

24,543. What have you to say generally with regard to the matter under our consideration?—I have a knowledge of the zilla of Ahmedabad, and also a part of Kathiawar. I have come across habitual eaters of opium; and I have also a good knowledge of the condition of drinkers of intoxicating liquors. The use of all sorts of intoxicants is injurious to all denominations of men, and it is also contrary to the dictates of religion. The number of persons in this country who express their dislike for opium is small, as compared with those who condemn intoxicating liquor. For my part I am against opium eating. Although the evil effects of opium on a man's body and his morals are not apparent to quite such an extent as are those of alcohol, still an opium eater seems to possess much less energy and general activity than a man who does not take opium. Moreover, when the intoxicating effect of the drug has almost disappeared, they (opium-eaters) seem to have lost all their strength, and to be quite emaciated. The harm it does to the man who can afford to get good nourishment (ghee, milk, &c.), is, of course, not so great as that which it does to the poor. However, I cannot bring myself to believe that it is good under any circumstances. An opium-eater, if he has neither money nor strength, soon learns to steal and to commit other crimes; and becomes a vicious person in some way or other. As there are large numbers of opium-eaters of long standing, they must be supplied with such quantity of the drug as would supply their wants. No more than the fixed quantity should be permitted to be consumed. The Government should get down the names of the towns or villages where these confirmed opium-eaters live, and should also ascertain the quantity of the drug each individual consumes during a certain period. If such an arrangement were to be made, there is no possibility of their being an increase in the number of these men.

The witness withdrew.

RANA SAGRANJI KHODABHAI called in and examined (through an interpreter).

Rana Sagranji
Khodabhai
(Lakhtar
State).

24,546. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are a Bhayat, and one of the clans of the Chiefs of Lakhtar?—Yes.

24,547. What is the title of the chief?—Maharana.

24,548. Is he a Rajput?—He is a Jhala Rajput.

24,549. What is the revenue of Lakhtar?—The Maharana's revenue is 75 thousand rupees. If the assigned revenue were added, the whole would come up to one lac five thousand rupees.

24,550. Is your evidence your own evidence only, or do you speak for the Darbar?—What I speak on State matters is on behalf of the Darbar, and on other matters I speak for myself, as well as on behalf of the Darbar.

24,551. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I am personally acquainted with Lakhtar in particular, and with Kathiawar in general. Girasias and other Rajputs, Kanbis, Kolis, Rabaris, and other labouring classes, Mahomedans and Kathis take opium. Some Brahmins and Baniyas also take it. It is taken either in the solid or liquid form, the usual dose commonly taken by an ordinary opium eater being from about one to ten grains. Some take it once, many twice, and a few three, four, or even five times a day. It is taken either as a luxury, or to increase the power of endurance. It is also used for medicinal purposes. It is offered in its liquid form to guests on occasions of joy and mourning. Opium kasumbha is also used when reconciliation takes place. It was commonly considered to be a shame if a man of family made no use of opium either personally or by way of hospitality. It is still the case with opium-eating classes. The consumption of opium has, however, much decreased of late years as it is very costly and is considered to be adulterated. Education has also been instrumental to some extent in discouraging opium eating. Alcoholic liquors have taken the place of opium in most places.

24,552. What is your experience as regards the effect of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical

Every opium eater should be given just the weight of opium that may have been put down in the Government Register against his name, and no more. In my humble opinion, all sale of opium over and above this should be put a stop to throughout British India. But it is necessary that intoxicating liquors should be prohibited. For otherwise the consumption of these will be increased enormously; the good intention of Government will come to nought, and it will be easy to find a great number of persons degraded in body and in morals. Therefore it is necessary that intoxicating liquors should be first prohibited from being sold, and then opium in the way I have tried to indicate. It cannot be just to charge this country for any deficit consequent on such a prohibitory measure. For, since the establishment of the honourable British rule in this country, the Government has been making laws in order to limit the consumption of opium and other intoxicants, and also laying on them proper taxes. But the result is that there has all along been an increasing demand for intoxicants, and the laudable efforts on the part of Government have proved fruitless; therefore if in making those efforts successful, Government has to sustain a loss, it is but right that the loss should be sustained, in order to put a stop to the devastating influence of the drug which has proved so fruitful in crime and immorality. I do not think that the people of this country are at all inclined to make good such loss.

24,544. When you say "the devastating influence of the drug," what do you mean—opium or alcohol, or both?—I mean both.

24,545. You are in favour of the prohibition both of alcohol and of opium, except to habitual consumers; for all the rest of the populations of the country would you make the taking of opium or liquor a criminal offence, which might be punished by the magistrates, or do you only mean that so far as possible the supply should be cut off?—I do not mean that those people should be treated as criminals, but that such measures should be taken to check the supply in order that they may have no facility for getting opium or alcohol.

condition of the people?—Moderate indulgence in the habit of opium consumption is prejudicial neither to the moral nor physical condition of the people. On the contrary, it steadies a man of a fiery or nervous temperament. An opium eater is never known to have committed a violent crime. Snake poison has little effect on a habitual opium eater. Immoderate indulgence in the habit, however, acts as a slow poison, making the individual physically and mentally weak and desponding.

24,553. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—The use of opium for non-medical purposes is not at all regarded prejudicial by the people who are, therefore, unwilling to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures.

24,554. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—The sale of opium should not be prohibited in British India. It is best suited to the climate of this country. The sale of alcoholic liquors, which are not at all suited to the climate of this country, and which are the cause of so many violent crimes, should be prohibited in its stead. If opium were withheld, the labouring classes, who take it as a stimulant, will resort to alcoholic liquors, which will utterly ruin them.

24,555. Could such prohibition be extended to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—No such prohibition should be extended to the Native States, as it will give rise to a great deal of discontent. Nor can it be done as the present arrangements have been made according to the treaty of 1820 A.D., and if the British Government does not intend to observe its terms, the State is at liberty to make its own arrangements in the matter of producing or buying opium.

Rana Sagranji
Khodabhai.
(Lakhtar
State.)

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24,556. You say "the consumption of opium has "much decreased of late years as it is very costly, and "is considered to be adulterated." Can you tell us what the price was before 1878 and what the price is now?—Before 1878 opium was sold at Rs. 4 or 5 a pound: now the price is Rs. 11½ a pound.

24,557. You say "alcoholic liquors have taken the place of opium in most places." Can you give any other reason for that besides opium being dearer?—Besides opium being dearer I think that the educated people are inclined to take alcohol.

24,558. Whom do you call the educated people in your State?—Those who have received an English education.

24,559. Have many Bhayats received an English education?—There is not an English school in Lakhtar

so that no Bhayats have received English education. In speaking of an English education I was referring to Kathiawar in general.

24,560. Do you know how many opium shops there are in Lakhtar?—Opium is not farmed out. The Darbar brings it from the Government Treasury at Rajkot. There is one shop at Lakhtar and also here and there there are two or three places in the villages.

24,561. What are the arrangements with regard to liquor?—There is a farm given for the sale of liquor.

24,562. Is there one farm for the whole of Lakhtar?—There is only one farm and liquor is only sold at one place.

24,563. (Mr. Pease.) Are there now many families in which opium is not given by way of hospitality?—No, there are not any families.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. G. B. REID called in and examined.

Mr.
G. B. Reid.

24,564. (Chairman.) I believe you are Commissioner, Northern Division?—Yes.

24,565. May I ask you how long you have been in the service?—I have been more than 26 years in the service.

24,566. What is your experience with regard to the consumption of opium by the different races of people with which you are personally acquainted; and what is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—My experience is mainly in some of the Deccan districts and in Northern Gujarat, especially Ahmedabad, and the interlacing Baroda and Mahi Kantha territory. The consumption in the Deccan being insignificant, I confine my remarks to Northern Gujarat. The opium-consuming classes are mainly the lower orders of Musalmans in towns, Kathis in Kathiawar and on our borders Girasias, including Rajput Hindus and Molesalams, Bhats, Charans, Kolis and Thakardas. Consumption now is, I believe, less than formerly. Among the older Thakurs and Girasias the custom of guests taking their morning and afternoon drafts of kasumbha or opium water from the hand of the head of the house still continues, but the custom is dying out with the rising generation. Opium is to some extent being replaced by liquor, but in other cases it is being dropped without any substitute. The Kolis use opium to a considerable extent, but even with them I think consumption is diminishing. They take it when they have to do hard work as they consider it has sustaining power. The Kunbi cultivator class use it considerably, especially at caste feasts and funerals, but I am informed that this custom is also altering very much, and the consumption on such occasions is largely diminishing. It must be remembered that the Girasia is a lazy sort of squireen with little occupation for his time, and if he were deprived of opium, he would certainly take to liquor, or some more deleterious drug. I do not think, generally speaking, that the opium habit shortens their lives or materially weakens their intellects. The man becomes stupid as the time for his dram comes round, but so long as he has his regular supply and is well nourished, I do not believe that the habit does them much harm, certainly not nearly so much as indulgence in liquor would do. Among the higher castes and more cultivated classes the custom of taking opium in any form is not general. Few people take it in early life. It is considered a specific in chronic diarrhoea, rheumatism and asthma, and it is not uncommon for persons suffering therefrom to take to opium. After middle age, say 45, it is a good deal used to sustain failing powers, and excess among these classes is very rare. It is not used till the want of it is indicated, and the general opinion is that it is a most valuable remedy. I have not heard of it as a prophylactic against ague and fever in this part of the country, but the popular belief is that the habitual consumer is to some extent protected from cholera. There is no religious or caste feeling against the moderate use of opium. It is forbidden to the followers of the Swami Nārāyan sect.

24,567. You say that among Rajputs, Bhats, and Charans the custom is dying out with the rising generation. Can you tell us what causes, you think, are tending in that direction?—The fashion of giving

kasumbha, as far as I understand, is altering to a certain extent, owing probably to the richer classes of Rajputs taking more to liquor and to their giving up this particular habit, and not taking to any other bad habit. If you go now to a petty chief you will probably find, if the chief is an oldish man, and one who keeps to the old ways, that this custom of giving "kosumba" is kept up; but you will find that with his young son, who has been to school and who has been educated, the custom is different; they do not do it.

24,568. Had not the Rajputs and those others connected with castes some idea that the use of opium went to their martial character, as it were?—Yes, that is their tradition, certainly.

24,569. I suppose now that they have dropped their martial character to a great extent, the fashion would be likely to change?—That I am not prepared to say. I should say it was more a change of civilisation. I think to a certain extent they are dropping it for other things; it may be for even tea and coffee or anything, and it may be for liquor.

24,570. You think the change of civilization has led to a change of fashion in the matter?—I think so, to a certain extent.

24,571. With regard to the Kunbis and Kolis, is the diminution of consumption due to a rise in the price?—I believe that the figures of the department do not support me; but it is my own impression, from what people say, that it is diminishing among them; if so, it is diminishing from the greater difficulty in procuring the drug owing to the higher cost and to the danger of infringing all sorts of Government resolutions, and being exposed to various, more or less vexatious formalities which have to be gone through before a man can possess the drug.

24,572. I suppose one inconvenience about getting it for feasts and funerals would be the small amount which one man can get at a shop at one time?—It may probably have been brought to your notice that special permissions can be obtained for the purposes of that sort. Collectors can give that permission and can delegate that power to certain subordinate officials so that on occasions of marriages or feasts and ceremonies of that sort a man can apply and get permission to obtain the drug for a certain number of days.

24,573. Still it would be a considerable trouble to the man to apply?—Yes; it is a trouble, and nobody wants to deal with Government officials unless they can help, and there is always the danger of making some mistake. The Kanbi is not always a very cautious person in spending money, but still like everybody else when he has a good reason to give, to get off spending money, he is always very glad to avail himself of it.

24,574. Are the followers of the Swami Narayan sect numerous in this part of the country?—They are very numerous in this part of the country. I think their tenets are strictly observed. Many of the Kathis, who are opium consumers to a man, have become followers of the Swami Narayan sect, and they have given up opium.

24,575. When was this sect started?—I believe it was started a hundred years ago. Not only is opium,

liquor, and ganja prohibited, but even strong smelling things, such as leeks and onions.

24,576. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—I have no hesitation in saying that the people have no desire to see the consumption of opium limited to the extent proposed, and they would resent most bitterly being taxed in any way towards the cost of prohibitive measures.

24,577. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited, except for medical purposes, and could such prohibition be extended to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—I consider that it would be most oppressive to prohibit the sale except for medical purposes. It would be at least as tyrannical as to prohibit the sale of beer in England. The irritation among the habitual consumers would be intense, and no such prohibition would have any support from the educated classes. I can imagine no measure more uncalled for or more wantonly foolish. The above applies to British districts. In the Native States a larger proportion of the population are habitual consumers. If prohibition were attempted in them nothing but a large armed force could prevent the cultivation or sale of opium in the Native States of Gujarat.

24,578. Supposing total prohibition to be impracticable, can you suggest any change in the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the opium traffic, and for raising a revenue therefrom?—I think the present system for regulating and restricting the opium traffic, and for raising a revenue therefrom, is in this Presidency as nearly perfect as possible. Even now smuggling of an article of such value and so small in bulk cannot be entirely stopped, and I am certain that further restrictions would lead to an increase of smuggling, which would require an enormous staff to cope with it. In my opinion the effect of the present Bombay system has been slowly but surely to reduce the consumption of opium. In former days opium to any extent was easily procurable anywhere. Now it can be obtained only at licensed places, and very small quantities only can be kept without risk of prosecution and fine. These restrictions and the increased cost tend to decrease consumption and to prevent the formation of the habit amongst the young. I consider that the relaxation of the Government control over the houses licensed for the consumption of chandul and madak has been a great mistake. It has led to the consumption of smuggled opium, and has increased the number of persons who take to this objectionable habit in their own homes.

24,579. In your division were there many places where shops were licensed for the smoking of chandul and madak?—I fancy there were very few. I have not the figures before me, but I should say myself that there would not be certainly six places in my division.

24,580. Do you think that the closing of those shops has led to the abandonment of smoking, or do you think it is still carried on?—I should think that it has not led to the abandonment of smoking, but that it has merely led to its being carried on in private houses, and probably to a greater extent and without any control. I am prepared to say that it has not led to any decrease in smoking.

24,581. I suppose that opinion of yours is rather a surmise than actual knowledge?—It must be. No government officers can say what goes on in private houses, but that is my impression. As far as I am aware, in this division, it has never extended beyond a few large towns.

24,582. The smoking of chandul and madak is rather a troublesome business. The chandul and madak has first to be made, and pipes have to be bought, do you not think that when people whose profession is to make chandul and madak and supply the peculiar pipe required, are obliged to drop their profession, it is likely to lead to a diminution of the habit, or at any rate to prevent a considerable number of people who have not taken to the habit from taken to it?—Of course it is, to a certain extent, a troublesome process. I have seen the process; I believe, if people have once taken to the habit of smoking, it is easy enough to arrange to have it done; they would meet together in clubs and do it in their own private houses. I do not

think it is so excessively trouble, though it is a certain amount of trouble, of course.

24,583. As long as a shop is open in which the chandul and madak are ready on the counter and pipes are also ready, it is probable that a certain number of people will drop into the shop and begin the habit?—Yes, that is a *prima facie* view certainly; but from what I have gathered from the not very deep inquiries I have made I believe the habit has never prevailed among a large number of people, and that the stopping of the shops has not diminished the numbers, they still go on much the same.

24,584. In 1891 the inspector of police and the opium inspector of Ahmedabad reported that chandul smoking was going on very briskly in the town of Ahmedabad; the opium inspector said he thought that there were about a thousand chandul smokers in the city. The inspector who was examined by us yesterday did not confirm that. He said he thought there were only about 200 smokers in 1891, but still he seemed to be of opinion that with the closing of the shops the habit had almost entirely ceased?—I remember making inquiries at Poona, where I was at the time. That was the impression there; at the same time the number of opium smokers, I think, in Ahmedabad is insignificant, and probably always has been. There are more here than anywhere else in the whole division. As far as I am aware in these parts it is merely a habit of the scum of the big cities. I think it is not known anywhere else.

24,585. (Mr. Pease.) You say that the number of consumers in the Native States is larger than it is in the British districts?—What I meant by the Native States they are the Native States that are comprised in the northern division—the small Native States in Mahikantha and Rewa Kantha. The proportion of what we call the Hindu and Musalman Girasias is very large in the Mahi Kantha States, and therefore the proportion of consumers is very large. In the Rewa Kantha States the population is comprised of wild hill tribes, and the opium consuming classes are confined to the Raja and his family, and a few Rajputs, and the people of that class. The Kolis and Bhils and others never see opium, they are not rich enough to purchase it.

24,586. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) You say “I do not believe that the habit does them much harm, certainly” not nearly so much as indulgence in liquor would “do.” You think, therefore, that the liquor habit is more harmful than the opium habit?—My experience is the same as that of every European who has been in the country for many years. With perhaps one exception I have never had a subordinate of men who in any way suffered from opium so far as I am aware, but I have had any number of men who have been entirely ruined from liquor, and who have had to be dismissed from public service.

24,587. Do you not think that more stringent measures are necessary in connection with the use of liquor than in connection with the use of opium?—That is a big question. It is very much more important in India to stop liquor than to stop opium if we could do it. Probably the one would be as difficult as the other.

24,588. Before the present strict arrangements came into force smuggling was carried on to a great extent as far as opium was concerned, and therefore the figures shown with regard to the consumption of opium were not correct?—Certainly not.

24,589. Whatever the actual figures are, though they may show an increase in the consumption, there really has not been more consumption?—That is so.

24,590. Opium is eaten and drunk for medical and other purposes, but with regard to opium smoking that is always done for luxury or pleasure?—That I believe to be true. Opium smoking is confined to a very small and more or less degraded class of the community. I believe it is entirely confined to big cities.

24,591. Would it not be advisable for Government to let the matter alone as far as opium smoking is concerned?—Except for purely sentimental reasons I can see no objection to the old system of supervision over chandul shops; it is better for Government not to touch filth in any way, except for that reason I can see no good reason.

The witness withdrew.

Mr.
G. B. Reid.

10 Feb. 1894.

Kavishvar
Dalspatram
Dayabhai,
C.I.E.

KAVISHVAR DALSPATRAM DAYABHAI, C.I.E. called in and examined (through an interpreter).

10 Feb. 1894.

24,592. (*Chairman*). Are you a native of Ahmedabad?—Yes.

24,593. When did you get the title of C.I.E.?—In 1885.

24,594. Was that in recognition of your talent as a poet?—It was because I composed poetry at the time of the mutiny, showing the advantages of the British rule. I also contributed to the seven standard books in Gujarati used in the schools.

24,595. What have you to say with regard to the opium question?—Seeing that opium and other intoxicants are causing a great deal of harm in this country, I have been, for 43 years addressing large meetings in Surat, Ahmedabad, Viramgam, Gogha and other places against these vices and composing poems on those subjects, and I am still doing the same, (composing poetry on the subject), and thus I have been telling people how harmful these intoxicants are. In Native States, owing to the spread of education afinis are decreasing in number, but at the same time the number of drunkards is increasing. Intoxicant liquors are more injurious than opium. My opinion, therefore, is that if opium and intoxicating liquors are useful for medicinal purposes, they should be allowed to be kept in medical dispensaries and hospitals only. Opium dries up the body and impairs memory. It makes poor people very miserable. Owing to it they learn to steal and speak false. The vice of intoxicant liquors is still worse and makes its victims more miserable. However, if the present Royal Commission on Opium succeeds in making some proper arrangement with regard only to opium, it will be a great boon conferred on the people of this country.

24,596. Have not the arrangements made since 1878 resulted in making opium much dearer than before?—I have no personal experience, but I have heard that it has been made dearer.

24,597. Would you approve of the consumption of opium and alcohol being made a crime punishable by a magistrate, or would you only try to restrict the supply?—I do not wish that it should be considered a criminal offence and that people should be punished; but the Government should take such measures so as to reduce the use of opium and alcohol to a minimum.

24,598. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas*.) You have given your own opinion but have you to say anything about what your friend Sadhu Krishna Swarupdasa told you?—Yes. He asked me to express his opinion, that the use of liquor, ganja, bhang, toddy, and opium is very injurious, and therefore measures should be taken to restrict their use as much as possible.

24,599. Who is Sadhu Krishna Swarupdasa?—He is an ascetic, and a religious teacher, following the sect of Swami Narayan.

24,600. Are you also a follower of that sect?—Yes.

24,601. When did this sect begin?—About 94 years ago.

24,602. Can you give us any idea of how many people belong to the sect?—There are about 400,000 followers, the religious preachers are about two thousand.

24,603. Is there anything in the dress, or any other outward distinguishing sign of the sect?—There is a particular *tilak*, or mark, on the forehead; they also wear a double thread *tulsi* necklace.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. Mavalji
Jijibhai
(Malia State).

MR. MAVALJI JIJIBHAI called in and examined (through an interpreter).

24,604. (*Chairman*.) What is your caste?—I am a Charan of Malia.

24,605. What is your position in the employment of the Thakur of Malia?—I am his bard or poet.

24,606. Is much opium consumed in Malia?—About 25 per cent. of the adult males take it.

24,607. Are the Mianas who made trouble in the State, opium consumers?—Yes, the old people among them take opium.

24,608. How long has the Thakur of Malia been living in Ahmedabad?—About 17 months.

24,609. Before the Thakur left what was the arrangement about opium in the State; was there a farmer?—Before the Thakur left Malia the selling of opium was farmed out to one man, and there was one shop.

24,610. What is the age of the Thakur Sahib?—He is about 50 years of age.

24,611. Does the Thakur Sahib take opium himself?—No.

24,612. Is the Thakur opposed to the use of opium?—Yes.

24,613. Did he ever take any measures against it?—Yes, by not taking into his service those who are opium eaters.

24,614. In other respects, is the system the same as it is in other States?—Yes.

24,615. Is the Thakur also opposed to the use of liquor?—Yes.

24,616. How many liquor shops are there in Malia?—There is no liquor shop.

24,617. Is no liquor drunk at all?—No.

24,618. How big is the Malia State?—I do not know. The population might be about 6,000, but I cannot tell you.

24,619. Do you know what the revenue is?—About Rs. 90,000.

24,620. Are you certain, or are you only guessing that?—I do not know it for certain, but it is talked of as being that amount.

24,621. Has liquor never been sold in the State, or has it been stopped?—I do not know, but I do not see liquor sold in the State.

24,622. As the representative of Shri Modji, the Thakur Sahib of Malia, have you any statement of his views on the opium question that you wish to bring before us?—Yes; the Thakur Sahib wishes me to put in the following statement as expressing his views:—“I give my personal opinion with regard to opium, as follows:—All intoxicants, such as opium, liquor ganja, &c. produce an unnatural effect on the natural state and course of blood, and it (the blood) is spoiled, and consequently the face appears pale and dried up. Those who are rich and can afford to take nourishing articles of food, such as ghee and milk, do not suffer at once from the harmful effects of opium, and they do not at once become dull and heavy, but by and by it weakens their digestive powers, their blood is spoilt, and they lose their strength. Like liquor, opium does not make its victim shameless and rash, but it has the bad effect of making him dull and lazy, and so its victim cannot study or do any work where exertion is necessary. It makes its victims, if they are poor, averse to work, and therefore very miserable. Rich people who take opium themselves take great pride in giving opium to other people liberally. Their dependents take to the habit of taking opium because they get it for nothing, and because their master gives them and uses it himself. These dependents give up all work, and learn how to beg and live on begging. When they do not get sufficient for themselves in one place they go on begging from one place or village to another. Such are there known by the disrespectful names of afinis, Mavails, Khefias, &c. These people live in miserable condition, their clothes are dirty and stinking. These people are so dirty that so soon as you see them you cannot avoid feeling dislike and disgust. Most of the afinis are also tobacco smokers, and several accidents have taken place by fire falling from their bukkas on their (smokers) clothes, or on those of others sitting by them, while they smoke under the stupefying influence of opium and are dozing. By the Hindu Shastras opium is forbidden; but its original use seems to have been in bringing stupor and forgetfulness to the wounded. It is useful for medicinal

purposes also; but its habitual use is in no way a good thing; on the contrary, to those who are habituated to it it does not do any good as medicine, for when their bowels are loose opium does not produce any curing effect on them. Besides that, when an afini sick man is free from the influence of his opium he suffers from two things: 1st, opium depression; and 2nd, the disease he is suffering from, and so no medicine can act for good on afinis. On the whole, spirituous liquors, opium, and ganja are very injurious articles; spirituous liquors and ganja make a man insane, and lose all sense of decency, and become immoral. Those who are addicted to opium become dull and lazy, untruthful, and very poor, are tempted to steal. It is

therefore the duty of well wishers of mankind to eradicate those vices. Some afinis say that opium is a preventive against diseases; but this statement is without foundation. The followers of Swami Narayan are more than 400,000, and none of them take opium, and still they are healthy people. Some opium-eaters say that if they give up their opium they would die; but this statement also is groundless, for it is well known that convicts in jail are not allowed opium, and yet they do not die because it is not given to them. Many such instances can be pointed out. I do not like persons addicted to intoxicant articles to be engaged as my servants, and I have none such as my servants."

Mr. Mavalji
Jijibhai.
(Malia State.)
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10 Feb. 1894.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. LAKSHMANRAO GANGADHAR called in, and examined (through an interpreter).

24,623. (Chairman.) Do you appear on behalf of the Limri State?—Yes.

24,624. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I am acquainted with Kathiawar and the district of Ahmedabad. Having served in the Limri State and being a landowner in that state I am better acquainted with that state, and from my experience of the districts named I know that the classes who eat opium there are Rajputs, Kathis, Kanbis, Baniyas, Brahmins, Bharwads, Rabaris, Kolis, and Musalmans.

24,625. Compare the effects of alcohol and opium on the consumers?—The habit of opium-eating as compared with that of other intoxicants is in some degree beneficial. Not only is the habit of eating opium less injurious to the body than the habit of taking other intoxicants, but the use of opium calms the excited brain. Again, a moderate use of opium does not impair health, and does not endanger life or property as the use of other intoxicants does. In the case of labourers opium alleviates fatigue, because opium has the property to do this. Intoxication from opium does not create insensibility. People believe that it is necessary to give opium to young children and to men above the age of 40. In Gujarat and Kathiawar it is the custom among the class of people named above to sip and offer others to sip kasumbho on occasions of marriages and funerals and on holidays and at assemblies of guests, and this custom is regarded as honourable.

25,626. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—Opium gives vigour to man in times of warfare in keeping guard and in walking. I am not aware of any instances of habitual eating of opium resulting in heinous crimes.

24,627. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—Opium is a very useful drug. From the time the cultivation of poppy was stopped, the people of this part of the country have been put to great loss and became miserable. When poppy was cultivated the people obtained poppy-seeds and extracted oil therefrom, and then the oil was obtainable at from Rs. 2 8a. to Rs. 3 per maund, whereas now it is sold at from 6 to 8 rupees a maund. The burden of this loss has fallen on the people. The poppy-heads and the leaves are much used in medicines, and are specific against certain diseases. The deficit in the supply of these articles is greatly felt by the people. I am, therefore, of opinion that if opium be allowed to be cultivated, people will get the drug cheap and of good quality and the rich as well as the poor may be equally profited. I may add that Government purchase opium and store it in their warehouse. They then sell it to the purchasers. Sometimes this opium proves of bad quality and therefore the opium-eaters require double the quantity of their usual dose.

24,628. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes, and could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?—People of the labouring class eat opium to alienate their fatigue; some people eat it to check certain diseases; and many eat it

according to their hereditary custom, consequently, it is not advisable to prohibit the sale of opium except for non-medical purposes, and such prohibition will prove a hardship to the people. It appears from the opium arrangements entered into with the Native States of Kathiawar that the chiefs are prohibited to cultivate opium in their territory, and they are required to pay Rs. 700 per chest as pass fee. By the arrangements of 1820 the Chiefs were not required to pay any pass fee for 60 years, subsequently they were made to pay it, and this levy is a form of tax on the opium-eaters. The chiefs have abolished the levy of transit duties in their territory, and it behoves the British Government to abolish the levy of this pass fee on opium from Native Chiefs. The people therefore are not willing and able to bear the cost of prohibitive measures. No duty is levied on foreign wines and spirits imported into India, and therefore their consumption is increased very much. If any duty is imposed on them, the revenue derived therefrom will more than recoup the loss to be sustained by Government by the abolition of the duty on opium. The increased consumption of liquor in India has reduced the people to a very poor state. Not only does the use of liquor produce evil effects on their body, but it leads to heinous crimes. Why then should such an article be not taxed? No such prohibition should extend to Native States.

24,629. Have you anything further you wish to say?—I have been eating opium for the last 30 or 35 years. I am about 63 years of age. I have not suffered at all from this habit and my physical condition is as it was before.

24,630. What is the revenue of the Limri State?—Five and a half lakhs.

24,631. How many opium shops are there?—Up to last year there were five or six opium shops; but this year there is only one.

24,632. Is there any particular reason for the diminution in the number?—The other shops were closed with a view to reduce the sale of opium.

24,633. How many liquor-shops are there?—There are two liquor-shops, both in the town of Limri.

24,634. If the villagers want liquor must they go into the town to get it?—Yes.

24,635. You say the use of opium is generally commended; why, then, was any attempt made to reduce the consumption by shutting up the shops?—What I have said in my evidence in praise of opium is my own personal opinion.

24,636. What is the age of the Thakur Sahib?—Thirty-five.

24,637. Was he educated in the Rajkumar College?—Yes; and he has visited England three times.

24,638. You say that you yourself have eaten opium for the last 30 or 35 years; how much do you eat?—I take six grains twice a day.

24,639. You have said that the Chiefs ought not to be obliged to pay any pass fee on opium; do you say that on behalf of your Chief, or, is that your own opinion?—I believe it is my Chief's opinion, but he did not tell me to say so. My Chief was at Bombay, and he merely ordered me to give evidence on behalf of the State.

24,640. (Mr. Poase.) Do you think it is a good habit for persons in health to take opium?—No.

Mr.
Lakshmanrao
Gangadhar.
(Limri State.)

Mr.
Lakshmanrao
Gangadhar.
(Limri
State.)

10 Feb. 1894.

24,641. (Chairman.) Then why did you take to it originally?—It was owing to the bad company I got into.

24,642. Is the custom of taking opium decreasing?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

24,643. Is that through the influence of the Thakur Sahib, or what?—The Thakur Sahib is a great reformer, and he sets an example.

24,644. Is the Thakur Sahib a member of Council?—He was a member of the Legislative Council.

Mr.
Leherchand
Lalchand
(Limri
State.)

Mr. LEHERCHAND LALCHAND called in and examined (through an interpreter).

24,645. (Chairman.) What is your profession?—I am an opium vendor of Limri. Previously I was a servant of the opium farmer in the Ahmedabad District.

24,646. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I am acquainted with the district of Ahmedabad and the province of Kathiawar, in which Rajputs, Girasias, Brahmins, Kathis, Kolis, Baniyas, Bharwads, Rabaris, and Musalmans eat opium.

24,647. What is your experience as regards the effect of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people?—The habit of opium eating does not produce any evil effect on the moral condition of the consumer, and from my own experience, I can say that an opium eater keeps good health and is not injured in any way, by the use of the drug. Opium is beneficial to the labourers as it alleviates fatigue. It is of great use to men on night watch and in warfare. It is administered to young children who keep good health thereby and remain quiet. In old age the use of opium strengthens the body. In Gujarat and Kathiawar it is the custom among the people named above to prepare and sip kasumbha and offer others to sip it on occasions of weddings and funerals, and on holidays, and when guests are assembled. This custom is said to be honourable. If one does not follow this custom he is despised. I do not know that any crime has been the result of opium eating.

24,648. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to

bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—Opium is a very useful article. It is a specific against many diseases. From the time the cultivation of poppy was stopped in this part of the country, opium oil has become much dearer and the people suffer a great deal thereby. When opium agreements with Native States were first entered into, the British Government used to supply opium to Native Chiefs at cost price. Now pass fee at Rs. 700 per chest is recovered from them. This tax is double the value of the opium, and its burden is thrown on the poor people. It should therefore be abolished.

24,649. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes, and could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?—I am of opinion that the sale of opium in British India as well as in Native States should not be prohibited.

24,650. How long have you been in Limri?—My ancestors came from there.

24,651. Is the use of opium less common than it was?—Yes.

24,652. What is the reason?—Government has taxed opium very much and made it dearer.

24,653. Is there any opium-smoking?—No. They drink opium.

24,654. Do you think any opium gets into the State other than that which comes from the Government depôts?—Besides my supervision, the Durbar's restrictive arrangement is so great that nobody can bring smuggled opium.

The witness withdrew.

Sheth
Devchand
Nagar.
(Mansa
State.)

SHETH DEVCHAND NAGAR called in and examined (through an interpreter).

24,655. (Chairman.) Where do you come from?—Mansa.

24,656. What are you by profession?—I am a merchant.

24,657. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I have experience about the Mahi Kantha agency, wherein opium is consumed to a large extent among the Bhats, Charans, Girasias, Kolis, and Kathis. It is also consumed to some extent among the Brahmins, Baniyas, and other classes of people.

24,658. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—The consumption of opium has no baneful effect on the moral condition of the people, nor on the physical condition of those who can afford to eat good food. But one who takes opium in excess and gets insufficient food is weakened in body.

24,659. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India, in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—From ancient times it has been customary to use opium on occasions of wedding, funeral, and social gathering. Hence the people would be dissatisfied if such use were stopped. In my opinion the people would not be willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures.

24,660. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes, and could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?—No; for, besides eating opium, the people use the poppy and its oil, and by its being exported from one country to another it becomes an article of trade. Moreover, the poppy is used as medicine. I am acquainted with the Native States in the Mahi Kantha agency. It is not possible to prohibit the sale of opium in those states, as they contain many persons who are habitual opium-eaters, and who use it according to ancient usage. Such is my opinion. But if opium be sold, and the poppy cultivated in the manner which prevailed from 1877, neither government nor the people will suffer any injury.

24,661. Is the habit of taking opium decreasing or increasing?—It is decreasing.

24,662. What are the reasons?—The government has raised the price and made certain restrictions. Before 1878 opium was used much more than it is now.

24,663. Do you think it a good thing or not that the price of opium has been raised, and that it is more difficult to obtain?—It is good for Government, but it is bad for the ryots and traders, because in the old days people were allowed to grow opium and it was cheap. They earned their bread by it.

24,664. Are you a large dealer in opium yourself?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to Monday next at Bombay.

At the Town Hall, Bombay.

SIXTY-NINTH DAY.

Monday, 12th February 1894.

PRESENT :

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B. (CHAIRMAN, PRESIDING).

Sir JAMES B. LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.
 Sir WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.
 The Honourable Sir LACHMESWAR SINGH BAHADUR, K.C.I.E., Maharaja of Dharbhanga.
 Mr. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P.

Mr. A. U. FANSHAWE.
 Mr. ARTHUR PEASE.
 Mr. HARIDAS VECHARIDAS DESAI.
 Mr. H. J. WILSON, M.P.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT, C.I.E., *Secretary*.

The Hon. T. D. MACKENZIE called in and examined.

24,665. (*Chairman*.) Will you state to the Commission the position that you fill?—I am at present acting commissioner of customs, salt, opium, and abkari, in the Bombay Presidency.

24,666. You desire to hand in a statement?—Yes.
 *Note on the system of excise management of opium in the Bombay Presidency.

The witness withdrew.

Brigade-Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel JAMES ARNOTT, M.D., called in and examined.

24,668. (*Sir William Roberts*.) You are physician in charge of St. George's Hospital, Bombay?—Yes.

24,669. Will you tell us what opportunities you have had for studying the effect of opium on the natives of India?—I am a brigade-surgeon lieutenant-colonel in the Bombay Medical Service, and on April 1st, 1894, shall have 27 years' service. Most of my service has been in the Bombay hospitals, but I have also served in Poona, where I had charge of a jail and lunatic asylum, and I have served with troops in the field in Abyssinia and Afghanistan. I have no experience of other parts of India than those mentioned, except what I have gained as chief medical adviser of the Oriental Government Security Life Insurance Company, Limited, with which I have been connected almost from its commencement, about 20 years. A considerable part of my service has been at the European General Hospital (now called St. George's Hospital) Bombay, but I served about 18 months in charge of the Gokaldas Tejpal Hospital, a native hospital, and about nine years at the Obstetric Hospital, and Hospital for Women and Children in connexion with the Sir Jamsetji Jijibhai's Hospital, also a native hospital.

24,670. Is opium much used by the natives in this neighbourhood?—Opium appears to be but little used by the adult population of this part of India. I cannot state the proportion per mille of persons using it, but I believe the proportion to be small. European or Eurasian opium eaters are very rare, it is rare also in the Parsi community. But I have met with opium eaters among Marwaris, Baniyas, and Mahomedans. Taking the population as a whole I have no evidence to show that in Bombay opium eating is at all common. I should say it is rare.

24,671. What is your experience of the habit of giving opium to infants?—The habit of giving opium to infants is very common among all classes except Europeans and Parsis. It is considered to be beneficial to infants during the period of teething, but probably the chief reason for giving it is to quiet children.

24,672. What has been your experience with regard to prisoners?—When I was in charge of the Poona Jail in 1871, a ration of opium was given to a few Chinese and Malays, and to Waghirs, a tribe from the Kathia-

24,667. As we are receiving it now for the first time it will not be possible for us with any advantage to examine you upon it to-day. We will take the delivery of it from you now, and ask you to attend later in order to answer any questions which the members of the Commission may desire to put?—I shall be happy to attend at any time on receiving an intimation.

war coast, of whom there were a considerable number of prisoners in jail. The Chinese and Malays did not appear to be in any way injuriously affected by the drug, and the Waghirs were of fine physique, and healthy and intelligent. There was in the jail one man who had taken opium to excess and who was in bad health, but I cannot say that his bad health was entirely due to opium eating.

24,673. You say that the practice of giving opium to infants is very common in this neighbourhood?—Yes, very common.

24,674. Have you noticed any evil effects from the practice?—On infants who are otherwise well cared for, the use of opium has not the bad effect I was prepared to expect. I have seen many infants to whom opium was habitually given quite well nourished and healthy, but others ill-fed and ill-cared for are emaciated, and no doubt among these last there is a large mortality. In such cases it is not easy to separate the effects of opium from the other causes of infantile mortality in large towns.

24,675. What is your impression of the good or bad effect of the consumption of opium?—Although I have strong opinions against the use of narcotics and intoxicants, I am unable to say from personal experience that the moderate use of opium is injurious, but the excessive use is injurious, causing loss of appetite, disordered digestion, emaciation, diarrhoea, dropsy, and by diminishing mental energy and alertness injurious to the well-being of the individual. I have known opium used in diabetes, asthma, sciatica, and such chronic and painful ailments. Its moderate use in such cases is beneficial. I am in the habit of prescribing it, variously combined, in fevers and inflammations, and with marked benefit. I am quite certain that it is a valuable remedy in malarial fevers, and though I have not used it as a prophylactic, preferring other remedies, I believe it would be a useful prophylactic.

24,676. I suppose you can scarcely give us any idea of the proportion of those who go to injurious excess amongst opium eaters?—I believe the proportion to be small.

24,677. Would you think it one per cent. ?—I cannot give any definite opinion as to the proportion.

24,678. Comparing the use of opium with the use of alcohol, what conclusions have you come to?—Opium

*The Hon. T.
 D. Mackenzie.*

12 Feb. 1894.

*Brig.-Surg.
 Lt.-Col. J.
 Arnett, M.D.*

* See Appendix XX. to this Volume.

Brig.-Surg.
Lt.-Col. J.
Arnott, M.D

12 Feb. 1894.

has by no means as serious effects as alcohol. The use of alcohol, except in the most moderate doses, is as injurious to natives as to Europeans, and causes a large mortality. In European hospitals many ailments are due to the immoderate use of alcohol, and many also to the so-called moderate use; and the same applies to native hospitals. When in charge of the Gokaldas Tejpal Hospital many cases, and notably abscess of the liver, were caused by alcohol, and at the Obstetric Hospital I met a few similar cases. Evidence of a similar kind is found in Storehead's Work on Tropical Diseases, published many years ago. Alcoholic drunkards are frequently admitted into native hospitals. On the other hand, opium eaters, except suicides, are not commonly admitted solely for the effects of the drug, and while opium may be used by people of unsound health who are patients in hospital, the number of patients admitted for the remote effects of opium eating alone are not very common. I mean that diseases solely due to opium eating are not common.

24,679. Have you made any post-mortem examinations of persons who have used opium in injurious excess?—I am unable to say that I have in the post-mortem room seen lesions due to opium eating, while those due to alcohol are common.

24,680. Have you noticed what the effect of the opium habit is on the mental faculties?—I have met business men habitually using opium who were successful merchants and bankers.

24,681. Would you like to make any other observations on the question?—When on service in Abyssinia and Afghanistan, the opium question did not excite any interest. I do not remember to have treated a single man in either campaign for the effects of opium, nor do I remember anyone being punished for crime the result of opium eating. I cannot say the same of alcohol.

24,682. What has been your experience in regard to life assurance?—Among proposers for life assurance the proportion of opium eaters is very small, and in nearly 20 years I cannot recollect a single death due to its moderate or even immoderate habitual use. While few natives confess to the opium habit, a considerable number of all castes confess to alcohol drinking. Judging by my experience as a physician in charge of hospitals, and as a referee for an insurance company, I should say that the effect of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people of India is trifling, and does not call for parliamentary intervention.

24,683. Is there, do you think, any improvement in regard to the habit of using alcohol?—I am able to say that as regards the European population of this part of India there has been during the past 25 years a great improvement as regards alcohol drinking, due no doubt to education, enlightenment, and public opinion, and similar results may be expected as regards opium in the districts, where it is more used than it is in Bombay. In hospital and private practice there is abundant evidence of the evil effects of alcohol on the health, of its degrading influence on the character, and of its effects as a cause of crime. Such effects from opium eating are not common. The evil effects of alcohol are constantly seen, those from opium have rather to be sought for. I should like to add a remark on the question of the diminution in the use of alcohol. I have been particularly struck, since I rejoined the hospital, with the small number of cases of alcoholism, and more especially with the almost entire absence of delirium tremens, as compared with my experience there as junior officer 25 years ago. On looking over some old records the other day, I found that the same point had been referred to by one of my predecessors in charge of the hospital—the diminution in the drunkenness as evidenced by the

admissions into St. George's Hospital of Europeans and Eurasians during the past 25 years.

24,684. I should think, from your account, that the number of people in middle or advanced life who use opium habitually, like wine or tobacco, is not very great in Bombay?—It has not obtruded itself in any way on one's attention. From my experience here, I should say that the number was not very great.

24,685. (Mr. Pease.) Were the troops on service in Abyssinia in possession of opium?—I think that probably they were, but I cannot say positively whether they were or not. The question did not arise in any way.

24,686. No opium was served out to them, I suppose?—No, as far as I know.

24,687. In Afghanistan they would supply themselves with opium, I suppose?—Yes. In each regiment there is a regimental Bania, who supplies whatever they require. I do not know whether he gave opium or not, probably he did.

24,688. We have been told before that in the Afghanistan campaign they purchased for themselves at the regimental canteen?—I should think that probably they did.

24,689. Do you observe in your experience any change as to the number of persons who consume opium, or in the amount consumed?—I cannot say that I do.

24,690. (Mr. Mowbray.) You say that a few natives confess to the opium habit, but that a considerable number confess to alcohol drinking; do you think that that arises from any feeling that opium is more disgraceful than alcohol, or anything of that kind, or that there are more natives who take alcohol than there are natives who take opium?—I have no opportunity of forming an opinion. I should think that there are more natives generally—certainly on this side of India—who take alcohol than there are who take opium. My experience is that there is a great deal of alcohol drinking among the natives.

24,691. Do you attribute your remark that few natives confess to the opium habit to any feeling on their part that it is a disgraceful habit?—I cannot tell you. I think it is possible that they may consider it a disgraceful habit, but I have no knowledge either one way or the other about it.

24,692. (Mr. Haridas Vekaridas.) I gather from what you have said that you think that the effects of alcohol are more injurious than those of opium?—Certainly.

24,693. Would you like to see some more restrictive measures in regard to alcohol than there are at present?—I should certainly like to see the habit of alcohol drinking diminished among my native friends.

24,694. Would you like to have those restrictions made in connexion with alcohol before taking any steps with regard to opium?—I think alcohol is more dangerous than opium eating, as far as my experience goes.

24,695. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Is opium given to infants among the well-to-do classes in Bombay?—Yes.

24,696. Do you think that in the case of those classes the chief reason for giving it is to keep the children quiet?—There are two reasons, and I believe that is the chief reason; but another is that some people believe that opium is beneficial.

24,697. The well-to-do classes would have no necessity, like the poorer classes, to keep their children quiet, because they would be able to have servants?—Yes; I know that there is a belief among some of the better classes that the use of opium from birth to two years of age is beneficial.

The witness withdrew.

Brigade-Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel J. A. MACONACHIE, M.D., M.R.C.P., called in and examined.

24,698. (*Sir William Roberts*.) You are, I believe, Ophthalmic Surgeon and Principal of Grant Medical College?—Yes.

24,699. Have you had any experience in regard to the effect of the opium habit on operations?—On persons about to subject themselves to operations.

24,700. Would you give us an account of your experience?—Having often heard of the supposed deleterious effects of the consumption of opium by natives of India, I, as an ophthalmic surgeon, having many operations to perform on elderly people, as for cataract, at an early period of my practice supposed that surgical operations on opium eaters must prove disastrous, and for several years in every case made minute inquiries as to the consumption of opium by patients about to undergo operation. Natives of Bombay were not so much given to opium as people from Kathiawar, Cutch, and other northern districts, and these in most cases used opium. The quantity, as a rule, was small—say one pice worth (about 7 grains) per day or two days, in pill. The people who used opium did not apparently differ in appearance from those not using opium, and so far as I could see it had no deleterious effects whatever. They recovered from the operations in exactly the same numbers as non-consumers, and were preferable patients to tobacco smokers, who in spite of all rules to the contrary will smoke tobacco in the hospital wards. For a number of years I have made no inquiries on the subject, as I came to the conclusion that the moderate consumer of opium received no more evil effect from it than the moderate consumer of tobacco from the latter drug. Immoderate consumers of both opium and tobacco suffer harm, the latter causing blindness and other affections of the nervous system, the former disorders, chiefly of the digestive organs.

24,701. How would you compare the use of alcohol with the use of opium?—As regards the use of alcohol and opium, I hold the same opinions as those who have expressed themselves strongly in favour of opium as compared with alcohol. The latter in the tropics, unless taken in very small quantities, is a most deleterious poison. Opium in large quantities is also, of course, highly objectionable, but less so than alcohol.

24,702. In your experience what have you found to be the reasons why people have taken up with the opium habit?—As to why people commence to take opium, it is not easy to give an answer; so in the same way it is difficult to say why people smoke tobacco. The reasons which a tobacco smoker can give for using this drug will probably hold good for opium in many cases. Undoubtedly both classes of people appear to find pleasure in consuming these substances, and opium undoubtedly is often consumed on account of various ailments in which it gives relief. Before coming to India, while practising as assistant to a surgeon near the Wash in Lincolnshire, a damp, low-lying, malarious district, I found that the labouring classes often suffered from ague, rheumatism, and bowel complaints, and the use of opium was very general. It appeared to be used mainly to ease the aches, pains, and shiverings so common among the people with a malarious taint, where the symptoms very frequently did not reach to the extent of causing regular ague. It was much cheaper than quinine, which cost at that time (1865) about 12s. an ounce, whereas opium cost about the same price per pound, and a small quantity of opium served the purpose required. If it be true that the contraction of the superficial blood vessels caused by the over-sensibility of the nerves in malarious people is prevented by opium, and the shivering quickly ceases, it is easy to understand why opium is used by such persons all over the world. It appears to me, then, that the energetic Europeans and Americans, as a whole, prefer tobacco as a stimulant and sedative, while phlegmatic Orientals prefer opium, and it will be just as easy by Act of Parliament to compel the Englishman to give up his tobacco as the native of India to give up his opium.

24,703. Have you had any personal experience of the effect of the opium habit in regard to malarious complaints?—Yes, while I was assistant to a medical practitioner in Lincolnshire.

24,704. I speak of India?—I have not much experience.

24,705. Reverting to your experience in Lincolnshire, did you observe that there was a tendency to the formation of the opium habit in that district, people

taking it occasionally, medicinally, for the pains and aches of malarial conditions?—There seemed to be a very large amount of opium consumed in the district, but as to your question I am not quite certain. I may mention that I was living in a small town of about 4,000 inhabitants. There were five medical men and five large chemists' shops. These chemists had no opportunity of making up prescriptions, and they made a living by selling opium; so that opium was sold in very large quantities to the labouring classes.

24,706. (*Sir James Lyall*.) I will read to you a letter which I have lately received from Mr. Thomas Stiles, aged 95, formerly an apothecary of Wisbech, and I will ask you whether you think that your experience in the Lincolnshire Fens confirms his account:—

21, St. Thomas' Road, Spalding,
12th October 1893.

SIR JAMES,

My friend Mr. Joe Calthrop has solicited me to write to you in compliance with the wishes of Miss Broadwood respecting the consumption of opium in this district and its effects on the health, &c. of those who indulged in the habit of taking it. There are but few men living who have had a better opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of the subject than myself, and I most cheerfully set about giving you the best information in my power. I am in my 96th year of age. I have lived in the Fens of Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire all my life, in which the consumption of opium was at one time enormous, and at the same time ague most extensively prevailed. On the completion of my 15th year (1813) I commenced my apprenticeship at Wisbech, in the centre of the Fens of Cambridgeshire, with a surgeon in large practice, who, as common at that time, had a retail trade, and daily I supplied a vast number with either opium or laudanum.

In consequence of the undrained condition of the country ague was frequently succeeded by rheumatism, and Professor Miller, in an elaborate work entitled "Fenland Past and Present" supposes (and with much justice) that the old apothecaries administered opium to relieve the pains caused by those affections. Thus what was at first used simply as a medicine came in time to be habitually used as a stimulant. When the habit had taken deep root, the desire for the periodic dose became irresistible, and every consideration of home necessities was sacrificed. The amount of opium consumed in the commencement of the present century in this form was enormous, and it is surprising the quantity of laudanum which was taken with impunity, after being habituated to its use. During my apprenticeship (76 years ago) I served a miserable-looking old man (Tom Williamson) with an ounce and half of laudanum, which he swallowed in the presence of two medical men, who watched its effect, which was only to give him a comfortable nap. In 1826 I commenced practice near Spalding in the centre of the Fens of Lincolnshire. I also established a retail trade, and disposed of large quantities of opium and laudanum. I was 52 years in active practice, indeed, until I had reached my 80th year, and 10 years later, until I had reached my 90th year, I discharged the duties of Medical Officer of Health.

The following is the result of my experience. In proportion as a more perfect system of drainage had been effected, so did ague decrease.

I have explained that opium was at first administered to relieve the sufferings caused by ague and rheumatism. Under a more perfect system of drainage, by which the superabundant moisture of the soil was carried off, and its very surface brought into the highest state of fertility that it has so long ceased to emit malaria, and aided by the people being better fed, clothed, and housed than formerly, ague, once the horror of the Fens, has been so long eradicated that there must be a vast number of medical men who have been many years in practice and who have never seen a case of genuine intermittent fever. The senior druggists in this town (Spalding) assure me that the consumption of opium diminishes annually.

Was the life of the opium eater shortened, or did it create disease? During my professional career extending over a period of 62 years I cannot call to my remembrance that life has been shortened by the use of opium or its being the cause of disease.

Tom Williamson was upwards of 70 when I left Wisbech in 1818, and he lived several years afterwards.

Brig.-Surg.
Lt.-Col. J. A.
Maconachie,
M.D.,
M.R.C.P.

12 Feb. 1894.

Brig.-Surg.
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In my own practice I have known opium eaters who lived to old ages. Their lives were spent in a two-fold state, one of depression and another of excitability. In the earlier part of the day they were careworn and dejected, but give them a pill of opium and the system would be renovated, and those who lived by their own industry would do a better day's work than those who were not addicted to the habit. I have drawn up the best report I am able; if of any service to you I shall be amply repaid.

I am, Sir James,
Yours most respectfully,
THOMAS STILES, M.R.C.S.

--At the time I was there there was a great deal of malaria. I lived in a town called Holbeach, which was opposite the middle of the Wash, and there was a great deal of malaria and ague there. I was assistant to a surgeon who was a parish doctor, and attended the Union Workhouse Infirmary, so that I had a good opportunity of seeing the working classes. We had a great deal of ague. I remember that the expenditure on quinine was so great that I took to using arsenic in large quantities. We also introduced cheaper substances, such as cinchonine, with a view of saving expenditure on quinine.

24,707. I believe that part of the Fen district has been drained, and that part remains undrained?—These were drained. There were dykes or deep ditches; the country was under the level of the sea, so that at high water the water was all kept back by locks, and during the winter the whole country was under water. The fields could only be drained at low-water. The place where I lived was about six miles from the sea as the crow flies, and in that district it was very damp.

24,708. Mr. Stiles's experience was about Wisbech?—That is further on. Where I lived was right in the centre of the Wash.

The witness withdrew.

Surgeon Colonel H. Cook, M.D., called in and examined.

Surg.-Col.
H. Cook,
M.D.

24,715. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You are Principal Medical Officer in the Nagpur district?—Yes.

24,716. What opportunities have you had of observing the effect of the opium habit on the natives of India?—I can only give a general opinion or answers on the subject, as it is one which has never until recently claimed my special attention, and never particularly obtruded itself on my notice.

24,717. You have been in the course of your service in Gujarat?—Yes.

24,718-19. What was your experience there as to the use of opium?—During a residence of several years in Gujarat it became known to me that opium was in frequent use among the natives of that part of India, and that its use was not confined to any particular section of the people, and that it was not only used by the adult population, but also given to young children for the purpose of keeping them quiet, and allowing the parents to follow their ordinary occupation. My personal knowledge of people addicted to the use of opium has been principally confined to prisoners in jail, who not infrequently stated on admission that they were in the habit of using the drug, and that if its stoppage were enforced they would get ill and be unable to work. As a matter of fact it was found in many of these cases that stoppage of the drug led to diarrhoea or pains in the limbs, and rendered the patient unfit for work, and in these cases it was necessary to give opium to a moderate extent and gradually diminish the quantity as time passed, until, in a variable time, the patient could do without the drug altogether. Not infrequently other medicinal treatment had to be used in conjunction with the opium. Others again, and these were those who only used small quantities of opium, could stand the total stoppage of the drug without any serious ill-effects. There were a good number of old and emaciated prisoners admitted, partly from want of proper food and partly perhaps from excessive use of opium; but how far the emaciation had been induced by opium or starvation I am unable to say. I have also observed in persons addicted to excessive use of opium a condition of mental torpor or decrepitude induced, which seemed to be clearly due to the abuse of opium, and I have occasionally noticed in the case of lunatic asylums under my charge that

24,709. (*Sir William Roberts.*) Broadly, your experience of what you saw in Lincolnshire corresponds with the experience of this very old practitioner who has written to Sir James Lyall?—Yes, to a very great extent. I never saw any particular harm from the opium these people took. They seemed to take it in quantities to suit their complaints. They suffered a good deal from aches and pains, and when the disease got so far as a bad attack of ague they came to the parish doctor.

24,710. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Did you suppose that surgical operations on opium eaters would prove disastrous, from what you had heard of the consumption of opium by the natives of India, or from your experience in Lincolnshire?—From what I had read in missionary magazines and books of that sort. I had heard of the evil effects of opium upon natives of the tropics, and I thought it must be different from my experience with the natives of England. I was, therefore, always on my guard when operating upon elderly persons who had a history of opium eating.

24,711. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Do I understand you to say that opium eating in India is as common as the use of tobacco in England?—I cannot say.

24,712. Do you think that giving up tobacco smoking is as difficult as giving up opium smoking?—I am not a tobacco smoker, but my friends who have given up tobacco seem to suffer as much as my acquaintances who take opium.

24,713. Is it your experience that the habit of opium eating enslaves a person, inasmuch as if he does not get it at the regular time he feels useless until he gets his dose?—I have not had much general experience of opium outside my hospital, and I cannot answer the question.

24,714. Opium is given for aches and pains and shiverings?—Yes, it relieves the pains for the time; it is a powerful anodyne.

opium is sometimes set down as a supposed cause of insanity, though, so far as my personal knowledge goes, I have never known insanity to be the result of opium alone, though it would appear to be frequently the result of indulgence in hemp preparations or alcohol in one form or another.

24,720. What is your general impression as to the effect of the moderate use of opium?—As to the moderate use of opium (and I think I may say that the great majority of the people who use it do not use it to excess), I think that on the whole its use is beneficial, particularly to those who are ill-fed, badly clothed and housed, and have to work hard under all conditions of weather and season, and in the majority of cases no harm results from its use. I know the habit continued for years is not incompatible with good health, active mental powers, and longevity, and I am of opinion that the benefits derived from its use as a whole considerably exceed the injurious effects following its abuse.

24,721. I presume you speak exclusively of the natives of India?—Yes.

24,722. Have you any cases in which crime has been the result of the use of opium?—I have never known crime as a result of the use of opium, unless it has been deliberately used as a poison, and then it is the agent of a criminal and not the instigator to crime, and I have never seen an organic lesion in the course of a post-mortem examination which could be attributed to the habitual use of opium.

24,723. Has it struck you in your experience that for some reason or another the natives of India react towards opium very differently from the inhabitants of Europe?—I cannot say that I have had any experience of the use of opium among European people at all. I speak of its use in India.

24,724. You have occasionally, I presume, seen cases in which opium has been used in injurious excess?—Occasionally habitually used.

24,725. What were the facts that attracted your attention in these cases?—My experience of these cases where injurious effects have been observed has been principally among prisoners and people of that sort, who have been poor and ill-fed and probably com-

mitted some crime to get into jail. It is very difficult to say how far the result may be due to previous disease or anything else.

24,726. So that you scarcely express a very clear opinion as to the fact of the opium habit pursued to excess pure and simple?—I could not say.

24,727. (*Mr. Pease.*) You speak of the benefits derived from its use; I suppose you mean benefits of a medical or semi-medical character?—The popular idea is that it enables people to withstand the liability to malarious fevers, and enables them, as it undoubtedly does, to undergo considerable fatigue which they otherwise would not be able to do. I mean that it is beneficial in that way. It is not necessarily a medical use; it is dietetic rather than medical.

24,728. You would not advise a person in good health

The witness withdrew.

Surgeon-Major D. N. PARAKH called in and examined.

24,733. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You are surgeon to the Gokaldas Tejpal Hospital, Bombay?—Yes.

24,734. To what district or districts of the Presidency and to what races are your observations applicable?—My observations apply to the cities of Poona and Bombay, and are principally confined to Mahomedans and Gujarati Hindus. In my capacity as assistant civil surgeon of Poona in charge of the Sassoon Hospital, and also as surgeon in charge of the Gokaldas Tejpal Hospital, I have come across several opium eaters and a few opium smokers. Most of these opium eaters were Mahomedan beggars and labourers and a few were Hindu beggars. In my private practice also at both these places I have met some opium eaters amongst the better classes of Hindus and Mahomedans, and in one or two cases they were Parsis and Eurasians.

24,735. Are there many consumers in Bombay?—The population of Bombay by the last census is said to be 821,764, and there are said to be 7,600 opium consumers. The proportion per mille of persons using it would then be 9.24.

24,736. What have you noticed as to the effect of the use of opium?—Moderate indulgence in the habit of eating opium, say to the extent of from 3 to 10 grains per day, which is the quantity, I am told, generally used by opium eaters, produces exhilaration of spirits, brilliancy of the eye, increased activity of the imagination—sometimes of the voluptuous kind—stimulation of the powers of conversation, increased nervous and mental energy, followed by a period of quiet repose and satisfaction, an agreeable languor, relief from any existing pains and aches, forgetfulness of mental troubles, and, lastly, quiet sleep. The habit makes the man more quiet and reserved, more fond of his own company and of self-communion, and more shy of mixing in society. The moral character is not affected beyond this. On the bodily functions the effects are equally harmless; there is a feeling of warmth owing to increased circulation, increased perspiration, a firm and elastic step, and diminished appetite; the eater under its influence keeps his fast with comfort. The habit enables the overworked and under-fed labourer or the beggar wandering in the streets to endure fatigue and privation; it relieves muscular rheumatic pains and neuralgic pains to which by reason of hard work and exposure he is specially predisposed. It retards peristaltic movement of the intestine, and so allows time for his food hurriedly taken, or taken under difficulties, or at irregular times, or under unfavourable circumstances, to be leisurely absorbed and assimilated. The only drawback is constipation and the craving for the dose when its effects have passed off.

24,737. Have you noticed the effect of using opium in injurious excess?—The abuse of opium continued over a long time may possibly produce degenerative changes in the brain and consequent deterioration of the moral and mental faculties, as the abuse of any other such powerful drug would produce; but I have not seen any cases to support this presumption. On the physical condition the effects vary according to race and individual idiosyncrasy. From slight gastric catarrh causing nausea and vomiting and loss of appetite, headache and constipation to diarrhoea,

to adopt the opium habit, would you?—No; I have never advised anyone to do so.

24,729. You would not think it a good thing for a young man in good health to commence the opium habit?—I never thought about it in that relation.

24,730. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) You say that until recently the subject never claimed you special attention. What is it that has recently called your attention to it?—The fact of this Commission having been appointed.

24,731. It is not anything which has come before you medically?—No; because recently it has been entirely out of my observation.

24,732. I presume I may take it from you that if the medical evils of opium had been as great as is sometimes alleged your attention would have been drawn to them before now?—They would have forced themselves on me long ago.

serious general malnutrition, emaciation, and exhaustion; there are met with several degrees of suffering. In considering the exhaustion and emaciation it must be borne in mind that the very diseases for the relief of which opium is often taken may have much to answer for them.

24,738. How is opium used by habitual users?—Opium is most often eaten by itself; sometimes it is mixed with saffron and bhang. I have very little experience of opium smokers. Very few of my hospital cases smoked opium. I should say that opium smoking was much more injurious than opium eating.

24,739. Is opium used as a prophylactic against malarial conditions?—Opium is said by the natives to be a prophylactic against diarrhoea, ague, and cholera. I know of instances in which it appeared to me that persons otherwise predisposed to malarious fevers escaped them because they were opium eaters. On many occasions when I asked opium eaters why they began the habit, they declared that it was to relieve aching of limbs, feelings of chilliness, and symptoms which are best expressed by the phrase "general malaise." Now these very symptoms are often the precursors of an attack of some forms of malarious fevers. There is no doubt in my mind, from my own experience, and the highest authorities in England bear me out, that the most certain preventive measure in times of cholera epidemics is to check the preliminary diarrhoea, and the best remedy to do that is opium; and no wonder, therefore, that natives have a belief in its prophylactic power against cholera.

24,740. What, according to your experience, has been the effect of the habitual use of opium by the natives of India?—The consequences of the use of opium as habitually indulged in by natives are not by any means as serious as those which follow the use of alcohol. The moderate alcohol drinker taking country liquor, if he takes it undiluted or slightly diluted for any length of time, lays the foundation of stomach or liver diseases or bowel complaints; if he takes it very much diluted he still injures his kidneys, and in both cases his brain, in the long run, suffers. However moderate he may be, provided he is a habitual drinker, he is a bad subject for the administration of chloroform, and for bearing surgical injuries and operations, and he easily succumbs when attacked by acute disease. He has not the consolation of the opium eater that, however bad his symptoms may be, cessation of his habit would enable him to regain his lost health. He suffers morally and mentally also; at first the moral sense, then the will, and lastly the intellect are slowly debased, and the man gradually becomes unfit for his duties in life. The habitual opium eater suffers comparatively much less bodily and mentally. Individuals addicted to the opium habit not only frequently retain full possession of their intellect, but have the most perfect co-ordination of thought and action. Witness the high-class Baniyas and Bhatias and Marwaris who take opium (as an Englishman would take a cigar to clear his brain) just at the time when they have to put forth the best efforts of their brains for successful business transactions; and they are undoubtedly at the present day the most enterprising and successful business men in Bombay. I have seen a few Mahomedan gentlemen of the most unimpeachable moral character and high

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intellectual attainments take opium and retain those characteristics. I have never known opium eaters bear surgical operations or injuries badly; one Mahomedan, for instance, who had the most extensive and severe injuries during the recent Hindu-Mahomedan riots in Bombay, and who made the most remarkable recovery, was a confirmed opium eater. If alcohol is taken in excess, and large doses are taken for a long time, the man would either get delirium tremens and die; or if he survives he may have stomach, liver, heart, lung, brain, or spinal-cord diseases, with well-marked and serious structural alterations in all these organs, which would shorten his life and make it miserable and useless. Leaving off the alcoholic habit may prevent further mischief, but would never allow the previous organic mischief to be repaired. With the native opium eater who eats it to excess, tolerance increases with increasing doses, and very soon excessive doses are taken with impunity as far as immediate danger to life is concerned. The worst effects seen are obstinate constipation alternating with diarrhoea and emaciation. In some of these cases of emaciation that I had under observation at the hospital it was very difficult for me to decide as to how much of the emaciation was due to the chronic diarrhoea, or dysentery, or chronic bronchitis, or phthisis, for which the opium was habitually taken, and how much to the opium itself. The effects on the brain of excessive alcoholic indulgence are very serious indeed, and the man often ends his life in a lunatic asylum. Some of the worst behaved and most troublesome hospital patients are alcoholics. The alcoholic is dangerous both to himself and to society, as he may commit the most frightful crimes. The worst opium eaters never give any trouble in the hospital, and very many of them would not be known to be such, but for their asking for their opium supply, which is abruptly stopped on admission. I have never seen cases of insanity due to opium eating, and never had to give evidence in courts of law about the responsibility of opium eaters in cases of crime. The worst mental effects I have seen are a dulness of intellect, habitual drowsiness, and secretive habits. The worst troubles, however, of the nervous system in the opium eater are chiefly functional and of a transitory character, and if under proper medical advice the habit is stopped, they disappear, leaving the man's organs intact, and their functions but very slightly, if at all, impaired.

24,741. Have you had any post-mortem examinations of confirmed opium users?—I have had very few opportunities of making post-mortem examinations on the bodies of opium eaters. As far as I remember, I failed to detect any organic lesion in their organs. Even in cases of deaths from opium poisoning nothing beyond hyperæmia of the brain and serous effusions in the ventricles and congestion of the lungs is found.

24,742. What do you regard as one of the most important drawbacks to the opium habit?—An objectionable feature in the case of an opium eater, whether moderate or excessive, is that a condition of body and mind is brought about by the habit by which the ordinary functions of life are properly performed only if the drug is regularly taken; if opium is withdrawn suddenly, apparently dangerous symptoms come on, such as aches, pains, yawnings, shiverings, great mental and physical depression, nausea, vomiting, and even diarrhoea, and exhaustion. I said "apparently" advisedly, for all these symptoms may disappear either by the administration of the drug or by giving other medical stimulants, strychnia, &c. As the habitués are alarmed by these symptoms it is very difficult for them, unaided, to leave off the habit. I found it difficult in many cases to persuade them to stop the habit whilst under my care.

24,743. Would prohibition of the growth of poppies and the suppression of the opium habit lead in your opinion to the taking of other stimulants instead?—As to whether the cessation of the habit leads the opium eater to seek the effects he wants in other drugs or in alcohol, I cannot say much from experience. I know that opium eaters begin to take opium either because they have some chronic disease causing pain, or have a belief in its efficacy as a prophylactic, or they take it as a stimulant either to stimulate their mental faculties or to increase their bodily powers of endurance during severe exertion or hunger and starvation, or to have increased capacity for sexual pleasure; I know that opium is given to infants so that they may not cry and suffer the pangs of hunger or thirst during their mothers' absence when they are out on work in the

fields; and, lastly, we all know that amongst mankind there is a strong and universal craving for something that would, at the same time that it excites and stimulates, make one forget the troubles of life. Now if all these persons are deprived of their relief or enjoyment, I have no doubt they would have recourse to alcohol or cannabis Indica or other drugs.

24,744. According to your experience are the mental faculties impaired by the moderate use of opium?—As I mentioned before, the mental faculties are not impaired by moderate doses and very slightly by excessive doses, and so I consider an opium eater is quite able to conduct his business successfully.

24,745. Would you like to make any further observations with regard to the use of opium?—I may mention that my observations of the effects of opium apply to intelligent patients, some of them people of means and refinement in private practice, and to a few in hospital practice. The opinions expressed by me are founded on my own experience. They differ from the opinions expressed in English medical books written by well-known authorities; but in judging between the two opinions it must be remembered (1) that there is a great difference between Europeans and natives in the tolerance of opium; I have known Europeans suffer severely from the effects of doses which would not produce any effects on a native; I have known European babies easily becoming drowsy and even comatose under the smallest doses of opium which would not affect at all, or at most produce quiet sleep, in native babies not previously accustomed to "bala goli"; (2) that when opium is taken in Europe it is taken either in great excess or in very objectionable forms, such as the hypodermic injection of morphia; (3) that there it is taken very often because the alcoholic habit is either broken off, or because after indulging in alcohol the depressing effects of it are sought to be counteracted by taking opium. The evil results are thus the combined results of alcohol and opium; (4) that the habit being a secret habit in Europe it is much more likely to be excessive. In India, particularly in some places, every one knows every one who takes opium and how much; it is offered as a glass of wine is offered, and the publicity is a check to overdosing. I was for two years in charge of the Obstetric Hospital in Bombay and for upwards of two years in charge of the Obstetric Department of the Sassoon Hospital, Poona, and I do not remember having met a single case of abortion or sterility caused by the opium habit.

24,746. I think you are, yourself, a native of India?—Yes, I am a Parsi.

24,747. Could you say that your acquaintance with the domestic life of Hindus and Mahomedans would be sufficiently intimate to enable you speak with authority in regard to the use of opium in their home life?—It is not sufficiently intimate. All my experience, as I have said, is derived from a few private patients and a few hospital patients.

24,748. (*Mr. Pease.*) Can you tell us how you obtained these statistics with regard to the number of opium eaters in Bombay?—I obtained them from an official source.

24,749. Has there been a census taken of the persons who consume opium?—Not that I know of.

24,750. How could any official return give the numbers?—I asked for information on the subject and I got it. I do not, myself, know how many opium eaters there are in Bombay.

24,751. Will you tell us the source from which you obtained these official figures?—Am I bound to mention it?

24,752. If you have reasons of your own, certainly not?—It was privately obtained.

24,753. (*Chairman.*) Have you reason to believe that these figures are tolerably exact?—I have every reason to believe that they are exact.

24,754. (*Sir William Roberts.*) But you could not tell whether they were obtained by any form of enumeration of opium eaters or by some estimate of the quantity?—I cannot tell how they were obtained. I only asked for the information because I did not know anything about it. I did not know how many opium eaters there are in Bombay. I asked for the information from a source where I thought I could obtain it.

24,755. (*Mr. Pease.*) You might, perhaps, be able to speak privately to the person from whom you obtained the information and ascertain whether it is possible to

put before us the way in which the figures were obtained?—I will ask the gentleman who supplied me with the information.

24,756. Do you think there is a difference of tolerance between a European and a native of the same age and same weight?—I think there is.

24,757. You think that there is a tolerance of the native and not of the European?—Yes; one bears the same dose much better than the other.

24,758. Have you, in your practice, met with instances of babies being injured in health or having lost their lives through doses of opium?—I have never met with cases where they were injured or killed by doses that are generally given to infants.

24,759. Have you known cases in which they have suffered from over doses?—By accident children have taken opium when it was in the way; in that way I may have met with a case of opium poisoning.

24,760. Would you say definitely whether you have?—I do not remember; but I have never met with any injurious effects from the usual way in which opium is given to infants.

24,761. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Your remarks about opium are applicable only to the limited portion of the population which you mention—less than 1 per cent.?—Yes.

24,762. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) It has been stated by Dr. Arnott that opium is not given to infants among Parsis; do you agree with the correctness of that statement?—Yes; I have never met with cases, but I have heard of cases where Parsi infants have been dosed with opium.

The witness withdrew.

Surgeon-Major H. W. B. Boyd, F.R.C.S.I., called in and examined.

24,769. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You are Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, Colaba?—Yes.

24,770. To what district or districts of the Presidency and to what races are your observations applicable?—My observations are applicable to Bombay city as well as to the Dharwar, Satara, and Khandesh collectorates in the Bombay Presidency.

24,771. What is your estimate of the extent to which opium is used among these populations?—I believe the use of opium is confined to from one to two per cent. of the population of these districts. In the city of Bombay the proportion is also one or two per mille, and is confined principally to people from Upper India and China, though a good many Hindus and Mussalmans of Bombay use the drug.

24,772. Of course in that computation you exclude the giving of opium to infants; you mean habitual users?—I refer to the habitual consumers of opium.

24,773. And your estimates are based upon the total population, not merely on adult males?—On the total population.

24,774. What has been your experience of the effects of the opium habit?—I do not think its moderate use has any appreciable effect in the moral or physical condition of the user, and I do not think that it conduces to crime or insanity.

24,775. What experience have you had of the abuses of the opium habit?—I have no knowledge of its abuse, and have only met two cases where it was taken in large doses, and in these cases the users were strong, healthy men, accustomed to lift boxes weighing 180 lbs. and carrying them from place to place.

24,776. What are the methods of consuming opium that you have observed?—There are four methods of consumption ordinarily practised, viz., crude opium; 2nd, by smoking "chandul"; 3rd, by smoking "madak"; and 4th, by drinking "kasumbha." The effects of each of these are much the same, only that by smoking the effect of the drug acts quicker than crude opium when it is taken by the mouth. Crude opium is taken in the form of pill. It acts when taken in moderation, 1st, as a stimulant; and 2nd, as narcotic, anodyne, and antispasmodic, operating chiefly through the cerebro-spinal system. It tends to diminish the secretions except that of the skin, which it increases. In over-doses it is poisonous.

24,777. Do you know anything about the use of opium in malarious districts?—I have heard of its

24,763. The practice is not common?—It is not common.

24,764. Could you, as a Parsi yourself, explain the reason for that difference in practice between the Parsis and the other races amongst which they are living?—Parsis, if their infants have ailments, are in the habit of consulting medical men more than other races; that may be one reason. Then there are no labouring classes among the Parsis, and there is no occasion for a mother to give opium to a child when she goes to do her work in the fields; that may be another reason.

24,765. Do you know any other reason for their not giving opium to infants?—I do not think there is any other reason; I cannot think of any other. Of course in the case of adults, they can take alcohol; there is no occasion for Parsi adults to take opium.

24,766. Do you think there is any connexion with race in this different mode of treating infants?—Not that I know of.

24,767. (*Sir James Lyall.*) One or two Indian witnesses have told us that according to indigenous systems of medicine, opium is thought to be suited to persons of cold or phlegmatic temperament and not to persons of hot-blooded temperament; is it not the general opinion that Europeans are more hot-blooded in constitution than natives of India are?—Yes.

24,768. Do you think that that might be some explanation of the fact that you have observed that a small dose of opium, which would have no injurious effect on a native of India, has sometimes an injurious effect on a European?—That may be a reason, though I am not quite prepared to say that it is.

being taken as a prophylactic in malarial districts, especially in Gujarat, where I have heard it is regularly taken in small doses once daily in the morning by the poorer classes; but I have no personal knowledge of its being so used. I have reason to believe that in cholera epidemics it is frequently used to ward off an attack, and to act as an astringent in premonitory diarrhoea.

24,778. Does the habitual use of opium by the natives of India lead to injury?—No. The habitual moderate consumption of opium is harmless. It leads to no organic changes in the system. It is a luxury, and is not followed by consequences as serious as those which follow the habitual consumption of alcohol. In moderate doses opium is stimulant and sedative; alcohol is more stimulant and irritating to the stomach and liver, and produces a greater reaction. In excess, opium produces narcosis and stupor, but does not produce any organic disease or pathological change in the system; whereas alcohol in excess produces delirium, organic changes, diseases of the liver and nervous system, delirium tremens, and hardening of the surface of the brain.

24,779. Have you anything to say with regard to post-mortem appearances in opium eaters?—No post-mortems have been made by me during the time I have acted as Superintendent in this Asylum, as no opium case died here during that time. I have never known any pathological change found on post-mortems of opium eaters, nor have I heard of such changes from others.

24,780. It is a difficult habit to give it up, is it not?—It can be given up quite easily by those who take it in moderation, but those who are weak-minded find it difficult, and those who take it to alleviate disease, as well as those who consume it to excess. By the latter it can only be given up slowly and by decreasing the dose very gradually. Except where given up slowly, there is a great liability to alcohol or hemp being substituted.

24,781. What effect has the use of opium on the mental faculties?—In moderate doses the habitual use seems to sharpen the intellect and make the consumer work harder and bear fatigue better. It is also said to lessen the appetite and enable the consumer to do with less food. It does not interfere with the consumer's ability to conduct his business successfully, but quite the contrary. I have no knowledge of it in excessive doses, except in two cases.

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24,782. Have you any other observations that you would like to make?—My experience has been 17 years in India, 3½ of which were in regimental employment, and 13 in civil, having been in charge of the Dhulia Jail as superintendent for about 7 years. I have also visited the Bombay opium smoking clubs, and I have not seen a single case which would leave me to believe that the opium used as it is in these clubs has acted injuriously. I have also examined two men who eat the opium in very large quantities. One is Mahadeo Kaulu Male. He comes from Khandalgaum, Poona zilla, age 40, married, with two children. He takes about 25 grains of opium a day. He is strong and well built, and does a lot of work. The other is Khunjlal Balloo, aged 50 years, married, two children. He is well built and strong. He takes 30 grains morning and evening. Both these men are employed in the the opium godown, where they lift and carry boxes of from 180 to 200 lbs. all day. They show no signs of deterioration and no ill results.

24,783. You have been for the last three years superintendent of the Asylum of Kolaba?—Yes, and I was superintendent for seven years of the Dhulia Jail.

24,784. Is the Kolaba Asylum a large one?—The average number of inmates is 285.

24,785. They are drawn from the people of this neighbourhood?—Principally from Bombay and the surrounding country.

24,786. Have you been able to trace opium as the cause of insanity?—No. In the 11 years from 1883 to 1893 we have had only three cases in which opium was put down as the probable cause, against 55 from spirit drinking and 103 from hemp drugs. In seven cases the certified medical officer said that the cause was unknown. In one case the cause was put down to ganja and opium combined. In one case I could not ascertain the cause, as the man was sent in 1886, long before I was attached to the Asylum, to Ratnagiri Asylum. In one case only the certifying officer put down opium as the cause.

24,787. I understand that the conviction has grown in your mind that, after all your experience, opium cannot be reckoned as an efficient cause of insanity?—Not at all. I have come to a very strong conclusion about it. I do not think that opium has ever produced or will ever produce insanity; that is my very strong opinion. It may, in large doses, produce hallucination for a short time, but never insanity of any form.

24,788. Has it been used in the treatment of insane persons amongst the natives of India?—It is frequently used in cases of mania; in fact, it is one of our best remedies in cases of acute mania.

24,789. I suppose you have no comparative experience with regard to the use of opium on the natives of India and on Europeans, as far as insanity is concerned?—I think that in cases of acute mania and many other forms opium is very beneficial, but the dose has to be larger when given to a native. The toxic effects are more easily produced by the same dose in a European than in a native.

24,790. Have you any further remarks that you would like to make on the same part of the subject?—I think not, except that I brought the records of two cases here.

24,791. (*Mr. Pease.*) You would use opium in acute mania; do you use the crude opium or subcutaneous injections?—Subcutaneous injections generally; we use morphia subcutaneously where we cannot get the patient to swallow medicine by the mouth.

24,792. Otherwise you give it by the mouth?—Yes.

24,793. Either laudanum or crude opium?—Laudanum or crude opium, or Batley's solution, as we think best.

24,794. You do not distinguish between the effects of the two forms?—No.

24,795. What is the source from which you obtain your per-centage—one or two per cent. of the population?—From general inquiries amongst the population, amongst my own subordinates, amongst practitioners, and amongst my own patients. It is only a personal opinion that I have given. It is a very general inquiry.

24,796. What was the class of persons from whom you heard that opium is taken as a prophylactic in Gujarat?—From hospital assistants who have served there and from an apothecary, as well as from my own knowledge while I was in Rajkot with my regiment.

24,797. May I gather that you are opposed to the habitual use of opium and alcohol, that you think the consequences of opium consumption are not so serious as those which follow the habitual consumption of alcohol?—I think the habitual moderate use of opium has not the slightest effect on the system or on the mind, morally or otherwise. The habitual moderate consumption is, in my opinion, utterly harmless. It is a luxury and indulged in as such. It is taken by natives for many things, for pains, and as a prophylactic to ward off any fatigue. It assists them in very hard work.

24,798. You would view it as a bad habit for a person in health—a habit from which he could not easily free himself?—The opium habit is one that I know of my own personal knowledge men have given up. I do not look upon the habit as worse than excessive eating, drinking, or excessive smoking. It is simply in almost all these cases a habit.

24,799. You say that it enables the consumer to do without food; I suppose you mean temporarily?—Of course.

24,800. It could not supply the place of nourishment?—No; but as long as the man takes opium he will be able to do with a smaller quantity of food than the man who takes no opium and goes through the same amount of physical labour.

24,801. Much in the same way as a tobacco smoker often says that he can do without his meal if he can have his pipe?—Possibly so.

24,802. What class of people did you see in the Bombay opium club?—Some of them were weavers, some were men working in the Government Dockyard, some in the Prince's Dock, some were Hindus, and some Musalmans.

24,803. Do you think they were men of good characters?—I could not judge of it in so short a time, but they appeared to be quiet men, very happy, and enjoying themselves thoroughly.

24,804. I suppose the poppy might have the effect of making them quiet?—They were very happy and contented. It has a soothing and sedative effect on them. None of them appeared to be drunk from the effects, or delirious, or anything of that sort.

24,805. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) You have been Civil Surgeon in Khandesh for seven years?—Yes.

24,806. You have a large number of Bhils in that district?—A large number.

24,807. Can you tell me whether the habit of eating opium is at all common among the Bhils?—I cannot remember at the present moment.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. J. MacNABB CAMPBELL, C.I.E., called in and examined.

24,808. (*Chairman.*) What is your position?—I am collector of customs, land revenue and excise in Bombay.

24,809. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts in which you are personally acquainted?—The districts in which I have served are, besides the town and island of Bombay, the Panch Mahals with Rewa Kantha in Gujarat, Khandesh in the Deccan, Bijapur and Belgaum in the Southern Maratha country, and Kolaba and Thana in the Konkan. So far as my acquaintance goes in none of these portions of

Western India is the use of opium abused. No crime can be traced to opium, no general failure of health or of mental or bodily vigour is due to the use of the drug. The only district where instances of the excessive use of opium have come under my notice were in the Panch Mahals and Rewa Kantha. In that district excessive fondness for opium made one native officer of mounted police, one skilled blacksmith, and one or two of the gentry emaciated, weak, and uncertain. These instances of excessive devotion to the drug were unusual. Except the members of certain of the small

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lawless classes of ascetics no people, so far as I am aware, can as a body be said to suffer from taking opium. On the contrary, in the west of the Panch Mahals where, as in the neighbouring district of Kaira, the moderate use of opium by certain of the cultivators is usual, it is notable that the Lewa and Kadwa Kunbis, the class of cultivators who take regular and moderate doses of opium, are not only the most vigorous and best nurtured class in the district but are among the most orderly and skilful cultivators of Western India. In Bombay city Marwaris, North Indian Hindus and Musalmans, and the Cutch and Kathiawar Memons, Khojas, Bhatias, and Lavanas are the chief users of opium. I know of no case of Gujarati, Marwari, or Pardesi Hindus being made less energetic and vigorous by the use of opium. Musalman embroiderers and other craftsmen occasionally show signs of the excessive use of the drug. They are the exception. And in almost no case does the injury done by the use of opium go so far as to interfere with the regular and successful management of a trade or craft. Over 20 years' residence has convinced me that there is no opium question in the Bombay Presidency.

24,810. What is your experience with regard to the effect of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people?—Very exceptional cases apart, judging by the classes who use opium in Gujarat and in Bombay city, the result of the moderate use of opium seems, on the whole, advantageous both physically and morally in the broad sense of aiding cheerfulness and evenness of temper.

24,811. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—Except a few enthusiasts or sentimentalists I know no natives of India who take exception to the present system of supplying and controlling the use of opium. No intelligent native of India with whom I am acquainted would fail to regard with anger and dismay any attempt to levy fresh taxation to make up the loss of revenue sacrificed to the prohibition of the use of opium. If such a suggestion is made the mass of the people will say, as the people of Gujarat are already saying, "What has come over the English?" The tax upon opium is in no sense an unpopular tax. The opium revenue is considered one of the most suitable and least objectionable forms of taxation. The few natives who I have been told favour the sacrifice of revenue have been either enthusiasts whose opinion on such a matter seems to me worthless or political schemers whose judgment is warped by the hope of private profit or of class aggrandisement.

24,812. Should in your opinion the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—I see no reason why the sale of opium in British India should be prohibited. I look upon opium as a gift and a gain to the people at large. In Western India the proportion of evil which the excessive use of opium causes is, I am satisfied, trifling compared to the good its moderate use does to health and spirits and the happiness and contentment it brings to thousands of hardworked and dreary lives. Nor would the prohibition of opium remove the proportion of evil its present excessive use causes. Even in the case of the landed gentry, some of whom in North Gujarat and in Kathiawar use opium to excess, the prohibition of opium would do them little good. In a certain number of the landed gentry their idle sluggish life calls for excitement. If opium is barred they will drink liqueurs or take to decoctions of dhatura or other powerful and poisonous stimulants.

24,813. Supposing total prohibition to be impracticable, can you suggest any change in the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the opium traffic and for raising a revenue therefrom?—I can imagine no less objectionable or more suitable or profitable source of revenue than the excise on opium. To rob India of its opium revenue seems to me a wrong to the people little short of a crime. Even if this sacrifice of revenue was enforced by prohibiting the sale of opium in British territory I believe the scheme would fail in its object. It seems to me likely that in Western India the sacrifice of revenue would mean the increase not the diminution of the use of the drug. If in British territory alone the use of opium is prohibited or more closely restricted the growth of the poppy will increase in Native States. No funds will be available to maintain the present opium police

or otherwise to prevent smuggling. In all British territory bordering on poppy-growing States the drug will be cheaper and the use more general than at present. It may be said that the way of escape from this danger has been already indicated. Prevent the growth of the poppy in Native States and the prohibition of the use of opium in British territory must mean a reduction not an increase in the use of the drug. Three difficulties face this suggestion:—

(a.) In none but the smaller and less independent Native States can the growth of the poppy be prevented. (b.) No considerable restriction on the growth of the poppy in Native States can be enforced except by the expenditure of ruinous compensation. (c.) Even if the local growth of the poppy is prevented or greatly restricted, foreign illicit opium will find its way from the sea-board all over Western India. Within the last 10 years arrangements have been introduced into the States of Gujarat with the object of putting down smuggling by bringing the whole supply of opium under the supervision of Government. In only a few of the States affected was the poppy grown. In certain of the smaller States the growth of the poppy was prohibited. But, though this exception seriously damaged the efficiency and completeness of the settlement, prohibition was not attempted in Baroda. Baroda continues to grow and to make opium. If, though extremely desirable, prohibition proved impossible in Baroda, how can it be attempted in Central Indian or other first-class States? Again, in any of the States which make as well as use opium no considerable restriction on the growth of the poppy or on the making of opium can be introduced without lavish compensation. The basis of compensation in the Gujarat States was the average State revenue from the local consumption of opium during the 10 preceding years. The feasibility of this settlement in no way implies the feasibility of a proposal to prohibit or to restrict the growth of the poppy in States where the poppy is a profitable crop. First the land revenue from one of the best paying of crops would have to be made good as well as the very large revenue from the export of opium. Compensation might also fairly be claimed on the ground of the unpopularity and disaffection which any severe restriction on the growth of the poppy would arouse. Additional police or troops would be required to prevent disturbance; and two unpopular burdensome and probably corrupt forces would have to be organised, one to move from village to village to prevent the growth of the poppy or to destroy growing crops, the other harassing travellers and pestering lines of communication nominally in search of the illicit exportation of the local drug. So far as my experience goes no native ruler who had the interests of his people at heart would consent, nor would any responsible Government agent recommend such loss, vexation, and misery as would be the result of the prohibition, or even of the extreme restriction, of the making of opium in any of the larger States where the poppy is now a gainful crop. (c.) Even if the making of local opium was stopped foreign opium would take its place. To prevent the smuggling of opium by sea is a task of extreme difficulty. Only a small percentage of the articles or packages that pass through the Customs House can be examined. Even with trustworthy information effective measures to prevent sea smuggling are most difficult to enforce. To search suspected boats, baggage, and passengers, if not impossible, is at once so grievous an interference with trade and so distasteful a duty that it can be attempted only under circumstances of special importance. A considerable amount of Egyptian opium comes secretly into Bombay through Bohra and other firms of wealthy Arabian merchants. To prevent this importation is practically impossible. Egyptian opium is eaten in many wealthy up country Musalman families. For several years past no instance of the seizure of Egyptian opium in the Customs House is on record. Considerable quantities of Persian opium come by sea into Bombay. The bulk of the Moghals or Persian Musalmans in Bombay city eat opium. Almost none of them use any opium except the Persian drug. Nor is its use confined to Moghals. For eating though not for smoking almost all rich Musalmans prefer the Persian to the Indian drug. This is known to the officers of the Opium Department. Schemes for detecting the smuggling of Persian opium receive careful attention. The success of these devices is of the smallest. Most of the opium is brought by horse dealers and their men. The men wear loose clothing, they carry bulky bundles of horse rugs, along with them are boxes and bags with grain,

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spices, and drugs. At landing the horses are nervous or can easily be made nervous. It is difficult if not impossible to insist on a search that may cause a fight or a stampede among the notoriously quarrelsome Persian horses. At the stables search is little less hopeless. In most stables there are over a hundred men. The arrival of an opium officer is at once known. The information passes by signs round the stables and contraband opium is secreted. If the difficulties in Bombay are so serious when the gain from, and the temptation to, import illicit opium are moderate; when the opium revenue supplies an efficient staff of detectives to keep a watch on smuggling; and when the disposal of illicit opium involves time and risk, what will be the state of things when on the one hand the prohibition or extreme restriction of the local drug has so greatly increased the demand for foreign opium that its prompt and easy disposal is secured, and when on the other hand the sacrifice of the opium revenue has destroyed the means of maintaining a detective police? It may be argued that part at least of this picture is fanciful since the necessity of a stronger preventive service will be admitted and an efficient police is sure to be provided. So far as experience is a guide, if the opium revenue is sacrificed not one opium policeman will continue to be employed. Even supposing that the new opium arrangements run counter to experience, even if this double financial wrong is perpetrated, and to the destruction of revenue is to be added such waste on special police charges as would suffice to make opium smuggling difficult in Bombay, even then the import of foreign opium is by no means stopped. The result will be to divert the opium traffic from Bombay to its old headquarters in the Portuguese ports of Goa, Daman, and Diu. Or, should special arrangements with the Portuguese be concluded, the illicit traffic in opium will pass to the smugglers' Paradise, the so-called foreign Indian ports of Kathiawar and Cutch. These ports which have no British Customs House, not even a British Customs officer, are gradually being connected by rail with the entire area of inland India. Last year the attempt was made to evade the imperial import duty on kerosine by landing a cargo at one of the foreign Kathiawar ports and passing it inland by rail. The size of the kerosine cases prevented this scheme from succeeding. With opium such a venture would almost certainly prove a success. If the supply of Indian opium was seriously restricted, Persian, Egyptian, and doubtless in a few years, Chinese opium would pass inland through many ports on the western coast of India. These ports will also play a leading part in the confusion that must result from any prohibition or excessive restriction in British districts whether or not accompanied by any nominal prohibition or extreme restriction in the Central Indian States. The fortunes formerly made by the illicit export of Malwa opium to China through Daman and Diu are not forgotten. With such fatal facilities for shipment no one who knows the enterprise and ingenuity of the Marwari and the Bhatia can doubt that, in spite of severe restriction or nominal prohibition in poppy-growing States, a way will be found for the large and gainful export of illicit opium. With the present up-country arrangements for the supply of opium I have no fault to find. They secure a considerable revenue, maintain an efficient police, make smuggling difficult, and provide for consumers a convenient and sufficient supply of pure and wholesome opium. Liberal compensation has removed from most of the local Chiefs the temptation to favour illicit traffic. And the sufficient supply of the class of drug that is in demand secures the contentment of the local consumer and prevents illicit competition passing beyond moderate bounds. My acquaintance with the city and island of Bombay increasingly impresses me with the difficulty of preventing opium smuggling. This is in no way due to the backwardness either of Government or of the farmer in furnishing a sufficient force of detective or other police. The difficulties are inherent in Bombay, in its immense traffic, its huge houses, its numbers of trained and skilful smugglers. If the difficulties in the way of preventing smuggling are so serious when the price of opium is not excessive and when care is taken that consumers have a wholesome, suitable, and sufficient supply, I am satisfied that any attempt to prohibit or even grievously to restrict the use of licit opium would, in Bombay, result in the complete breakdown of control over smuggling. Apart from the loss of revenue, I am satisfied that the withdrawal of Government control from the opium trade would be a

serious evil. The enforcement of suitable and necessary restrictions on the use of the drug would cease. What is worse the guarantee that the drug used is pure and wholesome would be at an end. To any one who knows the Bombay drug market the conviction amounts to certainty that if Government supervision is withdrawn the bulk of the illicit opium supplied to consumers will be poisoned by adulteration. My dread of the evil of withdrawing Government supervision is not speculative. The last six months have proved the dread to be well founded. In 1892, in deference to the mistaken and faint-hearted scruple that in the eyes of the people of India such duties discredit Government, the supervision of opium smoking-houses was withdrawn. The result has been that instead of about 20 licensed houses, of which the inmates were under surveillance, where stated hours were enforced, where none but good and wholesome opium was obtained, over 150 clubs have been opened, unhampered by rules as to hours or behaviour, and doubtless using large quantities of illicit and more or less adulterated opium. When I consider that it is suggested that arrangements so profitable, wholesome, and sensible as the present opium system should be swept away in favour of a scheme which implies ruinous loss of indispensable revenue, lavish waste on compensation and police, no probable reduction in the quantity and a grievous decline in the quality of the opium consumed, I can only in amazement echo the Gujarat cry, "What has come over the English?"

24,814. (Mr. Mowbray.) You have referred to the closing of the opium smoking-houses in 1892; you do not appear to consider that that has been a success?—Since my answers were written I have collected some further figures on the subject of opium smoking. These figures seem to show that since the closing of the licensed smoking-houses the number of smokers has increased. The number of smoking places has risen from 20 to 150, and the question arises, What increase does this represent in the number of smokers? In one of these clubs about 75 people assemble; in several there are about 40. Almost none have fewer than 10 members. An average of 15 would perhaps be fairly correct. Formerly between 700 and 800 men smoked in the licensed houses, but now, so far as I can ascertain, about 2,250 or three times as many smoke in clubs and private houses.

24,815. I do not quite understand why the fact of houses not being licensed has tended to increase the number of people who frequent them?—Because the private smoking-houses or clubs are in some respects more convenient than the licensed houses. Private houses are under no restrictions as to hours or as to behaviour; they are as independent as other clubs. No opium officers can go into these clubs unless he has a suspicion that illicit opium is being sold, or that the rules are otherwise infringed.

24,816. Have you taken any steps to interfere with any of these houses, and if so, with what result?—We took what we considered a strong case before the second police magistrate. He said we had no right to enter private smoking-houses unless we had a strong suspicion that some breach of the rules was being committed.

24,817. What was the technical offence which you tried to establish?—It was possession of more than two tolas of opium, and also selling illicit opium.

24,818. You mean selling opium without a licence?—The information we had was that the opium being used was illicit opium. We also wished to ascertain whether the possession of more than two tolas belonging to the members by the manager of a club was an infringement of the 2 tola rule. The manager of an opium smoking-club is not allowed to sell opium. If he sells opium or chandu it is an offence. The manager may commit one of two offences. He may use illicit opium, or he may sell opium in some form or other.

24,819. Is there any general prohibition against the sale of chandu and madak in the Bombay Presidency apart from selling it on the premises where it is smoked?—If a man buys licit opium that has paid duty he can use it in any form he chooses. There is no interference with him; he can eat it or smoke it in his own house.

24,820. Can people buy chandu and madak now at an ordinary opium shop in Bombay?—No, they cannot. They can only buy dry opium.

24,821. If people want to smoke chandu and madak they must buy it in the form of dry opium and manu-

facture it themselves, or get it manufactured?—That is so. They ought not, of course, to buy illicit opium, but, as far as I can make out, a large proportion of what is smoked is illicit opium.

24,822. What do you mean by illicit opium?—Opium that has not paid duty, brought clandestinely down from Malwa or Gujarat, or smuggled from Persia.

24,823. You consider that there is a large amount of that at present?—A very large amount. The amount of illicit opium which is at present supposed to be smoked, judging by the character of the men who buy it, is put down at 1,150 lbs. during the last five months. It is five months since the rule closing the licensed smoking-houses has been introduced. The entire sales during the five months before the chandu and madak contract was stopped were 1,900 lbs., so that the difference between 1,150 lbs. and 1,900 lbs. is apparently due to increased smuggling, since, so far as we can judge, the amount of smoking has meanwhile increased.

24,824. You mean that there has been a falling off in the licit sales?—Formerly there were two classes of sales—sales of dry opium and sales of opium to be made into chandu. Formerly the right to sell chandu and madak for consumption in the licensed shops was the subject of a separate contract. The total decrease in the two items of dry and chandu sales in the last five months compared with the corresponding sales in the five months before the chandu contract was stopped is from 7,400 lbs. to 5,900 lbs.

24,825. Is it your opinion that that does not mean a real reduction in the consumption, but that the place of licit opium, which was previously used, has been supplied by the illicit opium?—Yes; because during the same time the number of smokers has increased. According to the calculation which I gave above, since the licensed smoking-houses were closed the number of smokers is double, probably treble; what it was before.

24,826. Can you suggest any means by which these unlicensed shops could be dealt with by legislation or otherwise?—I do not think any legislation could touch the clubs or private smoking-houses.

24,827. (*Mr. Pease.*) There is no liberty to have clubs without a limitation of hours that did not exist at the time when there were licensed smoking shops?—Clubs might have existed before; but clubs were unnecessary as the licensed houses supplied the demand in a convenient form.

24,828. Was not the inducement that there should be no limitation of hours a sufficient one to induce certain individuals to have clubs?—No. The licensed houses in spite of restrictions were found convenient and sufficient. The only smoking club of which we knew was one frequented by Chinamen.

24,829. Was there the same effort made on the part of the police to find out whether opium smoking was taking place in other than licensed shops that there has been recently?—Some effort was made though not so much as has been made since the rule has been changed. Since the licensed houses have been closed we have employed extra opium police to try and control the private smoking-houses and clubs.

24,830. I understand that your figures would show that there has been a reduction in the amount of opium used for the purpose of smoking?—We do not know how much licit opium is at present used for smoking. We can only make a rough estimate of the quantity.

24,831. You estimate that there has been a reduction in the quantity of licit opium used for smoking purposes?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT, Secretary to the Commission, called in.

24,846. (*Chairman.*) I believe you wish to hand in some petitions?—Yes. I have received two petitions. The first purports to come from certain Chinese residents in Moulmein. It was handed to me by Mr. Alexander this morning. The petitioners state that they have had long experience of the disastrous effects of opium consumption, and complain that they have no power to prevent it because of the facility with which opium can be procured.

24,847. (*Chairman.*) The petition will be taken into consideration.

The witness withdrew.

24,832. And it is only your calculation as to the number of smokers, and also the estimate that each smoker uses as much as he did before, that leads you to the opinion that there is a great deal of smoking of illicit opium?—That is so.

24,833. In taking action against these clubs why did you raise the question whether opium was licit or illicit; is it not a penal offence to sell opium in these clubs, whether licit or illicit?—Yes.

24,834. Why did you raise the question as to its being illicit opium instead of taking action merely on the question of sale?—There were two questions. Each question was equally before us—the use of illicit opium and the sales. It is easier to prove the use of illicit opium than to prove the fact of a sale in a club.

24,835. I understood you to say that you had taken action against the sales of illicit opium in the clubs?—In that particular case we believed the opium used was illicit. We also tried to prevent all sales as far as we could. We find we can take steps to prevent sales, but that to prove that a sale has taken place is almost impossible.

24,836. How far have you been successful in your actions?—We failed in the action to which I have referred.

24,837. You have only taken action in one case?—We have only taken one case into court, because we have found it impossible to procure proof that chandu is sold. Our action has therefore been limited to the attempt by close supervision to prevent sales taking place.

24,838. Are there sales going on in these clubs?—I do not know whether sales take place or not. I believe there are not many, if there are any. We do all we can to prevent sales. We send detectives, but the managers will not sell to strangers. If sales are made to members the chandu is not paid for when it is smoked, and the payment is made not for the opium but for the use of the room, the cook, or the pipe.

24,839. How many shops are there for the retail sale of opium for Bombay Town and Island?—I have not the figures; they are in the Commissioner's statement.*

24,840. (*Sir James Lyall.*) Is it not possible that while there were chandu shops and smoking saloons licensed by the Government in Bombay the popular idea was that unlicensed saloons or clubs were illegal?—That is so.

24,841. Perhaps when the Government ceased licensing the saloons that idea was exploded, and may have encouraged people to set up clubs?—That is undoubtedly one reason why there are now so many clubs. The other reason is that formerly the licensed houses sufficiently provided for the wants of opium smokers.

24,842. What is the limit of the amount of opium which a man can now buy at a shop?—Two tolas.

24,843. What used to be the limit?—Ten tolas. As regards opium eaters I think the reduction was a mistake. At the same time smokers very seldom take in a day as much as two tolas of dry opium, which makes four tolas of chandu. I believe no smoker smokes more than two tolas of chandu in a day. The reduction of the amount a man can buy from ten tolas to two tolas has not pressed upon opium smokers, but upon men who eat opium in large quantities.

24,844. If a man buys two tolas at a shop is there anything now in the law to prevent his selling one of those tolas to another man?—Yes. I should say such a sale would be illegal. At the same time it would not be likely to be detected unless he did it habitually.

24,845. I suppose the words of the Act are that nobody must sell except a licensed vendor?—I think they are.

24,848. (*Witness.*) The next petition is signed by nine persons "On behalf of a large number of opium consumers in Bombay," and requests that an early day be fixed to enable them to appear before the Commission in a body as "an ocular demonstration against the 'futility of the out-cry the anti-opiumists have raised.'"

* See evidence of the Hon. Mr. T. D. Mackenzie at page 281 of this volume.

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Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel T. S. WEIR called in and examined.

24,849. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You are executive health officer of Bombay?—Yes.

24,850. How long have you occupied that post?—Since 1873.

24,851. You have also acted occasionally as municipal commissioner?—Yes.

24,852. You have had other opportunities of examining the opium habit, I believe?—Yes. I have observed the use of opium not only in India, but around the Persian frontier up to the Caspian. I have made many experiments on myself and others with opium. The late Mr. Curwen and I thought of publishing a work on the subject. In Khorassan and around the frontier, where I observed the effects of opium, probably more people take opium in proportion to their numbers than in any part of the world. They say the habit of taking opium has only been known in Khorassan during the last 30 years. Most of the people seem to think that, apart from the influence of custom, the cause of the habit was the ill-health caused by malaria. Down in the valleys where there is water, and by the streams of water and moisture, fevers are very prevalent. And, as I hope to state hereafter, the use of opium, like all habits, is influenced by the manner of life, and follows the necessities of the people. Where the people live in a buoyant climate and are in buoyant health they do not think of opium, nor will they be bothered with taking opium. It is the juice of the grape they long for, not the juice of the poppy, those who seek intoxication or “kief.” The popular view of the opium eater indicates how the use of opium is regarded. The opium eater, by which I mean the one who takes opium in excess, is looked on as a joke, and many stories laughing at him are told. There is a very entertaining book, in Hindustani, full of stories, all laughing in a good-natured way at opium eaters and smokers. The effect of opium in excess, and this is the chief ill effect even in excess of opium, is to produce abstraction of mind and an indifference to trifling objects. This abstraction of mind is considered by the ordinary observer an impairment of memory, but it is not. Hence to commence with the difference of opinion amongst people as to the most objective of the phenomena from taking opium in excess. It is simply this, that most of the people who have written about opium have been under the influence of European literature; and, as we know, in nearly all writings about the East, the people, and their customs, the same opinions are passed on from European writer to European writer and from book to book. I can see from the evidence, if the evidence has been correctly reported, that most of the people who have given evidence have either an imperfect knowledge or have only had occasional opportunities of seeing persons who use opium. In the first place, it is only through the influence of European literature that opium has come to be considered, like alcohol, in its uses and in its effects. Anyone who has had any experience of opium knows that any person who wants intoxication will not be satisfied with opium; and all people whose object is drunken oblivion, though they may take opium, take alcohol to produce intoxication. My observation has been that no one who wishes for intoxication will be satisfied with opium, and generally no one in perfect health will take the trouble to take opium or remember about it. Here is the great fact that some 80 per cent. of the population of this great city of Bombay have in their childhood been fed with opium. People with little and imperfect experience have formed wrong conclusions from imperfect opportunities of observation or from imperfect understanding. For instance, some have said that opium makes people timid and cowardly. This impression has arisen from the fact that opium produces a desire for quietness and repose, and hence opium users dislike noise and tumult, and have a great dislike of chattering. Others believe that opium develops and causes utter incapacity for business; while, as we see, some of the most enterprising merchants take a small dose of opium every evening. In the clubs or meeting places or, to use the British phrase, “dons,” where opium is used, there are found a certain number of hereditary and professional mendicants and purposeless, worthless people. A great number of them are ill in body and mind, and if they can get opium they will take opium in excess, and if they can get hemp they will take hemp in excess, and if they can get alcohol, which they like better than opium or hemp, they will take alcohol in excess. They are generally incapable of work,

not because of opium, or of hemp, or of alcohol, but from hereditary causes and hereditary training. Wherever they are found these are the people who generally tell you that they are ruined by opium, or by hemp, or by alcohol, to excite your pity, in order to persuade you to give them money to spend on opium, on hemp, or on alcohol, and they will tell you of their terrible sufferings if they cannot get some. It is just the same when the well-nourished mendicant strikes his stomach, and says he is dying from starvation, he does not mean starvation, because he is not starving, but he uses the gesture and the word to indicate that he is in want. It is expressive, and so he uses it. The same people, if they want money for food, will talk of the same sufferings, but instead of opium they will talk of food. Opium taken in excess will, like food, do harm; but I believe that for one person injured by opium, ten persons are injured by sweetmeats, hundreds are injured by too much food, and thousands by too little food.

24,853. Have you had any experience of the effect of using opium in your own case?—While travelling on the frontier, I suffered constantly from fever, and it was only with the assistance of opium, with, and sometimes without, quinine, that I was able to make long marches and ride long distances in a country where the water was salt and the valleys direly feverish, and the population, where collected in towns and villages, sorely afflicted. After returning to India, while suffering from fever, I took for some years opium generally with, and sometimes without, quinine. Opium increases the action of quinine.

24,854. Have you had any experience of the effect of opium in Persia?—Around the moist lands on the Persian side of the Caspian some of the population seemed to me to be famishing from malarial poison, for they could only digest a thin wafer-like bread, and they could not use the ordinary bread the people of Persia use. The effect of opium is to do in an imperfect degree, and less exalted form, what healthful air does, and to make people nearly feel as they would feel in good health. On the Persian frontier it was interesting to observe the influence of climate on the habits of the people and especially on the use of opium. The population on the Khorassan frontier are grouped in cities and in villages, in which the people are partly settled and partly nomadic, and in camps of nomads. Amongst the town population almost every man, woman, and young person, and many children use opium; but although amongst the village population a large number use opium, the use of opium is not so general as in the towns, but amongst the nomads the use of opium is so uncommon that it may be said to be unknown. But the nomads use intoxicating drinks; it is the juice of the grape or fermented drinks they love. The use of intoxicating drinks is the only vice of the great warrior nomadic races of the East.

24,855. What has come to your knowledge as to the impression produced on the people of this city by the proposal that the use of opium should be prohibited?—If I am asked as to how the prohibition of the opium shops has been received in this city, I reply that it has been regarded as another instance of the intention of the Government and of the British people to interfere with the customs of the people. I went frequently around these shops, the days before the sale of opium was prohibited, and heard crowds discussing the policy of Government. Even those who were not opposed to the use of opium did not believe the action of Government was from noble motives to rescue the people from the habit of opium. It was unpleasant to hear how the action of Government was attributed to proselytising influence or to selfish motives. Some of them—the people I remonstrated with—said if the British Government wish to improve the people, why do they not stop the importation of English goods? Why do they not feed the poor? said some others. Those who did not say it was a sham philanthropical pretence of the Government, said it was due to the “Padri log.” Only the educated classes understand and appreciate the benevolent purpose of the British Government.

24,856. What is your opinion as to the effect of such prohibition?—If I am asked what will be the effect of prohibition, I say, from my experience as the head of a department of over 4,000 people, which has been called the greatest prosecuting machine in Bombay, that the only effect will be injury to Government. No measure

which is opposed to the interests of any large number of the people can be enforced, even in the city of Bombay. We see law after law passed, and they never have been and never can be enforced. People in England have an utterly exaggerated and foolish idea of the influence and power of Government in India.

24,857. What conclusion have you come to as to the effect of the opium habit on the health of the consumer?—The physical injury caused by opium in excess cannot be compared with the effects of alcohol. The effects of opium are rather of a mental character. I have seen people who, although they had been devoted to opium, almost as soon as they had ceased using the drug appear as if they had never used it. I give two instances from a reformatory, in this city, of boys who had been taking opium in large quantities. I referred to these instances in a lecture I delivered in Bombay some time ago:—"I have seen two boys under 12 years sent to a penitentiary to be cured of the habit of opium—one because he stole to buy opium, was sent by a magistrate; the other because he had become too fond of opium, was sent by his father. Both had been cured and looked perfectly healthy. The boy who had been sent by his father had been eating large quantities of opium, and smoking opium too, for some two years, and yet he had not suffered in body. My experience is—and I have tried myself both opium and hemp while ill with fever—that it is to many people more easy to give over eating opium or hemp than smoking tobacco."

24,858. Have you anything to say as to the influence of opium on missionary work?—I think there is a great deal of truth in the statement of missionaries, that opium causes people to reject or treat with contempt their teaching. It is this, that opium produces such repose of mind that the teaching of a missionary, be he Christian or other, is regarded as a mere delusion. Missionaries not taking opium, and only seeing opium eaters occasionally, have mistaken the cause as well as the significance of the phenomena they have observed. In this city a large number of the people who frequented the opium shops were mendicants. From the professional you can get any reply according to the tone you ask a question. They naturally give the reply which they think will please; the object of the mendicant is to persuade people. Another class, a large number of whom use opium, are the public gariwallas; no one who knows them will accept, without consideration, any statement they make.

24,859. What has been your impression as to the effect of opium eating on the people?—To my mind the man who eats too much is as much, if not more, to be pitied than the opium eater. The man who eats five large meals of strong food is in far more danger than the man who eats opium even in excess. Amongst the classes who eat flesh, a far larger number are injured by too much food or unwholesome food, and amongst the classes who do not use flesh, a far larger number are injured by sweetmeats than by opium.

24,860. In what repute is opium held by the natives of India?—Many people look upon the use of opium as disreputable, but it has to be remembered that many of the people who look upon the use of opium as disreputable look upon the use of coffee or tea as disreputable, and that they consider it disgraceful to eat in a hotel or in a refreshment room at a railway station. Most Europeans have no idea of the courage which Hindus display who use hotels or refreshment rooms. Neither Hindus nor Musalmans look upon the use of opium as they look on the use of any forbidden food. Opium does not defile as the use of forbidden food. They do not look on the use of opium with loathing as they look on the use of forbidden food. In the popular estimation, the use of opium is looked on as something between the use of tobacco and alcohol. Many of the people look on the use of tobacco as disreputable, and some regard it as sinful. Opium smoking does not altogether bear the same relation to opium eating that tobacco smoking does to tobacco chewing. It is not so much injury that opium does when smoked as the smoking of opium in society. It is the same with all habits. I will give an illustration of my meaning. We all eat more when we are together than when we are alone. In hotels and clubs, men eat more than when they are alone. Society, with opium as with everything else, excites to indulgence.

24,861. What is your impression as to opium smoking?—As to the effects of opium smoking and the different

opinions expressed, the difference of opinion is due to most of the people who have given opinions having seen opium smoking and opium smokers only occasionally. I think the smoking of opium does less organic injury than the smoking of tobacco, but at the same time I think the smoking of opium does more harm to the individual usefulness than the smoking of tobacco. It is not the opium in itself, it is the conditions which opium smokers, in society, like to surround themselves with. It is to me amazing that most of the people who have given testimony as to the nocuousness or innocuousness of opium smoking have not observed that it is the harmlessness of opium smoking in moderation that causes danger. The two conditions essential to the enjoyment of opium, in society, are quietude and dimness of light. Many years ago I compelled with much difficulty the owners of places where opium was used to improve the lighting and ventilation of them. As to the fascination of opium, it is something more than tobacco and something less than alcohol. To one who has never seen a public-house in the slums of a European town, an opium house is a pitiful sight. When one knows the character of the people, the pity is not excited by the use of opium, but by the individual lot of the individuals. A considerable number of the people are mendicants—hereditary and professional and a large number are worthless and diseased people, who, if they were not here, would be in worse places, whose only object in life while not seeking alms is "nisheh" enjoyment.

24,862. What is your opinion of opium as an aphrodisiac?—I see it has been stated that opium is used as an aphrodisiac; but it has to be remembered, as I mentioned in referring to the repute in which opium is held, the number of other agents used in India and in other parts of the world, as aphrodisiacs; for instance, milk is a very common one; for one person who uses opium, thousands use large quantities of milk and strong food. Incantations are very common, and even favourite prayers and pious exercises.

24,863. What do you think would be the effect of closing places for the sale of opium?—If I am asked what will be the effect of closing the places for the sale of opium I reply injury to Government, and suffering to the mendicant and the diseased. If I am asked whom it will benefit, I reply the people who cheat and live on the needs of the needy.

24,864. Do you think the habit of giving opium to infants is as prevalent as ever?—I mention that now a smaller number of children are given opium than 20 years ago. This is ascribed to three influences—less house crowding, the advice of medical men, and greater prosperity of the artisans through factory labour.

24,865. What is opium given to children for?—Opium is chiefly given to children to help them to digest milk. The poor also give it to keep the children quiet and out of danger.

24,866. Is opium also taken as a household remedy in malarious district?—The evidence that opium is taken as a preventive of malaria is an indication of how little malaria is understood. Some time ago a missionary, who has had some medical training, was speaking to me of the evidence given before this Commission of the use of opium against malaria. He was speaking incredulously. I told him that I had taken opium, and would again take opium for low fever. He then told me that the only affection in which he had found small doses of opium useful was a state which he believed to be dysentery, but which I had no doubt was merely a congested state of the mucous membrane, very common in malarial districts. This is why the evidence about the effect of opium in malaria so much varies. A congested state of the mucous membrane, indicated at one end by hawking and low fever, and at the other end by a congested state of the bowel, is a very common effect of malarial poisoning, and I have no hesitation in saying opium gives more relief in this state than any other remedy. This state in Bombay is the most common cause of the use of opium. Dr. Livingstone might have survived his sufferings had he used opium as a food. The true remedy for opium indulgence is improved conditions of life, good dwellings, and food. Another cause of indulgence in opium is the overcrowding in dwellings and depression from foul air. I believe that for one person injured by opium hundreds are injured by the theatres. It is as foolish to say that opium in moderation does harm as to say that opium in excess does not do harm to the individual.

*Surg.-Lt.-Col.
T. S. Weir.*

12 Feb. 1894.

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24,867. What are the general conclusions at which you have arrived?—The conclusions I have come to are that opium in excess does not do the organic injury which alcohol, tobacco, and strong foods may do in this tropical country. The popular saying in India amongst the poor, contrasting opium and alcohol, sums up the popular impression of both—"Alcohol puts a man in the gutter; opium puts him to dream." Under 5 per cent. of the adult population of Bombay take opium now. Alcohol amongst the poorer classes is used instead of opium. This is the result of higher wages.

24,868. I take it from the tenor of your evidence that you do not recognise much difference in susceptibility and tolerance of the opium habit between the native of India and the European?—I think the idea of difference arises from the imperfect notion which Europeans have had in the past of the effect of opium.

24,869. (*Mr. Pease.*) You say that a certain number of hereditary and professional mendicants and purposeless and worthless people are to be found in smoking dens?—Yes.

24,870. You say, "It is not opium itself, it is the conditions which opium smokers in society like to surround themselves with"?—Yes.

24,871. Is it not like the old controversy in England as to whether the pig made the sty what it was, or whether the sty made the pig what it was? Your opinion seems to be that it is not the opium smokers who make the den what it is, but the den that makes opium smokers what they are?—My opinion is this, that the mendicants and the "ghariwalas," for instance, who use opium if they had not opium dens would probably go to places even more objectionable. The opium den is objectionable in itself, but it supplies a want which has not yet been supplied to the mendicant class and the poorer classes in this city or in any part of India that I know of.

24,872. What is the want that ought to be supplied?—There are many things that ought to be supplied, but it is extremely difficult to say what is practicable and what is not.

24,873. I do not understand what is the want that needs to be supplied?—There is no system of relief in the way of food or medical relief in the city such as you have in Europe; there are no means of giving relief to the body in health or in disease such as you have.

24,874. Have you any free dispensaries?—There are a certain number of dispensaries, but the greater number of the people have so little confidence in dispensaries that they use them very little in comparison with the numbers.

24,875. You have alluded to a class of persons who consider the taking of tea and coffee as disreputable?—Yes.

24,876. May I ask you who they are?—Many high caste Hindus look upon tea and coffee as disreputable; many Musalmans look upon coffee as unlawful.

24,877. Do you not think that an opium house is a pitiful sight to those who have seen a public-house in the slums of European towns?—To me the pitifulness is entirely different from the pitifulness which a public-house in Europe excites. It is a pitiful sight, but there is in it less degradation and brutality to my mind than there is in the surroundings of a public-house in Europe.

24,878. It is a matter of comparison and you think that the English public-house is the worst?—I put it very much in this way, the man who goes to an English public-house not only hurts himself, but hurts others. The man who goes to an opium den only hurts himself—not anybody else.

24,879. Are you not aware that opium consumers have told us that the habit had risen from bad company?—I have heard opium smokers say so, but the numbers who have acquired habit of smoking opium from bad company are very small in proportion to the numbers who have acquired it from other causes.

24,880. I have before me a book written by Dr. Aitchison, entitled "Notes on the products of Afghanistan and Persia"?—I know Dr. Aitchison.

24,881. He says that the inhabitants have taken to the culture of opium, resulting in the complete demoralization of the villagers who, almost as a whole, men, women, and children, have adopted the pernicious habit of eating, besides smoking, the drug; do you agree with that view?—There is no doubt the habit is common, but its perniciousness is the result of conditions which have caused malaria.

24,882. Do you know the date of the book?—I think about 1886.

24,883. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) You have spoken of "the great fact that some 80 per cent. of the population of this city of Bombay have in their childhood been fed with opium." Is that a fact which you have verified for yourself, or how do you arrive at it?—I arrive at the fact in this way amongst others. I may say without exaggeration that I have spoken to thousands of persons in regard to their having had opium in their childhood, and almost every one of them has said that he has had opium—not only Hindus but Musalmans.

24,884. I suppose they only speak of their general impression; they cannot recollect it as a matter of fact?—They are of course speaking from the experience of what they themselves do and what they have seen others do.

24,885. In looking at your own circle of acquaintances you think that 80 per cent. may be fairly said to take opium in that form?—My impression is that the number of children in this city who get opium is over 80 per cent.

24,886. You have said, "We see law after law passed, and they never have been and never can be enforced." I do not know what you had in your mind when you wrote that?—I would rather not mention details. We have here laws against the commission of nuisance, and offences of every possible kind, but it is impossible to enforce them.

24,887. Are they laws with regard to sanitary matters?—Laws in regard to sanitary matters and also some matters which are not sanitary. It is necessary even here for the enforcement of any law that a very large proportion of the population should be in favour of it, or at least not against it.

24,888. You attribute the failure to enforce these laws to the fact that they have been carried without popular sanction?—I would not say that, but it is practically the same thing. I mean that unless the laws are to the interest of a very large number of the people it is impossible to enforce them.

24,889. You have found that by practical experience in this city?—Yes.

24,890. You would prefer not to go into details?—I would rather not. I simply make that statement as a general impression.

24,891. What are the classes of people who look on the use of tobacco as not only disreputable, but sinful?—Musalmans generally, although a very large number of them take tobacco.

24,892. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) You say that many Mahomedans look upon tobacco as sinful?—Yes.

25,893. Do you mean the few who are religiously inclined?—Even those who use it will, if you ask them, admit that it is not a proper habit.

24,894. But most Mahomedans use tobacco?—A very large number of them do. A great many Hindus do not look upon smoking as proper.

24,895. They do not look upon it as so sinful as alcohol?—No.

24,896. It may not be good, but they do not regard it as sinful; they would not excommunicate a man for it?—Their view is that it is less disreputable than alcohol.

24,897. They would not excommunicate a man for it, as in the case of alcohol?—There is no caste amongst Musalmans.

24,898. If a man takes alcohol he is not considered a respectable man?—There are many different customs in different countries, and many different ideas in regard to intoxicating drinks.

The witness withdrew.

The Hon. C. S. CROLE called in and examined.

24,899. (*Chairman.*) What is your position under Government?—I am the first member of the Board of Revenue of Madras. Up to December last I was a separate revenue commissioner and also a member of the board.

24,900. You are here to put in a general statement?

—Yes. I have prepared a* statement for the use of the Commission. I prepared it some months ago when I was in charge of the Separate Revenue Department, which includes opium.

24,901. We will give it our careful attention, and we shall be glad to see you again to-morrow.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

*The Hon.
C. S. Crole.*

12 Feb. 1894.

At the Town Hall, Bombay.

SEVENTIETH DAY.

Tuesday, 13th February 1894.

[Section A.]

PRESENT:

THE RIGHT HON. LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B. (CHAIRMAN, PRESIDING).

Mr. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P.
Mr. A. U. FANSHAWE.

Mr. ARTHUR PEASE.
Mr. HARIDAS VEJARIDAS DESAI.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT-HEWETT, C.I.E., *Secretary*

The Hon. JAVERILAL UMIASHANKAR YAJNIK called in and examined.

24,902. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) You are, I believe, agent to His Highness the Rao of Cutch, and member of His Excellency the Governor's Legislative Council, Bombay?—Yes.

24,903. Will you kindly state what your experience has been to enable you to speak upon the opium habit?—I am a native of Nadiad, in the district of Kaira in Gujarat, and a resident of many years in Bombay. As agent of the Cutch State in Bombay I had at one time to make purchases of opium in the Bombay market for internal consumption in that State. At present I collect on behalf of the Darbar from the Government of Bombay refunds, from time to time, of the drawback on pass duty on opium imported into Cutch. I am a justice of the peace, and a member of the municipal corporation of Bombay and of the standing committee of the corporation. I am also an additional member of the council of His Excellency the Governor of Bombay for making laws and regulations.

24,904. What has your experience been with regard to the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the parts of this Presidency with which you are acquainted?—I have in course of business or otherwise come across the different races of people who consume opium in Bombay and in the districts of Gujarat and the States of Kathiawar and Cutch. From what I have known of the habits of the people with whom I have come into contact, I am able to say that among the higher classes, such as Brahmins, Baniyas, Kayasthas, Lohanas, Bhansalis, and Shrawaks or Jains, the consumption of opium is confined to hardly over two or three per cent. of the people in each caste. The classes who use opium in an appreciable quantity, or more or less habitually, are Girasias, Jarejas, Waghelas, and other Rajputs, Kathis, Barotes, or Bhats and Charans, Atits, Gosains, Patidars, Kunbis, Kelis, Bhils, &c. among Hindus; and Maleks, Sheikhs, Pathans, Syeds, Arabs, Mekranis, Fakirs among Mahomedans. The cultivation of poppy and the consumption of opium in India date as far back as many centuries before the commencement of British rule. At present opium is not cultivated anywhere in Gujarat except in the mahals of the Baroda State, nor anywhere in Kathiawar or Cutch. Opium is taken in a variety of forms. By the majority of people it is used in small fragments in a

pure state. Pills made of opium and other ingredients are given to children as balagoli (children's pill) by Vaidas, Hakims and doctors to soothe the pains of teething, to prevent sleeplessness and indigestion, and otherwise to induce peace and quiet during illness. By adults and elderly persons it is used as a preventive and curative in malarial fevers, asthma, diarrhoea, dysentery, acute rheumatism, and spasms. A person suffering from cold applies liquid opium to the bridge of his nose. It is also applied to cure the redness of the eye and in skin eruptions, and is taken by persons suffering from diabetes. Kossids or messengers and post-runners on long journeys are invariably known to take a few pills before starting. The posta or poppy boiled in hot water is a well-known remedy for fomenting parts of the body. Few opium eaters are known to begin the habit before 25 years of age. A much larger number is known to begin its use between the ages of thirty and forty. By well-to-do consumers opium is often mixed with spices to give it flavour before making into pills. It is possible for an opium eater to reduce his quantity of daily consumption gradually, and there are cases in which the habit is entirely given up after a few months' or years' trial. Besides pills the form in which opium is largely used in Gujarat, Kathiawar, and Cutch, and I believe in Rajputana, especially among Girasias, Jarejas, Bhats, Charans, Patidars, Kunbis, and Bhils, is a special preparation called kasumbha or amal pani—that is to say, opium infusion or opium tea. Finely powdered opium is mixed with water, and the mixture passed through a filter. Or the powder is taken on the palm of the hand and water poured over it. Over this mixture is placed a cotton plug and the whole rubbed for a while. The liquid is absorbed by the plug, which is held up, and the water pressed out on the palm. The process is repeated till the beverage is known to attain sufficient strength to be offered to the guest or friend invited to take it. He is asked to sip it from the palm of the offerer. The sip is followed by the eating of sweetmeats. The custom of making merry over kasumbha is very general and popular among the classes I have named. Recourse is had to it to mark the end of a long-standing dispute or to celebrate reconciliation or renewal of friendship between members of

*The Hon.
Javerilal
Umiashankar
Yajnik.*

13 Feb. 1894.

* See Appendix XVIII. to this Volume.

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the same or different castes. It is also resorted to on festive occasions in a family, such as the marriage of a son or daughter, when members of a caste are invited to partake in the rejoicings. In times of mourning, too, a Girasia, Patidar, or Jareja offers kasumbha to such of the mourners as attend in person to offer their condolences and sympathy. The domestic records of almost every notable Girasia or Patidar or Jareja will bear witness to the number of tolas or pounds of opium consumed on these occasions. This use of opium as kasumbha bears a striking resemblance to the custom, in Europe, of holding social gatherings or festive parties over beers, wines, and spirits. One may as well think of putting a stop to this social custom in Europe or England as conceive a hope to enforce a change in the habit of opium eating among a population so conservative and so tenacious of their habits as that of India. As far as I am aware, opium smoking is not so common in Gujarat, Kathiawar, or Cutch. I know of the existence of opium shops or opium dens in Bombay in which opium smoking is said to be extensively carried on, but I have no personal knowledge of them or of the persons who resort to them.

24,905. What has been your experience as to opium eating in moderation?—In the cases of opium eating I have come across, I have found that, taken in moderation and followed up by nutritious food, such as milk sweetened with sugar or condiments, opium is not only not injurious, but distinctly conducive to health. The Kunbis, Patidars, and Rajputs of Gujarat, but especially of the Kaira district, among whom the habit of opium eating is widely prevalent, are physically and morally the finest among the whole peasantry in the Bombay Presidency. They are healthy, industrious, skilled in agriculture, and law abiding. Among the classes that constitute the district police in this Presidency are Rajputs, Kolis, Bhils, Marathas, and Mahomedans, many of whom are opium eaters; but they are as robust and healthy as one can conceive. And the remark holds true of the martial races of Northern India, such as the Sikhs and Gurkhas, who form part of the native army. Taken in excess, opium like all intoxicants is undoubtedly injurious to body and mind. It brings on constipation, lassitude, emaciation, proneness to sleep, dulness, and disorders of the bowels. Its effects, however, are sedative. Not many opium cases are known to hospitals or courts. Opium leads to no violent crimes, to no infringements of public peace or decency, and to no domestic quarrels. It has none of the deleterious effects of alcohol or ganja. Alcohol has worked and is working more ruin and misery among the working classes in India than opium. It is a fact that during the late riots in Bombay while liquor shops were ordered to be closed as long as the riots lasted, opium sales were allowed to be made freely in the bazaar. On Holi and Muharam festivals the same precautions are observed. In Bombay it is believed that from 50 to 60 per cent. of the wage-earning population, such as factory hands and others, are addicted to drinking, whereas hardly 10 per cent. are opium eaters. Opium is not so destructive of moral feeling and self-respect as alcohol. There are no such scenes of the beating of wife and children and of the disturbance of domestic peace and harmony observable in an opium eater's family as are witnessed in that of a drunkard. In native society it is generally felt that the efforts of philanthropic bodies or missionaries would be directed to better purposes in suppressing alcoholic drinks than in advocating measures for preventing opium eating and putting down opium traffic. A commission for inquiry into the disastrous effects of alcoholic drinks in India, or into the causes of the decline and ruin of many indigenous industries and the disastrous results of the large importations of foreign goods which have displaced native manufactures, would have been more intelligible to them and more welcome. In making this remark, I say at once that no sensible person contends that the habit of opium eating is good or is to be commended or encouraged; but since people will have such a stimulant as opium, either as a prophylactic against disease in malarious districts, or as a stimulant, it is found to be less harmful when taken in moderation than many a drug. An overdose of opium undoubtedly kills people. The Hindu religion does not prohibit the use of opium as it does the use of alcoholic spirits, and among Brahmans of the highest caste, who would never touch liquors, cases of opium eating are not unknown. It will thus be seen that it is not the use but the abuse of opium which, properly speaking, proves injurious. In the form of kasumbha it is known to be innocuous.

24,906. You have been speaking here of what you call the moderate use, and then you say it is not the use but the abuse of opium which, properly speaking, proves injurious; in your experience are the cases of excessive use of opium few or many?—Not many, but very few.

24,907. What is your opinion as to prohibiting the use of opium except for medicinal purposes?—Any interference with the non-medicinal uses of opium, therefore, I consider to be not only undesirable and inexpedient but calculated to result in great hardship and serious discontent and political danger. Some conception of this danger may be formed by imagining the outcry and discontent which a similar prohibition of the use of beers, wines, and spirits on festive occasions or at social gatherings would produce in England. In a question of this sort, affecting as it does the private welfare of men who have come to years of discretion, they naturally desire to be left uncontrolled in the exercise of their right of private judgment, and any attempt to control this exercise of private judgment will be regarded as lying beyond the legitimate functions of Government. This will be all the more so regarded by a people to whom indulgence in opium eating has never been denied by any previous Government. The Maratha Government discouraged toddy and liquor drinking by stringent Abkari rules, but seldom, as far as we can say, prohibited opium eating.

24,908. Do you think that the prohibition of the use of opium would possibly have the effect of making men have recourse to alcohol or other intoxicants?—Apart from the direct hardship which a prohibition of opium eating will inflict on those who are confirmed opium eaters, one important result of such an interdict will probably be to drive them to toddy or ganja or alcoholic drinks—a result to be greatly deprecated. Already the inquiries of this Commission have produced an impression among the ignorant masses of the people which, though erroneous and unfounded, is nevertheless pretty general, namely, that the crusade against opium is directed more in the interests of the distillers and manufacturers of spirituous liquors in England than in those of humanity and morality. Such an impression, though it has no ground to support it, is calculated to do injustice to a body of men whose intentions in the cause of morality and benevolence are beyond doubt excellent, but it shows the direction in which popular belief in India is tending. Should, however, the results of prohibitive measures in regard to opium be really to drive people to alcoholic drinks, they will go far to strengthen the general belief as to the prevailing Abkari policy of the British Government. Rightly or wrongly the belief current among the people at the present day is that Government pursue their Abkari policy with the true instincts of a trader, the governing consideration being that of revenue more than one of humanity or morality. One fact which seems to lend support to this popular view is that whereas the revenue from opium is steadily declining from year to year, that from spirituous drinks shows a remarkably steady growth. Any action therefore which Government may take with respect to prohibiting the use of opium for non-medicinal purposes from the highest and purest motives of philanthropy will, it seems to me, be liable to misconstruction.

24,909. Have you any remarks that you would like to offer on the financial side of the question?—The strongest and perhaps the most practical objection to the suppression of opium traffic is the amount of sacrifice which India will be called upon to make, and the extreme difficulty, if not the impossibility, of recouping this loss in the present critical condition of Indian finance. The loss to Government I estimate between seven and eight millions sterling annually, and the loss to cultivators, merchants, and native administrations about as much, in all between thirteen and fourteen millions sterling a year. A portion of this loss will be such as no amount of money can compensate the losers for. I know of no way by which to meet so heavy a deficit in revenue which is not open to grave objections, except a very material reduction of administrative expenditure or the imposition of heavy taxation. But taxation is known to have reached its limits. Trade is dull, the bulk of the agricultural classes are in an impoverished condition, all indigenous industries are suffering from the effects of keen competition and the influence of recent currency legislation, and the working classes are among those who share the general depression.

24,910. If the sale of opium were prohibited in British India except for medical purposes, do you think such a prohibition could be extended to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—Coming to the Native States, I consider the extension of the prohibition of the sale of opium to the Native States of Gujarat, Kathiawar, and Cutch to be wholly impracticable, having regard to the conventions entered into with the rulers of those States and which are at present in force. In virtue of these conventions, the British Government have secured to themselves the co-operation of these States in effectually stopping all contraband trade in opium passing through their territories. Excepting Baroda no other State in the Bombay Presidency, as I said before, is allowed to cultivate poppy and manufacture opium. In Visnagar and other mahals of the Baroda Government, poppy is cultivated and opium manufactured for consumption in the Gaekwar territory as well as for export to China. Of late, however, the cultivation and manufacture of opium have dwindled down very considerably. The system regulating retail sales and selling prices in Baroda and other States conforms to the system prevailing in British territory.

24,911. Have you any other remarks which you would like to offer as regards the opium arrangements in Cutch and Kathiawar, with which States you have been so closely connected?—The history of opium arrangements with Cutch, as far as I am aware, may be briefly stated thus: Cutch had the prescriptive right to purchase opium annually in Malwa direct for internal consumption in the State to the extent of 400 maunds free of pass duty; but in 1874 Government disallowed this right and decided that the State might obtain the required quantity of opium on payment of duty. Cutch protested against this decision. On a reconsideration of the matter by Government, Cutch was allowed the right to purchase opium on payment of four-fifths of the pass duty on every chest of opium imported into the State. Against this order the Cutch Council of Regency appealed to the Government of India. On this appeal the Government of India decided that Cutch should have the right to purchase opium on payment of two-thirds of the usual pass duty. This decision has for the present been accepted by Cutch under protest, pending the result of an appeal to the Secretary of State for India which is contemplated. The Gujarat and Kathiawar States have agreed under conventions with the British Government to supply themselves with opium required for internal consumption within their territories from the British depôt at Ahmedabad or from Bombay, or by means of direct importation from Malwa under regular passes, and the opium so supplied is retailed to their subjects at prices not below those obtaining in British territory. Moreover, the States have agreed to do their best to prevent untaxed opium from being either imported into their territory or smuggled out of it. In consideration of their undertaking to see the conventions faithfully carried out, these States are guaranteed certain privileges by the British Government. For instance, Baroda enjoys the whole of the revenue derived from the opium monopoly of the State and the right to import free of duty from Malwa such quantity as may be needed for internal consumption in the State. The States of Mahi Kantha, Rewa Kantha, Cambay, and Palanpur receive exemption from payment of the pass duty on opium imported for domestic consumption in their territories to the extent of the whole amount of such duty; whereas the Cutch and Kathiawar States are, as stated above, allowed a remission to the extent only of one-third of the pass duty. These are the present arrangements for the supply and sale of opium in the Native States referred to above. Any measures prohibitive of the sales of opium within the territories of these States would, in my opinion, lead to the following results:—(1) Such prohibitive measures would seriously interfere with the inveterate habits of the people in the Native States and inflict hardship on those of the consumers who cannot afford to give up such habits without danger to their lives. It is probable that these consumers would not survive such prohibition. No ruler of a Native State who thoroughly understands the disposition of his subjects, and sympathises with their frailties, would like to face the discontent which the disturbance of the existing arrangements will produce. (2) The prohibition would result in a serious loss to the Native States and to the British Government, who profit by the present arrangements. (3) Such action on the part of the British

Government would revive old controversies. Even as things stand at present, the arrangements in force have not given satisfaction. They are considered to be one-sided and unjust. By Cutch and Kathiawar it is contended that they are entitled to the enjoyment in full of the pass duty on opium consumed within their respective territories, that it is an injustice to them to be allowed a refund of only one-third of the pass duty while the remaining two-thirds should go to the benefit of the British Government for opium not consumed within British territory, and that this arrangement is tantamount to taxing them for British fiscal objects. The injustice of it, they urge, is all the more glaring when viewed in the light of the fact that while they are allowed a remission of one-third of the pass duty, the inland States of Gujarat are permitted to enjoy a refund to the full extent of the pass duty. It would appear that from their geographical position the States of Cutch and Kathiawar are relatively of greater importance than the inland Gujarat States, so far as the intercepting and prohibition of untaxed opium passing through their territories is concerned. There was a time in the history of the British opium trade with China when Malwa opium was smuggled through the Portuguese ports on the coast of Western India to China. By allowing their ports to be closed to the opium traffic—a measure which has necessitated the keeping up of a coastguard line by them—Cutch and Kathiawar have done the British Government a service which has enabled the Government in course of time to raise the pass fee on opium exported to China from Rs. 125, at which it stood at first, to Rs. 700 per chest. The history of each successive step taken on the raising of the pass-duty is the history of the assistance cheerfully afforded by the States of Cutch and Kathiawar during the early period of the British Indian trade with China when the Government stood sorely in need of such help. In such a time of need these States might fairly have exacted, if they had chosen to do so, a very substantial recompense from the Government of India as the price of their help—a price which, looking to the magnitude of the interests involved, the Government of the day would scarcely have deemed it worth their while to refuse to pay. But not only has the sacrifice so generously made by these States been thought to be of no account by the Government, but it seems to have been held that it is within the discretion of the British Government to levy pass fees even on opium consumed within the local limits of the territories of those States, and that such levy is considered to be the price which the subjects of the Native States are bound to pay for the advantages of living in States protected by the British Government. Such arguments, however, take no account of past services, no account of the fact that until so recently as 1878, Kathiawar did receive duty-free opium. In 1874-75 it was authoritatively remarked that the supply of opium to Kathiawar was to be free of the pass duty of Rs. 600 per chest. In the Bombay Administration Report for 1875-76 this admission is repeated in the following words:—“The opium to this province (Kathiawar) is issued free of pass fee.” The report for 1876-77 contains the following admission:—“The opium is issued to the province of Kathiawar free of pass-fee charges.” Such authoritative admissions, however, end with this report. These points would naturally claim the first attention of Government in any new arrangements which may be proposed in disturbance of the existing conventions.

24,912. You are of opinion that an attempt to prohibit the use of opium, except for medical purposes, in Cutch and Kathiawar would lead to discontent?—Yes.

24,913. (*Mr. Pease.*) You say that no sensible person contends that the habit of opium is good or is to be commended or encouraged; and again, you say that opium eating with good food is distinctly conducive to health; they seem a little opposed to each other, how do you reconcile these two statements?—Opium is not resorted to by all classes of people, but only those who are suffering from some chronic pains; and in their case when it is taken moderately it not only cures the diseases, but proves distinctly beneficial to their health.

24,914. Do I understand then that in all that you have said in reference to the habit of eating opium, everything you have said in any way approving of it, relates to persons who are suffering from some disease?—No. Not merely to persons who are suffering from some disease, but to persons who use it for non-medical purposes.

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24,915. You say that the revenue from spirituous drinks shows a remarkably steady growth, and you speak about the revenue from opium consumption in India steadily declining?—The revenue from opium, so far as I read the financial statements of the Government of India, is declining.

24,916. Have you got the figures with you?—No.

24,917. Are you referring to the consumption of opium in India, or to the revenue derived from the export trade?—I refer to the revenue as a whole.

24,918. You do not mean to say that the revenue from opium consumption in India is declining?—No, I mean the revenue as a whole.

24,919. Are you not mixing up the question of liquor drinking in India with opium smoking in China; are you not comparing the revenue of the two?—As regards opium revenue, I mean revenue derived both from consumption of opium in India and from the trade in China.

24,920. I do not think that is what you said. You said, "Rightly or wrongly the belief current among the people at the present day is that Government pursue their Abkari policy with the true instincts of a trader"; you are referring to Abkari, not to China at all. I ask you whether you are prepared to tell the Commission that the Abkari revenue from opium is declining?—No, I referred there to the revenue from the use of liquor.

24,921. Are you aware that the Government of India has taken credit to itself for its efforts to reduce the consumption of opium in India?—No, I am not.

24,922. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) In answer to Mr. Wilson, I think you told us that what you had said in favour of opium was in favour of it as used by persons medically, who were suffering from some disease?—Yes; and also by persons who use it in a non-medicinal way.

24,923. Now I want to ask you whether you think it would be practicable to restrict the use of opium to such purposes?—No.

24,924. Do you regard opium as a domestic remedy, the use of which must be left to the discretion of those who use it?—Yes.

24,925. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Perhaps you know that there was a good deal of smuggling going on before measures of suppression were taken in regard to opium?—Yes.

24,926. So that at that time the figures did not show the exact actual consumption, because there was a good deal of smuggling going on; but since arrangements were made for suppressing smuggling in 1878 it has been gradually lessened, and any figures showing increased consumption do not show an actual increase?—No, because practical steps have been taken to put down smuggling.

The witness withdrew.

*Mr. D.
McL. Slater.*

Mr. DUNCAN McLAUCHLAN SLATER called in and examined.

24,942. (*Chairman.*) You are manager and actuary of the Oriental Government Security Life Assurance Company of Bombay?—I am.

24,943. And you are here to tell us the effect which the taking of opium has had on the value of the lives of assureds of the company during the last 20 years?—Yes. I am the manager and the actuary of the Oriental Government Security Life Assurance Company, Bombay, transacting life assurance business in India, Burma, Straits Settlements, and Ceylon. I am also a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries of Great Britain and Ireland since 1873. I founded the company in May 1874, and with the guidance of the board of directors have personally administered the affairs of the company ever since the beginning of the institution. The company is purely an Indian one; its speciality being native life assurance at the same rates as Europeans. During the first decade of the company it was considered expedient to put on a small extra on opium consumers in moderate quantities, more as an extra precautionary measure than on account of any proved ill effects of the opium habit, as the data then were too limited for any deduction to be based thereon that would justify the company in accepting opium eaters at ordinary rates. At 31st December 1885 an investigation of the company's mortality experience was made, and it was ascertained that out of 167 deaths not a single one was due to the use or abuse of opium. In-

24,927. The figures show an increase because the smuggled opium has become licit opium; they do not really show an increase?—No.

24,928. The habit you say is on the decrease?—Yes.

24,929. You belong to Nadiad, where I too belong, and I know the cultivators; you use the word "peasantry" in a broad sense; you do not include the Patidars who do not actually cultivate?—Yes I do.

24,930. Which have you most experience of as opium eaters, the cultivators or the Patidars?—I have come in contact with both of them.

24,931. Do you think that the Kunbis, the actual cultivators, use as much opium as the Patidars?—No, they use it to a very small extent.

24,932. (*Chairman.*) You said that whereas the revenue from opium is declining from year to year that from spirituous drinks show a remarkably steady growth?—Yes.

24,933. When you say that there is a decline in the revenue from opium you are referring, are you not, to the excise revenue, and not to the revenue from the export duties on opium?—As regards revenue from opium, I take not merely the excise but also the revenue derived from the opium traffic with China.

24,934. But if you looked to the excise alone how would it be?—Probably the revenue would show an increase.

24,935. As a matter of fact it does?—Partly from the steps which have been taken in recent years to prevent smuggling.

24,936. And to prevent the consumption of illicit opium?—Yes.

24,937. Now, speaking of the effect of the use of opium generally, would you say that opium was a good thing for a man in strong health?—No, a man can keep up his health without the use of opium.

24,938. For instance, you would not recommend a son to take it?—No, certainly not.

24,939. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) You are an agent of the Cutch State?—Yes.

24,940. If the British Government withdrew any obligation on their part to supply opium to Cutch, Cutch would think itself at liberty to grow opium in its own territory?—Cutch would claim to be set at liberty.

24,941. Cutch need not claim, I should think. When one party breaks an agreement the other party would do so. The practice of exporting opium through the Cutch territories, beyond the seas, would also be resumed?—Yes; Cutch in that case would not be bound to prevent the exportation of such opium.

deed, the Indian lives had suffered no more mortality than was to have been looked for among English lives in England, the ratio for each 100 computed deaths being—

English	-	-	154	100
Eurasian	-	-	82	} Indian 100
Native	-	-	103	

That is to say, while the English lives in India had experienced 54 per cent. greater mortality than what was looked for in England, the aggregate Indian lives had suffered precisely the same mortality as shown by the H^o Table in England. The foregoing results were deduced with great care and enabled the directors to modify the extra for opium eating. In fact, in a few cases between 1886 and 1891 we put on no extra at all for opium as the lives were exceptionally healthy and sound. The mortality of the lives assured up to 31st December 1891 has again been examined and similar comparisons instituted. The results deduced substantially corroborate the results reported in 1886. The lives have been separated into three classes—English, Eurasian, and Native. There have been 779 deaths—

English	-	-	-	147
Eurasian	-	-	-	66
Natives	-	-	-	566

779

Comparing with the mortality looked for in England we get the following results :—

	Number of Deaths.	Estimated Number according to H ^m Table in England.
English - - -	147	97
Eurasian - - -	66	76
Natives - - -	566	469
	779	642

These results show that while English lives in India have suffered 52 per cent. greater mortality than what is looked for among lives in England, the Indian lives have experienced only 16 per cent greater mortality. In other words, the native lives, notwithstanding that many are accustomed to opium taking, have experienced much lighter mortality than English assured lives in India. The causes of deaths have also been ascertained, and there is not a single death, directly or indirectly, due to the use or abuse of opium on the company's records. The above results were completed in the beginning of December 1892, and since then the directors have, by the light of experience, decided to put on no extra to the age of persons who are opium eaters in moderate quantities, who are free from organic or structural lesions of any of the vital organs of the body, and who are not advanced in age. We have about 20,000 native assured lives, and of that number nearly 2 per cent. have been known to use opium within prescribed limits. My experience of native life assurance extends over nearly three decades, and I am strongly of opinion that no change whatever should be made in the system at present followed for regulating the opium traffic. The prohibition of opium would, I fear, lead the natives to take intoxicating drinks which would be a very much worse evil than opium eating. No other life assurance company has similar experience in regard to opium eaters. I may add that my views regarding consumers of opium before coming out to India were diametrically opposite to those above experienced, but that the practical acquaintance with the facts which I have derived while conducting the business of a large assurance company has led me to change my views.

24,944. (*Mr. Wilson.*) In these calculations and comparisons is the question of the corresponding ages taken into account?—All ages on the books of the company are taken into account.

24,945. I mean compared with corresponding ages in England?—Yes. The system is the same in India. The actuarial calculations are made by a competent actuary who is one of the highest authorities in Great Britain, viz., Mr. James Meikle, F.I.A. The H^m. Table, I may mention, is the Healthy Male Table for England and the calculations of the "Oriental" are computed on the basis of that Table.

24,946. Can you tell me what is the class of Indian lives that you have in your office?—The better class of Indian lives.

24,947. Well-to-do people?—Yes. Well-to-do people. Natives in Government offices, and educated natives; not the lower class of natives.

24,948. When did your directors make the change you mention as following the results of the investigation in December 1892?—They made it immediately after issuing the Actuarial Report to 31st December 1891.

24,949. You mean 1892?—No. The Actuarial Report was to 31st December 1891; but we received it in 1892, because it takes a year or more to make the necessary calculations and valuations.

24,950. You say that they "decided to put on no extra to the age of persons who were opium eaters in moderate quantities who were free from organic or structural lesions and who were not advanced in age;" that is a distinct restriction: did you leave the old restrictions in force with regard to persons who were advanced in age?—I may say this much that from the very beginning of the company the medical officers all over India and the East (and I do not think there is an assurance company anywhere with a better medical staff than we have in India—being all Government officers and thoroughly independent) to a man recommended that we should

put nothing on for opium eaters in moderate quantities. But to be safe, and as a precautionary measure, seeing the basis on which the "Oriental" was working was a great departure from the ordinary system of life assurance in India, we put a slight extra on for the first decade. After that, finding we were not having any claims on account of opium eating, we took it off in certain cases. When we got our last valuation report to 31st December 1891, which we received in 1892, the directors then decided to put on no extra on those who took opium in moderate quantities. Of course if they were advanced in age, say about 50, and we took them at all, for we have no desire for old lives, we might put on three or five years extra; but we have had no such cases up to date.

24,951. Is any question asked as to whether they are opium eaters?—Yes, there is a question in the Medical Report, which I think is one of the stiffest medical reports I know of. We ask the question, "Are you addicted to the use of narcotic drugs?"

24,952. Do you get many replies to that question?—Yes, they invariably reply. I have said from the knowledge I have derived from investigating the twenty thousand proposal papers we have received on native lives during the last twenty years that about 2 per cent. are in the habit of using opium.

24,953. You ask in your proposal form with reference to alcohol, how much they take; with reference to tobacco, to what extent they smoke; but in reference to narcotic drugs you do not put any such questions?—We ask the questions in the personal statement attached to our Medical Referees' Report.

24,954. But you do not ask how much?—We do not consider it necessary to ask the quantity. Applicants invariably state how much they take. That form was drawn up by Dr. Wellington Gray, for many years Principal of the Grant Medical College, Bombay, and one of the ablest medical officers in India, and I suppose he thought it unnecessary. I may say with regard to those who take drink, that if they take it in any quantity we decline them altogether, and if a man proposes who had been addicted to drink and become a teetotaler to a certainty he is declined at once, because if he breaks out a second time we expect him to go "the whole hog" and go out altogether. You will find in our report for 1892, in the Mortality Report of Mr. James Meikle, also in our Actuarial Report for 1885, confirmation of all that I have stated; and I have the honour to tender the said reports; also my "Life Assurance in India," giving a history of the "Oriental" and life assurance in this country during the last thirty years.

24,955. In reference to the 20,000 lives, and nearly 2 per cent. known to be opium eaters; that is about 400?—Yes.

24,956. Can you tell us anything about the deaths amongst those 400?—I can only say that out of the 779 deaths, for which we have paid 26 or 27 lakhs of rupees, up to 1891, not a single death occurred from the use or abuse of opium. I mention the causes of death in my report to the directors, attached to my "Life Assurance in India" handed to the President, but not one has been owing to the use or abuse of opium.

24,957. My question was, Can you tell us anything about the deaths among the 400 opium eaters?—There are no deaths at all.

24,958. You have had no deaths amongst those 400?—Not one.

24,959. Is it the custom in India (you know very well it is not in England) for the real cause of death to be always stated with absolute frankness?—Unquestionably so. I never had a doubt in England before coming out to India that the real cause of death was not stated. This is the first time I have heard such a reflection on the medical practitioners in England. I know that we are better off here with regard to medical referees than in any other part of the world, because the officers who report for us are all Government officers, independent of our company. Certainly, one strong argument in favour of opium is this, that all these medical officers, without exception, before any Opium Commission was ever thought of, advocated that opium eaters in moderate quantities should be taken without any extra. When we put on extra, they wrote strongly against it, and some of the cases were not carried out on account of our putting on extra

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When I say moderate quantities, I mean 3 to 10 grains a day; above that we decline them altogether.

24,960. (Mr. Mowbray.) I am not quite sure whether I understand your figures. Of course, you have different rates for the three classes of lives?—No; they are exactly the same in the "Oriental" for all classes, Eurasian and native.

24,961. English lives here seem very much worse than lives in England?—Yes, that is our experience.

24,962. The Eurasian lives are better?—Yes. The reason is that the number is so limited. Native lives are the proper gauge. The Eurasian community is so much smaller than the native that you cannot get the proper average.

24,963. I did not quite understand the statement that the aggregate Indian lives have suffered precisely the same mortality as shown by the H^m Table in England. Do you reckon both Eurasians and natives?—Yes; we add Eurasians and native together. We could not take the Eurasians separately, because the numbers are too small, they would not be sufficient for an average. This is not done by myself, but by Mr. Meikle, our consulting actuary, who is thoroughly independent. He puts the two classes together, and takes an average. He calls them Indians; but you may change the name and call them natives.

24,964. It seems to be 185 where you would have expected 200?—It is in the same proportion as 200.

24,965. You say that the aggregate Indian lives have suffered precisely the same mortality as shown by the

H^m Table. I should have expected that the two added together would be 200. The figures are, English 154 as against 100; thus, English lives in India have 54 per cent. greater mortality than would be looked for in England?—I quote the words of Mr. Meikle. We are actually 15 per cent. less. I have used the words of our consulting actuary in his report of the 13th of January 1887, which I have submitted to the Commission.

24,966. With regard to what you said as to charging an extra premium on opium eaters, your general experience is that lives under 45 sustain a lighter mortality, and lives over 45 a greater, quite apart from opium?—Yes, in fact, opium is not taken into account at all. In our exceptional experience with regard to opium eaters of 20 years, it has been harmless when taken in moderation.

24,967. Have you found any greater hesitation in confessing to the use of opium than in confessing to any other habit which you inquire into?—Not to my knowledge, but I do not know what effect may have been produced by reading the account of this Commission. Perhaps the number assured in the company who take opium may be more than 2 per cent., only they were afraid to mention it. I wish it to be clearly understood that I am not now speaking from actual facts and figures, but from reading the reports of the Opium Commission. I believe applicants for assurance answer the questions correctly in all cases.

24,968. You have no personal experience of any hesitation?—None.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. BADRUDIN ABDULLA KUR called in and examined.

Mr.
Badrudin
Abdulla Kur.

24,969. (Chairman.) What is your position?—I am a landlord.

24,970. What have you to say with regard to the habit of opium eating?—I consider that the growth of the poppy and the manufacture and sale of opium in British India should not be prohibited, nor could such prohibition be extended to Native States. The present arrangements with the latter are quite satisfactory, and could not be terminated without injustice. The effect on the finances of India would be simply disastrous in the extreme, because it is well known that the land revenue now accruing has reached its maximum. Any new device for taxation would cause much discontent. The opium revenue, being in great part derived from Chinese dollars, does not fall heavily on Indians, and the Indian Treasury is greatly helped by this revenue. I consider that the present system of regulating the traffic, and raising revenue therefrom, is quite satisfactory. I believe that the consumption of opium is not excessive, and that it has no bad effect, morally or physically, on the condition of the people. Many people take it for non-medical purposes, and the people generally would be quite unwilling to bear either in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures.

24,971. (Mr. Wilson.) Do you think that opium eating is a good habit?—I cannot call it a good habit. People take it here generally as a kind of tonic, so far as I know. In this part of the country the Mahomedans, especially the Kachi Mahomedans and the Marwaris, take it as a tonic. If they take it in excess it is a very bad habit.

24,972. I hope that Musalmans do not all require tonics?—It is an evil to a certain extent; but when compared to alcohol it is far better for the people in this climate. I have seen people who have taken opium for the last 10 or 15 years who are still in very good health.

24,973. Do you think it is a good habit to be commenced by persons in good health?—I would call it a bad habit if they began to take it in excess, which they do not do.

24,974. If they take it in moderation you call it a good habit?—It depends upon one's own constitution and surroundings. If a man is in weak health, and if he begins to take opium, it may spoil his constitution.

24,975. I asked you whether it was a good habit for a person in good health?—I should not call it good or bad.

24,976. (Mr. Mowbray.) Do you think that tobacco smoking is a good habit for a man in perfect health?—

In this climate it is to a certain extent injurious if taken in excess.

24,977. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) You know perhaps that the habit of taking opium enslaves its devotee to a certain extent, and that if he does not take it he feels pain?—Yes, to a certain extent.

24,978. Then so far it is bad?—I am told that people who are sent to prison do not suffer if they are habituated to taking opium.

24,979. If they do not get it at the proper time?—They may feel it to a certain extent.

24,980. Do you think that the habit is bad if it is not required for the sake of health, but merely for pleasure?—It has no moral effect on the nation as a whole.

24,981. I do not think you take opium?—No, but I know hundreds of Mahomedans who take opium.

24,982. Do you think that an occasional dose as a stimulant does no harm; but that as a habit it binds a man?—It does not bind him more strongly than people are bound to liquors. It is an evil to a certain extent.

24,983. In the opinion of the Mahomedans the opium habit is not so bad as alcohol both in regard to its injurious effect and in a religious point of view?—I know scores of Maulvis who take opium. They have confessed it to me. In the Koran there is the strictest prohibition of liquor.

24,984. But opium is not expressly prohibited?—No.

24,985. You would like that strict measures should be taken to prohibit the use of alcohol before any measures are taken for the suppression of opium?—I should think so.

24,986. (Mr. Fanshawe.) We have been told by a certain number of witnesses that the habit of taking opium is fairly common among middle aged men of 35 or 40; is that your experience in the Sunni community?—So far as I know in the Sunni community people give opium to their children; when they grow up and reach manhood it is left to their discretion.

24,987. Is it your experience that the habit of taking opium as a restorative is fairly common among middle aged people after 35 or 40?—Yes.

24,988. Among the members of your community is opium sometimes taken in younger life as a stimulant, as we take tobacco at times?—I rarely come across very young men who take it.

24,989. There are only rare instances of this use?—Yes.

24,990. Do you know anything of the lower classes of the Mahomedan community, artisans and so on?—I do.

24,991. Is the habit of taking opium fairly common amongst them?—It is common, especially among those classes who weave golden threads; it enables them to work for longer hours.

24,992. Amongst that class of your community does the opium habit, so far as you know, cause bad moral and physical effects, or not?—If taken to excess it does.

24,993. As a general use?—Generally it does not.

24,994. Am I right in understanding that among the Sunni community it is considered, as a practical rule of life, that you are allowed to take opium in moderation?—There is no hard-and-fast rule.

24,995. I am not speaking of a religious precept, but is it a practical rule for the guidance of life that you may take opium in moderation?—It is a very delicate question; it is rather a socio-religious question.

24,996. You say that you know Maulvis who take opium. There are strict sects in every religion, but speaking generally do the Sunni community look upon the taking of opium in moderation as a thing to be allowed or not?—Many people take it in social life. Of course those who take it to excess are hated, but those who indulge in moderation are not noticed. I know hundreds of people who have taken opium for years together and we did not know it.

24,997. What is your position among the Sunni community?—I am a municipal commissioner.

24,998. Are you a merchant yourself?—No.

24,999. Are you a landlord?—Yes.

25,000. (*Chairman.*) Are you an elected member of the municipal council?—Yes, elected by the rate-payers.

25,001. My esteemed colleague, Mr. Wilson, has asked you to consider the opium habit under a classification which includes only two heads, good habits and bad habits, are you sufficiently subtle to contemplate a classification under three heads—good habits, bad habits, and a class whose characteristics are chiefly negative neither bad nor good?—Yes, I can imagine that.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. S. A. NATHAN called in and examined.

25,010. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) You are a partner in Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co., Bombay and China merchants, Bombay?—I am the manager.

25,011. Will you kindly give us your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—My experience in India is confined to the city of Bombay. I know that all classes of the Hindu and Mahomedan communities eat opium, and a very small per-centage smoke it. I have also resided nearly 15 years in the different treaty ports of China, and have a good deal of experience of the opium trade there. In some of the northern ports, where thousands of chests of Malwa opium used to be sold annually, now only a few hundred chests suffice. That is for the use of a few only of the wealthy class. The cultivation of the native drug has so much increased that after supplying the home demand the balance is shipped to the south, *e.g.*, the port of Neuchang, which formerly used to import Indian opium largely, is now an exporter of the native drug.

25,012. What is your experience as regards the effects of the consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people in India?—With regard to the effect of consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people, I think that, if taken moderately, it is very beneficial, especially to people suffering from certain diseases, and also in old age.

25,013. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India with regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes?—It is taken as a stimulant.

25,014. Would it be possible to restrict the use of opium to medical purposes only?—It is possible to make a law on the subject; but it would be very difficult to enforce it.

25,015. What, in your opinion, would be the result of the prohibition of the sale of opium in British India?—It will create great discontent among the consumers

25,002. Do you think that opium may be put into that third class, not being characterised as either good or bad?—Those are not regular consumers; they take it from climatic causes.

25,003. The habit may easily become bad if opium is taken to excess?—I know hundreds of people who take it regularly for months together and do not afterwards feel it.

25,004. The taking of opium becomes a bad habit the moment you pass the limits of moderation?—It is so.

25,005. Moderation means a very small quantity?—It depends upon the individual constitution and upon the food taken. People who take good food become stronger. People who indulge moderately and take good food and are not given to other excesses become on the whole physically stronger.

25,006. Is it not really very difficult to speak in a comprehensive and definite manner with regard to the opium habit? Does it not depend so much upon the circumstances of the individual, the quantity he takes, and the state of his health?—Yes, and upon climatic circumstances; his own surroundings, his food, and many other things.

25,007. Do you think that in this country, taking a general view of it, alcohol is a much more potent source of evil than opium?—I should say a thousand times worse. I know hundreds of people in Bombay, Mahomedans, some of them in a good class of society, and other classes, who take opium but they are never violent. Those who indulge in liquors are more violent; there is always some quarrelling and fighting among them.

25,008. You think there is more difficulty among people in this country in resisting the temptation to excess in alcohol than in resisting the temptation to excess in opium?—My personal experience is that they generally go at once to excess in alcohol.

25,009. It is more difficult to resist the temptation to drink than the temptation to excess in opium?—Yes.

and among the people who make a living out of it, and it will lead to smuggling.

25,016. I suppose your house is a large exporting house?—It is.

25,017. Has your trade been affected in the same way that you speak of the imports into the northern parts of China having fallen off in the last few years?—Yes; the export of opium from India to China has fallen off.

25,018. (*Mr. Wilson.*) Are you expecting that the opium trade in China is likely to revive?—No.

25,019. Are you expecting it may probably continue to fall off?—I do.

25,020. Whatever difficulties that will cause are inevitable in the course of trade?—Unless we could lay down opium there as cheap as the home-grown drug.

25,021. You think that prohibition cannot be extended to most Native States?—Yes.

25,022. I suppose there are some to which you think it could be extended?—That all depends upon the pressure brought by the British Government. They would not voluntarily do it.

25,023. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Would you tell me at which of the treaty ports in China you have resided?—I have resided in Tientsin Neuchang, Hankow, Shanghai, and Ningpo.

25,024. During the course of your business were you brought into personal contact with any of the Chinese of the better class?—Yes, of all classes.

25,025. Was the practice of smoking opium common among any number of them?—Yes.

25,026. Can you tell us how this practice was regarded amongst the Chinese of the better class?—They smoke it openly. There is no secrecy. When a gentleman calls on another he is invited to have a

Mr.
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Mr.
S. A. Nathan.

Mr. S. A. Nathan. smoke in the same way as we invite a man to a glass of wine.

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25,027. You have not yourself heard any general expressions in condemnation of the habit amongst the Chinese with whom you were thrown?—Some of them do say that opium is baneful to the country; but still they grow it themselves.

25,028. Do some of them say the contrary?—Some of them regard it as beneficial.

25,029. I understand that when you purchase opium for export you keep it in the Government godowns, or store houses, until you require it for shipping?—Yes; opium cannot be had from Bombay except from the Government warehouse.

25,030. Do you make your own purchases of Malwa opium through agents?—Sometimes.

25,031. And until you require it for shipping it would be stored in the Government storehouse?—If we buy it up-country it remains there until we want to ship it, because it saves money.

25,032. As a rule you do not bring it down until you are prepared to ship it?—Not until we want to ship it to China.

25,033. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) You say that in China some say that opium smoking is good, and some that it is not good; those who say it is not good do they themselves take it?—Yes.

25,034. Some of the smokers themselves say so, and also those who do not smoke?—Yes.

25,035. (Mr. Mowbray.) You have told us that in some of these northern ports where thousands of chests of Malwa opium used to be sold annually only a few hundred chests are now sold of Indian opium; was that going on whilst you were there yourself?—Yes, but not so much.

25,036. As a matter of personal experience, could you say whether the diminution of the amount of Indian opium imported into those northern ports affects in any way the consumption by the Chinese in those ports?—No, the number of smokers are no less. They smoke the native drug on account of its cheapness.

25,037. (Chairman.) Among the class with whom you were in contact during your residence in China in the way of business were there many consumers of opium?—Yes, the majority of them smoked.

25,038. What was your impression of the effect of the opium habit on those men?—If they took it in moderate quantities it did no harm.

25,039. Did you notice in many that there were indications of consumption in excess?—Not very many.

25,040. There were some?—Yes, certainly there were some.

25,041. (Mr. Wilson.) Opium sent down to Bombay from the Native States for shipment goes through a great many States, does it not?—Not a great many.

25,042. Several States?—Yes.

25,043. It is largely manufactured by what I may call small merchants and manufacturers?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. E. S. GUBBAY called in and examined.

Mr. E. S. Gubbay

25,058. (Chairman.) What position do you hold?—I am manager of the opium department of Messrs. David Sassoon and Co., Bombay and China merchants.

25,059. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—I was in Shanghai for a period of three years, and in Ningpo for four years, thus showing a stay in China, in the aggregate, of about seven years, from 1867 to the end of the year 1873. I found the Chinese, as a general rule, to be a set of intelligent and most industrious people. My dealings were mostly confined to, and my remarks consequently bear upon, such of the Chinese as were in the habit of purchasing their opium from me. I am in a position to say that the smoking of opium by the Chinese does in no manner of ways tend to render them inferior, either mentally or physically, to those that abstain from the use of the drug. I have seen it stated by one witness, who gave evidence before the Commission at Umballa, that, after

25,044. In that respect it differs very much from the Bengal opium, which is produced in two large factories and where a great deal of scientific care is exercised to keep it of an uniform quality and consistency?—Yes.

25,045. Does it undergo any further process of mixing, or anything, before it is exported to China?—No, you cannot do anything with opium in Bombay. It is kept in the Government warehouse, and we have to purchase it there, pack it there, and ship it there.

25,046. If you buy half-a-dozen varieties of opium from different merchants in the Native States, does it all go to China just as you buy it?—We know what we buy. We test and select the opium. I am an opium selector myself. A parcel of opium is put before me, with samples, and I select or reject, just as I think proper. There are different kinds of opium from different districts.

25,047. Do you cut a ball?—Yes; we open a chest, cut a ball, take a sample, and boil and test it.

25,048. And then it is sent to China, at different prices according to the quality?—Yes. The prices vary about Rs. 150 per chest.

25,049. In that respect the trade of the opium merchants in Bombay is entirely different from what it is in Calcutta?—Only as far as selection is concerned. In Calcutta you go to the auction sale and buy the opium; there is no selection.

25,050. You give what prices you choose at the sale, and then send the opium away?—It is sold in sealed chests, and we sell in China in sealed chests. In China they take the Government seal.

25,051. (Chairman.) So far as Calcutta is concerned it bears a Government warrant?—We rely on the British Government seal, and the Chinese rely on that also.

25,052. In China, for the Malwa opium, they look to the exporting house and the position it bears?—The Chinese also test opium coming from Bombay in the same way as we do.

25,053. (Mr. Mowbray.) Do you test it before it comes to Bombay? Do you sample it in the Native States before it passes to the scales?—No, we do not. The agents do when they buy up-country.

25,054. Where do you test it in Bombay?—In the Government warehouse. No opium can be had outside the Government warehouse, except by licensed shopkeepers. Retail opium is kept in the building kept by Government.

25,055. You do not purchase until it has actually come into the Government warehouse in Bombay?—Yes, except what we buy up-country through our agents.

25,056. You buy in both ways; your agent tests up-country before it comes from the scales?—Yes.

25,057. I suppose that what you test in the godown at Bombay is a sample of the amount of that particular consignment in the godown at that particular time?—Yes.

taking opium, people are incapable of doing their ordinary work, and become untrustworthy. This is directly contrary to my experience in dealing with opium-smoking Chinamen, whom I have found to be quite trustworthy and very capable, clear-headed men of business.

25,060. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—My firm belief is that the consumption of opium is perfectly harmless to the constitution, and very often a moderate use of the drug far from having a depreciating has a favourable effect upon the intellect, the wit, and the system, enabling people to undertake and go through more work and fatigue than they could otherwise conveniently cope with. An excessive use of the drug is of course injurious, but such cases are very rare when compared with the abuse of alcohol. The Chinese who smoke or imbibe opium are better behaved, more quiet, and far more sensible than those addicted to alcoholic drinks.

25,061. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes?—From the beginning of the year 1874 I joined the opium staff of the firm in Bombay, and again the result of my experience is, that whether in India or in China a moderate indulgence in the smoking or taking of opium is conducive to health. Opium is generally regarded in unhealthy and malarial tracts as a preventive against the insidious attacks of fever and rheumatism, and as a certain specific in diabetes. I fully concur in these beliefs, which have also the support of the medical community. I am of opinion that the present system of granting licenses for the sale of opium for other than medical purposes should not be abandoned. The total prohibition of opium, in my opinion, can only lead to an increased use of alcoholic stimulants, and also perhaps to attempts at smuggling opium into India.

25,062. Can you give us your view as to the willingness of the people of this country to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—In my opinion any attempts at direct taxation to replace the opium revenue would be simply impossible. The existing system of Government monopoly with reference to opium cannot be improved upon. Nor can the people bear a further taxation without their present embarrassment being considerably aggravated by the new measure.

25,063. You speak with particular authority about China, I see?—Yes, owing to my experience there.

25,064. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) At Ningpo and Shanghai were you thrown into personal contact with the Chinese merchants in the course of your business?—At Ningpo I was, because I had to sell them the opium.

25,065. Did the majority of those merchants smoke opium?—Mostly.

25,066. I understood you to say that you found this in no way impede their business habits and clearness of head?—Quite so; it does not impede them in any way.

25,067. Are you in a position to express an opinion as to the manner in which opium smoking was regarded among that class of people in China?—Opium smoking being general, it is not regarded as demoralizing; and

visitors are entertained with a smoke just as we would offer wine or a cigar to our friends.

25,068. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Did you find any of these Chinese merchants who did not smoke opium?—No.

25,069. All invariably smoked?—Yes.

25,070. Was there not an order in China that those who smoked opium should be hanged?—I do not think there is any such order as that now in existence.

25,071. I have been told, and have read in papers and other literature, that it was a standing order?—As I never witnessed or heard of any person being hanged for smoking it could not have been a standing order. You may have read of it in some of the old literature.

25,072. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Was there much of the native drug consumed in the part of China where you were?—No, it was mostly Indian.

25,073. Shanghai and Ningpo are both treaty ports, are they not?—Yes.

25,074. Do you speak Chinese yourself?—No, I could understand the language when I was there.

25,075. At the time you yourself could understand them?—Yes.

25,076. I rather gather your evidence to-day has been with regard to a limited class of Chinamen that you were brought in contact with?—Yes, generally the merchants.

25,077. (*Chairman.*) A former witness whom we had said he had noticed in China that to a limited extent the opium habit had done harm; would you confirm that?—No; as his experience was mostly in the north and mine in the south of China our versions must differ to a limited extent.

25,078. Do you desire to say to us, that so far as your observation extended you did not trace the existence of any ill effects from the use of opium among men engaged in business?—Nothing came before me to attract my notice.

25,079. The firm of Messrs. David Sassoon & Co. is a different house to that of Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co., is it not?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. DAYABHAI TAPIDAS called in and examined.

Mr. Dayabhai Tapidas.

25,080. (*Chairman.*) You are a mill-owner in Bombay?—Yes.

25,081. Will you give us your experience upon the opium question?—In repeating what has already been said before the Royal Commission by so many experts, both official and non-official, I think it my duty to add that from careful inquiries amongst the 1,400 operatives working in the Alliance Mill, which I have the honour to represent, I am informed that there are none who use opium. I hardly believe this statement, as these poor men fear to speak out for fear of injuring their prospects in future; but I can say so much, that there is not one amongst them who could be detected from his face as addicted to the habit of taking opium. I regret, however, that out of this lot a great number use liquor, and are known as confirmed drunkards, and on account of their continued absence our business is very often interfered with. They are very troublesome, irregular at work, and dangerous to trust, and by reason of this profligate habit their families are often made to suffer. Opium is, in my opinion, very necessary as a vegetable stimulant to those who have an aversion to liquor, and possesses religious scruples. Any interference with the opium trade by the British will cause serious dissatisfaction to the British Indian population and the opium-growing districts.

25,082. Why have you reason to suppose that any of the operatives working in the Alliance Mill would fear to speak out plainly with reference to their habit of taking opium for fear of injuring their prospects in the future?—Because these people being ignorant they think if they speak they will be dismissed. We have told them they have nothing to fear, and asked them to come forward, but they have not done so.

25,083. You apprehend that they think if they frankly stated they took opium you would dismiss them?—Yes.

25,084. Why should they be dismissed?—They are ignorant people, and have no knowledge of the reasons of our inquiry. They have not come forward.

25,085. From a mere general habit of suspicion?—Yes.

25,086. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) I suppose you never have dismissed a man from the mill for taking opium?—No.

25,087. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Have you got a system of piece-work?—Yes.

25,087a. And monthly wages too?—Yes.

25,088. So that in the case of a man who gets paid according to the work he does, would you know by the amount of work he does whether he was an opium eater or not?—No.

25,089. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) The Alliance Mill is a silk mill, is it not?—No. It used to be connected with a silk mill, but now it is only a cotton mill.

25,090. Are you the personal manager?—No, I am a partner in the firm. It is a public mill.

25,091. You are one of the shareholders, and manager and agent?—Yes.

25,092. With reference to what you said as to the unwillingness of the operatives to admit they were in the habit of using opium, you mean that any inquiry into the customs of the natives of this country is liable to excite suspicion in their minds, and that would be the reason why they would not always rightly say what were the facts?—Yes.

25,093. Can you tell me whether in your own caste it is usual for middle-aged men to take opium in moderate quantities?—The children get it.

25,094. Is it a common practice to give it to children?—Yes.

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25,095. Is it a practice for middle-aged men to take it?—Some middle-aged men take it for their general health.

25,096. (*Chairman.*) Do you think the use of opium is a good thing for people in strong health?—If they

take it in a limited quantity it is a good thing, but when there is no necessity for it it is of no use.

25,097. Would you say there was any necessity if they were in good health?—No.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. VRIJBUKANDAS ATMARAM called in and examined.

Mr.
Vrijbhukandas
Atmaram.

25,098. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) You are a merchant residing in Bombay?—Yes.

25,099. Are you a banker as well?—I am a cotton and seed merchant and commission agent.

25,100. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium among the people of this Presidency with whom you are acquainted?—In my opinion opium is generally used in many cases for removing the pains of hunger, for remission from exhaustion brought on by overwork or by old age, as a cure against certain kinds of diseases, and also as an article of luxury to people in well-to-do position. It is mostly used in Kathiawar, Gujarat, Central and North-west Provinces both by Hindus and Musalmans.

25,101. What is your experience as regards the moral and physical effects of the habit?—My experience is that people who use opium in moderate quantities generally possess strong and healthy physique and that such use is not found to have any demoralizing effect upon their character. Opium users have more power of endurance than ordinary men in times of famines. I have also known these people enjoying long life.

25,102. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of this part of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear the cost of prohibitive measures?—I have no hesitation to say that the people of India will certainly be discontented if the use of opium for non-medical purposes is prohibited. Many a hard-working and warlike race will thereby be deprived of their

necessary stimulant which enables them to work with vigour. The people of India will certainly be unwilling to bear any portion of the cost incurred for prohibitive measures.

25,103. Have you any acquaintance with Native States yourself?—Yes.

25,104. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—I have reason to believe that stopping the use of opium for purposes other than medicinal will deprive the users of their needed stimulant, and as they are habituated from their youth to take some stimulant, the effect of this prohibition will be the introduction of other alcoholic drinks which will degrade opium eaters socially as well as morally and religiously in the eyes of their own caste people. As regards the extension of the prohibition of opium to Native States, so far as I know, I think the Native States are not willing, as this prohibition will materially affect their fiscal revenues.

25,105. With what Native States have you a personal acquaintance?—With the Bhaunagar State.

25,106. If the sale of opium were prohibited in British India, could that sale be extended to the Native State of Bhaunagar?—They would not like the prohibition.

25,107. The State would not be willing to accept prohibition?—It would not be willing.

25,108. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) You are not personally interested in the opium trade?—No.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. GORDHANDAS KHATAO called in and examined.

Mr.
Gordhandas
Khatao.

25,109. (*Chairman.*) You are a mill-owner in Bombay?—Yes.

25,110. What is your experience as regards the effects of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people?—In my opinion the users of opium are neither morally or physically affected injuriously by the use of opium, if taken in moderation and with proper nourishment. It acts as a tonic.

25,111. What do you think as to the disposition of the people of India to accept a regulation which would limit the sale of opium to the medical use only?—People use opium for non-medical purposes as stated above, and it is also used for medical purposes by all classes.

25,112. I suppose it is hardly necessary to ask you whether they would like to bear the cost of prohibitive measures?—Certainly not.

25,113. Are you acquainted with any Native States?—Not very well acquainted with them.

25,114. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) You are a large cotton merchant, are you not?—Yes.

25,115. Are your mills only in Bombay?—In Bombay only.

25,116. How many hands do you employ?—Between 3,500 and 4,000.

25,117. (*Chairman.*) Is there much consumption of opium among your hands, do you think?—No.

25,118. (*Mr. Haridas Voharidas.*) Would it be a good thing if a person in strong health took to the habit, even

in moderation?—No, I would not consider it a good habit.

25,119. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Have you made any special inquiries among your mill hands?—Yes, I have. I do not find a single one taking opium, although all are alcohol drinkers.

25,120. Is that since the Commission came to India?—Yes.

25,121. Do you think, as a previous witness told us, that the mill hands have any reluctance to confess to taking opium?—No, in my own case there was no reluctance shown at all.

25,122. Then you think as a fact they are not opium eaters?—Yes.

25,123. Where do you get your mill hands from?—From the Southern Mahratta country, and some of the weavers from Northern India.

25,124. What part of Northern India?—Cawnpore, Allahabad, and all that district.

25,125. Do you find any distinction between the people in your spinning and weaving departments—there are none of them opium consumers?—No.

25,126. (*Chairman.*) You say that practically all your hands are consumers of alcohol?—Yes.

25,127. Do you believe that alcohol is taken in excess by a considerable number of your people?—Yes, by some of them, especially on pay day.

25,128. In your view, is the excessive indulgence in alcohol a much more pregnant source of evil here than the excessive use of opium?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. DHARAMSI SUNDERDAS called in and examined.

Mr. Dharamsi
Sunderdas.

25,129. (*Chairman.*) You are a merchant of this city?—Yes.

25,130. You are, I understand, senior partner in the firm of Messrs. Mulji Jetha and Co., proprietors of

cotton mills, ginning, and pressing factories in Bombay, Madras, Khandesh, and elsewhere?—Yes.

25,131. What number of hands do you employ?—From 600 to 800 in each mill.

25,132. How many altogether?—About 5,000.

25,133. Besides your experience as a partner in the firm of Messrs. Mulji Jetha and Co., have you other experiences bearing on the question of opium?—Besides being partner in the firm of Messrs. Mulji Jetha and Co. I have my paternal estates in Kathiawar. I know the people there. I am also in constant contact with my mill employes. The people in Kathiawar are in the habit of taking opium for dietetic purposes. It is still a common custom there to offer opium to guests as a mark of hospitality.

25,134. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—Opium consumers are physically strong, able to bear the fatigue of their whole day's work, and morally good, when their consumption is moderate. They are regular and steady in their work, and are preferable to liquor consumers. The latter are very common in the factories; 5 to 10 per cent. take opium, 50 to 60 per cent. take liquor, the rest take no intoxicants. My managers complain that liquor consumers, as soon as they are paid their monthly wages, resort freely to liquor and remain absent at home in a drunken state for some days on plea of illness. They are rough to deal with as regards performance of their work. Opium eaters are quiet and tractable.

25,135. As a great employer of labour, you like the opium-eaters better than the alcohol drinkers?—Yes.

25,136. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to any regulation for prohibiting the use of opium except for medical purposes?—My opinion is that the people of the country districts regard opium as a stimulant to keep up their spirits after hard labour. They do not consider it injurious.

25,137. Would the people of this country cheerfully pay the cost of prohibitive measures?—They would not be willing to bear either in part or wholly the cost of prohibitive measures.

25,138. You have spoken of Kathiawar as a district in which you have estates; do you consider that the enforcement of prohibitory regulations in the Native States with which you are connected could be pressed upon the States by the British Government of India without excessive discontent?—No; because the Native States will lose their revenue, and the British Government will lose its income too. Native States will not be willing to accept prohibition.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. TRIBHOVANDAS JAGJIVANDAS called in and examined (through an interpreter).

25,158. (*Chairman.*) You are a merchant of Bombay?—Yes.

25,159. Will you tell us what personal experience you have had of opium eating?—I am 77 years old. I have been eating opium for 60 years. At the age of 17 I suffered from congestion in my stomach. My physician, therefore, advised me to eat opium, as other medicines proved ineffectual. I began to eat it at that time, and have hitherto continued the habit. I commenced with a quarter of a val (about three grains) on the first day, and adhered to that quantity until recently. For some days past, however, I have raised it to three-quarters of a val, as signs of old age have become more visible in me. The result is that I again feel energy and activity as before in carrying on my trade and occupation. I was in poor circumstances, and began to carry on business after the age of 17. After this I married by means of my own income, met

The witness withdrew.

THAKAR HARIDAS MAOJI called in and examined (through an interpreter).

25,162. (*Chairman.*) You are, I believe, a merchant of Bombay?—Yes.

25,163. What have you to say in reference to your use of opium?—I am a brother and partner of Thakar Korji Maoji, a well-known merchant of Bombay. I am

25,139. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) From what part of this Presidency do most of your operatives come?—From the Southern Maratha and the northern districts.

25,140. Northern districts of Gujarat?—Gujarat, as well as Delhi, Allahabad, and North-West Provinces.

25,141. Can you tell me whether it is the practice in your caste to give opium to infants?—Yes, it is.

25,142. Speaking generally, do you think it leads to any evil results?—No.

25,143. Is it also a habit in your caste for men later in life to take opium as a restorative?—Yes, some take it.

25,144-5. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Can you give us the percentage of elderly people taking opium?—I cannot say, but I think about 10 to 15 per cent. may be taking it.

25,146. Do they take it in excess?—They take it moderately.

25,147. For the sake of their health?—Yes.

25,148. Not for pleasure?—No; in Kathiawar there is a custom, but not in Bombay.

25,149. It does them good here?—Yes.

25,150. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) You have said about 5 or 10 per cent. take it in your factories, is that the experience in your Bombay mills?—Up-country mills.

25,151. Where?—At Khandesh, and Madras, and Berar, Central Provinces.

25,152. Have you made special inquiries in those mills to get at those facts?—Yes.

25,153. You say that your mill hands come from the Southern Mahratta country, and from Northern Hindustan; is it the weavers who come from Northern Hindustan?—Yes, the weavers specially.

25,154. Do you know whether it has been found that opium consumption is more common among the people who come from Northern Hindustan rather than among the people who come from the Southern Mahratta country?—I cannot say.

25,155. Those figures you have given us have been arrived at from your factories generally, after special inquiries have been made?—Yes, inquiries from the managers.

25,156. (*Chairman.*) Would you say that opium was a good thing for a young man in strong health to take?—It is not essential to a young man, but it helps elderly people very much.

25,157. It is quite unnecessary for a young man?—I cannot say that, because I do not use opium; but I do not think it would be injurious to a young man.

expenses on many occasions, and have until now earned about 18 lakhs of rupees. Even now I am in good circumstances by the grace of God. I am the owner of the Lakhmidas Market. I have three sons now alive. The eldest son is engaged in trade. The second, named Motilal, holds the office of a judge in Bhaunagar. My third son attends to work connected with the market. I am of opinion that whoever eats opium moderately is thereby benefited in health. Opium does no harm to the eater, but on the contrary it gives strength in walking and moving about. For my part I am sure that my disease was cured by opium, and that if I should give it up, my strength would fail, and I think I should become diseased.

25,160. You speak in favour of opium?—Yes.

25,161. Would you recommend the use of opium to young men in strong health?—If in good health I would not advise them to take opium.

Mr. Dharamsi Sunderdas.

13 Feb. 1894.

Mr. Tribhovandas Jagjivandas.

Thakar Haridas Maoji.

a native of Cutch and an inhabitant of Kotada under Roha. From infancy I reside in Bombay. I suffered sickness at the age of about 45, when I began to vomit and to discharge blood. In consequence of this I became weak. I tried many medicines prescribed by

Thakar
Haridas
Maoji.

13 Feb. 1894.

doctors, but without success. I went to my native place, where it is customary to eat opium. My maternal uncle advised me to eat a little opium habitually, saying that it would impart strength to my body. I accordingly began to eat opium twice a day, morning and evening, at the rate of two vals in the aggregate. I have thereby gained a good deal of strength. I am now 54 years of age. I have strength enough to cope with any work, and am seldom attacked with other diseases. My present dealings extend from about half a lakh of rupees to three quarters of a lakh. Formerly they were more extensive. I follow the occupation of

a Mukadam, which involves personal labour. If I do not eat opium strength leaves me completely. From the day I began to eat opium I enjoy physical health.

25,164. You speak in favour of opium, but you refer to somewhat advanced age and conditions of not particularly good health?—I took opium when I was not in very good health, at the age of 50.

25,165. Would you recommend the use of opium to a young man in strong health?—No, I would not advise it if he is in good health.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. Mancherji
M. Mulah
Feroz.

Mr. MANCHERJI M. MULAH FEROS called in and examined.

25,166. (Chairman.) You are a merchant of this city?—Up to last year I was a merchant; but at the present time I am assisting a commercial firm.

25,167. What are your habits with reference to the use of opium?—I have been using it in a very small quantity, about the size of a gram.

25,168. How much is that in grains?—It might be about five or six grains.

25,169. You take five or six grains a day?—Yes.

25,170. How long have you been in the habit of taking that?—About 15 years.

25,171. What originally led you to take to opium?—I was not keeping very good health. I was nervous and incapacitated from work, constipation, &c. I got disgusted with life. I went through a lot of medical treatment, but it failed. I happened once to read De Quincey, and out of curiosity I tried a little opium. It agreed with me considerably, and since that time I have improved in health and vigour and everything.

25,172. That is, 15 years steady consumption of a moderate dose of opium has been in your circumstances a good thing?—A very good thing.

25,173. You began this habit because you had previously not been in good health; now, looking at this question in a general way without reference to yourself in particular, would you say that for a young man in good health it was a right thing to begin to take opium?—I should think so.

25,174. For a young man in good health?—A young man may take it with advantage.

25,175. In good health?—In good health. It is just as good as any good habit, walking, for instance.

25,176. In your case it was distinctly begun by way of medical remedy?—Not at all. When I took to it I did not think it would do me any good or harm. I simply took it as a matter of curiosity.

25,177. (Mr. Fanshawe.) When you say the amount you take is the size of a gram, can you tell me what it would be in the native weight?—It might be about five or six grains. It is about the size of a large gram, but sometimes a little more.

25,178. Is that once in a day?—Sometimes twice, but very rarely.

25,179. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) Is gram and val the same?—No, I think a gram is a little bigger than a val.

25,180. Would you be able to give up your habit if you wished?—I have often left it off for a day or two, but I found it did not do me good. I felt a little nervous.

25,181. And if a young man got into the habit of taking opium, it would be painful to him to give it up?—I think he could give it up. In my case it did me good because my health was not well; but in the case of a young man in perfect health the giving up might not do him any harm.

25,182. But opium would be his master, and he could not give it up?—He could give it up without it doing him any harm; but at the same time he would be deprived of any good it might be doing him. I am of opinion that in a very small quantity it improves the health, memory, imagination, and everything.

25,183. Would you advise every young man in good health to take to the habit of opium?—Not necessarily.

25,184. When it was necessary would you advise him?—If a young man would indulge in a small quantity of liquor or any such thing he might as well indulge in a small quantity of opium. I think a little opium would do a young man more good than a small quantity of tobacco or liquor.

25,185. It is better than liquor?—Yes.

25,186. Absolutely?—Absolutely. It has no tendency to do evil, unless he increases it immoderately.

25,187. (Mr. Mowbray.) You think the individual is the best judge of what is good for himself?—I should think so.

25,188. Do you take about the same amount now as you did when you commenced 15 years ago?—No. I am in the habit of decreasing it by degrees. I go up to a certain quantity, and then I again decrease, bringing it to the minimum again. I then again increase it a little. I keep myself within a certain limit.

25,189. Practically, is the average dose that you take now about the same as the average dose you took when you began?—No, it is much larger. I commenced with a very small dose.

25,190. Do you think it is larger than it was five years ago?—No, because I decreased it again after a certain time. I go on decreasing it in order that I may not be induced to take an injurious quantity.

25,191. You find you can reduce the quantity?—Yes, I could leave it off for a few days.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. Hormasji
Kumarji Setna.

Mr. HORMASJI KUMARJI SETNA called in and examined.

25,192. (Mr. Mowbray.) Will you tell us what your firm trades in?—I am a merchant, a partner in the firm of Messrs. Cursetji Bomanji and Co., of Bombay, and Messrs. Kavasji Pallonji and Co., of China, dealing in yarn, cotton, and, in a small way, in opium, and have a long connexion with trade in China.

25,193. Will you give us your experience of the consumption of opium with regard to China?—I resided in Hong Kong for about 18 years, and, during my residence there, visited several places in China, mostly Canton, Macao, and Shanghai. I had a good many opportunities of dealing with Chinese merchants, especially in Hong Kong and Shanghai, and was acquainted with opium merchants and smokers. I was a justice of the peace, and was asked by the Govern-

ment several times to visit the Victoria Jail and Government Civil Hospital, where I also saw some Chinese and Sikhs smoking and eating opium. I safely say from my observation that opium taken moderately is not at all injurious. Chinese smoking opium are always active, energetic, healthy, and well-to-do. Opium merchants enjoy as much respect and credit as tea and silk merchants. Most of the opium smokers in China are parents of a number of children. Chinese servants smoking opium have generally proved themselves active, faithful, and honest. I have seen Chinamen and my own countrymen indulging in liquor in helpless condition, some of limited means have brought their families into ruin and poverty, but I have never seen a Chinaman smoking opium in such misery.

25,194. What is your general opinion as regards the effects of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people?—By the use of opium in one form or another mental faculties remain sound, weak constitutions are sustained, and memory preserved. Such is not the case with alcohol. Opium subdues whilst liquor excites passions. Indian produce has always been considered a luxury in China, and is mixed with other kinds of opium. It is taken like the rich wines of Europe.

25,195. What is your opinion as to the consumption of opium in India?—It is essentially necessary to allow the use of opium in moderation for non-medicinal purposes, because in India people with religious scruples have a hatred for liquor, and as a stimulant after a hard day's work take opium. However, Government supervision is necessary, because a costly drug like opium is liable to be adulterated and mixed with cheap and noxious substances.

25,196. What have you to say with regard to the financial aspects of the question?—Looking at the question financially, I believe that India is not in a position to bear any additional taxation and it would be a gross blunder on the part of the Government to lose an important source of revenue and to create dissatisfaction amongst the native rulers and farmers. The native rulers and farmers will not for a moment bear the idea of foregoing such an important income which is derived with less sin, if it is at all a sin, than the production of liquor in Europe. If the importation of opium were prohibited in this Presidency, the expense of a preventive service would increase the amount of our loss, and further an injustice be inflicted on the people and our neighbours the native rulers.

25,197. What years were you in Hong Kong?—I went to Hong Kong in the year 1869. I returned, after staying there about five years, for a short time. My residence extended over a period of 18 years off and on, between 1869 and the beginning of 1890.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. KARIMBHAI IBRAHIM called in and examined.

25,210. (*Chairman.*) You are an opium merchant and mill-owner of Bombay?—Yes.

25,211. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) What is your experience as regards the opium habit in this city?—I carry on trade in Bombay, and have passed the greater portion of my life in this city. During this period I have seen many men eating opium in their old age. This enables them to labour for the whole day. They use opium in order to give rest to their system, and consequently they do not feel fatigued in the slightest degree.

25,212. What is your experience as to the physical and moral effects of this habit on the people?—I am not aware of a single instance in which a person was put to disgrace by using opium, or was led by that habit to commit thefts, &c. If perchance a person eats opium in excess by association, he will sustain injury and become weak a little; but such a person causes no trouble to others, that is, to neighbours. On the other hand, there are many persons who drink liquor and who become troublesome to their neighbours. Nothing like this happens in the case of opium.

25,213. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes; and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—Opium is indispensable to the people of India, for most of them are vegetarians, and they hate liquor on religious grounds. If opium eating be prohibited they will be compelled to drink liquor, and those who drink it will be excommunicated by their castemen. The result will be that quarrels will arise everywhere, and thus nothing but trouble will await both the subjects and the rulers. The people of India are not in a position to help Government even with a farthing in adopting prohibitive measures. Opium commands a market in China. We supply it to the Chinese because they demand it. We do not exercise compulsion over them. If we do not export opium to China, Persia and Turkestan will export it in larger quantities, and China will increase its own production. But the Chinese will not give up opium. In my opinion the present con-

The witness withdrew.

25,198. Were you in business there?—Yes, I was.

25,199. Did you find during that time that the import of Indian opium was falling off?—Yes, largely.

25,200. Did you go into the interior at all, or was your experience limited to Hong Kong and Shanghai?—To Hong Kong, and the three places I have mentioned.

25,201. I do not know whether you care to express an opinion as a merchant on the general question of the importance of the balance of the trade to India, and any interference with the opium trade between this country and China?—Of course, it is very difficult to form an opinion about that; but the Chinese have their own opium, and would prefer it to ours.

25,202. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) I suppose that during your residence in China you saw some cases of excessive opium smoking among Chinamen, did you not?—Yes.

25,203. Few or many?—Few.

25,204. Had you opportunities of coming into personal relations with the Chinese merchants—visiting their houses?—Yes, often; in their own houses as well as my own.

25,205. Can you tell us in what light, so far as your opportunities enabled you to judge, men who smoked opium in that class were regarded?—They were not condemned; they were looked upon just as we look upon people taking wine.

25,206. Were you able to converse with these men in their own language?—Very little; only so far as buying and selling was concerned. We could not speak the colloquial language of the Chinese.

25,207. Your powers of conversation did not go beyond what was necessary for your trade?—No.

25,208. (*Chairman.*) You conversed in what is known as "pigeon English," I suppose?—Yes.

25,209. Could you discuss the opium question with the Chinese in pigeon English?—Yes.

sumption of opium in India is not unduly large. On the contrary, men of reformed views have betaken themselves to drinking liquor. Their former habit of eating opium was preferable, for drinking has ruined many families. The said people are now beginning to realise that drinking is not good, and that there is no harm in taking a little opium, if necessary.

25,214. Will you kindly explain to us what you mean by "men of reformed views" taking to drinking liquors?—I mean that those who have received an English education consider it is a reformed habit to take alcohol.

25,215. What you mean is, that what I may call the young school, with an English education, has rather taken to the alcohol habit?—Yes.

25,216. You come from Cutch?—Yes.

25,217. Are you acquainted with Cutch?—Yes.

25,218. Do you think that if the use of opium were prohibited in British India, the same prohibition could be extended to Cutch?—Opium is not produced in the British districts of this Presidency, but is manufactured in Native States. If they are prohibited from manufacturing it, Government will have to pay a heavy compensation. Government will suffer a loss of seven crores of rupees in the shape of revenue, and this, added to a further sum of seven crores, according to my estimate on account of compensation to Native States, will amount to fourteen crores. How can the British Government recover this amount from the poor people of India? The present burden of taxation on them is already too heavy and, therefore, they are unable to pay any further taxes.

25,219. (*Mr. Haridas Vekaridas.*) Do you know that opium is neither grown nor manufactured in Cutch?—Yes, but I had forgotten.

25,220. When you say Native States, do you mean of Rajputana?—In the Bombay Presidency opium is grown in the Baroda State only. By Native States I meant only Baroda.

Mr. Hormasji
Kuvarji Setna.

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Mr.
Karimbhai
Ibrahim.

Mr. Mirza
Husain Khan.

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Mr. MIRZA HUSAIN KHAN called in and examined.

25,221. (Mr. Mowbray.) You are secretary, I believe, to the Bombay National Mahomedan Association?—Yes.

25,222. Can you tell me anything about that Association?—We have not convened any meeting for the last seven or eight years. I cannot tell whether the Association is at present in existence or not since the death of the President.

25,223. You have been deputed by the Association to express their views to-day?—No.

25,224. The views you are about to express are your own?—Yes.

25,225. What is your opinion with regard to the growth of the poppy, and the manufacture and sale of opium?—I can see no reason why the growth of poppy and the manufacture and sale of opium should be prohibited. The people would be driven to alcohol, which in the majority of the cases leads to crime; neither do I see any grounds for extending such prohibition to the Native States. The existing arrangements with the Native States should not be interfered with, lest the Chiefs take alarm at such interference with their ancient rights and privileges by the paramount power.

25,226. What in your opinion would be the effect of such prohibition on the finances of India?—The effect on the finances of India would be disastrous if the sale and export of opium were prohibited; for, besides the loss of revenue, large sums would have to be paid as compensation, and heavy annual expenditures incurred in maintaining a large staff for preventive measures. This would cause much irritation and evoke dangerous feelings among the people. It were best if the present arrangements be not interfered with.

25,227. Can you give us any information with regard to the consumption of opium in India?—The consumption of opium in the malarial districts of India is chiefly as a prophylactic, while the majority of Indians believe the drug to be a specific in chronic dysentery, diarrhoea, diabetes, rheumatism, and chronic bronchitis; compared with alcohol it is harmless as affecting the moral and physical conditions of the people; indeed, many believe that it prolongs life. It must be understood that I mean the use and not the abuse of opium. The disposition of the people of India is in favour of the use of opium as a prophylactic against various diseases, but they are against the abuse of opium; for the term "afimi"—confirmed opium eater—is one of contempt which no Indian would willingly risk being called.

25,228. Is the word "afimi" in your experience used of a person who takes opium in excess?—In excess.

25,229. Not the habitual use of opium in moderate quantities?—No.

25,230. Can you tell us what in your opinion is taking opium in excess?—I cannot exactly give the quantity, but persons who are continually in narcotic state would be called "afimi"—persons not going to their daily work, a lazy set of people.

25,231. Persons on whom the effect is visible?—Yes, always visible.

25,232. Would you say that in the case of the great majority of opium eaters the effect is not perceptible?—It is not.

25,233. What is your opinion as to the readiness of the people to bear any part of the costs of repressive measures?—I can confidently assert that the people are very unwilling to bear any part of the costs for repressive measures in this matter. I am of opinion that if the production and consumption of opium were pro-

hibited, not only would the finances of India be grievously affected, but it would also be disastrous alike to the zemindar and rayat. It may necessitate further taxation, which must fall heavily on the poorer classes, who are the least able to bear it. Opium is administered to infants in many instances when only seven days old, and when continued leads to habitual use. This is considered beneficial, and in the annals of crime opium eaters are conspicuous by their absence. The effect of opium, I am credibly informed, tends to good humour, followed shortly after by its sedative and narcotic action.

25,234. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Has your experience been chiefly in Bombay, or have you experience of any other districts?—I have experience of other districts such as Gujarat, Surat, Broach, Baroda, Ahmedabad, Cambay, Indore, Mhow, Khandwa, Hyderabad, Poona, and other districts.

25,235. In speaking of malarious districts and the use of opium as a prophylactic, to which parts of the country were you referring especially?—Especially to Gujarat.

25,236. We have heard a good deal about the habitual use of opium in small doses among older men, say, from 35 to 40; would that be a practice among Mahomedans also?—I know of many Mahomedans who do take it at about that age and beyond.

25,237. Is there any common practice among your community of taking opium in moderation as a stimulant, as we might take tobacco, at a younger age than 35 or 40?—Yes.

25,238. Is that a very common habit?—A common habit.

25,239. Is the use, so far as you know, speaking generally, a use in moderation?—In moderation.

25,240. Is it in practice considered that orthodox Mahomedans are allowed to take opium in moderation?—They do take it.

25,241. Is it considered that they are allowed by their religion to take it in moderation?—It is so considered.

25,242. Do you represent the Shia sect of Mahomedans?—Yes.

25,243. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) I believe that nothing is mentioned about opium either in the way of prohibition or permission in your "Koran"?—There is nothing particular mentioned about opium.

25,244. Is alcohol expressly mentioned?—Yes.

25,245. As opium is not expressly prohibited by your religion you can take it?—In excess I should say it is prohibited. Anything in excess, even food is wrong.

25,246. But you say nothing is mentioned about opium?—Anything intoxicating or anything taken to excess.

25,247. Then you would say that opium should not be taken in excess?—Yes.

25,248. But alcohol, not even in moderation?—It is prohibited altogether.

25,249. Do you think that the prohibition of the use of opium except for medical purposes would lead many Mahomedans or people generally to take to alcohol which is expressly prohibited by the Mahomedan religion?—I believe it may lead to that.

25,250. Therefore if any strict measures are to be taken they should be taken for the suppression or the prohibition of the use of alcohol first?—I should say so, certainly.

The witness withdrew.

Mr.
Tribhovandas
Varjivandas.

Mr. TRIBHOVANDAS VARJIVANDAS called in and examined.

25,251. (Mr. Mowbray.) I believe you are a merchant, a justice of the peace and a member of the Municipal Corporation, Bombay?—Yes.

25,252. What do you trade in?—We are guaranteed brokers to Messrs. W. A. Graham and Co., also landed proprietors.

25,253. They have no interest in opium, I believe?—Not so far as I am aware.

25,254. Will you give us your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are acquainted?—I am president of one section of the Kapor Vania caste, one of the proprietors of the Kaiser-i-Hind Mills, and a landowner in Bombay, where my family has been settled for more than two centuries. In Bombay the consumption of opium is limited, and is mostly confined to the poor and working classes. It is used to

sustain health in old age and to give strength, without which the consumers would be unfit for work and their families would starve. Opium does not produce a bad effect on the moral and physical condition of the people in India if moderately taken. It is safely administered even to children of two months old in small doses, and they thrive well.

25,255. Would you kindly explain what you mean by saying that you are president of one section of the Kapol Vania caste?—There are two sections, one headed by the late Tribhovandas Mangaldas and the other by Tribhovandas Varjivandas.

25,256. You are also one of the proprietors of the Kaiser-i-Hind Mills?—Yes.

25,257. Are they cotton mills?—They are mills for weaving and spinning.

25,258. How many hands do you employ in your mills?—About nine hundred.

25,259. Can you say whether there is much opium consumption among your mill hands?—Not much; it is limited.

25,260. Have you made any inquiries or are you speaking from your general impression?—From my general impression.

25,261. What classes of the poor are they who principally consume opium in Bombay; you say that it is confined to the working classes but that it is not amongst the mill hands?—There may be some who use it, but not generally.

25,262. Whom do you mean?—Mahomedans and a very few Hindus. People advanced in age if they want to sustain their strength take moderate doses.

25,263. A very limited number of Hindus?—From one to two per cent.

25,264. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India with regard to the interference?—The people would not like the interference of Government with their use of opium, nor would they like to bear at all the cost of prohibitive measures.

25,265. What is your opinion as to the prohibition of the growth and manufacture of opium in British India?—I am of opinion that the growth of poppy and

manufacture and sale of opium in British India should not be prohibited.

25,266. Have you personal acquaintance with any of the Native States of the Bombay Presidency?—Yes, with Gujarat and Kathiawar.

25,267. Could such prohibition be extended to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—Such prohibition could not be extended to Native States. If it were so prohibited, the rational user and the cultivator would be deprived, the one of a rational enjoyment, the other of his means of livelihood.

25,268. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) I believe you come from an old Kathiawar family?—Yes, formerly we were settled in Diu.

25,269. I understand that your father was at the head of the Kapol Bania caste?—Yes, at one time.

25,270. Is the practice of giving opium to young children common among well-to-do classes of your own caste?—By some of them, not by all.

25,271. You have referred to the use of opium in old age as a restorative or health sustainer; is that also the case with members of your own caste?—Members of our caste have very seldom recourse to it.

25,272. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Do you think it would be good for a person in good health to adopt the opium habit?—No.

25,273. But for the sake of health he may take it?—Yes.

25,274. It is bad if he takes it for the sake of pleasure?—Of course.

25,275. You know that an opium eater requires good nourishing food?—Yes.

25,276. You say that it is most resorted to by the poor; can they afford to have rich food?—They can take solid food.

25,277. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Can you explain the meaning of the Kapol Bania caste?—There are several castes of Banias, the Kapol Bania forms one of the principal castes, numerically speaking.

25,278. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) It is an important caste of traders and merchants?—Yes, they are well-to-do people.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

At the Town Hall, Bombay.

SEVENTIETH DAY.

Tuesday, 13th February 1894.

[Section B.]

PRESENT:

SIR JAMES LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I. (IN THE CHAIR).

Right Hon. LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B.
SIR WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.

MR. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P.
MR. ARTHUR PEASE.

MR. PEMBERTON, Assistant Secretary.

Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel MAYNE called in and examined.

25,279. (*Chairman.*) You belong to the Indian Medical Service?—I do.

25,280. You are now stationed at Bangalore?—I am.

25,281. I believe you have made a particular study of the question of opium eating and its effects?—Yes.

25,282. Will you tell us what your experience has been, and what conclusions you have formed?—My experience of opium eaters and smokers extends over a

period of 20 years. They have been to me a particular study, and for some time I conducted a correspondence in the *Indian Medical Gazette*, 1880-81, the leading medical journal of India, on the subject of the opium eater. I have had a varied experience of the natives of India, particularly while serving as civil surgeon and superintendent of the jail in four districts of the Central Provinces, and in one of these districts, Narsingpur (with a population of 350,000), I had

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Mr.
Tribhovandas
Varjivandas.

13 Feb. 1894.

Surg.-Lt.-Col.
Mayne.

13 Feb. 1894.

*Surg.-Lt.-Col.
Mayne.*

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special opportunities of studying the subject. These districts having dispensaries in their large towns I was able to move about from my head quarters, my duties when superintending vaccination brought me to the small villages; and I became acquainted with the habits of the Malguzars, Lumbardars, Kotwals (watchmen of the village), and the people generally. Recently (January 1893) I read a paper at the 19th meeting of the Burma branch of the British Medical Association at Rangoon on the subject of "Madak smoking." While in medical charge of the Regimental Detail Hospital, Rangoon, in 1891-92 I had special opportunities for observing the extent of the use of opium among native troops, transport, dooly bearers, and other followers of the native army belonging to both the north and south of India and to Bengal. I must have seen about 4,000, but I cannot give figures. All were sick transfers from Upper Burma *en route* to India. Numbers of these were opium eaters and smokers. There were more among the troops and followers coming from Bengal and Upper India than among those who belonged to the southern army. They took opium mostly to counteract the bad climate of the Chin Hills and other parts of Upper Burma. I was impressed with the profound belief all these different races had in the efficacy of opium to ward off sickness and the effects of the climate of the unhealthy parts of Upper Burma.

25,283. Do the people so far as you know take opium under any advice?—The use of opium is inculcated to the millions of India through many sources, by the ever present Hakims, Vaidis, and native doctors. Mahomedans as well as Hindus have come to believe in its subtle influence for good. The Maulvi and Kazi, as well as the Brahmin, Fakirs, Sanassis, Byragis, and such as are, so to speak, teachers to their own classes and castes, all take opium more or less. Sunars, and the upper class of Hindus, believe in it as a family medicine. Opium is sometimes taken for religious purposes, and a great number of religious mendicants take it. While moving about in the districts of the Central Provinces as Civil Surgeon I was impressed with the universal use of opium by both the official and non-official classes. Opium is given to women and children for all sorts of reasons and complaints. I continually saw children given opium, and I have seen some deaths among them from its injudicious use. It is not, I consider, a cause of criminal infanticide. It was given by the parent in the belief of doing good to their children.

25,284. Is it taken for any other than medical purposes?—In the Central Provinces I have noticed opium is particularly grateful to travellers journeying along the worst of roads, in the greatest discomfort, in trying weather, excess of heat or rain. Opium appears to be peculiarly adapted to travellers wearied and out of spirit. It wards off hunger, and by its soothing influence enables them to avoid entering into quarrelsome disputes at the serai or chuttram, and go friendly disposed to the well to draw water, or to the neighbouring bazaar to buy firewood. With such mixture of races and diversity of castes it is well there is opium, as by its petty jealousies which may arise by the worries and toil of the road are often forgotten in the pill or pipe of opium. Opium engenders patience and contentment, and does not tend to promote sedition. There are wicked and ignorant teachers among the people ready to upset the best Government. I am confident it would unsettle the people if there was any curtailment of the free supply of opium, and already it is under some restraint. The Government do their best to have none but the best opium sold. It was one of my duties to examine opium.

25,285. Did you have to examine it in the shops?—I had to go over to the cutchery (district office) before it was sold.

25,286. Before it was sold to the licensed vendors?—Yes.

25,287. Was that in the Central Provinces?—Yes.

25,288. Do you think the arrangements for the sale of opium are satisfactory?—I do. It has often occurred to me that crude opium is too dear, and people cannot afford to eat it. Some no doubt buy madak, as it is cheaper. They are bought at the same shop. I draw a very great distinction between opium eating and madak smoking. The one produces relatively little or no harm. Opium smoking by the Chinese is different. The pipe is different. They smoke pure opium. I have seen many Chinamen smokers very hard-working men,

and they have smoked for years. That refers to Rangoon.

25,289. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You are speaking of chandu smoking?—Yes. It is important to fully consider why it is that smoking opium in India produces different effects from eating it. I believe this is due to the absence of morphia. Madak is a spurious form of opium. It is a confection of opium mixed with charred gum acacia (babul) leaves. So much heat is necessary for its production that some of the morphia is dissipated, so that the fumes of the madak pipe cause greater arterial excitement. The effect of the madak pipe is much more overpowering.

25,290. (*Chairman.*) Do you mean that the dissipation of the morphia make the use of opium more unhealthy?—I think if there were more morphia in the pipe it would not have such a bad effect.

25,291. (*Sir William Roberts.*) What do you think is the injurious substance that is inhaled in madak smoking?—It has often puzzled me whether it is not the charred leaves. It has been a great puzzle to me, and I am not quite able to say.

25,292. (*Chairman.*) What class of people generally smoke madak?—Well-to-do people eat opium, but generally the madak smoker is poor, although I have known a son of a mahajan (banker) smoke madak. Madak smoking is not well thought of, so that some natives will scarcely allow a "madaki" inside their houses, even as a servant. To be called a "madaki" with some is a term of opprobrium, and I have known "madakis" themselves ashamed to be known as such. They do not mind being called opium eaters. Madak appears to have a very lowering effect on the system.

25,293. Is madak smoking confined to men?—I have seen even women and children under the influence of madak. I think it ought to be penal selling madak to women and children. If madak is smoked immoderately, no doubt it renders the person unfit for work, but this applies to almost all the narcotics. All have a pernicious effect on the system if taken to excess. Madak smokers may become skeletons after a time and forget all their obligations—moral, social, and physical; but the same applies to alcohol. If its use by women and children could be stopped it would, I consider, be a check to madak smoking, and raise their moral character, which becomes degraded by its influence. A great deal of this in the hands of a strong district magistrate.

25,294. Would not the entire stoppage of the sale of madak perhaps lead to other evils?—If the sale of madak were stopped entirely I fear a greater consumption of the far worse intoxicant ganja would follow, with the result that more violent crimes would be committed. Madak is a cheap intoxicant for the loafer. During 1879, 1880, and 1881 I made the subject of the treatment of the opium eater a special study, and appealed to the medical world in the East for the best form of treatment to be adopted. At that time medical opinion was very divided whether an opium eater's opium could be stopped suddenly and entirely without doing him harm. Although I showed in the *Indian Medical Gazette*, July 1880 and March 1881, what state the abuse of opium causes, these cases can refer to only a very limited portion of the population. At the time I wrote about 12 per cent. of the Narsingpur Jail population were addicted to the habit. Their imprisonment was for theft usually, and not for violent crimes provoked by the use of ganja.

25,295. Do you think opium eating ever leads to suicide?—If an opium eater is suddenly deprived of the drug he may try to commit suicide. I remember a case of this sort. An old Mahomedan in jail threw himself down a well, and it was with difficulty he was rescued, and he tried his best to throttle the man who was saving his life. The deprivation of opium will bring on terrible suffering for a few days, but I have never known the least harm from having opium stopped, and I have had a large number of difficult and typical cases to treat.

25,296. Have you ever made autopsies of opium eaters?—I have autopsied many reputed opium eaters. They had died from other causes, mostly from poverty and chronic starvation, but I have never found any particular pathological changes, or anything like the tissue destruction seen when due to chronic alcohol poisoning.

25,297. Do you consider that opium is in any sense a prophylactic against fever?—I do not consider it

generally wards off fever, but I am firmly convinced that the natives of India have a profound belief in its efficacy in this respect, as also its power to cure many other diseases, especially diarrhoea and cholera.

25,298. Did you serve in any districts of the Central Provinces where the habit is especially common?—In the Narsinghpur district about Rs. 35,000 worth of opium was sold during 1879 and 1880. This is perhaps one of the most flourishing districts in the Nerbudda Valley, and part of the wheat granary of India. My recollection is that I knew many landowners there, old men, stout and hearty, who were habitual opium eaters. I remember particularly an old Mahomedan vakil of Kundaili. He was a remarkably fine-looking old gentleman, and had taken opium for years and had not increased the quantity. He was much respected and was a very successful pleader. I was always on the look-out for opium eaters, and I was astonished with the numbers to whom it seemed to do no harm whatever. Every luxury may be abused, but I feel sure there are vast numbers who eat opium beneficially to themselves.

25,299. Was madak smoking common in the Narsinghpur district?—My experience of madak smoking is largely from the Narsinghpur district. I have very frequently sat in the madak shops and knew the habits, many of them very well, and I saw some distressing cases of young people ruined by it, but I would not like to say that there may not be thousands of moderate smokers; but when once the habit has got the better of the person it generally proves fatal. These might die, I believe, from other causes over which they have control.

25,300. What do you mean by the habit getting the better of a person; do you mean he had taken it to excess or that he was merely an habitual smoker?—He had taken it to excess. There can be no question about opium in every form being harmful when taken immoderately, but this applies with greater force to ganja and alcohol and other intoxicants. I do not consider excessive opium eating the worst vice, although opium smoking as madak runs them all very close. I have held very strong opinions on the evil effects of opium, but time has tempered my views, and I consider that any curtailment, except to stop women and children smoking madak, would be a great hardship, and cause an infinity of trouble and misery to the people of India, and a veritable danger to the stability of the Government. From their very childhood the people of India are taught to believe in opium. Its charms are subtle, and it enters into the daily routine of the people and causes life to go on harmoniously. It is powerful to ease pain and create a happy frame of mind, and tends to better citizenship, more obedience to religious and caste duties, and to keeping of the laws of the land. Opium does not tend to make the people commit violent crimes, which cannot be said of ganja or alcohol. Opium wards off hunger, stimulates the wearied, and is reckoned a valuable stand-by in times of famine, cholera, and other epidemic diseases. I would say opium seems in numerous ways to be peculiarly adapted to the climate and races in the East.

25,301. These latter remarks, I suppose, may be taken to apply to the moderate use of opium?—Yes.

25,302. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You say, "The people of India are taught to believe in opium." Do you mean to say that they are led to believe in opium?—There is no trained European system among the natives of India.

25,303. You mean that they are taught by their native medical advisers?—Yes.

25,304. You have told us a good deal about madak smoking; have you made any study of the composition of madak?—I am afraid I have not.

25,305. Do you think it is always the same thing in different provinces and localities?—I do not think it is; I think it alters a good deal. There are many varieties of it. It would alter very much with the character of the opium used. It would also alter with the leaves. Some of the leaves are taken quite green, while others are quite dry.

25,306. Is the babul leaf a poisonous leaf itself?—No, it is not. I should like to say when I was over in Burma, I noticed that the fever of Upper Burma produces enlargement of the spleen and great liability to diarrhoea, and the medical aid given by Government as far as possible meets a great many cases. Sometimes parties are out in the country on column duty,

and they get sick and take opium as a medicine. It is sent to them by friends in India; and I have numbers of little tins and packets of it showing the faith they have in this opium. There is another thing. Opium being a dry substance, Hindus will take it; but they will not take anything with water. They will even take the dry opium from Europeans. When they come over, these sickly ones, whose constitutions have been shattered by the climate of Upper Burma, are very liable to bronchitis, and when they go back to their villages to their caste people they there learn that opium is good for them; and I believe that if these men had not the opium they would die from bronchitis, from disease of the lungs, and from dysentery. I believe that the opium keeps them alive, and they get great benefit from it. I have known many instances where that has been the case.

25,307. Dysentery is a complaint of malarial districts, is it not?—Yes.

25,308. You do not consider opium acts as an efficient prophylactic against malarial fever?—Speaking scientifically, it does not fit in with my ideas and I would depend on other things. Narcotine is the property in it that does the good. That used to be issued before the quinine was in force; but I believe that any prophylactic qualities of opium are due to the narcotine in it.

25,309. You believe that it acts in a certain degree as a febrifuge?—Yes. In damp and wet weather I think it is most beneficial. The people themselves have got to believe in it, and we have very little influence with them.

25,310. You say opium is sometimes taken for religious purposes; to what do you allude?—It leads to a contemplative mind, and it is supposed by the ascetics to keep the virile powers down. It is taken for that purpose and also for religious purposes.

25,311. And to allay sexual appetites?—Yes, by ascetics; and to engender patience.

25,312. (*Mr. Pease.*) You have been impressed with the universal use of opium among the official classes in the Central Provinces; were they Europeans or natives?—Natives.

25,313. Would you give us your impressions with regard to the difference of the effect of chandu and madak smoking, and what you consider are the reasons?—I have no experience at all of chandu smoking, I only know about madak smoking.

25,314. You said, "I have seen many Chinamen smokers who have smoked for years"; were not they chandu smokers?—Yes; that was in Rangoon. I only know that the effect on them seemed to be quite different from madak smoking.

25,315. You say, "The moral character of women and children is degraded by the influence of opium smoking"; is not the moral character of men also degraded by opium smoking?—I should not like to say that the skilful use of madak smoking is degrading. I take it every man must have some stimulant. I believe it is essential for a man to have a stimulant of some sort or description, whether it is tea or whatever it is. Man cannot live without it, whether it is a pipe, a cheroot, or this madak smoking; it seems to be an essential principle. A man may have a stimulant in various forms. I look upon a change from one kind of work to another as a stimulant. Novel reading I would take to be a stimulant—a change of the mind. I think a man might moderately smoke madak; I think it possibly might do him good, but I have not seen any very marked instances of it doing so. My experience has been rather the other way.

25,316. Are not madak smokers universally tobacco smokers as well?—They very often smoke tobacco also.

25,317. Do you know what was the quantity taken by the old Mahomedan vakil you have mentioned of Kundaili?—No, I do not.

25,318. When you say the habit has got the better of a person, you mean there is no desire or he has not the courage to cure himself?—I think there is no desire. I think that majum is more or less a harmless confection. It is a confection of ganja, and it is the poppy seed in the majum which makes it more or less harmless. It may be given to children.

25,319. (*Chairman.*) What is majum?—It is a confection of ganja with poppy seeds.

The witness withdrew.

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W. R. Browne,
M.D.*

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Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel W. R. BROWNE, M.D., called in and examined.

25,320. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are senior medical officer in charge of the General Hospital at Madras?—Yes.

25,321. I presume your experience on the opium question has been mainly in that hospital?—Yes; chiefly in that hospital.

25,322. Will you kindly tell us what your observations of the opium habit have been?—During all the years that I have been attached to the General Hospital, Madras, there have fallen under my observation very few cases (not more than three or four) out of the thousands of men that I have treated either as in or out patients, of whom it could be said that they were mentally and physically degraded by the abuse of opium. It very rarely happens a patient has to state that he is in the habit of taking so much opium that its deprivation during his stay in hospital would be distressing or even annoying to him, and still more rarely does his appearance lead one to interrogate him as to his being a victim to a confirmed consumption of opium in large quantities. Of consumers of smaller doses which leave no perceptible ill effects, doubtless the number is greater, but the evidence derived from observation of the sick in this hospital would tend, on the whole, to demonstrate the fact that the abuse of opium by the classes who furnish the sick male patients of this hospital is a very uncommon thing indeed. That it is not on moral grounds that this abstinence from the abuse of opium is based, is shown, I take it, by the large use of alcohol in some form by a considerable proportion of the patients, and by the great prevalence of syphilis (with regard to another habit) among them. Our wards are filled with victims to alcohol and venery, while, on the other hand, the presence of a confirmed opium eater, suffering from a too great use of opium eating, is an extremely rare event. In fact, for a patient to come in for the results of indulgence in opium eating alone is an unknown event. When seen, it is for some accident or disease that has forced him to seek admission. He has not to apply, as has the alcohol consumer, for relief from the direct results of the consumption of his favourite stimulant. The whole of my experience here tends to show first, that opium is abused by but a very small proportion of the population; and second, that there is no evidence whatever to bring forward to prove that its use in small quantities is deleterious to any perceptibly harmful extent.

25,323. Are the cases numerous in which you ascertained that patients are habitual consumers of opium?—No, they are not numerous.

The witness withdrew.

Surgeon-Major W. G. KING called in and examined.

*Surg.-Maj.
W. G. King.*

25,336a. I believe you are acting Sanitary Commissioner of Madras?—Yes.

25,337. How many years' service have you had in the Madras Presidency?—Next month I shall have completed 20 years' service.

25,338. Have you been all that time in the civil department?—I have served 17 years in the civil department, and have during this time held appointments either in charge of jails, hospitals, or lunatic asylums in Kurnool, Trichinopoly, Madras Town, Vizagapatam, and Mandalay.

25,339. Have you served in the military department?—In the military department, I have held charge of Madras Infantry and Cavalry regiments and Sappers and Miners, as well as of a regiment of Sikhs and Punjab Muhammadans, known as Burmah Infantry. In 1893 I held charge of the Native Infantry Invaliding Depot at Pallavaram, where it was my duty to enter fully into the medical history and general character of large numbers of sepoys brought up for pensions and invaliding. In the Kurnool district, of which I held charge during the majority of my service, I had—where the Madras Presidency is concerned—unusual opportunities of being in daily contact with large numbers of Muhammadans. I have seen opium given regularly twice daily to Muhammadan children of the better class, and believe it to be regarded as a matter of course that, from infancy to about three years of age, this drug should be employed as a preventive against teething and bowel troubles. From this age the child is not encouraged in its use (presumably from religious motives) and, ordinarily,

25,324. Is it a rule of discipline in the hospital that habitual consumers must not take opium while they are there?—They are searched when they come in. Their clothing is changed and they have a bath. Their own clothing is taken away and they are given hospital clothing. That is the general rule.

25,325. Supposing a man said he was an habitual opium consumer, and that he would like to go on taking opium while he was in the hospital, would he be allowed to do so?—That rests with the medical officer. My own view now is to allow the patient opium in what I consider moderate doses.

25,326. In jails the habitual opium consumer is prevented from using opium as a matter of punishment or jail discipline, just as the habitual tobacco smoker is; but in hospitals, I fancy, there is no such uniform rule, and it depends upon the idiosyncrasy of the medical officer in charge?—It depends upon the individual views held by the medical officer.

25,327. You have no experience of madak or chandu smoking?—I have no recent experience.

25,328. You have not served in parts of Madras where opium habit is common?—Years ago in the early part of my service—for the first seven years—I served in and about the Deccan with a regiment.

25,329. But you did not study the subject?—No; it was not brought home to me in any way.

25,330. (*Sir William Roberts.*) How many years have you been connected with the General Hospital in Madras?—About 13½ years.

25,331. I suppose you have no records of post-mortem examination of opium eaters?—No, there are none.

25,332. And there are no traditions in the hospital respecting pathological changes produced by opium?—No.

25,333. (*Mr. Pease.*) What districts of the Madras Presidency supply the patients to the hospital besides Madras itself?—On the surgical side they come from all over the Presidency; on the medical side they come chiefly from the vicinity of Madras.

25,334. What are those districts?—Chinglepat and North and South Arcot.

25,335. You have not many from the Godavari district?—Not for medical cases.

25,336. More than half the consumption of opium in the Madras Presidency is in that district?—Not many come down from there.

it is stopped till either some disease or the advance of old age leads again to its employment. Thus, I believe, the drug is not much in use during the most vigorous period of life.

25,340. What are the doses usually taken?—In my experience the drug has been chiefly used in regular and moderate doses twice daily only. When taken in this manner for years on end, I have not been led to believe that physical degeneration has occurred. In fact, I have known men who were good shikaris and horsemen, and commercial men of advanced age who have become wealthy whilst given to this habit. I have repeatedly seen men admitted to jail who have been in the habit of using opium, and, so far as general physique or health was concerned, had no reason to suspect the habit until denial of the drug rendered the usual well-known misery consequent upon its sudden withdrawal apparent.

25,341. Is the excessive use of the drug common?—The immoderate use of the drug is, I believe, exceedingly rare in this Presidency, and whilst I do not doubt that instances of immoderate use leading to the helpless condition depicted by those who have agitated against opium to be possible, I consider that these must bear a proportion to the total population of opium eaters that must be infinitesimal.

25,342. Do you think the sudden withdrawal of the drug in jails and elsewhere is dangerous?—A great deal of the restlessness following the withdrawal of opium in the opium eater is due to the mere memory of the former effects and not to altered physical conditions inducing certain mental states. Thus, in

treating cases of sudden deprivation, I have used small doses of morphia injections for a few days, and having convinced the patient that the effects corresponding to opium were secured by this injection, plain water was substituted and satisfaction has still been induced.

25,343. Do you think that there is any case made out for prohibition in the Madras Presidency?—Most certainly not. I believe that there are no facts that would lead it to be regarded as necessary in this Presidency that the extent of use of opium by the people should be otherwise than at their discretion. I have never known the use of opium incite violence or crime, and I have always regarded the typical moderate opium eater as a respectable and trustworthy member of the community.

25,344. As Sanitary Commissioner, I suppose you have to travel about throughout the Presidency?—Yes. I have had altogether about 18 months' experience.

25,345. Have you travelled in the northern districts of Madras?—Yes. I have held charge of Vizagapatam.

25,346. Have you visited Malabar?—Yes.

25,347. Do you think from what you saw in Malabar and Vizagapatam that the use of opium was greater there than in other districts that you have seen?—Nothing ever struck me about the people there using opium more immoderately than elsewhere.

25,348. (*Sir William Roberts.*) Nor more commonly?—No, so far as appearance is concerned. I maintain that it is very difficult indeed to know whether a man does use opium or not, provided he does not use it to a most immoderate extent. I have had to admit men into jail and have examined them on admission, but it was not known that they were eaters of opium until their subsequent distress disclosed the fact.

25,349. Is eating or smoking opium the more common in the southern parts of India?—Eating is the more common method.

25,350. Speaking of the entire inhabitants, is the use of opium as common in the southern parts of India as in the north?—No, I believe not. It is chiefly confined to certain classes.

25,351. Have you seen examples of really dangerous symptoms from the sudden withdrawal of opium from excessive users?—No; I have tried my best before coming here to get typical cases, where extreme emaciation and so forth was supposed to be the result of opium eating, but I quite failed to do so. Whenever I came across a man in an emaciated condition, I discovered that he was also a ganja eater or smoker. I have never been able to find a clear case traceable to the use of opium only.

25,352. Even when the opium habit was carried on to considerable excess?—I have not been able to find a case.

The witness withdrew.

Surgeon-Major A. J. STURMER called in and examined.

25,363. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are a district surgeon in the district of Kistna?—Yes.

25,364. How many years' service have you had?—In March next I shall have served 19 years.

25,365. Where is the district of Kistna? Does it border on the Hyderabad territory?—Yes.

25,366. On what British districts does it border?—On the north it borders on Godavari, and on the south it borders on the Nellore district.

25,367. Will you tell us what districts, regiments, and institutions you have had charge of?—During my service I have had charge of two districts, several regiments, a central and four district jails, and a lunatic asylum.

25,368. What was the result of your observations when you were in charge of the lunatic asylum?—I cannot recall an inmate who was ever admitted into the asylum for insanity due to opium eating or smoking. From personal experience I should say that opium rarely or never caused insanity.

25,369. What did you observe when you were in charge of jails?—A great many prisoners who were admitted into the jail were habitual opium eaters; I should never have recognised a small or moderate opium eater from his appearance; he probably told

25,353. In the jail, I suppose, you stop the opium at once?—Yes.

25,354. Have you noticed that diarrhoea has arisen on stopping the opium?—On stopping the opium diarrhoea sets in.

25,355. What is your explanation of that; that can scarcely be due to what you have called a memory of the dose?—When I speak of the "memory of the dose" I speak not about its physical effects but about its mental effects.

25,356. The sense of misery, and so forth?—Yes.

25,357. Have you seen any other ill-effects besides diarrhoea in large consumers of opium when their opium was withdrawn?—They are profoundly restless and decidedly miserable.

25,358. But you have seen nothing approaching collapse?—No; I have never seen a case of that sort.

25,359. I presume you do not see men who are large consumers of opium in the south of India?—I have seen men who declared that they could not live without opium; but when it is actually withdrawn they seem to get all right again in four or five days. I have seen cases in Mandalay Jail of natives from the north of India, Shans, and Burmese who were supposed to be large consumers, but, as a rule, the effects passed off in five or six days.

25,360. Have you had any experience of the use of opium in malarial districts?—Kurnool is a highly malarious district. I cannot say that the natives there considered that opium was a prophylactic against malaria.

25,361. Have you heard that they use it for febrile purposes, or for the purposes of relief or mitigation?—No; the impression I gathered was that as a man got aged he regarded opium as a stimulant. I never had any direct evidence that it was taken to prevent malaria. A native will tell you that opium is taken as a prophylactic against all diseases by those who have passed the prime of life, or whose constitutions have been already shaken by the inroads of disease. Resort to the use of the drug in malarious districts is probably more common than elsewhere on account of the relief afforded from neuralgic pains usual in malarial cachexia.

25,362. (*Mr. Pease.*) Do you think that the practice of giving opium to infants is a good one?—Yes; I think it is a practice that one need not interfere with. It is always the old women who give it, and they have considerable experience, which is handed down from one generation to another, as to how much to give, and when to give it. So far as I can see no specific harm has occurred. The effects of the drug as estimated by native opinion are well expressed by their proverbs: "To the infant it is milk, to the young man an arrow, to the aged a staff."

me that he consumed opium from questions I put to him. I can recall only two cases, both, I believe, women who craved after the drug; one contracted pneumonia. She was admitted in bad health and died of gangrene of the lung, and I attributed her death partly to the immoderate use of opium.

25,369a. What is your general view as to the moderate use of opium?—I do not believe that the moderate use of opium does any harm, but rather on the contrary helps a man to get through life.

25,370. What reasons do the consumers give for the habit?—Consumers when asked why they took it, gave different reasons, some that their food was insufficient and opium allayed the cravings of the stomach, others because they had pain, and others again because people over forty years of age took it, and they subscribed to the habit. I operated on an old man who took opium regularly for abscess of the liver, and although he insisted on having his quantity every afternoon he got well, and I could not see that opium in any way retarded his recovery.

25,371. Have you any special knowledge of the hill tracts in Madras?—I have had to visit them as district surgeon. In the hill tracts of Jeypore opium consumption is very large; it is a highly feverish district, but the inhabitants are a very healthy race,

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strong, and very keen sportsmen. They told me that they took opium as a preventative against fever, and the people who live at the foot of the ghats gave me the same reason.

25,372. Do you think opium leads to crime?—I do not remember any prisoner having been admitted into jail of which I have had charge for violence or brutality which was attributed to the effects of opium smoking or eating; no doubt opium is smuggled into jail, and this was more frequent when there were two sets of jail guards, the police, and the warders. I have punished prisoners for having opium about them, but I do not remember having to punish a prisoner for crime committed through eating opium.

25,373. What, according to your experience, is the ordinary dose taken?—The amount of opium taken daily by a person varies between two and six grains, and very frequently I was told that the larger quantity would last more than one day. I have never come across an immoderate opium eater, nor have I seen the sort of person depicted as an opium eater by the anti-opium league. The people whom I have met have apparently been satisfied with a small quantity, and have adhered to this small quantity for years; they have not gone to extremes.

25,374. Do you think it would be possible to prohibit the use of opium?—I believe it would be impossible to stop the supply of opium; and supposing it could be stopped I believe that the present consumers would take to drink. For evil there is no possible contrast between the two.

25,375. Have you ever seen anything of the so-called opium smoking dens?—On the 5th of this month I visited an opium smoking shop in Masulipatam. I found about 18 men there. Half of them were old Sepoys. They were sitting out in the open talking, and I asked several of them how much opium they took. I chose the oldest men as I thought they would probably be the biggest sufferers. I found they had taken it for years. One of the old Sepoys, about 60 years of age, had consumed opium for 40 years.

25,376. Were these men opium smokers or opium eaters?—They were both.

25,377. Do you know whether they smoked madak or chandu?—I produce the stuff they smoke; it is opium mixed with green gram. They do not give it any particular name; they call it opium.

25,378. (*Sir William Roberts.*) Is it smoked in a madak pipe?—It is smoked in the hubblebubble. It is not smoked in the ordinary Chinese pipe. The man smoked two balls daily, and he also ate one-quarter of an anna's worth of opium, or $\frac{1}{4}$ grains a day. He was a very hale old man. The second man was a shoe-

smith, about 60 years of age. He had consumed opium for 30 years. He ate one anna's worth per diem and smoked three balls. The third man was a healthy old man of 75. He had been an opium consumer for 40 years; he smoked one ball per diem and ate three anna's worth a month. The fourth was a young man, an athlete, about 28 years of age. I asked him why he took to smoking? He said he had been a drinker and wanted to give it up because it was so expensive, and he had taken to opium. When I saw him it was his first attempt. None of the men that I saw were in the least degraded or showed signs that they were opium consumers. They seemed a very happy and contented lot. They said that if opium were forbidden they would die. All of them had commenced the habit, not from vice, but from having some pain or another. They met every afternoon in this den and never smoked at home. I suppose the average dose was from two to six grains. In the hospital at Avani-gedda there is a peon who eats 13 grains of opium in the morning and 13 grains in the evening. He walks in for the pay to the hospital establishment once a month. It is 18 miles there and 18 miles back. I have been district surgeon since September, and I have never had a complaint made about his work.

25,379. (*Chairman.*) What sort of a place was this smoking den?—It was an ordinary little native house. They sat out in front in a palmyra leaf enclosure. Each man was sitting out with his hubblebubble.

25,380. (*Mr. Pease.*) Do you think that persons suffering from pneumonia have a worse chance of recovery if they have been opium consumers?—Not if they have taken opium in moderation. The woman I have mentioned had evidently been a very immoderate eater, because from the first moment she entered the jail she asked for opium.

25,381. (*Sir William Roberts.*) I suppose you have not had your attention drawn to the difference in the tolerance of the European and the native of India with regard to opium?—No.

25,382. You have said that the natives have told you that they took opium as a preventative against fever, what is your impression as to their belief in that matter?—I always thought it was one of the peculiar ideas which natives get about various drugs; for instance, they say that butter-milk is very cooling, but I do not know that there is any fact to prove it.

25,383. Have you had any experience is practising amongst them?—I have practised amongst the natives. Dr. Thin has written asking why the medical men in India did not give opium in malarial fever because they had been cracking it up so much. My reply to that is that we have got quinine and arsenic, which are better.

The witness withdrew.

Assistant Surgeon MOHAMED OSMAN SAHIB BAHADUR called in and examined.

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25,384. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are Civil Surgeon in Negapatam?—Yes.

25,385. Where did you get your medical education?—In the Madras Medical College.

25,386. You took your degree, I believe?—Yes.

25,387. In what year did you take your degree?—1884.

25,388. Where is your home?—In the Madras Presidency, Trichinopoly.

25,389. You were first appointed assistant surgeon?—Yes.

25,390. In how many districts have you served?—I have served in four districts, Trichinopoly, Kurnool, Madras, and Tinnevely.

25,391. (*Sir William Roberts.*) Have you had much personal experience in regard to the opium habit amongst your fellow countrymen?—Yes, especially amongst my co-religionists.

25,392. Are you a Mahomedan?—Yes.

25,393. Is there a considerable consumption of opium amongst the Mahomedans?—Yes. My experience is in the Kurnool district.

25,394. Is there a considerable amount of opium habitually consumed there?—Yes.

25,395. In your experience how is the opium eating habit usually contracted?—So far as I know, the habit

has been contracted in a great majority of cases to alleviate pain and suffering caused by diseases. The diseases for which opium is resorted to are—chronic diarrhoea, chronic coughs, asthma, pains in the abdomen and limbs, of neuralgia, syphilitic and chronic inflammatory kind, general muscular pains, cramps, sleeplessness, palpitation of heart, pains connected with uterine disorders, excessive flow of urine, and spermatorrhoea. The sufferers in these instances did not resort to opium at once, but had tried all remedial means at their disposal and of their Hakims. After a hopeless and protracted course of treatment, either the Hakim himself or some relation or friend who had had personal experience of the drug or heard of its beneficial effects in such diseases, suggested its use. The sufferer began with a small dose, and when the desired effect had been produced, he stopped it. But, if the disease recurred, he resumed it and continued if the recurrence was frequent. As he continued the drug he felt his sufferings alleviated and a fresh energy being put into the system. These two feelings, the first, in the early period predominating over the second and the second predominating over the first, in the later, tempted him to continue the drug and make it a daily necessity. The habit was thus contracted, and the habitual in his long experience of the drug was in a position to advise others on its several beneficial effects. However, I know it as a fact that although the drug had been made a daily necessary, the habitual kept it as a secret and was very hesitant to impart

the habit to others except when it was considered medicinally necessary. The habituals of advanced age are of unanimous opinion that the drug is of great utility to the old. They consider it not only a restorative but also a sustaining agent. People do not take to the drug in the first instance, because they have heard of its beneficial effects or have been advised by their friends, but resort to it as the last resource after their attempts to be remedied by physicians and other drugs have failed. Very few cases of opium eaters who resorted to it for luxury came under my notice. These used opium either in the natural form, or in the form of chandu or madak, with inordinate frequency. They were a miserable class of men, with wearing frame, abject look, and depraved intellect. They contracted the habit in early age, not for the relief of any disease, but as an aphrodisiac. Even moderate opium eaters detest the immoderate and shameful habit of those people and shun them. These are the men that come to the notice of the public as opium eaters.

25,396. At what age is the habit generally contracted?—In males between 35 and 40 years, in females between 25 and 30, and even earlier. The cause of females beginning the habit earlier is child-birth. After parturition, if uncontrollable and chronic diarrhoea set in, or if on account of subinvolution or inflammation of the uterus and its appendages pains are produced, opium is resorted to and the habit is more or less continued for subsequent parturitions. Among males the habit of opium eating in young age is rare, and I believe on account of comparative youth and vigour of the system below the age of 35, the stimulus produced by incidental use of opium is not keenly felt, and therefore the habit is not continued. After the age of 35 with a native in India active spirits begin to decline, particularly in unhealthy tracts where the habit is common, and hence after this age the exhilarating effects of opium are keenly felt. As the age advances the keenness is more increasingly felt, and, after 55, opium is considered a support to the system. If the habit is contracted in young age it is with a desire to increase the sexual appetite and to give it a stability. With this object a young man voluptuously consumes opium and finds himself in the wrong within a short period. With the increased venery the dose of opium is increased and the continual increase acts detrimentally to the very purpose for which it was resorted to. The case is otherwise with people of advanced age. With them moderate doses are sufficient to increase their conjugal happiness. As an aphrodisiac, opium has done more lasting good to the old than to the young.

25,397. What has been your experience of the effect of giving opium to infants?—I have known instances in which opium was commenced so early as 40 days after birth. The purpose for which it is given to infants is to secure calmness and sleep. Judicious mothers know what quantity of drug is required to relieve the irritability of infants and make them cheerful and what quantity to produce sleep. They have administered the respective doses with advantage to themselves and to the infants. With injudicious mothers, especially in the poverty-stricken class, the use of opium to infants has been ruinous. To allow themselves to attend to their ordinary avocations, and still more foolishly to allow themselves rest and time for useless chit-chats with their neighbours or to attend festivals, the quantity of opium usually given by them is of soporific dose and sometimes even more to produce deep sleep. In such cases infants either by over-doses or by want of nourishment occasioned by long hours of sleep or long absence of mothers, appeared sallow, puny, and ill-nourished. Fortunately in these instances the mothers themselves observed the failing health of their children, or some of their friends pointed it out to them. They corrected themselves and the children were soon restored to health. I do not remember any death having taken place on account of such over-doses. The habit in the children was continued to the age of four, after which it was generally stopped.

25,398. What is the habitual dose used by the moderate consumers?—Among the cases I have observed the ordinary dose of opium was from half to four grains, and in some instances six. Two such doses were generally taken—one in the morning and the other in the evening. The evening dose was a little bit larger than the morning, the increase being from one-eighth to one-sixth of the morning dose. The

dose was invariably taken in the morning before breakfast and in the evening before supper. The largest dose that came to my notice was of a man who took for a day about an ounce of opium—half an ounce on each occasion. For infants the dose was graduated from the size of a poppy seed to that of a large mustard.

25,399. What have you noticed to be the effect of the dose on the opium user?—The habitual eater after the usual dose appeared lively. His intellect and wits were sharpened. Bodily movements were active and he worked with eagerness and energy. Under its influence he was able to recall to memory facts very readily. The first dose in the morning generally maintained his spirits till the second dose in the evening, there being no craving in the interval. His appetite seemed improved, rather made keener after the usual doses. I have had several opium eaters, especially females, engaged on hard labour, on occasions of important dinners and festivals and observed their compacity for endurance for hard labour in a marked degree. One extra dose in the night was sufficient to keep up their energy for the whole of the night. In fact the dose seem to nerve them. The usual bad effects that are described in the books I have frequently failed to observe in the habituals. I have examined the tongues of several opium eaters and have failed to notice in them any particular indication of the derangement of digestive organs. The secretions of the several organs of the body may not be as profuse as in the case of non-opium eaters, but yet they are not lessened to any degree to affect the health. Habitual use of opium appears to adjust the diminished secretion to the normal condition of the body. Moderate opium eaters appear in as good health as others, and in several instances it was difficult for me to suspect them to be using the drug. Extreme constipation, nodding and dosing, inactivity and dulness to external impressions was characteristic of those that used very large doses or used the moderate doses with inordinate frequency. I have known no instance in which a habitual had taken poisonous dose and died of it, nor of any instance in which sudden withdrawal of opium from the person resulted in any serious consequence. Except in the instance of a man who was in the habit of taking a handful opium for a dose in the form of powder or scrapings—I estimated the quantity at half an ounce—he was determined to stop it on account of its cost and his then strained circumstances. The stoppage resulted in temporary mania, notwithstanding the man abstained from it altogether. After three or four short sufferings of mental agitation he became all right. He was able to control the craving till it had completely vanished. The only condition that inconvenienced him after the cessation of the drug was occasional palpitation of the heart. His general health was as good as anybody else's after he ceased the habit. I do not share in the common belief that the habit of opium eating deters the action of other drugs upon the system. Opium itself does not do it upon its own element. Although it is taken habitually, when the disease for which it is indicated supervenes, a little larger than the habitual dose is sufficient to put the disease in check. For instance, if an opium eater gets looseness of bowels or suffers from irritable cough or pain in any part of the body, from fresh causes, the increase of his usual dose by one-sixth or one-fourth is sufficient to put him right. After the abatement of these conditions he rarely continues the augmented dose, but easily falls back to the ordinary quantity. The increase in habitual dose is very gradual, and, unless there is cause for increase by the occurrence of any disease in which it is beneficial, the habitual quantity is never increased and continued. I have not had men of increased mental work and responsibility among opium eaters under my observation, and so I am not in a position to say if opium did any substantial good to them. I have had men of ordinary intelligence and responsibility and observed no ill effect upon them. They showed no slackness in their duties whatever. Even infants enjoyed good health under moderate doses, and did not exhibit any ill effect then or in later age.

25,400. Have you noticed any effect of the opium habit upon families,—upon fecundity?—There is nothing unhealthy in the condition of the children of opium eaters, and I observed no particular liability to any disease in them. They appeared as healthy as the children of non-opium eaters. I do not think that there is any bad effect of moderate doses of opium on fecun-

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dity. Moderate opium eaters, both males and females, were as fruitful as the others.

25,401. I suppose you made no statistical inquiries?—No, I have no figures; but I know something of the families of opium eaters.

25,402. Have you known any habitual opium eaters have large families?—They have ordinary families, like the rest.

25,403. Have you observed any effect of the opium habit upon longevity?—I have known opium eaters, of over 40 years' habit, live to the age of 70 or 80, and known them to be healthy and active. Short-lived opium eaters, when their habits were moderate, died of intercurrent diseases.

25,404. Have you seen any deaths produced directly by excess in the opium habit?—No.

25,405. What have you noticed has been the effect of the opium habit upon morality?—This, of course, depends upon its craving, value, and effect. All these are not such as to induce one to thieve or to be grossly dishonest, for an ordinary opium eater is contented with half-an-anna worth of opium a day. Even excesses do not lead to violence, quarrels, offence, and turbulence. The craving is almost of the nature of the craving for food. The person feels irritable, uneasy, and unfit to a degree to do any work without the usual dose. The effect of one dose appears to last for nearly 12 hours. The craving in moderate consumers is nothing when compared with the craving of alcohol. The habituals can go on with their usual business even without a dose, though they may not feel the work pleasant and turn out the same quantity of work as when under its influence. They may feel languid and dissatisfied, but never lay down as utterly shattered in the nervous system as the excessive drinkers of alcohol. They can defer the dose until a convenient hour, and can even forego a portion of it without much concern when necessary. Sudden and complete withdrawal was never attended with any bad consequence as in the case of alcohol. In my jail experience, I have often observed no injurious effect follow complete and sudden withdrawal in the habituals. They first craved very much and were occasionally satisfied with pills made of inert substances to resemble opium. The craving gradually wore off, and they were never more troubled about it. They did their usual work, although in the beginning they were slow and discontented. I must say, however, that they contracted the habit again after they left the jail. This was the case in a great majority of them.

25,406. Have you not noticed that some excessive consumers of opium suffered more seriously than that when the opium was stopped on coming into jail?—I had very few who took large doses of opium.

25,407. What has been the effect of the opium habit upon diet?—An opium eater is generally satisfied with an ordinary meal. Opium does not appear to interfere with its digestion or assimilation in moderate doses. On the other hand there is keenness for food after the usual dose, and a sufficient quantity of food is taken and digested. The appetite for food is as usual with everybody. Opium eaters think that ghee "soothes" the effects of opium and gives a "moist condition" to the tissues. With this object, they consume more than ordinary quantity of ghee required for their food. I cannot understand how it counteracts the physiological effects of opium. But it is a fact that it gives them a sort of relief.

25,408. Who are the class of people who mostly contract the habit of habitual opium eating?—All classes—whether rich or poor, whether a Hindu, Mahomedan, or Pariah. To all classes it affords the same relief and happiness, but to the poor particularly more,

for they cannot afford to secure them by any other means.

25,409. Is the practice of opium eating extremely common in the neighbourhood of Kurnool?—Yes; it is common, particularly in Hyderabad.

25,410. Would you say that a quarter of the adult males consume opium?—I should say more than that, nearly three-fourths of the Mahomedan adult population.

25,411. What is the effect of the habitual use of opium upon diseases?—I am not aware of its true prophylactic action against any disease. Diarrhoea is not frequent in habituals. In neuralgia, asthma, painful syphilitic diseases in combination with the specific remedies used for those diseases and in some cases of diabetes, it gives marked relief. As a febrifuge it has a limited power. In combination with other febrifuges—where themselves have been ineffectual—it produced wonderful effect. In all cases of nervous irritability, whether from depressed enervation or the opposite condition, it gives a marked relief. It acts well in slight congestions. Whether opium eaters are more liable to dysentery, piles, kidney, and pulmonary diseases I am not able to express any opinion, either for or against.

25,412. What are the general conclusions you have come to with regard to the opium habit upon the natives of India?—I have come to the following conclusions:—(1.) That opium in moderate doses is harmless to any class of people. (2.) That it enhances the happiness of the poor and keeps them from misery. (3.) That it is a valuable drug in relieving pain and suffering of several classes of diseases, and that it is particularly valuable in an unhealthy climate where the sufferings of the poor are great. (4.) In unhealthy and malarious tracts its use is a necessity to the poor to abate suffering, to cheer their spirits, and to render them fit for work. It saves them money and lengthens their life. (5.) It is far superior to the use of alcohol or hemp, far less injurious to the system even in large doses, far cheaper, far more convenient to all ages, far more useful in several diseases, and the least hurtful to morals, society, and business—not at all hurtful in moderate doses. (6.) The frequency and dose are more easily controllable, the craving more easily suppressed, and the habit more easily abandoned than those of hemp or alcohol.

25,413. (*Mr. Pease.*) Is the reason that the habitual consumer keeps it a secret, and is very unwilling that others should know that he consumes opium, because he believes it is not a creditable habit?—No; he does not make a show of it. He does not tell people that he is taking opium.

25,414. You say, "The habitual kept it a secret, and" was very hesitant to impart the habit to others, "except when it was considered medicinally necessary"; does not that mean that he was ashamed of the habit?—He kept it a secret from the young; he did not wish to impart it to the young.

25,415. Why should he wish to keep from the young the knowledge that he was in the habit of taking opium?—He does not wish that the young should contract the habit.

25,416. In the Kurnool district I suppose the habit is more common among Mahomedans?—Yes.

25,417. Is the Mahomedan population in Kurnool large?—More than 50 per cent., I think.

25,418. That is in the towns, is it not?—I am speaking of the towns.

25,419. When you said that all classes, whether rich or poor, whether Hindu, Mahomedan, or Pariah, contract the habit, I suppose you meant merely that there is no class in which instances are not to be found, you meant that it is not confined to any particular class?—That is what I meant.

The witness withdrew.

The Hon. C. S. CROLE recalled and further examined.

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25,420. (*Chairman.*) What appointment do you hold?—I am at present a member of the Board of Revenue in Madras, and I am also a member of the Legislative Council.

25,421. I suppose among other things the excise revenue of all kinds is under your control?—No, up to December last I was separate revenue commissioner. In December last I resigned the appointment, having been five years in charge. I was sent up here because the new commissioner has only been in office about two months. The work of the Board of Revenue has been divided into three parts, though the Board is still a collective body.

25,422. I believe yesterday you put in a *memorandum on the administration of opium revenue in the Madras Presidency?—Yes.

25,423. Do you know whether before the passing of the Sea Customs Act of 1844 there was any other Sea Customs Act under which the export of opium was prohibited?—I have not gone into that point.

25,424. I suppose there probably was?—Yes, probably.

25,425. The Opium Act of 1878 you say was extended to the Madras Presidency in July 1880?—Yes. The delay was caused by some negotiations with the Nizam.

25,426. Before that do you know whether there was ever any poppy cultivation in the Madras districts?—I believe there was poppy cultivation in the Nilgiri hills to a limited extent. There may have been to a limited extent elsewhere. About a year ago I discovered it in Bellary district. I mention that as showing that poppy cultivation was apparently known by tradition.

25,437. Have you ever heard of its existing in the hill tracts of the four northern districts where opium consumption is large?—No, I am not personally acquainted with those hill tracts.

25,428. Do you know at all whether at some former time the cultivation was prohibited in Madras?—That I am not perfectly certain of. It was supposed not to be going on at all. Opium was supposed to be a thing of such a trifling nature that nobody paid any attention to it. I do not fancy it was really prohibited. The habit was supposed not to exist. It is mentioned in the Note. "The cultivation of the poppy in the Presidency may be said to be almost unknown except in the Nilgiris, where the plant was cultivated to a very small extent by hill men prior to 1880. But it has since been prohibited."

25,429. I remember that there was a considerable amount of poppy cultivation in one or two parts of Mysore until it was prohibited by our Government?—Yes, that is very possible.

25,430. Is it not possible that at some former time it may have been prohibited in parts of Madras?—I can only speak from my memory of 30 years. I was brought up for many years under the impression that there was no cultivation, and that there was no consumption. That was the tradition.

25,431. In the table which you have put in, the consumption in the Malabar district in the last two years, 1892-93, seems to have increased very largely?—Yes, it has more than doubled.

25,432. Can you explain that?—It is impossible to explain these things. The only reason that I can assign for it is that the Abkari Department has increased in strength and efficiency. It has probably caused a diminution of the smuggling which no doubt took place from Bombay. I detected some cases going into Cochin, to the north of Travancore. I can only attribute it to a fear of detection having been established, and that it is licit opium, while it was illicit opium which was formerly consumed. That is the only explanation I can give of the difference. It is the same in regard to liquors; the consumption has apparently gone up enormously, but there is no real proof that there has been any increase in consumption.

25,433. There has been no increase in the number of shops in Malabar, has there?—I should not say so. It appears that there has been rather a falling off by two shops between 1884 and 1892. There has been on the

whole a slight fall, but the number of shops is very similar to the number at the beginning of the period.

25,434. Calicut is in Malabar, is it not?—Yes, it is the headquarter of the district.

25,435. I observe that a certain Captain Hamilton, writing in the year 1727, talking about Patna, which was the chief emporium of the trade in Bengal opium, mentioned that from 500 to 1,000 chests of Bengal opium went annually to Calicut alone for sale in that part of the world. Did you ever hear of such a thing?—No; but in all probability Calicut was a distributing centre, which position is now lost owing to the railway. The distributing centre now is naturally in Madras. I can well understand that there was an old traditional report that Calicut was the centre of distribution for the whole of the west coast of Mysore.

25,436. You say that the tradition or belief till quite lately was that there was no cultivation and no consumption worth speaking of?—That is so.

25,437. Even now, I suppose, that is true as regards all but the four northern districts?—In the four northern districts, and the city of Madras itself and Malabar, the consumption appears to be increasing.

25,438. There seems to have been some special increase in Tanjore in 1891-92?—This is very often caused by reckless bidding. In the previous year, 1890-91, it amounted to Rs. 5,300. In 1891-92 it fell to Rs. 4,842; and then it rose again in 1892-93 to Rs. 5,844. That is caused by the districts being let to renters taluk by taluk—auctioned in fact. Sometimes there is an increase, then they lose, and it falls off again. The same thing is exhibited with regard to Madras town. There was an enormous increase one year; they lost by it, and it fell again.

25,439. A large consumption in Madras is generally supposed to be due to the presence of Mahomedans and Gujaratis to some extent, is it not?—Yes, but there is consumption of opium to a material extent among other classes. The official explanation is that the consumers are mainly Mahomedans, Gujaratis, and Marwaris.

25,440. Have you any information as to the growth of private smoking places since the prohibition of smoking on the premises of licensed shops?—I do not think they have grown, but there have been cases. Immediately after prohibition was introduced the police brought to notice the fact that they were persons who possessed pipes, and who were trying to revive the place as a private smoking-house. That is all that has come to my notice.

25,441. Were any prosecutions attempted?—Yes, but the prosecutions were not excise prosecutions; they were under the Police Act, because a place of that sort, where people congregate for that purpose, requires to be licensed by the Commissioner of Police. So that it was he that took action. It is specially provided for by the Madras Police Act. Even a gymnasium requires to be licensed.

25,442. I suppose the prosecutions were effectual?—Yes; the places were suppressed.

25,443. Do you know whether the habit of smoking still goes on in private houses?—I do not know for a fact, but I assume that it does.

25,444. Some Madras witnesses who came before us in Calcutta made very strong statements as to the effects of the opium habit in leading to crime; have you formed any opinion upon that point?—I have never heard of a case in which opium was the cause of crime. I have been a joint and district magistrate, and sessions' judge, for a quarter of a century, and I never had a case of that sort brought before me.

25,445. Mr. Raju Naidu, who is a licensed local preacher in connexion with the mission in Madras, said in Calcutta, "So far as my experience goes, opium eaters are for the most part criminal. From what I have heard from others I know they were induced to commit thefts and some such crimes." Does that strike you as an exaggerated statement, that they are for the most part criminals?—It is about as true as if you said that drinkers of beer in England are for the most part criminals, because I presume most criminals drink beer. That is the only extent to which it is true, as far as I know. As I say, I have never heard of a case in which opium has been at the bottom of crime.

* See Appendix XVIII. to this Volume.

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The great pity is that a man like Mr. Raju Naidu did not come to the constituted authorities to get information. I have never seen him, for instance.

25,446. Have you ever visited a smoking saloon?—I have never visited a smoking saloon; but I had all the smoking places in Madras examined immediately I saw an article in *Abkari* about three years ago. A special report was made to the Board of Revenue by the assistant secretary, who visited every place in Madras of that nature.

25,447. Mr. Raju Naidu said in Calcutta, that out of the frequenters of these smoking saloons, 50 or 60 out of 70 were so emaciated as to be nearly skeletons. Does that agree with the reports that you read?—No. In point of fact I recollect distinctly that in the chief smoking places in Madras there were some prosperous native merchants. One of the points made by the assistant secretary was that there was no evidence of emaciation among the people who frequented those places. If desired I will submit that report to the Commission. It was made immediately the statements regarding Northern India were published.

25,448. Who were the officers who made the examination?—The assistant secretary of the Board of Revenue. I took it out of the hands of the Excise Department altogether.

25,449. I see that we have an extract from the report you refer to in reply to the memorial from the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade, contained in the proceedings of the Government of Madras Revenue Department, No. 220, dated 19th March 1891?—That is the document I referred to.

25,450. Do you know a Mr. Soma Sundram Pillai, a Hindu schoolmaster in Madras?—No.

25,451. I see his evidence was confirmatory to that given by Mr. Raju Naidu. He said that almost three-fourths of those whom he saw in the dens were living skeletons; have you seen any opium eaters in the Madras Presidency whom you consider would come under that description?—No; the persons whom by repute I have understood to be opium eaters were not skeletons. But I have no great personal experience of that portion of the subject.

25,452. Until the Opium Act was introduced in 1880, I believe the consumption, such as it was, was supplied by Malwa opium, which was brought through Hyderabad territory into Madras?—That is the supposed basis of supply.

25,453. I suppose that came through very freely?—Yes. The Land Frontier Customs force was very lax in those days; there was no proper organisation.

25,454. Was there supposed to be any preventive line in those days?—There was what is called a Sayer force. I do not know that it went absolutely round Hyderabad, but I have noticed references to it very frequently. The only places where there are any real Customs frontier force are the French Settlements.

24,455. Supposing the prohibition of the use of opium were attempted in Madras, do you think that it would be possible to stop smuggling from Hyderabad and other places?—The best answer I can give is that we have found it impossible to stop the smuggling of liquor between Hyderabad and British territory, so that we allow it to come in freely. The line is so long, and it would be so costly, that it has been found not worth while to stop liquor coming in from Hyderabad territory into the British territory. We have no Customs line there. We levy our revenue upon the shops. We do not allow any embargo upon the importation of liquor, so that I do not think it would be possible to keep opium out unless we went to a most inordinate expense. It was abandoned in the case of liquor, certainly.

25,456. In the large Zamindaris, which abound in Madras, have they their own excise?—No; they have nothing to do with excise.

25,457. The excise is an Imperial item?—Yes.

25,458. Are not some of those large Zamindaris of the nature of independent Native States?—They have not got permanent Sanads. They are tributary States; they are like Banganapalli and Pudukotta, Travancore, and Cochin. States like that are not Zamindaris.

25,459. Do you have any trouble with them about excise?—We have constant trouble with the two first States I have mentioned. I think the trouble may be

said to be over now in Pudukotta under the present Dewan Regent; but there has been a great deal of trouble.

25,460. I was talking of liquor?—They obtain their opium from over the frontier, from any place they like, under supervision, of course.

25,461. I believe the discovery that the consumption of opium was large in the four northern districts was due to an inquiry made into the cause of certain epidemics of fever?—Yes, I believe so; something of that sort.

25,462. It was made in 1872, was it not?—Yes, I think so.

25,463. I see Dr. Cornish, writing as sanitary commissioner on the 10th of May 1872, in paragraph 17, says, "Every official and intelligent native I spoke to admitted the fact of opium-eating being an almost universal practice. The theory is that opium keeps away fever generally, and makes people feel strong. I was assured by some respectable natives that they knew instances of cases where a piece of opium the size of a pigeon's egg would be daily consumed, and so far as I could make out, from five to 10 grains of opium was considered a moderate daily allowance." It was this report of his, I think, that led to the special inquiries as to the practice?—Yes.

25,464. And to legislation on the matter?—Yes.

25,465. That report, I think, referred to the Godavari district?—Yes. It referred to the Godavari hill tracts, if I remember right.

25,466. Are your shops sold by auction?—Over the whole Presidency the farms are sold. Each taluk is put up to auction; and in the town of Madras the city is sold as a whole. The shop-auction system was found to be a failure. The farmer then gives a lease to his shopkeepers, and these shopkeepers get licenses.

25,467. The number of shops is strictly determined, I suppose?—Yes; the number is strictly determined by the collector in consideration of the demand of the locality; and, of course, during recent years there has been a steady tendency to decrease in number.

25,468. (Mr. Pease.) You have no account of the consumption of opium during the year 1874?—No; there is no possibility of getting any account.

25,469. I see that in 1880-81 the consumption was 26,652 seers; would you assume that the consumption would be equal to that?—Yes; I think in regard to opium, making a certain allowance for smuggling, that might be taken.

25,470. Is it possible that there could have been that sale of 26,652 seers without its coming before the notice of the authorities?—It had come by that time before the notice of the authorities; that was in 1880-81.

25,471. If there was that sale in 1874, or earlier than that, is it possible that the authorities should not have known that there was this enormous trade going on?—Many things are mysteriously unknown in India. It is the same with regard to excisable liquors. The revenue has increased to the extent of 10 or 20 lakhs of rupees in one district. Nobody had any idea of it until the proper establishments were put on.

25,472. Was 1880-81 the first year in which the Government took cognizance of the number of shops for the sale of opium? I see that in that year there were 1,041 shops?—Practically, that was the first year of the regulation of the trade.

25,473. The result of your inquiries, I suppose, led to the view that there was a very excessive consumption of opium in certain districts?—I did not take office in the Excise Department until 1889, so that I have no personal knowledge apart, of course, from the departmental records, of what actuated the authorities, or of what inquiries they made.

25,474. I gather from these papers that the policy of the Government has been to make opium dearer in those districts since then, where there was a large consumption; is not that so?—Whether it is the policy of Government or not, it is a fact that it has become very much dearer.

25,475. Do you think that has been for the purpose of reducing the consumption, or with a view of obtaining better returns for the revenue?—There has never

been with the Government of Madras a policy of increasing the revenue by increasing the consumption. The only policy has been to make people pay as highly as possible for any indulgence, such as alcohol or opium, or hemp drugs. There is no connexion between the increased revenue and the desire of the Government to raise the revenue by increasing the consumption.

The witness withdrew.

Lord Brassey here took the Chair.

Mr. B. V. RAMANARASU PANTULU called in and examined.

25,476a. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are a Tahsildar at Ellamanchili?—Yes.

25,477. Will you kindly tell us what you have to say with regard to the opium question?—The fact of my being selected as a witness in connexion with opium along with those who possess experience of hill tribes leads me to suppose that I should give evidence from similar experience, and with this view I confine myself to the use of opium by the tribes inhabiting the Gudum Hill tracts, with whom I am well acquainted. During the last five years (and on rare occasions before that period) I, as Tahsildar of the Taluk in which these tracts are situated, have had frequent occasions of coming in very close contact with these hill people. On several occasions I actually visited their houses and saw them take their meals. I have thus had the best opportunity of studying their customs and habits minutely. A very few different races, or rather castes, inhabit these hills, and they all, without exception, use opium. Opium eating is admitted as contemptuous by all, and yet the people are obliged to have recourse to the drug as an unavoidable necessity, not as a luxury. The use of opium commences at two different stages of life—the first infancy and the second middle age. Children of both sexes are given every evening till they pass their third year a very small dose, as big as a ragi seed, as a future protection from malarious complaints. After the third year opium is not given unless there is actual and real necessity for it, such as some illness or other. The second stage begins between 30 and 40 of a man's age, when a change seems to set in the condition of the blood and he gets some complaint or other. The only medicine he knows and has at hand is opium, which he for the second time begins to use. It gives him relief in most cases, such as fever, rheumatism, cough, &c. When he gets accustomed to the drug at this stage he cannot give it up during the rest of his life. The proportion of male population eating opium is about 75 per cent., while such proportion among females is only 25 per cent. The difference between the two proportions is very great. Why more male population should use the drug than the females is a point that should be well known to a scientific man. It is used twice a day—early in the morning at sunrise and in the evening at nightfall, accompanied by the usual meal (hot). A hill-man cannot stir from his house or do any appreciable work without having his dose of course accompanied by his usual meal). The average dose varies from three to four grains. This dose he never increases except under exceptional circumstances. The dose used by females is smaller, being two or two-and-a-half grains. He takes his morning dose and meal and then goes out to work in the field or elsewhere, and returns home in the evening and takes his second dose. As is known well the climate of the hills is very damp, and the only clothing the hill-man has is a thin cotton sheet which is utterly insufficient to protect him from chill, which is the first symptom of fever, and keep him warm. It is believed that opium produces heat in the system and keeps the eater warm. It forms part of their food. It is a fact that hospitality prevails in the hills better than in the plains. I saw with my own eyes several instances in which a headman in the hills first supplies opium to his guests, whatever may be their number, and then meals. In fact, opium is the life and soul of the hill-man, and without it he is nothing. He is supplied with it easily. Shops are located at convenient places within his easy reach at which it is sold. He finds no

25,476. You mean the policy of increasing the price was to reduce the consumption, and not for fiscal reasons?—It was to make people pay for the indulgence—the highest amount that could be fairly collected. I have always opposed, during the last five years, any interference with the right of private action in regard to stimulants or drugs, or anything else.

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difficulty in buying it. The hills on which he lives supply him with amply produce which is quite sufficient to afford him means to maintain himself and his family and to purchase his opium, his wants being very simple. Opium does not thus interfere with the proper maintenance of his family. An opium eater in the hills is as strong and intelligent as a non-opium eater. The only marked difference between the two is that, when the former does not get his dose at the usual time, he feels weak and languished until he gets it. When he gets it, he becomes cheerful and performs his usual avocations satisfactorily, sometimes better than a non-opium-eater. Opium thus gives him strength. In several cases an opium eater, like one who does not use it, has more than two wives, sometimes as many as five or six, and has children by them all. He is as healthy and lives as long as a non-opium eater. I saw several opium eaters who were over 70 years old enjoying good health and possessing intelligence. I never heard of or came across any instance in which an opium eater committed a crime or misbehaved himself in any other manner. From the above it may be seen that opium is used by hillfolk moderately, and that it produces no evil effects, either physically, mentally, or morally, but that on the contrary it does good by acting against the bad effects of the climate. These people live in a rigorous climate, where there is no medical aid whatever. Their only medicine is opium. It would be a dangerous policy to deprive them of this drug to which they have been accustomed for very long time.

25,478. What is your opinion with regard to opium smoking?—Opium smoking is dangerous. It is not a necessity but luxury. An opium smoker can at the first sight be recognised as such from his pale miserable countenance and dry chest. It produces intoxication. The habit of opium smoking is acquired from bad company. Opium smoking may, therefore, be prohibited with advantage.

25,479. (*Mr. Pease.*) Are there some of the hill-men who do not take opium?—There are; but they are very few.

25,480. Have they worse health than those who do take opium?—No.

25,481. Why do you think it is necessary for them to take opium?—They get some complaint or other, then they take opium, and that gives them relief, and they continue the habit.

25,482. You do not think that persons in health need take it?—No.

25,483. Sometimes a person who has an illness is cured from the illness by opium, but he has a habit which he cannot shake off, is that the case?—Yes.

25,484. Do you know anything about opium smoking?—Yes.

25,485. Both chandu and madak smoking?—I know nothing about chandu smoking.

25,486. What you know is about madak smoking?—Yes.

25,487. What do you think about madak smoking?—It is injurious to health. It is a bad habit.

25,488. (*Sir William Roberts.*) Are the hill tracts supposed to be malarious?—Yes. They are the worst hills of the Northern Sirkars.

The witness withdrew.

*Mr. B. V.
Ramanarasu
Pantulu.*

Mr.
Dondapati
Jengam.

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Mr. DONDAPATI JENGAM called in and examined (through an interpreter).

25,489. (Chairman.) I believe you are Amin of the Malkanagiri Tannah?—Yes.

25,490. What have you to tell us with regard to the matter now under our consideration?—Opium eaters consume the drug from 1 to 6 or 7 chinnams ($\frac{1}{30}$ of a tola) according to their capability. The use of opium among poor families renders them more impoverished. When used for the first time, either to restore health or soundness of mind, it makes the body thinner and gives relief from twisting pain and heaviness of body, and some other complaints. After men are accustomed to it for some months they cannot easily give it up. If they at all do so, they feel twisting pain all over the body, besides being subjected to sickness, diarrhoea, swelling of hands and feet, weakness, and the like. It affects their minds. They cannot give up its consumption. They cannot get up from sleep before 7 or 8 o'clock in the morning even at the risk of neglecting their agricultural avocations. Poor men unable to procure opium for their use resort to petty thefts, and even sell their children for its sake. With regard to its influence over hill sickness, it is said that the use of the drug thins the body and mitigates twisting pain and sickness, though in fact it cannot effect a radical cure. Opium eating does no harm to children, but weakens them. Both men and women use opium from 1 gulivinda seed's weight to 5 or 6 seed's weight as they can bear. Children begin with 1 grain's weight and raise it to 1 or 2 gulivinda seed's weight. After they become five years old some are made to give it up gradually. In the case of men and women using opium, it makes no change as far as their health is concerned; but they enjoy no peace of mind, that is to say, they cannot have sound sleep at nights; after having sleep for an hour they get up and sit slumbering, but generally they cannot lie down to sleep. Hill people as well as others take opium at their meal hours. They first eat the drug and then take their meals. It produces its effect within two or three minutes after it is consumed. If its supply is stopped, those accustomed to it will be put to much difficulty. It would therefore be better if the drug be sold to them at a cheaper rate than at what it is sold at present. But if its supply is altogether stopped, the very moment there will be an uproar throughout, and I therefore submit the above for your consideration.

25,491. (Mr. Pease.) Do you wish that opium should be sold at a cheaper rate than it is at present?—It is my desire that it should be sold at a little cheaper rate.

25,492. If it does so much harm, why do you desire that it should be easier for people to get it?—It is a harmful thing, but people have been accustomed to use the drug from their childhood, and they cannot give it up.

25,493. Have you known many cases of people selling their children in order to buy opium?—I know that well.

25,494. Could you give us further information about that?—I have seen several cases in which people have sold their children to enable them to buy opium.

25,495. Who purchased the children?—Traders and merchants.

25,496. What do they do with the children?—They bring them up and make them serve them as farm servants, to tend to their cattle.

25,497. (Sir William Roberts.) You say, "The hill people, as well as others, take opium at their meal hours. They first eat the drug and then take their meals;" do they offer opium to their guests before their meals?—If the guests are accustomed to eat opium they are supplied with it.

25,498. The practice is not considered a disgraceful one?—No; it is not considered disgraceful.

25,499. I suppose those who sell their children are a very low class, like criminals?—Yes, such as the Khonds, and other poor people who cannot afford to buy opium.

25,500. (Chairman.) Do you desire to tell us that the use of opium is a good thing or a bad thing?—It is equal to medicine.

25,501. Do you consider opium a good thing regarded as a medicine?—I think it is good, as far as the body is concerned, that opium should be taken as medicine.

25,502. Do you take opium yourself?—No.

25,503. Do you think it a bad thing for a young man in strong health to take it?—It is a bad thing.

25,504. As a medicine it is good?—Yes.

25,505. And it is for that reason that you wish it sold cheaper?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

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Mr. W. VENKATAPIAH PANTULU GARU called in and examined.

25,506. (Chairman.) I believe you are Head Quarter Deputy Collector at Chatrapur?—Yes.

25,507. You have come here to make a statement to us with reference to the opium question?—Yes. My evidence is based upon inquiries made in my division from time to time in consultation with people in general, especially with opium eaters, smokers, and sellers at different places, and is, I think, more or less applicable to the other divisions of the district. As the Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd September 1893, No. 430, does not enumerate the details of the various points on which I am required to give evidence, my statement deals generally with such points as I think necessary. If further particulars are required, I am prepared to give my evidence orally, as far as I know. The points dealt with are:—1. Consumption of opium by the different races. 2. Its effects upon the physical condition of the people. 3. Its effects upon the moral condition of the people. 4. Disposition of the people in regard to its use for non-medical purposes. 5. Willingness of the people to bear, in whole or in part, the cost of prohibitive measures.

25,508. Will you give us particulars with regard to the consumption of opium generally?—Opium is used in two ways: (a) for eating, (b) for smoking. As regards (a) all races—Hindus, Mahomedans, and Christians, &c., irrespective of sex in all parts of the district, plains, and hills—eat opium. The consumer begins with $\frac{1}{2}$ -anna worth of the drug or a pill of red gram size per diem, and gradually increases the quantity to 2 annas, or even half a rupee worth in pills of the size of a Bengal gram, and in very rare cases even the size of a soap nut, according as the circumstances of the con-

sumer afford to obtain rich food and good nourishment, such as milk, ghee, sweets, &c. Some take three pills, some four pills, while others take only two pills a day. Generally the pills are taken before meals and in a few cases at other times. The consumers generally begin to use opium after they attain the 40th year, and in some cases before they attain that age. I was informed that in some parts of the district 6 per cent. of the population are opium eaters; but the whole district taken together, as the further inquiry discloses, the opium eaters form a very small proportion to the whole population, say, less than 5 per cent. (b) Opium is smoked chiefly by the lower classes of society. The smokers are bound to smoke at the licensed shop of intoxicating drugs. This drug is known locally as maddat, and the smoking is hated in a social point of view. There is no limit in the value or quantity of the drug smoked by each individual. It tempts the smoker so far as to waste his property on this account. The minimum and the maximum costs per diem of each smoker vary from half anna to half a rupee. Among smokers those that are in good circumstances have with them sweetmeats and other costly luncheons, which they consume at intervals in the course of smoking, and begin to talk nonsense on various points without head and tail. The smoking of maddat in several cases becomes so excessive as to spoil the health and wealth of smokers. There are several instances in which the smokers have become impoverished and vagabonds. The smokers in this district are a very small number, forming a proportion of about 10 per cent. to the number of the opium eaters, except in a few localities where they are one-sixth of the opium eaters.

25,509. What have you to say as to opium eating?—Eating of opium is commenced generally with a view to get rid of chronic complaints, such as stomach ache, coughs of all descriptions, asthma, rheumatism, and the like when other medicines proved ineffectual. In some cases opium is eaten as luxury. Moderate dose of opium is harmless and brightens intellect, strengthens muscular system, and increases endurance. Old people are much benefited by its use under proper nourishment. Excessive use weakens body, but is not known to cause death. Using small doses daily is distinctly beneficial in all the diseases already named, especially in diabetes, and as a preventive of diseases in malarious and unhealthy tracts. It enables to give staying power under severe exertion or exposure. It is said that change of water does not affect the opium eater unlike others. It has, however, the tendency of causing temporary sleepiness and a little forgetfulness, timidity, and dulness. If excessively taken it causes disorder of bowels, but all these evils are prevented by timely meals and proper nourishment according to the quantity consumed. No evils are known to have resulted from opium eating.

25,510. How is the habit of opium smoking regarded?—Opium is smoked not for medical purposes but chiefly for luxury in this district. It is looked upon as a disrespectful and mean habit. Habitual smoking of opium (madat) deteriorates health. Excessive smoking induces all sorts of evils, and even goes so far as to cause insanity and shortness of life. Its use produces noxious effects, physical, mental, and moral, and induces the consumer to commit crimes. It impairs the constitutions and injures digestion. It impairs the sight and produces a bloody appearance in the eyes.

25,511. What is the effect on the moral condition of the people?—Opium eating produces no ill effects on the moral condition, nor will it make the consumer quarrelsome like alcohol. But the smoking of madat induces the habitual smoker to commit crime and to quarrel at times, and it spoils the private character of the smoker in society. The use of madat impairs the moral sense and induces laziness and habits of immorality.

25,512. What is the disposition of the people in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes?—The general opinion of the people is that the eating of opium for non-medical purposes is undesirable, but they think that the people of advanced ages and those living in malarious parts do require in some cases to addict to it as a preventive to fever, rheumatism, and other complaints.

25,513. Would the people be willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—Both the consumers and others agree in thinking that manifold and serious dangers will attend the discontinuance of the opium consumption. Opium is the life and soul of its consumer. He can live without food, but not without opium. He cannot give up the habit as the physical

ordeal is so severe, that his bones ache all over if he is deprived of it, and he can neither sleep nor work, and the agony becomes almost unbearable. Instances are not lacking in which the agonies of apparent danger of imminent death for want of their usual drug were completely and immediately comforted by the supply of even a smaller quantity than their usual ration. Some opium eaters are also smokers of opium and ganja as well as drinkers, but they are in a small proportion when compared with the pure opium eaters. Opium eaters can without difficulty reduce their daily quantity, but cannot live without it altogether. Even in jails criminals are given a certain amount of opium mixed in liquids or other shape if their health gives way (which is certain) in consequence of their being deprived of it suddenly. The substitution of one form of intoxicant for another is not infrequent, and the obstacles placed in the way of those accustomed to eat would probably lead to the use of ganja or alcohol in a large quantity. Opium is a mild intoxicant, but madat or the smoke is not so. So far as this district is concerned and my experience goes, smoking may be condemned and put a stop to. It not only spoils the health and causes insanity and shortens life, but also impoverishes the smoker in no less degree than alcohol. If this is stopped he may substitute something for it without any ill effect or danger. None of the people that I consulted in the course of my tour of inspection agreed to bear any cost at all as they have all been taxed heavily in various ways, and it is very unlikely that anyone would come forward to pay anything from his pocket for the sake of others without pressure being brought to bear upon him, especially when he is strongly of opinion that the opium should not at all be prohibited even for non-medical purposes, as habit in it once taken to become nature, whether it was originally commenced on medical grounds or for luxury.

25,514. (Mr. Pease.) Do you not think you have made a mistake in saying "The smokers are bound to smoke" at the licensed shop of intoxicating drugs? I believe the law is that they are not allowed to smoke at the shops which are licensed for the sale of opium, but that if they smoke at all it must be in private houses?—As a matter of fact they are smoking in shops that are licensed.

25,515. Where?—In my division.

25,516. Could you give me the names of the places?—Chatrapur and Boirani.

25,517. Is there more than one shop in each of these places?—No, there is only one shop in each place.

25,518. Smoking is taking place on the premises which are licensed for the sale of opium?—Yes.

25,519. Is opium smoked in other places besides in the licensed shops?—I am not aware of it.

25,520. Do you make any distinction between the smoking of chandu and the smoking of madak?—I never heard of chandu smoking; I have only heard of madak smoking.

The witness withdrew.

The Rev. W. CURTIES called in and examined.

25,521. (Chairman.) I believe you are a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Mission?—Yes.

25,522. Will you give us your opinions with regard to the opium question?—Opium is smoked freely, and the number of smokers is increasing in the city. The habit is indulged in by the Hindus of different castes and by Mahomedans. It is given to little children in sweetmeat and as a soporific. Old, middle-aged, and young men are to be seen loitering about the dens and smoking. The general confession of the smokers is that the effect of opium on the physical system is very deleterious except the smoker can afford plenty of good food. The smokers for the most part are men of the labouring class, and unable to afford a generous diet. The habit is contracted through association with opium smokers, and afterwards continued because of the effect realised. The habit is practised without the knowledge of the families of the smokers, and generally in the vicinity of the opium shops. The habit deteriorates the moral sense of the smoker and renders him incapable of responding to good advice. The smokers acknowledged that one of the reasons they enjoyed the habit for was that it stimulated their sensual passions. That the

effect of opium on them was to give a temporary incentive to work, but this lasted only as long as the effects, and no work could be done without the usual dose. That the habit does not allow of moderation, the tendency is to increase the dose, the only limit being want of means. That the use of opium leads some men to thieving and all to lying and deceit. One and all expressed their pleasure at the prospect of closing licenses as a protection to their children.

25,523. You have given us a serious picture of the harm which is done in your view to people from the use of opium. In going about the country we have heard much of the evils done by alcohol; we have been told about the inability of the people in this country to resist the temptations of alcohol; have you had that kind of experience yourself?—I think alcohol is indulged in freely by the natives of the country where I live.

25,524. And it is a great evil?—Yes.

25,525. Would you say if a prohibitory policy were desirable in the case of opium that it was equally desirable in the case of alcohol?—Yes.

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25,526. Have you lost all faith in the feasibility of bringing about a great moral reform in the condition of the people of this country by what I may call social and religious agencies?—No, decidedly not.

25,527. Looking at the question as it presents itself to us, who are here representing the Parliament of England, and are called upon to advise the Parliament of England as to whether it should or should not bring pressure to bear upon the Government of India, which is a foreign Government, with a view of inducing them to introduce regulations which would affect the personal habits of the people very greatly, do you not think it is possible that it may be more prudent to leave the reform you contemplate to moral agency rather than to attempt to bring about a great change by regulations imposed by a foreign Government without any express sanction on the part of the people concerned?—I think it would help if the Government would bring in prohibitive measures.

25,528. Have you any reason to suppose that such prohibitive measures would command the ready assent of the great majority of the people?—I think in Madras the thinking people would be very glad to help in anything like that.

25,529. Is it not perhaps the case that the thinking, the select people, much as we may regret it, are rather the few?—Yes; they are the few, and they greatly deplore the fact that intemperance and other things are spreading.

25,530. Might it not be somewhat rash to rely upon the support of the few with the risk of some discontent on the part of the many?—I have only heard agitators agitate the question, and they have desired to make attempts to bring about reformation in intemperance and such things.

25,531. The temperance movement is making great progress in this country, is it not?—I think it is.

25,532. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You have spoken in your evidence of opium smoking; do you not distinguish between opium eating and opium smoking?—Yes.

25,533. Does none of your evidence apply to opium eating?—Not at all, excepting children taking it.

25,534. You say, "Old, middle-aged, and young men" are to be seen loitering about the dens and smoking; you are speaking of opium smoking?—Yes.

25,535. Is opium smoking very common in Madras? Is it anything like so common as opium eating?—I do not think so. The wealthier classes eat opium; the poorer classes, to which my experience is confined, smoke it.

The witness withdrew.

Haji Mirza Mehdi Ispahani called in and examined.

25,551. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are a member of the Harbour Trust Board, Madras?—Yes.

25,552. What knowledge have you of the use of opium in India, and what have you to say on the matter?—I am a merchant in Madras, am 55 years of age, and my knowledge of the use of opium in India is confined to parts of the Bombay Presidency and this city. It is hardly necessary for me to say that opium has been in use for centuries past. It is used by Mahomedans as well as Hindus in various ways, and the habit of taking it is almost universal. It is taken by people of advanced age as a mild and beneficial stimulant and given to young children as a protection against colds, fevers, &c. There is scarcely a child brought up without opium having been administered to it in some shape or form. I have known very many people who have been using the drug more or less and whose mental and physical capabilities were as good as any average healthy person. I have rarely met with an opium consumer whose faculties were deranged. I have never heard of insanity being the consequence of its excessive use. In my opinion it will be very hard to partially or totally deprive millions of people of its use and who have been habituated to it. The habit may almost be said to be descended to them from their forefathers. Smoking opium is to a certain extent injurious if indulged in to excess, but the habit of doing so in India is not as universal as that of taking it internally. It does most harm in dry climates; in moist and marshy places it is

25,536. They smoke madak?—Yes.

25,537. The habit of opium eating is spread throughout the various ranks of society, is it not?—I suppose so.

25,538. You do not know much about it?—No.

25,539. May I take it that your remarks, except as to the children, apply exclusively to opium smokers and not to opium eaters?—Yes.

25,540. (*Mr. Pease.*) What makes you think that the number of smokers is increasing in Madras?—I go by the number of young men I have seen smoking.

25,541. In the dens?—Yes.

25,542. Have you visited the opium dens?—Yes, I have visited several of them.

25,543. Are any of the dens held in connexion with the licensed premises?—They are not very far away from the premises. In one case there is only a cocoa-nut leaf mat separating the place from where the opium is sold.

25,544. You visited these places some years ago, and you have visited them recently, and you have satisfied yourself that there has been an increase in the number of smokers?—Yes. I go by the number of young men I see.

25,545. Are they Madrasis?—They are people belonging to the city of Madras.

25,546. You say, "The habit does not allow of moderation; the tendency is to increase the dose, the only limit being want of means"; do you think that is strictly so, that there are not among the smokers many who do not smoke up to the limit of their means?—They have told me that half the money they earn used to go in smoking, and sometimes more. It depends upon what they realise.

25,547. Are there not some well-to-do people who do not smoke up to the limit of their means?—I suppose so.

25,548. You said that the only limit is want of means?—That is the labouring class.

25,549. Would you like to say, The only limit being the want of means in the cases of those who visit the lowest dens?—I do not know about the lowest dens. I speak about the poorer class. I would like to restrict my remarks to the class I have been talking about, that is, the poorer class.

25,550. You say, "One and all express their pleasure at the prospect of closing licenses as a protection to their children"; you refer in that case to the dens which are frequented by the poorer classes?—Yes.

*Haji
Mirza Mehdi
Ispahani.*

very agreeable. As regards prohibiting its cultivation, it means loss of a large sum to the Indian revenue derived from this drug, which will probably have to be replaced by other means. Comparing the present state of India and the income of its population with the taxes levied on them, I consider such a course as highly undesirable and inexpedient. By limiting or prohibiting the opium production in India, should it be intended to stop the Chinese from its use, they can easily replace the deficiency in supply, by increasing their own cultivation of the poppy, and taking it from Persia and Turkey, where its cultivation is already in good progress. The Chinese require the Indian drug on account of its superiority, to mix with their own inferior stuff, and to stop its supply to them would be doing a great and unnecessary injury to India and assisting the Persians and Turks in the increase of its production. They can supply the drug cheap, as it is not heavily taxed by their Governments, whilst the Indian article is almost over-taxed. In recent years the Persians in spite of the superiority of the Indian opium have been exporting 10 to 15,000 chests annually. It is sure to proportionately increase, should the Indian supply diminish or discontinue. It will also stimulate exports from Turkey.

25,553. Are you yourself engaged in the opium trade?—No.

25,554. (*Mr. Pease.*) What evidence have you that opium smoking does more harm in dry climates than moist and marshy places?—That is the general idea

among the people who smoke opium. I have heard so from them.

25,555. They suffer from it if they smoke in dry places?—That is so. It is not so harmful in damp climates.

25,556. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) You speak of opium smoking being injurious if indulged in to excess. Have you had much personal experience of people smoking opium to excess?—No.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. G. T. VURGESE, B.A., called in and examined.

25,560. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are a Bachelor of Arts of the Madras University?—Yes.

25,561. And you are Collector's Sheristadar, Malabar?—Yes.

25,562. I believe you wish to make a statement to us on the matter now under our consideration? Yes. I am a Syrian Christian and a native of Travancore. I have lived in Malabar for the last 16 years. For several years I was the headmaster of the Basel Mission High School at Calicut. I entered the Revenue Department in 1884. I am personally acquainted with a considerable number of opium eaters, especially among our people (Syrian Christians), and have had opportunities of observing their habits. Natives of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar, Christians and non-Christians, rich and poor alike, have come under observation. A gentleman who has held the opium contract in Travancore and Cochin for several years has supplied me with some useful information connected with the opium

25,557. Then you speak from what people generally have told you?—Yes.

25,558. With regard to what you have said about the growth of the Persian trade in opium, is that a matter of your own knowledge?—Yes, I have many friends who deal in it, and I know that it is increasing.

25,559. Do you know whether the trade in Indian opium to China has been falling off lately?—I do not think it has.

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traffic. Other opium contractors have also placed similar information at my disposal. I have also made inquiries of opium dealers and consumers as well as of those who were in a position to place me in possession of facts which have come under their observation. Since my nomination as a witness, I have read as much of the literature on the subject of opium as I could get. I have thus tried to verify the result of my own observations, and to get as much correct information as possible.

25,563. Can you give us any information as to what races use opium?—Opium is used chiefly by the Syrian Christians, Jews, and Mahomedans on this coast. According to the last census there are—

Syrian Christians	200,326
Mahomedans	975,069
Jews	1,294

as shown in the following statement:—

	Total Native Christians.	Native Christians.					Mahome- dans.	Jews.
		Roman Catholics.	Syrians.	Church of England.	Not stated.	Other Sects.		
Malabar	42,374	36,406	1,968	658	56	3,286	769,857	27
Travancore	526,019	278,785	176,574	16,284	28,708	25,668	258,823	125
Cochin	173,523	150,032	21,784	1,048	659	—	46,389	1,142
Total	741,916	465,223	200,326	17,990	29,423	28,954	975,069	1,294

With the above classification of native Christians it would be more accurate to say that the habit of using opium prevails among native Christians generally. I say native Christians generally, as there are opium eaters among Roman Catholics and other sub-divisions under native Christians as well. It should not be supposed, however, that no other classes use opium.

25,564. What per-centage of the people consume opium?—Roughly speaking, 5 per cent. of the native Christians, 3 per cent. of the Mahomedans, and 20 per cent. of the Jews may be considered as opium consumers, including women and children. From 5 to 7 tons are consumed annually. The per-centage is fixed with reference to the number of opium consumers with whom I am acquainted in one or two localities where the habit is general. This rough per-centage would, I venture to think, be found to be above, rather than below, the actuals. A word of explanation is also necessary with regard to the aggregate quantity consumed annually. The Travancore and Cochin contractor, already alluded to above, informs me that about 9,000 lbs. of opium are sold annually in Travancore, and 3,000 lbs. in Cochin. The consumption in Malabar, according to the latest official reports, is about 2,000 lbs. Taking these figures, I fix the annual consumption on the Malabar coast at 5 to 7 tons. Tested by the per-centages given above in conjunction with the average daily dose, this estimate will be found approximately correct.

25,565. Under what circumstances is the habit acquired?—Various circumstances contribute to the formation of the habit. At the commencement it is used merely as a remedial agent. In diarrhoea, dysentery, diabetes, consumption, rheumatism, &c. it is employed with the best results. I am personally aware of cases of diabetes in which opium was successfully used; similarly in other diseases. I have not come across opium consumers who have not successfully

resisted the incursions of such diseases. Apprehensions of future attacks lead to the continuance of the remedy. It then becomes a preventive, and, in process of time, almost a necessity of life. Here and there it is used by a few as a luxury. But this is entirely confined to people who are well-to-do. It forms a part of the early breakfast consisting of light conji or coffee and sweetmeats. People of such habits show a partiality for sweetmeats. After the morning meal they are not in a hurry for their second or noon-day meal, which they generally take in the afternoon between 3 and 5 p.m. This is generally found to be the case with people of sedentary habits. The number of people who use opium as a luxury is, however, very small. Amongst the working classes it is taken for non-medical purposes. Weakness and failing health, due to old age or other causes, accounts for its use in some cases. In the hill tracts there is a belief that opium is a protection against fever. In Meenachil, a hill taluk in Travancore, it is resorted to as a preventive against fever. This statement is made on the authority of a printed book on Travancore. There are working men who go out for their day's work with only one or two grains of opium and a little hot water or conji water. They return home for their meals only in the evening after their day's labour. I know some of them personally. Coolies who carry loads, as well as peasants who cultivate their own farms, use opium in this way. When agricultural labourers work for others, they are fed at mid-day with conji and boiled yams or grams. But what sustains some of them in the forenoon is the small dose of opium they take before they set out. I know a poor Musalman who earns his livelihood by needlework. He cannot sit down to his work without his daily allowance of opium. If he does not get it he feels exhausted, and is unfit for anything. But with the usual dose of opium he is able to work for 10 hours a day. He does not take more than 4 grains a day, and has been doing so for many years past. He is now

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about 70 years old. There are similar cases among opium-consuming Christians also. They resort to the use of the drug when they are old, and feel that they cannot work as well, or as long as before. They see that if they do not work, their children must starve. They wish to earn their bread as long as they can. A grain or two of opium enables them to provide the means of subsistence for their family. In the hill tracts opium is used with great effect as a protection against fever. Those who live by hill cultivation, who have to go out to work at daybreak, and who cannot return home till late in the evening, are in some cases known to take opium as a preventive against fever. Some boatmen are also found to use opium for the same reason.

25,566. What are the doses usually taken?—People begin with one grain or even less. For one reason or another the quantity is increased gradually. The average dose consists of 5 grains. There are instances in which this limit is greatly exceeded. But the greater portion of the opium-eating population are satisfied with the minimum quantity of two to five grains, which they take throughout life without ever increasing it. It may be mentioned here that opium dealers sometimes make up pills of four or five grains, and sell them at three pies each to meet the demands of the poorer classes. There are those who take opium once a day, and others who use it twice daily, both in the morning and in the evening.

25,567. What have you to say with regard to opium smoking?—Native Christians rarely take to this habit, but others do. In the towns, e.g., Alleppy and Quilon, in Travancore, madak, the special preparation used in smoking, is indulged in by a few. Other forms in which opium is used are said to be—

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| (1.) Admixture of opium and ganja | } by ganja smokers. |
| (2.) Admixture of ganja, opium, and tobacco | |
| (3.) Opium dissolved in arrack. | |
| (4.) Opium dissolved in water and boiled down for the purpose of smoking in combination with burnt gooseberry leaves. | |

The information under this head has been supplied to me by others. I have no personal knowledge of the facts.

25,568. Taking a general view, what are the effects, in your opinion, on the physical and moral condition of the people?—The moderate use of opium has a wholesome effect on the physical condition of the people concerned. Opium consumers whom I have seen have a strong and hardy constitution. They are weather-proof. This opinion is based on my experience of the classes already referred to, viz., peasants and boatmen. They can stand any amount of work. All that is wanted is that the usual allowance of opium must be available for use at the proper time. The daily work is performed with enviable activity. There are people who, under ordinary circumstances, would be unable to pursue their daily avocations, but who, in spite of their old age, are able to turn out a good amount of work. I can point out specific instances in support of these statements. I do not, however, deny that the immoderate use of opium has resulted in the loss of flesh and in diminished nervous power. Very few instances of this kind have come under notice. As regards the moral condition, I do not hesitate to say that no moral evils can be directly traced to the opium habit. So long as the chief motive to take opium is the relief of pain, cure of disease or a desire to work, and not sensual pleasure, the first step in the corruption of morals is wanting. It is sometimes asserted by the advocates of the suppression of the trade in opium that loss of moral power is one of the inevitable consequences of opium smoking. It makes a man or a woman increasingly selfish and blind to family claims. So far as opium eating among the Syrian Christians of this coast is concerned, this statement is not true. On the contrary, it is the desire to work for and maintain the family that helps to form the habit. Far from being morally dead, the opium consumer is alive to his duties and responsibilities. It may be that other forces, such as religious feelings and convictions, are at work counteracting the influence of opium. Opium eaters are not wanting in moral power. They do not show more signs of moral weakness than people who do not use opium. Their moral sense is as keen as that of their neighbours, and they act up to their convictions. They are calm and patient under trying circumstances. In regard to China, where opium in-

dulgence attains its greatest proportions, it is said "that the people are strong, healthy, active, and lose none of their national characteristics through the daily use of opium. That, on the contrary, the majority of the working classes manifest far less evidence of the demoralization and physical degeneracy than occurs with the labouring classes of Europe, who participate daily in an allowance of spirits." Whatever may be the force of this contention for China, it can unhesitatingly be applied to the opium-consuming classes on the Malabar coast. It may also be said that no crime can be traced to the opium habits. I have not heard of offences committed under the influence of opium. In my opinion it does not produce criminal tendencies. The opium eater is not a dangerous member of society.

25,569. Have you anything to say with regard to the willingness of the people to bear in whole, or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—It must be evident from what has already been said that prohibitive measures are not called for. The opium habit is limited to a small per-centage of the population. The habit is one which cannot be easily shaken off. It has fostered a craving which must be satisfied. To suppress the trade in opium would be unjustifiable. To tax opium further would place it beyond the reach of the poor man. It would introduce a new motive for the commission of crime. It would deprive the labourer of the means of earning an honest livelihood. It would shut out a simple remedy from people who cannot afford to pay for medical advice or medicines. It would increase beggary. It might cause other evils, the extent of which cannot be gauged now. To increase the general taxation on account of the opium eater would be opposed to all principles of taxation. The opium eater is as useful a member of society as any other. There is no reason why the general taxpayer should have his burdens increased. If additional taxation is to be resorted to on account of the opium habit, it might hereafter be suggested that any other habit, such as betel-chewing, which is quite common, might as well be taxed. The general population will not willingly bear the cost of any prohibitive measures, which neither they nor the opium-eating population want. The annual opium revenue derived by Travancore, Cochin, and Malabar is about Rs. 85,000, while the cost of prohibitive measures, if they are to be efficient, must be immensely more. The opium smuggler will carry on his trade, notwithstanding the vigilance of the preventive departments. A piece of reed, the barrel of a gun, an old sack will answer his purpose as much as anything else, and evade detection, unless every passer-by is subjected to an elaborate examination and to needless detention and annoyance. In fact, efficient, prohibitive measures cannot be carried out in practice, even were they possible.

25,570. What results would you anticipate from any sudden and complete cutting off of the opium supply?—If measures were introduced, whereby opium can be had only in chemists' and druggists' shops and for medical purposes alone, the consequences are better imagined than described. A portion of the population will be rendered miserable without any corresponding advantage. The opium consumer will try other stimulants which are more injurious. He will take to alcohol, ganja, and other intoxicating drugs. Alcohol will impoverish the people, and rapidly spread the evils which come in its train. Ganja smoking will spread likewise with its concomitant dangers. Crime will increase. In this connexion it is necessary to add that the opium eater, after he has had his usual allowance of opium, cannot be induced to take a second dose at the invitation of another till his hour comes. He has fixed hours for taking opium, and does not change them to please others. Not so with alcohol. It knows no refusal. Hence it may be said that opium stands at one end of the national economy while alcohol stands at the other. Opium teaches economy and alcohol extravagance.

25,571. (Mr. Mowbray.) What is a Syrian Christian?—The Syrian Christians claim to be the church of Malabar, founded by St. James the Apostle.

25,572. You claim to be the oldest Christian community in India?—We claim to be the first and the original Christian community—the original apostolic church of India.

25,573. And one of the largest in numbers?—Yes, one of the largest, but not progressing. It is not a missionary church.

25,574. (Sir William Roberts.) Are you confined to a small district?—Malabar, Travancore, and Cochin.

25,575. (Mr. Pease.) What are the duties of Collector's Sheristadar?—I am the chief ministerial officer in the Collector's office; I am responsible for the conduct of all the administrative work in the office directly to the Collector.

25,576. Have you anything to do with the opium traffic?—Yes. I have to do with the issue of notices and answering letters and communications from subordinate offices; in fact, I have to do all things which the Collector has to do.

25,577. Do you collect the opium revenue?—I am not an executive officer to collect the opium revenue.

25,578. Do the teachers of your church give any advice upon the subject of the consumption of opium?—No.

The witness withdrew.

Colonel C. A. PORTEOUS called in and examined.

25,582. (Chairman.) I believe you are Inspector-General of Police, Madras?—Yes.

25,583. We shall be glad to have your views with regard to the opium question generally?—I have completed 37 years' service in India; the very early part (1857-60) of my service was spent with my regiment (27th Madras) in the suppression of the mutiny in North India. At that time the use of opium did not attract my notice in the least. It certainly would have done so had it been used to any extent by the sepoys of my regiment. In May 1860 I joined the police and have served with that department ever since. The early years (1860-69) of my police service were spent in the Madura and Tinnevely districts, where I saw but little opium used, and that chiefly medicinally. Since May 1871 I have been closely connected with the police of the northern range, commonly called "the Northern Circars," consisting of the districts of Ganjam, Vizagatam, Jeypore, Godavari, and Kistna of this Presidency, and I have an intimate acquaintance with the hill tracts (and people thereof). Opium is extensively used all over the northern range, in the delta taluks as well as in the upland taluks and hill ranges. There is a very large market for it at Ambagipetta in the Amalapur taluk, or central delta, of the Godavari district. The opium sold here is brought from Malwa via Hyderabad and Juggiapett (Kistna district). Opium is used medicinally in its crude form in the shape of small pills for diarrhoea, dysentery, fever, ague, rheumatism, &c.; in fact, for nearly every disease. It is the stand-by of the native physician and of the people for every ill or ailment. Not only as a curative, but as a prophylactic it is considered invaluable by the people (especially those of malarious tracts). Even here its uses do not end. It is administered in judicious doses as a sedative to women in pain and to small children, while the comparatively poorly-fed man partakes of it as an invigorator. It gives him life and energy, assists his appetite and digestion, wards off fever, and puts new strength into him. Without his opium a hill-man is listless and flaccid, fit for nothing. If kept long without it he gradually sinks; rheumatism and fever seize him, and he becomes useless and decrepit. Opium is seldom used immoderately. I personally do not know of a single case of the immoderate use of it; while of the benefits of the moderate use of it, I have seen much and have heard still more from the people themselves. While employed in 1880-81 in extinguishing the dying embers of the Rumpa rebellion my work in search of the rebels took me, with small parties of police, all over the hill tracts of the Godavari. The only constables who did not succumb to the malarious fever of those unhealthy regions were those who took their small pill of opium morning and evening. Repeatedly have constables come to me and asked for two or four annas to buy a little opium, and when I gave them what they wanted, how grateful they were and what a wonderful change the little opium pill effected. No doubt people who accustom themselves to the use of opium have a tendency to increase the doses of it in order to bring about the desired effect; still it is seldom taken to excess. It is an expensive article to most who use it, and the purchaser of a lump of opium does not, like the arrack or toddy drinker, think of how much pleasure he will obtain from his purchase by a large consumption

25,579. You say, alluding to the opium consumer, "He has fixed hours for taking opium, and does not change them to please others. Not so with alcohol. It knows no refusal." Would you not reverse that? Is it not opium that has fixed hours, and knows no refusal?—I have already explained that it is not a habit which can be easily shaken off.

25,580. How does opium teach economy?—All my remarks refer to the moderate use of opium. As I have said the immoderate use diminishes the nervous power as well as the physical energy. The immoderate use of opium as well as of alcohol leads to extravagance. The moderate use of opium does not lead to extravagance. A man with Rs. 2 a year would be able to satisfy his craving for opium.

25,581. Are you not of opinion that a man in good health would be better off if he did not adopt the opium habit?—Yes, he would be better.

at one time. No, he knows that it is life to him, that if he consumes it too fast and has not the means to procure more, it means loss of appetite, starvation, ill-health from fever, and perhaps death; therefore he husbands his opium, his great object being to make it last as long as he can, and takes only just enough for his regular doses. I have very recently visited the Golconda Hill tracts of the Vizagapatam district and Rumpa in the Godavari, both notoriously unhealthy regions. In the former I met people who came in from a distance of 20 miles to Lumsingi to purchase opium. On asking them what they had come for, they replied, "We have come to buy a little opium to take back to our homes, so that we and our families may partake of it and live." In the latter place (Rumpa) a Mokasdar (Dhal Dora, of Marivada) licensed to sell opium, complained bitterly of the trouble he had with the hill people when his supply of opium ran short, and there was delay in replenishing the same. He said, "They must have it, or they give me trouble." Already opium is a sufficiently expensive drug, and the poor experience difficulty in obtaining it. It will be a bad day if it gets much more expensive, but it will be a still worse day if its growth and sale in India be interdicted. That will mean starvation, disease, misery to many in the hill tracts, while others, driven to desperation, will probably raise disturbances more serious than any we have hitherto had to deal with. Opium is an absolute necessity to people inhabiting malarious tracts. It is more, it is a blessing to them. It has saved many a life, and it has harmed very few, while deprivation of it would kill thousands. Knowing this, I find it difficult to understand or sympathise in the least with the sentiment against it. What good it has done, how infinitesimal the harm, compared with the mischief that toddy, arrack, and other alcoholic drinks have done to Natives and Europeans! Opium does not incite persons to commit crime; it has the very reverse effect; whereas much crime can be put down to the use of alcohol. I know of no case of insanity caused by use of opium. Hitherto I have dealt only with the eating of opium. I now come to the smoking of it. There is everywhere much less consumption of opium by smoking than there is by eating. By the ordinary dwellers in malarious tracts it is not smoked at all. It is principally in the large towns that it is smoked, and in these places, on the whole, more by Mahomedans than by Hindus; where the latter smoke it they are generally northerners. The ordinary Tamilians and Maliyalis, men and women, are satisfied with their betel and pán, while the Telugas, males and females, indulge in tobacco, and expend their spare coin in procuring these luxuries and not opium. For smoking purposes two preparations of opium are used—madadh and chandoo. Even in the larger towns there is seldom more than one opium-den or madadh-khana, and here, in the evening, from 10 to 25 persons come and smoke quietly; they do not, as a rule, smoke themselves senseless and stupid as the Chinese usually do; they smoke for refreshment and as a sedative after a hard day's work. But even the worst opium den has much less openly objectionable about it than a toddy shop or liquor tavern. In the one case such pleasure, as there may be, is enjoyed in silence, and there is little to offend sight or hearing. Very few people

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(Natives as well as Europeans) even know that there is such a place as an opium den in a town. In the other, noise, vile language, and fighting are prominent, and constantly causing offence. Like everything else, the harm in opium is not in the use, but in the abuse of it. In my opinion the abuse of it is very insignificant compared to the vast benefits derived from the use of it. A few local inquiries in malarious tracts would convince the Commission of the very great value of opium to the people.

25,584. You have given us your opinion as an officer of great experience; can you tell us whether the views you have expressed are the views which are supported by the officers of your service?—My opinion on this subject is shared by nearly all the officers of my department.

25,585. (*Mr. Pease.*) We have been told that the hill men, who are not opium consumers, are as good men as those who are. Is that your view?—I think opium is universally used on the hills of Vizagapatam and Godavari, but is not used amongst the Khonds of Ganjam.

25,586. With regard to these hill men, you say that they are complete slaves to the habit. "Without his opium a hill man is listless and flaccid, fit for nothing?"—Yes.

25,587. Is opium the principal medicine they take for malaria?—Entirely. I think there is absolutely nothing else.

25,588. You have said, "Such pleasure as there may be is enjoyed in silence." I suppose they are soothed by the fumes of the pipes?—It soothes them very much as tobacco soothes us.

25,589. Do you think that that physical state is one which is desirable,—half stupefied?—I do not know that they are half stupefied. It soothes them, but I do not know that it goes so far as to stupefy them.

24,590. Have you had any experience with regard to chandu smoking?—No.

25,591. You say that the Chinese smoke themselves senseless and stupid; has that been the result of your own observation?—That is entirely from hearsay, and from reading.

25,592. Do you know anything of the Khaitie district?—It is in the Nilghiri Hills.

25,593. Is it true that 20 years ago a good deal of the land was under poppy?—I do not know from my own knowledge. At one time I believe that there was a considerable amount of poppy cultivated on the Nilghiris. It was found out and stopped.

25,594. Is it true that the people then were a miserable, weak lot?—I did not know the hills then.

25,595. What do you say of the people at the present time?—They take opium now. About Rs. 300 or Rs. 400 worth of opium a month is consumed amongst the Kothas, Bagadas, and the Todas, who are the aborigines of the hills.

25,596. You cannot tell me whether the statement I have before me is correct—that the health of the people has very much improved since they ceased to grow opium in the district?—They use opium, as stated above, and are now very healthy indeed.

25,597. Perhaps you do not know whether there has been any improvement or not?—I cannot say.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

At the Town Hall, Bombay.

SEVENTY-FIRST DAY.

Wednesday, 14th February 1894.

PRESENT :

THE RIGHT HON. LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B., CHAIRMAN, PRESIDING.

SIR JAMES LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.
SIR WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.
MR. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P.
MR. A. U. FANSHAWE.

MR. ARTHUR PEASE.
MR. HARIDAS VEJARIDAS DESAI.
MR. H. J. WILSON, M.P.

MR. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT, C.I.E., *Secretary.*

MR. F. P. HORNE called in and examined.

Mr.
F. P. Horne.
14 Feb. 1894.

25,598. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are here to make a statement concerning the Bombay Medical Anti-Opium Petition?—I am.

25,599. Will you state what is your position?—I am honorary secretary to the Bombay Anti-Opium Alliance. The Alliance was inaugurated at a public meeting presided over by Dr. Milne, Bishop of Bombay, held in the Framji Cowasji Hall, Bombay, on the evening of April 10th, 1891, to support the resolution of Sir Joseph Pease which was brought before the House of Commons the same night. The Bishop of Bombay became the president of the Alliance, and at the fifth committee meeting of the Alliance, held on July 6th, 1891, the suggestion was approved of having an anti-opium petition drawn up and circulated for signature among medical men only. The only medical man on the committee of the Alliance was Dr. Rustum Ranina, and he and I together drew up a draft of the petition which was

read at the next committee meeting. The committee made a few suggestions whereby the petition could be improved and appointed Dr. Ranina, Mrs. Dyer (also one of the committee), and myself to revise the petition. This was done, and at the next meeting of the Alliance committee, held on September 9th, 1891, the petition was approved, and Dr. Ranina and myself were authorised to take the necessary measures to have it circulated for signature. To do this the petition was printed on foolscap paper with space for signatures to be written. All the copies that were printed were not used, and those you now have are a few of those that remained over. I have a few copies of the petition as originally printed which I will hand in to the Commission.

25,600. This is the form in which it was printed with a view of getting signatures?—Yes. The bill for the printing of these was paid by the Rev. R. M. Gray, treasurer of

the Alliance. I will now explain the way in which the petition was circulated among the doctors for signature. The second signature that appears is that of Dr. Ardesir Dadabhoy Mody, of Grant Road. I called upon Dr. Mody to ask him to sign the petition, and he signed it in my presence. This is the only signature that I am personally responsible for. Dr. Ranina called personally upon Dr. J. Gerson da Cunha, whose name appears third on the printed petition, and he signed in Dr. Ranina's presence. I believe Dr. Ranina called personally upon more than one of those who signed, but neither Dr. Ranina nor myself had time to permit of our calling personally upon all the doctors in Bombay, with the possibility of having to call more than once before finding them at home, so we drafted a letter which read as follows:—

"Dear Dr. ———.

"Herewith I send you a petition to the House of Commons dealing with the opium question. At the present juncture the anti-opium party in England are looking for expressions of opium from India, and this petition presents an opportunity for you to help forward a movement which is on the side of truth and justice.

"Trusting you will add your signature to the paper, and thus show your sympathy with the multitudes in this country who are already victims to the use of opium and extend to them this helping hand.

"I remain, yours sincerely,

"FRANCIS P. HORNE,

"Honorary Secretary."

25,601. Is Dr. Ranina coming here?—He is ready to make his statement if he is asked to come. The name for the doctor was left blank that it might be written in. I then procured a peon to carry the petition and the letter round to the doctors, promising to give him Rs. 8 for the work. I quote from two letters of Dr. Ranina to me bearing on the subject:—"14th October 1891. "Your peon is quite exorbitant in his demand. He "would not have anything under Rs. 10 for the petty work. "I should not pay more than Rs. 5. If he does not come "round we had better look out for another man." "16th "October 1891. I have at last engaged the man for Rs. 8 "for the whole job." I sent the peon to Dr. Ranina, and paid the Rs. 8 for his work, but the entire work of sending the peon round to the medical men was done by Dr. Ranina, who also filled in the doctor's names on the printed letter. When the time came for the petition to be forwarded to London, Dr. Ranina sent me the separate printed petition

The room was then cleared.

On the re-admission of the public,

25,603. (Chairman.) It is the view of the Commission that we should not carry your statement any further at present. We will insert in* the Appendix the paper you have placed in our hands with reference to the individual doctors whom you mention and their letters to you, with your replies to them. The Commission are of opinion that nothing has been brought before us which in the least leads us to call in question the *bona fides* of your personal action in the matter. I understand that there may possibly be a further consultation between myself and the members of the Commission that may result in your being before us again; but we do not wish to carry your statement any further to-day. One or two members of Commission will, however, ask you a few questions upon what you have already put before us.

25,604. (Mr. Mowbray.) I interrupted you just now without any desire whatever to prevent your making any statement that you might wish to put before us as to matters within your personal knowledge. I am sure you will believe me when I say that with regard to your personal connexion with this matter, I entirely concur in what has fallen from the chairman. So far as I understand the evidence you have given to-day, the only signature to this petition for which you are yourself responsible is that of Dr. Ardesir Dadabhai Mody, who signed the original petition and also signed the form which was forwarded to the House of Commons, in your presence?—Yes. Dr. Mody signed in my presence.

25,605. And I believe that no doubt whatever has been thrown upon that signature?—No.

25,606 (Mr. Haridas Vekaridas.) Would you be able to get the peon by whom the petition was circulated?—I believe not.

sheets with one, two, three, four, or more signatures on each, as the case might be. I remember looking over the autograph signatures, and they had every appearance of being genuine. At this point, to fulfil the rules laid down by Parliament in reference to petitions, it was necessary for us to have one or two signatures upon the written heading. Two names were thus written.—Dr. Atmaram Pandurang and Dr. Ardesir Dadabhoy Mody. Dr. Mody signed in my presence. Concerning the signature of Dr. Atmaram Pandurang, I quote the following from a letter of Dr. Ranina to me—"There was room for only one signature above that of Dr. Mody, so I have got the first man to resign. If you want a signature on the right-hand side, I can get the second man to sign there, if you "can send back the petition before 12 noon." From the above it is plain that Dr. Atmaram Pandurang signed a copy of the printed petition, and afterwards signed on the written petition. One signature on the written petition is all that the rules of the House of Commons require, but I have shown that we had two names, and Dr. Ranina shows that we could have obtained a third. The mail for England only leaves Bombay once a week, and we wished to avoid a further delay, and so, having two names, we had no object in getting a third if so doing would cause a week's delay, which we wished to avoid. As secretary to the Alliance I saw that the signatures were fixed to the written petition, and that the petition was posted to London to anti-opium workers there. It reached them safely, and before being presented to Parliament it was copied together with the signatures. Our friends in London had the petition printed in the *Anti-Opium News*, dated September 15th, 1892, and it was printed in a pamphlet entitled "An Indian Woman's Impeachment of the Opium crime of the British Government." The petition was mentioned in the *Bombay Guardian* of January 21st, 1893, page 3, when the portraits of Dr. Atmaram Pandurang and Dr. Khory were reproduced. This page of the *Guardian* was on the *Bombay Guardian* notice board outside the gate of the *Bombay Guardian* premises for one week where it could be read by passers by.

25,602. (Mr. Mowbray.) I was anxious that Mr. Horne should make his statement with regard to whatever came to his personal knowledge. The question now apparently is whether these gentlemen signed the petition or not. I believe they are all resident in Bombay, and if we are to go into the matter, I should have thought that the most direct course would be to invite these gentlemen to appear before the Commission, and state whether they signed it or not.

25,607. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You stated that you sent round the petition in sheets. So far as you know each sheet would have the printed petition on it?—Yes; what you hold in your hand was printed at that time.

25,608. There would be no sheet sent round without the petition printed at the top, so far as you know?—I feel confident of that.

25,609. You state in the petition, which was drawn up by the body of which you are secretary, that numerous cases of poisoning have arisen from the habit of giving opium to children. Had you any statistics to establish that before the committee at the time?—I am not prepared to say what cases there were before us at that time, but I feel very confident that we had proper statistics.

25,610. Had you made any special inquiry on that subject?—My impression is that at that time it was not so much a matter of making inquiry on the subject, but we had before us here and there cases which we knew. We did not require to make a special investigation on the subject of that particular paragraph; we knew it.

25,611. The point to which I ask your attention is the phrase "numerous cases," you think you had numerous cases within your knowledge at the time?—Yes.

25,612. In the next paragraph of your petition it is stated that "one evidence of the strength this habit exerts "is the fact that when the means of purchase are exhausted rather than endure the physical torture caused "by its discontinuance a man will sell his wife and "children to purchase the drug." Would you tell me whether you had any authenticated case before the committee of a person in Bombay selling his wife or children to enable him to obtain opium?—Yes.

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* See Appendix XXI. to this Volume.

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25,613. Will you kindly tell us what the case was if you remember it?—I was pretty familiar with the Bombay smoking dens at that time. I had visited them in company with several parties, and on one occasion I went round with a well-known pandit in Bombay, and in conversation with the men who were in the den one of them volunteered the statement that he had sold his wife for 20 rupees in order to get opium.

25,614. Was any attempt made to verify that fact, to ascertain whether it could be properly established?—I am not aware of any investigation on that point.

25,615. To the ordinary reader the language you have used would convey the idea that such cases were not uncommon, would it not?—That might be so.

25,616. You have referred to the Bishop of Bombay, as being president of the Alliance; does he still occupy that position?—He has resigned.

25,617. Do you wish to state the circumstances in which he resigned?—I do not think they bear directly on the case.

25,618. (Sir James Lyall.) You say, "To fulfil the rules laid down by Parliament in reference to the petition it was necessary for us to have one or two signatures upon the written heading"; does it mean the written petition?—It means the text of the petition written.

25,619. You say that Dr. Ranina sent you the separate petition sheets with three or four or more signatures on each; did they all go home?—No; they were cut off and pasted up.

25,620. On the petition that was sent home?—Yes.

25,621. (Sir William Roberts.) Have you reason to suspect the honesty of the peon who went round?—I had every reason to trust him.

The witness withdrew.

25,622. Is it still your view that these gentlemen did read the petition and sign it?—My impression is that the character of the letter which was sent round with the petition was such that no man would have signed it without having read it. My opinion is that the letter then written was a suitable letter, and one calculated to cause the doctors to read before they signed.

25,623. And you still adhere to the genuineness of this petition?—Yes.

25,624. (Mr. Pease.) You stated that you were unable to present the petition?—Yes.

25,625. Can you give any explanation why he should not appear before us?—I have inquired where the peon is now; I am told that he has gone from Bombay.

25,626. (Mr. Fanshawe.) I believe the number of signatories to the petition was upwards of 40?—49.

25,627. Was the petition sent round generally to all the doctors in Bombay or to any selected number?—My impression is that the peon was sent to all the doctors whose addresses were known. I feel confident of that. I know from the number of forms which I gave to Dr. Ranina and the number of letters I gave him. He used one letter for each doctor.

25,628. Can you tell me generally how many doctors there are in Bombay?—I do not know; I know there are a great many more than 50.

25,629. How many letters did you send round?—I am not sure.

25,630. The paper says 50?—There were 50 more I think. I believe Dr. Ranina had 50 at first, and that was the second 50.

Mr. JAMES M. CAMPBELL, C.I.E., recalled and further examined.

Mr. J. M.
Campbell,
C.I.E.

25,631. (Chairman.) Do you wish to make any statement to the Commission with reference to the subject matter of the evidence of the last witness?—I do. My attention was drawn to the subject of this petition by a letter from the Rev. Mr. Robinson in the *Times of India* of the 28th of October 1893. A list of the signatories was given in this letter. One of the signers was Dr. Gerson da Cunha. The statements Mr. Robinson quoted from the petition seemed to me extreme and incorrect. As I had previously held conversations with Dr. da Cunha regarding opium I asked him if he agreed with the views in the petition. Dr. da Cunha replied that he disagreed with the views, and further that he had never signed the petition. I accordingly had a circular notice drafted and sent round by the Opium Inspector to as many of the other signers as we could find, asking them to be good enough to enter in the book whether they had signed or not, and what their opinions on the subject were. I have here the answers to this circular. I will read the circular:—"Accompanying is a printed copy of the petition presented to the House of Commons some time ago. It purports to have been signed by 48 medical gentlemen of Bombay whose names appear therein. The undersigned will feel extremely obliged if these gentlemen, if there be no objection, will be good enough to inform him whether they have signed the petition." The circular is signed by Mr. Rustonji Pestonji Jehangir, my inspector. The following is a summary of the answers:—Of 44 signers three admitted their signatures and accepted the views; five admitted their signatures but repudiated the views; six stated that they had signed without reading; two stated that, if they had signed, it was under a misapprehension; two stated, if they signed, it was under a misrepresentation; two stated that they signed something else; 18 did not remember signing, and six stated that they did not sign. In addition there is the case of Dr. Khory who was not then in Bombay, and who, I believe, has stated in an English paper that he did not sign the petition.

25,632. Is the writing in the book before you autograph writing?—It is.

25,633. Does it purport to give the views of the writers with reference to the opium question?—It is merely about signing. May I read one or two of the entries? The first is from Dr. Merwanji Kuvvarji, who says, "I do not remember having signed such a petition. If I have it must have been under some misrepresentation, for my views are quite the contrary." That is the class of entry

all through. I believe the summary of the entries given above is correct.

25,634. Do the entries generally give expression to the views of the writer with reference to the opium question?—Not I think with reference to the opium question, but to the statements contained in the petition. All but three disagree with the views expressed in the petition.

25,635. The last witness has put before us a paper containing statements which include the impressions of a considerable number of doctors on the opium question, purporting to be extracts from what has appeared in the *Times of India*?—They are probably the same as these.

25,636. Have you anything further to say with reference to the action you took in connexion with the petition?—No further action was taken at that time. A letter from Mrs. Dyer appeared in the *Times of India* on the 9th of January, and a letter from Mr. Horne appeared in the *Bombay Gazette* of the same date. Both Mrs. Dyer and Mr. Horne stated that these expressions of opinion and repudiations of their views by the signers were due to official pressure. In consequence of these charges the editor of the *Times of India* sent round one of his leading men to the repudiators of the petition. The result was a unanimous statement from all the signers who were in Bombay, 36 in number, that no pressure of any kind had been used. Since then Dr. Atinaram Pandurang, who was absent from Bombay, has also stated that in his case no pressure was used.

25,637. (Mr. Wilson.) Do I understand that the statements in the book before you are substantially those which appeared in the *Times of India*?—I suppose they are.

25,638. Can you tell me how they got there?—They were sent, I suppose.

25,639. By you?—Not by me.

25,640. Can you tell me by whom?—By my inspector.

25,641. What was his name?—Mr. Rustonji Pestonji.

25,641. (Mr. Pease.) Let me ask you whether you ever heard of a case of a Government officer connected with a public department sending round to persons who had signed a petition on a matter affecting his department to inquire whether they admitted having signed the petition?—No, I do not know that I have.

25,643. (Mr. Wilson.) Do I understand you to say, in reply to Mr. Pease, that you never heard of such a case before?—I never heard of such a petition before. In all my time in India I know of no such case as the present.

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25,644. What I should like to know is, whether it was part of your official duty, and the duty of the Opium Inspector, to interest yourselves about a petition to the House of Commons, and for what purpose the inquiry was instituted?—I think it was part of my duty. It was part of my duty to know about the opinion of the doctors in Bombay, and to find out whether this was a correct expression of their opinion. It was contrary to what I myself believed to be their opinion.

25,645. It is the only case in which you have known such a course pursued?—It is the only case in which I have known such a petition made.

25,646. (Sir James Lyall.) You said, I think, that you were first moved to take that course by happening to meet and talk with Dr. da Cunha?—Yes, I have talked with Dr. da Cunha on the subject; we had talked on the matter generally; he is a friend of mine.

25,647. He happened to mention that his name appeared on the petition, but that he had not signed it?—That was after I read Mr. Robinson's letter. After I had read Mr. Robinson's letter I went to see Dr. da Cunha, and asked

him about the petition. I asked him because I thought the views in the petition were not his views. It was in consequence of what Dr. da Cunha said that I became anxious to procure statements from the other alleged signatories.

25,648. What was the purport of Mr. Robinson's letter?—Mr. Robinson is a Methodist clergyman in Poona. He said he had long been weighing the good and evil of opium, but he was undecided which opinion to hold, until he saw this petition. This petition, he said, absolutely concluded the matter. He thought that Government servants might be biassed, but here was a body of men who were absolutely independent, and that to his mind was final. Mr. Robinson is highly respected in Poona, and his views were entirely changed by reading this petition. That was how I came to know of the petition, and it was because of its effects on Mr. Robinson that I determined to make inquiries regarding it.

25,649. Can you give me a copy of Mr. Robinson's letter to the *Times of India*?—I can procure a copy.

The witness withdrew.

Dr. R. N. KHORY called in and examined.

25,649a. (Sir William Roberts.) You are doctor of medicine and member of the Royal College of Physicians of London?—Yes.

25,650. And President of the Grant College Medical Society?—Yes.

25,651. You are also the author of the work entitled "The Principles and Practice of Medicine" and of "The Bombay Materia Medica"?—Yes.

25,652. You are a medical practitioner in Bombay?—Yes.

25,653. To what districts of the Presidency and what races are your observations applicable?—My observations are applicable to the city of Bombay and the island of Salsette, and apply to all races found therein, but chiefly to Musalmans.

25,654. To what extent is opium used among the population of these districts?—Without statistics I may say that my impression is that four per thousand of my patients use opium.

25,655. Of your patients generally, not merely adult males?—No; all of them—males, females, and children.

25,656. What opinion have you to give as to the effect of using opium habitually?—By "use" I mean habitual use in moderate doses; by "abuse" excessive use by an opium eater. Its moral effects are mainly negative. It does not make a criminal of the consumer, nor a bad father, husband, or relative. Its positive effects are to make the consumers cowardly and indifferent and easily duped. The physical effects are (1) negative and (2) positive. It does not interfere with digestion and assimilation, it does not produce wasting, it does not impair procreative powers or bodily activity, it does not depress except temporarily, it does not shorten life. It gives good sleep, enables fatigue to be borne, deadens flying pains, craving for food, increases endurance, keeps the consumer lively and of equable temper. It acts as an aphrodisiac.

25,657. What is your impression as to the excessive and injurious use of opium?—The physical effects are to interfere with digestion and assimilation, to lower the general tone of the system to produce languor, lassitude, depression of spirits, and ultimately wasting. The moral effects are to make the consumer careless and apathetic, and incapable of managing his own affairs. To satisfy his craving he may resort to petty thefts or cheating.

25,658. What are the methods of using opium in this district?—The methods of consumption are in the shape of crude, solid opium, or as balagoli for children, chandul smoking, madak inhalation. The effects of the consumption of crude opium are described in my previous answers. Balagoli pills contain besides opium, carminatives, and other substances, the proportion of opium being from one-twelfth to one-twentieth of a grain. The effects are similar to those of crude opium. The pills are of special value as keeping children lively and playful during their parents' absence, as checking infantile diseases, such as diarrhoea, colic, tympanites, vomiting, and restlessness. Children thrive under their use. The chandul smoker is absorbed in his occupation. After a time he becomes languid and drowsy, and can only remain in a recumbent position, but he can answer questions intelligently. After

the immediate effect has passed off the smokers declare themselves to be invigorated, more active, and able to work. I do not think chandul smoking has anything to do with the smokers being haggard or emaciated.

25,659. Are you speaking from personal knowledge of opium smokers?—Yes; I visited what they call the dens in Bombay, several of them. I found that there were 40 or 50 present: the lowest number being about 20. I sometimes had conversations with the men, and I have looked into their conditions and their duties in life, the business that they were following, and so on. I remember one man, a buggy driver, who came there every day about seven o'clock at night to smoke chandul, and he said that in about an hour's time he left the place and went to his occupation which kept him the whole night working as a driver. He said it always invigorated him considerably, and that he became more active in his work.

25,660. I suppose there are no Chinamen in Bombay?—There are a few.

25,661. I suppose the number of chandul smokers in Bombay is very small?—Yes; but still there are many to be found who go to these chandul houses; in private places there are very few.

25,662. What has been your experience with regard to madak smoking?—The same remarks apply to madak inhalation as to chandul smoking, but the effects are milder.

25,663. Do you consider that opium is useful in fever?—Opium is used as a prophylactic in malarial diseases, diabetes, enteric diarrhoea, cholera, and dysentery, rheumatic pains, and some nervous headaches. Its habitual use checks the recurrence as well as the onset of fever, diarrhoea, and dysentery. In cholera epidemics it is useful by acting on the mind of the consumer, and checking indigestion and diarrhoea. I have known cases in families in which there was a hereditary history of diabetes, where the disease was averted by the habitual use of opium.

25,664. How would you compare opium and alcohol in their effects?—Opium and alcohol taken in moderation are similar in their effects. Alcohol in excess makes the consumer an active danger to himself and others, but the consequences of excessive consumption of opium are not so much of an aggressive character. So far as society is concerned it is passive in its effects.

25,665. You have made no post-mortem examinations of excessive consumers?—During the time when I was in hospital I had now and then to make a chance post-mortem examination in the case of accidental poisoning by opium; but in private practice we seldom or never have such opportunities.

25,666. You never made a post-mortem examination of an habitual opium consumer?—I do not remember one since my connexion with the college ceased—for the last 25 years.

25,667. The opium habit is difficult to give up, is it not?—It is difficult, but not impossible, to give up the opium habit. Those who give it up are likely to resort to other drugs, as tobacco, ganja, alcohol, and probably in excess.

25,668. What effect has the habitual use of opium on the mental faculties?—Mental faculties are in a few cases

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slightly impaired, but this is not usual; where they are, the impairment is not such as to interfere with the discharge of duty or business.

25,669. Have you any further observations you wish to make?—There are instances in which by gradual increase an amazing quantity of opium can be taken with impunity. I have seen more than one case in which between 20 and 30 grains of opium have been consumed habitually without injurious effects. It is not a cumulative poison. When taken frequently and for a long time, its effects are not diminished, and it is therefore not necessary to take it in increased doses. In a warm country like India, opium is better tolerated, and is perhaps required. Children bear opium worse than adults; females resort to it less than males.

25,670. (Chairman.) Did you sign the petition to the House of Commons of which we have been hearing something this morning?—No, I did not sign it. A friend came to me about two or three months before I left Bombay for England, asking me as there was agitation about opium, if I had any objection to give my photo, as the photos of leading medical men were required; and I understood him to say that my opinion would shortly be wanted. I had not my photo at the time when he came, and I told him that he might see me some other day, when I would give him one. He came a few days after. I was in a hurry and I gave him a photo and he went away. After two or three months I left Bombay. I never heard of my opinion being asked for till I was in London. It so happened that one night I attended an Indian *soiree* of an association of Indian gentlemen living in London. While I was talking with a friend of mine, a solicitor, Mr. Abdulla Mehralli Dharamsey (he was a constant companion of mine and we had started from Bombay together), my attention was drawn to a table where some native Indian gentlemen were signing something. I went in and inquired what they were signing. They said that the opium question was to be brought before the House of Commons and they were signing a petition for opium to be put a stop to. I said "It is very funny; do you think that opium should be put a stop to; what do you say about alcohol; is not alcohol the first thing to be put a stop to before opium?" They said, of course, that alcohol was the fundamental thing for Government to put a stop to. I then said, "Why do you sign this? you ought to know that you are signing a document which may go against us." After this conversation took place I left. The next day, or perhaps the day after that, I had occasion to see Sir George Birdwood. I think it was a day or two before the House of Commons met for this purpose. I was talking to Sir George Birdwood about what had occurred. Mr. Dharamsey was with me at the time, and he said, "If when your signatures were taken the matter was not properly explained, you should write a letter to the *Times* of London." So I did. The letter was sent, but unfortunately it was not found in the next day's paper. A few days afterwards I received from the editor a memorandum stating that unfortunately want of space precluded the insertion of the letter. I spoke afterwards to Sir George Birdwood about the result of my writing to the *Times*, and there the matter ended. After my coming to Bombay it was brought to my knowledge that my name appeared among the signatories on the petition sent to the House of Commons. I was surprised at it. I had told Sir George Birdwood that I had given my photo because it was asked, and I was told that my opinion would be asked for soon after. The question of the signatures was discussed by several medical gentlemen in Bombay. I was asked if I would repudiate my signature. I said, "I have not signed, what is there to repudiate? There is nothing except the photo that I have given." Nothing further was done in my case.

25,671. Was your name published in any list as having signed the petition?—After my return to Bombay the names of those who had actually been asked to sign the petition were somehow or other found published in the papers, and among them were the names of the medical gentlemen who had themselves written on the subject; but I had not done anything of the sort.

25,672. It was a mistake?—Yes, it was published under a mistake.

25,673. Did anything happen with regard to your photograph?—Not that I know of.

25,674. (Mr. Pease.) You quite understood at the time you gave Dr. Ranina your photograph that it was to appear upon a document connected with the anti-opium petition, did you not?—Dr. Ranina came to me and said that as the agitation about opium was going on it would be better that the photos of the leading medical men should be given.

He said he would like to have my photo, and I understood him to say that my opinion would be asked. I said I had no objection if the photos of the leading medical men in Bombay were required. I knew that when my opinion was asked I should give my opinion, as I have given it here and elsewhere.

25,675. Do you know Dr. Ranina's views with regard to the opium question?—No. He came to me one evening in my rooms when I was engaged with my patients. He simply asked me for a photo, and I told him that when he came the next time I would give him one. The next time when he came I was busy, and he took the photo away. I waited to be asked for my opinion. In the month of April I left Bombay.

25,676. Do you wish to say that you did not know what Dr. Ranina's views were?—No, except this, that my opinion was to be given afterwards.

25,677. For what purposes do you think he asked for your photograph?—Because he wanted the photographs of the leading medical practitioners as the agitation was going on. I said the photo might be taken by him, and I would afterwards state what my opinion about opium was.

25,678. Was it your impression that he was going to publish the opinions of medical men *pro* and *con* with reference to the opium question?—I did not question him on that or on anything. He asked me, and I said I would give him one.

25,679. (Mr. Wilson.) Do I understand that when he had this conversation with you on the subject the interview ended without your having the slightest idea of what his views were?—I had not questioned him; he simply asked for my photo, saying that he was collecting the photos of the leading medical practitioners, and I understood him to say that my opinion would be wanted. So I promised him the photo, and I gave it to him afterwards.

25,680. That is not an answer to my question, which I will repeat. Do you mean that after the conversation with Dr. Ranina upon this subject the interview terminated without your having the slightest idea as to what his views on the subject were?—There was no other conversation beyond what I have said. He came in the evening when I was busy, and he simply talked to me about this.

25,681. About what?—About the agitation on opium, and he said that my photo was wanted as one of the leading medical practitioners.

25,682. Did you understand that it was an agitation in favour of opium?—No, I understood that my opinion was wanted. I said, "I will give it whatever it is." I did not say it was either in favour or against.

25,683. You gave your photograph in advance, to be followed by your opinion?—Yes.

25,684. You gave your photograph without knowing what side he was upon, or the nature of the petition?—No.

25,685. (Mr. Mowbray.) Do I understand that you never saw this petition on which your picture appeared, and on which your name was printed as one of the signatories, until you returned to Bombay from England?—No. After my return to Bombay I actually sent for a copy from the secretary to the Anti-Opium League, as I wanted to see it.

25,686. Having seen it, may I ask you whether you agree with it or not?—I do not agree with it at all.

25,687. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Will you tell me the date on which you returned to Bombay from England?—On the 14th or 15th of October 1893.

25,688. When did you go to England?—About the 22nd of April 1893.

25,689. You returned on the 15th of October the same year?—Yes.

25,690. It has been stated that your portrait was reproduced in the *Bombay Guardian* of January 1st, 1893. Apparently at that time you would be in Bombay?—Yes.

25,691. Did it never come to your notice that your portrait was published in connexion with the petition?—I do not know whether it was in January, but some of my patients told me that the photo was seen by them at some press. I did not care about it because I knew I had given the photo, and I was waiting to give my opinion.

25,692. It did not lead you to make any inquiry about the matter?—I did not make any inquiry about it.

25,693. (Mr. Pease.) When were you first aware that your name appeared as a signatory on the petition?—After I came from Bombay to England.

25,694. What was the first step you took to let the public know that you had not signed the petition?—I did

nothing in the matter, because I knew I had not signed it. I only spoke to my friends about the photo, and what I had said to Sir George Birdwood. I said that my photo was asked, but that my opinion had not been taken.

25,695. Was your communication to Mr. Campbell the first occasion on which you repudiated your signature?—I have not communicated with Mr. Campbell.

25,696. Had you any inquiry from the Opium Department as to whether you had signed?—The inquiries were made when the matter appeared in the *Times of India*. I said, "I have never signed, I know nothing about it." I was not going to say that I would repudiate because I had not signed it.

25,697. Had you any inquiry from the Opium Department as to whether you had signed?—The inquiry was as regards what appeared in the *Times of India*. I remember I was asked by a Parsi from the Opium Department if I had signed the petition. I said, "No, I have not." He asked if I repudiated my signature. I said, "What have I to repudiate if I have not signed it." That is how the matter ended. I have not communicated anything to Mr. Campbell with regard to repudiating the signature.

25,698. You had an inquiry from Mr. Campbell through his staff?—I remember his asking me if I had signed the petition. I said I had not signed. He asked if I was going to repudiate, and I said I had nothing to repudiate.

25,699. Had you stated previously to that time that you had not signed the petition—before you had a call from Mr. Campbell's representative?—That was after I came to Bombay from London. In London when I was with Sir George Birdwood I had a conversation about it.

25,700. Were you aware when you were in London that your name appeared on the petition?—No. I was asked about the signature, and whether I had signed the petition, I said, "No." I knew nothing about the petition. When I came to Bombay the first thing I inquired about was the petition. I got a copy, and I saw that there was my signature. When a man came from Mr. Campbell and asked me if I was going to repudiate the signature I said, "No, I have not signed this, I am not going to repudiate anything."

25,701. How long was it between the time of your first becoming aware that your signature on the petition and your making the statement to anybody that you had not signed it?—The statement to the gentleman who came from Mr. Campbell was about two months ago, or more; I do not exactly remember. I had come to know about it from Sir George Birdwood when I was in London.

25,702. You said you did not know when you spoke to Sir George Birdwood that your signature was on this petition?—I was asked by Sir George Birdwood if I had signed the petition. I said, "No, I know nothing of the petition." When I came to Bombay I purposely sent for the petition to know what it was, and whether it had my signature. I found the petition with my photo. The photo I had given, but I knew that I had not signed the petition.

The witness withdrew.

Dr. J. GERSON DA CUNHA, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., called in and examined.

25,721. (Sir William Roberts.) You are a medical practitioner in Bombay?—Yes.

25,722. Where have you made your observations on the opium habit?—My observations are applicable to the city of Bombay.

25,723. And to what races?—To the Hindu and Musalman races.

25,724. To what extent is opium used among the population of this city?—I am unable to state to what extent it is used among the population of this city, and the approximate proportion of persons using it.

25,725. What is your opinion in regard to the use of opium unless prescribed medically?—It is in my humble opinion unless prescribed medically baneful to the moral and physical condition of the user, both in its use and abuse. I may say that 12 years ago I had the honour of

25,703. You got to Bombay in October?—Yes; I wrote to the secretary asking him to send me a copy. When I got it I did not agree with it.

25,704. When you returned in October you found your name was printed, and two months later, in February, you stated to Mr. Campbell's agent that you had not signed it?—I do not exactly remember the time, but a conversation did take place of that sort.

25,705. You do not remember saying to any one previously to your communication with Mr. Campbell's agent that you had not signed the petition?—I cannot say that because in regard to this matter there had been so much talked about it that one may not remember whether he has talked to So-and-so, or whether he has not.

25,706. (Mr. Wilson.) You wrote to the secretary for a copy of the petition?—Yes.

25,707. To what secretary?—To the secretary to the Anti-Opium League.

25,708. The gentleman who appeared here as a witness?—I saw him for the first time here.

25,709. Did he furnish you with the copy?—Yes, asking me to return it after I had seen it.

25,710. You did return it?—I do not think I did.

25,711. At any rate he supplied you with it, and your name was upon it?—Yes.

25,712. And you did not then to him or to any one else say that your name was improperly upon the petition?—I might have talked to several persons.

25,713. You asked the secretary of the Anti-Opium Alliance to oblige you with a copy of the petition?—Yes.

25,714. And upon that you found your name printed?—Yes.

25,715. Having received that act of courtesy from that gentleman did you show him the courtesy of replying and saying that your name being there was in mistake?—No, nothing.

25,716. (Chairman.) On the general question before us do you consider it desirable that the use of opium should be regulated by being restricted to medical purposes?—No. I should like to place before the Commission my views which are given in a pamphlet that I sent to the secretary.

25,717. Our medical colleague will give his attention to anything that you may send.

25,718. (Sir William Roberts.) The date given is the 23rd of January 1894. You mean, I presume, that these statements were made before the correspondence appeared in the papers about the petition?—These are merely medical views.

25,719. They are practically the same views as are expressed in the printed statement submitted to the Commission?—Yes.

25,720. You put these into our hands with the view of showing that these views are not quite recent that at any rate you held them a month ago or more?—Yes. In addition you have the views of a large number of medical gentlemen who have sent their opinions to the medical society.

reading a paper on the subject of the opium question before the Medical and Physical Society of Bombay. I then stated with regard to the use of opium that "there has no doubt been much exaggeration in what has been talked about and written on the subject, in spite of the testimony of Chinamen themselves tending to prove that the effects of opium smoking, when injurious to health and destructive to all the best parts of man's nature, are derived from the abuse rather than the moderate use of the drug. But it seems to me that no limit can be assigned to moderation, the quantity of opium taken, or of any other drug, varying with the constitutional habits of the individual. As one dose becomes inert it must be increased by degrees, until it attains the proportions of an over-dose, in the general acceptance of the term."

25,726. What has been the mode of using opium?—The method of consumption observed by me is that of taking it in the form of pills.

Dr.
R. N. Khorj.

14 Feb. 1894.

Dr. J. Gerson da Cunha,
M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.

Dr. J. Gerson
da Cunha,
M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.

14 Feb. 1894.

25,727. In your opinion is opium a prophylactic against fever?—I have no idea that opium is used as a prophylactic by any of my patients.

25,728. You do not express any opinion of your own, but merely, as far as you know, the opinion of your patients?—That is all.

25,729. Does the use of opium as habitually indulged in by natives lead to consequences as serious as those which follow the use of alcohol?—The use of opium habitually by the natives leads to consequences as serious as those which follow the use of alcohol. They are both pernicious, opium especially so. Alcohol is taken often for mere pleasure, opium always for some ailment, at least at the beginning. I speak here not only as a medical practitioner, but as a medical referee to four or five life assurance companies in Bombay. I have always found that when people take opium it is for some ailment, in the beginning at least. It grows into a habit in the course of time.

25,730. Do you advise the acceptance of the lives of persons who eat opium on the usual terms?—I am always guarded and careful in accepting lives when I know that they take it for some ailment, as they generally do.

25,731. If the consumption is excessive?—Yes.

25,732. Would what you call a moderate opium user be considered a bad life?—I should advise the addition of some years to the life.

25,733. Is the opium habit difficult to give up?—I think it is difficult to give up the habit, but I do not know if it results in the use or abuse of other drugs or of alcohol.

25,734. What effect has the habitual use of opium on the mental faculties?—The effect of the habitual use of opium is injurious to the mental faculties, although it may not interfere with the consumer's ability to conduct his business successfully, if he uses the drug moderately.

25,735. Have you any other observation to make?—I have no other observation to make except that so much having been already said on the subject, my evidence may be dispensed with.

25,736. Has your personal experience of opium eating been considerable, or do you speak mainly from hearsay?—I am speaking from what I have seen among people in Bombay.

25,737. When you say that the use of opium leads to consequences as serious as those which follow the use of alcohol, are you speaking of the use of opium in excess?—I am speaking of the use of opium habitually, whether in excess or not.

25,738. Would you also speak of the consequences of using alcohol in moderation as serious?—I should think so. I am opposed to both.

25,739. You are absolutely opposed to any use of alcohol or opium habitually?—Yes, I am opposed to them on this principle, that the man who uses them is apt to abuse them. A man begins to take a small dose, but he increases it in a short time.

25,740. Do you speak of alcohol?—Alcohol and opium both.

25,741. Have you ever known persons taking alcohol or opium in moderation during a long life?—Yes, I have known persons live to a very old age; I have known opium takers live to 80 or 90.

25,742. Then would you qualify your statement somewhat?—Certainly not. A man may live long and still live the life of an imbecile.

25,743. I suppose you have known people using alcohol temperately and moderately who have lived to a good old age?—Yes, but I would not trust them. People take these stimulants either for some physical or some moral ailment. I find in Bombay that people take opium to stifle the voice of conscience. A thoroughly moral man would neither take opium nor alcohol—a man with religious principles.

25,744. Not in any quantity?—Not in any quantity.

25,745. That will enable us to judge of your mental attitude in regard to opium?—That is my humble opinion.

25,746. (Chairman.) You desire to see the restriction that has been suggested in regard to opium extended to alcohol?—Yes.

25,747. (Sir James Lyall.) You said, in reply to Sir William Roberts, that you were always careful in recommending an assurance company to accept opium eaters, and that you recommended an addition of one or two years?—Some years.

25,748. Did I understand you to say that you did that because of the ailment with which you think the use of opium is generally connected, or simply because of the opium habit?—Both because of the ailment and because the man is apt to abuse it.

25,749. (Mr. Fanshawe.) I believe your name is among the signatories to the petition to the House of Commons?—Yes, it figured in the petition, unfortunately.

25,750. Do you wish us to understand that you did not sign this petition?—I have no recollection of having signed it. I should say no, because the signature attached to the printed petition is not mine. I never sign my name in that way. This is the way I sign my name (*handing a card to the Chairman with the name Gerson in full*).

25,751. Have you seen your signature on the original petition?—Only in a printed paper, the *Times of India*.

25,752. You assure us that you never yourself signed any paper or petition to the House of Commons against the use of opium?—I have no recollection, and the signature attached is not mine; so I should say I did not sign it. If I signed by oversight I do not remember.

25,753. You say that the printed signature does not represent your name in the way in which you usually write it yourself?—That is what I mean.

25,754. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) You would wish that measures restricting the use of alcohol should be taken in the first instance before restricting opium?—Together, if you please.

25,755. Not one first and the other afterwards?—No, there is no difference whatever.

25,756. Do you not think that if restrictive measures were taken with regard to opium there might be a tendency towards their taking alcohol?—No. I think the Indians are always temperate.

25,757. (Mr. Mowbray.) Having seen this petition to which the name of J. G. da Cunha is attached, may I ask whether the views set forth in it represent your opinions?—They do not; I repudiate my signature.

25,758. When did you first see this petition?—I saw it in one of the daily papers in Bombay some four months ago.

25,759. Last October?—About the month of October.

25,760. Was your attention drawn to the fact that a signature bearing a great deal of resemblance to your own was attached to it?—Nobody spoke to me about it.

25,761. When did you first take any steps to explain that the petition did not represent your views, and that you did not regard the signature as being yours?—I took no steps whatever. I was simply waiting for the Royal Commission, to explain my views if necessary.

25,762. (Mr. Pease.) Do you know Dr. Ranina?—I know him.

25,763. Is he a gentleman in whose word you would have confidence?—I cannot say anything.

25,764. If he said that you had signed this petition in his presence what weight would that have with you?—I would doubt it.

25,765. Is it possible that in England they might not be able to decipher your way of writing the word "Gerson," and simply put the initials, J. G.?—I do not think so. It is very plainly written. I never write G. They might mistake the spelling of a name, but they would not omit it.

25,766. I daresay you have observed that upon the petition it is stated that some of the names are not decipherable?—I do not know.

25,767. I only suggest whether it is not possible that your writing might be such that they would think it better simply to put the letter G?—My Christian name is so well known, Gerson, it is known in every civilised nation.

25,768. It may be well known in Bombay, but not by those who copy petitions in London?—It is French and German, and it is known everywhere.

25,769. (Mr. Wilson.) You say that you have no idea that opium is used as a prophylactic by any of your patients. You do not prescribe it?—I prescribe it sometimes with quinine for malarious fevers.

25,770. You prescribe it for those who have the fever?—Yes, and to prevent the return of it.

25,771. Why do you say that you have no idea that it is

used?—I speak of my patients. People habitually use it themselves. I do not speak of the medicinal use of it. The

reply is to a question with regard to people using it. People sometimes doctor themselves.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. V. N. MEHTA called in and examined.

25,772. (*Chairman.*) You reside in Sheik Memon Street?—Yes.

25,772a. Are you aware that your name has been printed as one of those who signed the petition to the House of Commons against opium?—Yes.

25,773. You are aware that it has been circulated?—Yes.

25,774. Did you sign that petition?—No.

25,775. (*Mr. Pease.*) Did you write a letter to Mr. Horne in which you said, "so far as I remember I never signed the petition; however I cannot say one way or the other in the matter unless I see personally my signature"?—Yes, I wrote that.

25,775. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Having seen the petition, may I ask whether it represents your views as a medical man in Bombay?—I saw the petition only two months ago; I do not know anything about the petition.

The witness withdrew.

Dr. F. E. MADON called in and examined.

25,783. (*Chairman.*) Do you reside in Dhobi Talao?—Yes.

25,784. Are you aware that your name has been circulated in print as one of those who signed the petition to the House of Commons with reference to opium?—Yes.

25,785. Did you actually sign that petition?—No.

25,786. (*Mr. Pease.*) Did you write this to the secretary, Mr. Horne, "To the best of my knowledge I well remember to have never signed the anti-opium petition"?—I had a letter saying that as there was a controversy going on, would I write personally stating whether I had signed the petition or not. In reply to that I sent my letter.

25,787. Do those words "To the best of my knowledge" mean that you may have signed it, but that you have no remembrance?—As far as I recollect, I never signed the petition—I meant that.

25,788-9. You have no remembrance of it; you do not feel absolutely certain?—As far as I know I am certain I have not signed it. If you will read the whole letter I say I give my honest and true opinion. I wrote to the best of my knowledge that I did not remember to have ever signed the petition. Perhaps the only explanation I can give is that I once signed in connexion with the temperance movement. I was once in my dispensary when a Brahmin came in and showed me a paper. I asked what it was about, and he told me that it was in connexion with the temperance movement. My views against alcohol were as strong as ever, and, without hesitation, I put down my

The witness withdrew.

Dr. J. C. LISBOA called in and examined.

25,794. (*Sir William Roberts.*) I believe you are a graduate of the Grant Medical College?—I am.

25,796. And you are a private practitioner in Bombay?—Yes.

25,796. To what district or districts of the Presidency are your observations applicable?—My experience on opium eating does not extend to beyond Bombay and Poona, and am sorry that I did not keep any notes to give now any approximate proportion of those who take the drug. I will, however, bring to the notice of the Royal Commission on Opium one or more instances of well-to-do persons, which will go to prove the statements I make.

25,797. What is the effect of the use of opium in moderate doses?—This drug, when taken in moderate doses, acts as a stimulant and tonic. It is used by many brokers and merchants who lead a life of incessant toil and mental activity. It gives them both mental as well as physical energy to work. The Chinese, who eat opium, are hard workers, and endure fatigue more easily than Indians and Europeans. Opium induces sound sleep, and the opium eater rises in the morning refreshed, with his intellect as

name. That is the only recollection I have of signing my name.

25,790. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) As a portion of the letter has been read, we may as well have the whole of it:—"To the best of my knowledge I well remember to have never signed the anti-opium petition. I once remember to have signed a petition concerning the temperance movement. I was, and am still, strongly against the use of spirits by the masses. That I have not read the anti-opium petition I am positive and certain. Whether one was offered to me to read I do not remember. My views regarding the use of opium I had expressed before in connexion with the use of balagoli (containing opium) in children. According to my honest belief the moderate use of opium is not harmful, but beneficial." Is that the letter you wrote to Mr. Horne?—Yes.

25,791. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) You have referred to being consulted about the use of balagoli; when were you consulted on that subject?—I do not remember; it was some time ago. A circular was issued to all the members of the Medical Union as to whether the use of balagoli (which is extensively used amongst children) is harmful or not.

25,792. You cannot recollect how long ago that was?—No; it was, I think, long ago.

25,793. (*Sir James Lyall.*) Did you ever attend any anti-opium meeting?—No.

bright as ever, while alcohol produces bad after-effects, insomnia or interrupted sleep, especially on those who do hard mental work, followed by depression and loss of appetite. Moreover, I do not think that opium produces delirium or insanity, or is an incentive to vice and crime as alcohol. In alcohol drinkers there is generally a craving for increasing the quantity of spirits, and with many it becomes their all-absorbing passion, while the opium eater seldom increases his dose. Opium is not the primary cause of certain diseases of the kidneys and liver as alcohol is. It has saved many lives, and has been the means of prolonging, in comparative comfort, the lives of many individuals, especially of those subject to chest, intestinal complaints, and malarial fevers. It has an action in cutting short the cold stage of intermittent fevers, and lessening the intensity and duration of the second stage, if administered at the commencement of the first stages. Opium does the same work for the labouring classes in India that coca does in Peru and other parts of South America. My opinion on the effects of opium were expressed in my Presidential address, delivered before the Grant Medical Society in 1879, and again referred to in 1889. I was President of that society for several years.

Dr. J. Gerson
da Cunha.
M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.

14 Feb. 1894.

Mr.
V. N. Mehta,

Dr.
F. E. Madon.

Dr.
J. C. Lisboa.

Dr.
J. C. Lisboa.
14 Feb. 1894.

25,798. I presume that the opinions you then expressed were in accordance with the opinions you have now laid before us?—Yes. It was in 1879, long before this agitation commenced. I was led to think that opium was very good after operations, especially in the case of women after severe labour, when the uterus would not contract and there was a large amount of hæmorrhage. When the uterus was made to contract, a large dose of opium was given, from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 grains, and the woman would sleep and get up in the morning refreshed.

25,799. That is the medicinal effect of opium?—Yes, and it was that which led me to think that opium was not so bad as had been described in European books, and believed by the generality of people. Then in operations of lithotomy and amputations and large tumours, I gave opium and I found that it was not deleterious. Then I saw that the Parsis, among whom my chief practice lay, used to give to their children, when young, balagolis to make them sleep at night and let their mothers sleep, to quiet them, to diminish the irritation of teething, and so on.

25,800. Have you noticed any evil from that practice in your experience?—No. Many of these children are now grown up, and perhaps some of them are here. They commenced at an early age when they were one or two years old. I have seen cases in which it was given at the age of seven months. That was in cases of teething when the children were troublesome at night. Of course there are cases of excess. Some women, not knowing the dose to give, give too large a dose; but that is a different thing.

25,801. Have you known serious or fatal accidents from giving an overdose?—Yes, I have seen one or two; I remember only two. In one case constipation was so great that the child was brought to me with its stomach puffed out, and nothing could be done for it.

25,802. May we assume that you have had large personal experience as to the giving of these little opium pills to infants and young children?—Yes. If one woman does not know what to give, there are neighbouring ladies who will tell her.

25,803. Is it a practice that you approve of?—It does a great deal of good, and so I approve. I have seen the good effects of it, and that is the reason why I brought it before the medical society. That was my opinion long before the agitation commenced.

25,804. Would you give these pills to healthy children?—They are not given to healthy children; they are given to those who suffer from the irritation of teething or from bowel complaints. Very often after finding that it does good the mothers continue to give it because they can get rest by putting their children to sleep.

25,805. The practice is always begun for some ailment or disturbance of health?—In adults and in children too.

25,806. Having once begun to use it in that way, they go on using it after the disturbance has passed off?—Yes, for one or two years. After that it is given up when the children do not suffer.

The witness withdrew.

Dr. EDALJI NASSARVANJI called in and examined.

Dr. E.
Nassarvanji.

25,820. (Sir William Roberts.) I believe you are a graduate of the Grant Medical College and a practitioner in Bombay?—Yes.

25,821. Where have you gathered your experience of the opium habit?—My observations on the use of opium are confined to Bombay, where I have been practising for the last 35 years.

25,822. To what extent is opium used among the population of the districts to which your observations apply?—Here opium is very commonly given by the Hindus and some of the Mahomedans to their little ones with the object of keeping them quiet. It is generally given after the third month, and is continued almost to the end of the second year. It is given in the shape of what is called balagoli (pill for the child), which contains some aromatics and carminatives in addition to opium. When the children who get these pills are properly nourished no bad effects are seen, but when as among the poor and labouring classes the children are left at home without nourishment for some hours while the parents are out at work, they become emaciated, and suffer from effects of malnutrition as diarrhoea, sloughing of the cornea, &c., but such instances are very rarely seen in these days. I used to see some such cases during my student-

25,807. Can you give us any idea of the per-centage of infants who get these opium pills?—I do not know. I have given up practice for some years, for the last 10 years.

25,808. (Mr. Pease.) What is your attitude towards stimulants for persons in good health?—They do not require it; there is no necessity for any stimulants.

25,809. You would not advise persons in good health to take opium?—No; I never had occasion to do so. They never asked me whether they should take it. It is only when they are weak or suffering from some disease, such as diarrhoea or dysentery.

25,810. Do you think that taking opium as a habit is a bad thing for persons in good health?—No; it is useless, just as it is useless for those in good health to take alcohol.

25,811. Are they not establishing a habit that they may find it very difficult to break off?—Many of them break it off; they do it gradually. When I was writing a work on botany I took as much as 30 drops of the tincture of opium. I could not sleep. Then I reduced the dose and came to eight drops. I began to take it for chronic diarrhoea.

25,812. You give it as your opinion that people very largely increase the dose?—We had an interesting case of a man taking 147 grains a day when in good health. I have seen that. Generally people take two doses morning and evenings and afterwards never increase it. That is what I brought before the society, asking them to make inquiries on the subject.

25,813. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) You say that opium is not so bad as has been described in medical books?—The opinion that has been given by missionaries and others, I do not say, has been exaggerated, but they have been deceived.

25,814. It is not so bad as has been described in books by anti-opiumists; would you also say that it is not so good as has been described of late?—I have distinctly said that it is good in certain diseases.

25,815. But it is not so good as has been lately said?—I have said that it is useless to give it to healthy men.

25,816. (Mr. Fanshawe.) We have been told that opium is used by older men, say after 30 or 40, as a restorative; is that within your experience?—They take it after 50, but they feel weak. Their relations say to them, "Why do you not take opium?" We give it to those who are suffering from chronic asthma, which we cannot cure.

25,817. It is used among healthy men as a restorative, is it not?—Yes.

25,818. We have been told that at the present time the use of balagoli among the Parsi community is not general?—It is not general.

25,819. You agree in that?—20 years ago it was more general than it is now. They do not use it so much, because doctors tell them not to give it to their children.

ship 35 or 37 years ago, but nowadays such instances are very rarely seen.

25,823. Is the population somewhat better fed now?—It is better fed, and perhaps opium is not so much given, or it is given with more caution.

25,824. What is the effect of the habitual use of opium in adults?—Among grown up people it is principally used by the Mahomedans and the Hindus, more especially those who have come from Cutch, Kathiawar, Marwar, Lucknow, Delhi, Cambay, and Hyderabad Deccan. Some use it as a remedial agent for the relief of pain, some for checking diarrhoea, and some for checking attacks of asthma. Others use it as a stimulant, a tonic, and an aphrodisiac; and for such purposes generally combine it with such substances as musk, amber, saffron, pearl, quinine, and aromatics. Taken for such purposes and in small doses it seems to produce no bad effects whatsoever on the mental and physical condition of the consumer, nor does it demoralise him in any way. The opium eater is always a quiet and harmless individual, and I have seen some live to a good old age, and in the enjoyment of good health.

25,825. What is the method of taking it?—It is generally used in the form of pills, but is sometimes used in the

form of a liquid extract known as kasumbha. It is very rarely smoked here. I refer to the class of people among whom I have seen it. I believe it is smoked pretty freely among the lower classes, the Mahomedans, the labouring classes, the weavers, and the embroiderers. In the solid form its action is slow; it first stimulates the nervous system and afterwards produces sleep.

25,826. Is opium used as a prophylactic against malarial fever?—I have not seen it used as a prophylactic against fever, but it is sometimes given by vaida in the cold stage of fever.

25,827. Does the use of opium lead to serious consequences?—I have not seen its habitual use lead to such serious consequences as those which follow the use of alcohol, and its moderate habitual use does not necessarily produce structural changes in the organs, whilst the habitual use of alcohol does produce structural changes in the liver, nervous tissue, &c. Taken in excess opium as well as alcohol is injurious and poisonous.

25,828. Do you mean to suggest that the habitual use of alcohol in moderation produces structural changes?—I believe even taken in moderation in the long run it does induce some structural changes in the liver.

25,829. I suppose your experience of alcohol is entirely confined to India?—Yes.

25,830. You say that taken in excess opium produces injurious effects?—Yes.

25,831. Have you any large personal experience with regard to opium eaters?—Not very large. The cases I have seen have been among the patients I have visited, and they have generally used opium in moderation.

25,832. You have seen few examples of opium taken in injurious excess?—Very few.

25,833. You do not remember what the symptoms were?—The symptoms in these cases are indifference, inactivity, torpor, and disinclination to work.

25,834. Does it shorten life in these conditions?—I have no data upon which to say that.

25,835. Is the opium habit difficult to give up?—The habit of taking opium once established is difficult, but not impossible, to give up, and I have succeeded in some instances, where it had not been used as a remedial agent, in inducing the consumers to gradually diminish the quantity they consumed, and ultimately to give it up.

25,836. What was your object in inducing them to give up the use of opium in these cases?—To relieve them of a vice, a habit, and to free them from dependence upon it.

25,837. Not because you thought it would do harm?—I thought that leaving off the habit would improve their health.

25,838. Are you speaking of the excessive use of opium by the people whom you tried to persuade to give it up?—Moderate.

25,839. Then you think the habit is all evil in any proportion?—In any proportion. I may mention, as an instance, that there was once an attack of fever that broke out in Cambay, and a large number of people came from Cambay to Bombay suffering from fever, and almost every one of the sufferers was an opium eater. Some took it in large quantities, others in moderation. Some of them were induced to leave off the habit, but they were reluctant about it; others were bold enough as they were taking it in only small quantities. There were no bad effects resulting from the discontinuance of the habit.

25,840. They did not take to other stimulants?—They did not.

25,841. With regard to the habitual moderate use of opium you have not seen any ill consequences?—No bad consequences whatever. The habitual moderate use of opium produces no deleterious effects on the mental faculties of the consumer, nor does it interfere with his ability to conduct his business successfully, but on the contrary stimulates him, and enables him to do his work efficiently. The habitual moderate use of opium is not considered disgraceful. I have seen it consumed by merchants and well-to-do people.

25,841a. (Mr. Fanshawe.) I understand that your name appears as one of the signatories to the petition to the House of Commons?—Yes, I was not aware of it, until my attention was drawn to it one day by Mr. Rustumji, inspector of the opium department.

25,842. What statement do you wish to make with regard to your name appearing on the petition?—I have already made my remarks on a paper to Mr. Rustumji, wherein I said that I did not remember having signed the petition, and that if I ever did sign it, it must either have been under some misrepresentation or without having read the contents of the petition. When I read the contents of the petition to which my signature was attached I found that I could not by any means bear witness to the truth of the statement mentioned therein.

25,843. When was your attention first called to the fact that your signature was upon the petition?—About October or November last.

25,844. Previous to that you were not aware of it?—I was not. In fact, while the anti-opium agitation was going on I was not aware that my signature was on the petition till I was shown a copy of the petition with my signature to it.

25,845. That was in October or November last year?—Yes.

25,846. You have already expressed an opinion showing that you in no way hold the views stated in that document?—I have distinctly expressed it to Mr. Rustumji and also to Mr. Horne in reply to a printed letter sent to me a few days ago.

25,847. (Mr. Pease.) What is your practice with regard to signing petitions? Do you make yourself acquainted with their contents before signing them?—Certainly I do; but I had really no idea of that petition. I am quite at a loss to say with regard to this petition how I signed it and under what circumstances.

25,848. You have said, "I might have put down my signature to the anti-opium petition under circumstances of which I have now no recollection"?—Yes.

25,849. You say, "I now do formally withdraw it or repudiate it, as you term it, and that for the reason that when I happened to read a printed copy of the petition bearing my signature I found that it contained statements for the truth of which I could bear no testimony"?—Yes, exactly.

25,850. You state in your evidence that you have succeeded in inducing persons to give up the opium habit by reducing the quantities?—Yes.

25,851. Have you used any medicine or other agent to assist them in breaking off the habit?—No. By persuasion I have succeeded. I might mention a case that recently happened in Bombay. A man named Abdulla Rahman Shah, an Afghan, came to Bombay from Persia suffering from fever and dysentery. He had an emaciated look, and I thought it was brought on by suffering from fever and dysentery. I found out while he was under treatment that he was smoking opium to the extent of about 20 grains a day. I persuaded him to diminish the quantity, suggesting to him that perhaps the large quantity of opium he was smoking was interfering with his circulation and keeping up his suffering. He consented, and reduced the quantity in the course of a few days to one-fourth without any ill effects; on the contrary, his condition improved as regards the fever and his dysenteric symptoms. His general condition was also improved.

25,852. Was the effect of the large quantity of opium to increase the fever or to maintain the fever?—It might to a certain extent have interfered with his rapid recovery.

25,853. You say that the disuse of opium does not necessarily lead to the use or abuse of other drugs or of alcohol. You have observed that these people have given up the habit and that is your impression?—That is my belief. I can cite a few cases in support of this view. I am attending a Mongol family. The head of the family is taking opium in the form I have described; little tonic pills containing opium, musk, and so on. His wife, a very delicate lady suffering from cough, also began to take opium with a view to checking the cough. She was a very spare lady, and having come to know that she was taking opium, and thinking that it might diminish her digestive power, I advised her to discontinue it. Acting upon my advice she left it off, and she has not been obliged to take any other stimulant.

25,854. (Chairman.) May it be taken as the practical result of your evidence that you do not recommend that the use of opium should be restricted by law or by regulation to medical purposes?—Yes. It need not be interfered with.

The witness withdrew.

Dr. E.
Nassarvanji.
14 Feb. 1894.

Dr. J. A.
da Gama,
L.M.

14Feb. 1894.

Dr. J. A. DA GAMA, L.M., called in and examined.

25,856. (Sir William Roberts.) You are a graduate in medicine of the Bombay University?—Yes.

25,857. To what district and to what races are your observations applicable?—I am a graduate in medicine of the Bombay University and a Knight Commander of the Order of Christ of Portugal. I have been practising physic for the last 22 (twenty-two) years in the district of Mandvi, Bombay, among the Khojas, Memons, Baniyas, Bhatias, Lohanas, and Marathas.

25,858. What is your experience of the use of opium?—Both men and women use opium habitually, generally after 30 years of age, in some cases earlier, but then for some ailment or other. The proportion is larger among the Muhomedans than among the Hindus, the per-centage of opium eaters among the former being about 8 or 10 per cent.

25,859. You mean of adult males?—Males and females.

25,860. Have you seen any injurious effects from the excessive consumption of opium?—I have no experience of the effects of the abuse of opium, but those who use it habitually have their physique improved, and have never had their moral condition in any way lowered by its use.

25,861. How do the people use it as a rule?—Usually, in this district, people take it twice a day—at 6 a.m., and at 6 p.m.—in the form of a pill, about a grain each, but the quantity is increased only up to the production of the desired effect, and not more, i.e., just enough to give the individual sufficient stimulus; and I have actually seen taken as much as 80 grains a day, i.e., 40 grains in the morning and 40 in the evening, without the least inconvenience to the individual, neither physically nor morally.

25,862. Have you any experience in the use of opium as a prophylactic against malarial fever?—I cannot say that opium is used here as a prophylactic, but for a long time I had prescribed with success a grain of opium with 10 grains of quinine in cases of ague. This dose shortened both the cold and hot stages of the fever, which was not the case when quinine alone was administered.

25,863. Does the use of opium as habitually indulged in lead to consequences as serious as those which follow the use of alcohol?—I emphatically say no to the first part of this question, because so far from seeing consequences from habitual use of opium as serious as those which might arise from the use of alcohol, I have found beneficial effects from its use in various cases, and markedly in some cases of habitual drunkards. I have by the administration of opium reclaimed some drunkards, who by indulging in other vices in consequence, or as an accompaniment of the alcohol abuse, had so debased themselves as to squander their fortunes, and had reduced their families almost to beggary, but who now, thanks to the regular use of opium, have retrieved both their moral character and their worldly affairs.

25,864. You are speaking from actual personal experience?—Yes.

25,865. What have you to tell us with regard to the use of opium in infancy and childhood?—Opium is administered to children in the form of pills, called bala golis or baby pills, containing a minute quantity of opium, and several aromatics and carminatives. I give here a rough formula of the composition of those pills:—

The Formula for Bala Golis.

Nutmeg -	-	-	2 tolas.
Mace (of do.) -	-	-	2 "
Cardamoms -	-	-	2 "
Catechu -	-	-	2½ "
Supari flowers -	-	-	2½ "
Bhang, washed, boiled in water, and dried	-	-	14 "
Sugarcandy (Chinese) -	-	-	25 "
Opium -	-	-	5 "
Cinnabar, factitious	-	-	1½ "

56½ tolas for one lot or one mass.

One hundred pills or bala golis are made out of the weight of 2½ of a tola of this mass. That is, 2½ of a tola of this mass gives 100 pills.

25,866. What amount of opium is there usually in each pill?—About one-eleventh of a grain.

25,867. I presume they are not always of the same composition?—I do not know. This receipt was given to me by the maker. These pills are given to the children, one in the morning and one in the evening, and sometimes in

the middle of the day. When I first settled in this district 22 years since, such pills were administered universally to the children until they had reached the age of 2½ or 3 years. Well, I had been taught in the Medical College that the use of opium produced in children marasmus. I therefore used all my influence with the well-to-do people in this district to induce them to abandon the administration of bala golis to the children of their families. I have succeeded in this to a very large extent, but I find that the children to whom bala golis were not given have not fared better nor worse than those to whom they had been given. I had seen, and I still see, emaciated children to whom opium is being given, but they belong chiefly to poor classes of the inhabitants; further inquiries have convinced me that emaciation is not due so much to the administration of opium or bala golis to the children as to the want of proper and timely nourishment. Very frequently it happens among the poorer classes that a mother has no one to entrust her nursing to while she is at work to earn her wages, and through sheer necessity she is obliged to put her baby to sleep with opium to keep it quiet during her absence from home, and to nurse it at long intervals. It is chiefly owing to this long-interval nursing that makes those children thin. Now, however, I do not object to the administration of bala golis to children, as I find them decidedly beneficial in early life, when children suffer from diarrhoea, flatulence, &c.

25,868. What have you to say about the moderate use of opium?—As regards the expression "moderate use of opium" it cannot be said to be confined to a quantity which an individual may consume, but it is to be understood to be any quantity which will give the individual a stimulus which enables him to carry on his avocations; for a quantity short of the required one will keep him languid, and any quantity above that will make him drowsy. When only such a quantity of opium is taken no evil effects will result. So also with regard to the moderate use of alcohol, which I take it to be the consumption of that quantity which will not affect the head of the individual taking it. There is another distinction between the habitual use of opium and that of alcohol, namely, the stimulus afforded by opium is more lasting and more invigorating than that given by alcohol, which is temporary, and may serve as an adjunct to food, and in this wise the opium eater does not wish for more when he has had his required quantity of opium, whereas an alcohol drinker does take occasionally more than is good for him.

25,869. That is also the case, is it not, with regard to the excessive users of opium?—No, because they are not left without a stimulus—the stimulus is more lasting. The contrast between opium and alcohol becomes more salient when their abuse is considered. An opium eater, when he takes it in excess, will have to lie down until its effects are worn away, and at most he may do harm to his constitution (which I doubt, having seen that opium eaters have a long life); whereas an habitual drunkard, besides causing irreparable damage to his internal organs, is, while intoxicated, dangerous to himself and to his fellow creatures. I do not think that anybody has heard that a man was taken to a police chauki for being an opium eater, whereas the police records are full of the pranks of drunkards.

25,870. Have you ever made a post-mortem examination of an opium eater?—No.

25,871. Is it difficult for an opium consumer to give up the habit?—He may not give it up voluntarily but when he is told to give it up he will give it up easily, that is, supposing at first the use is stopped he feels languid, but gradually if he makes up his mind he gets accustomed to it and does not feel any the worse for it.

25,872. You have seen many cases in which people have given up the opium habit?—I do know several cases.

25,873. You did not put your signature to the petition which was sent to the House of Commons?—No, I wrote to the Secretary of the Anti-Opium Society declining to sign it.

25,874. Do you think that children lose their healthy appetite for food by taking bala golis?—No.

25,875. Do you mean to say that the moderate use of alcohol makes a man lose his head?—He does not lose his head, but he feels the effect.

25,876. You wrote the following letter to the Secretary of the Anti-Opium Society with regard to signing the petition:—

"DEAR SIR, Bombay, November 1891.
"I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 1891, accompanying a copy of the petition to be sent to

" the Honourable Commons of the United Kingdom by the medical profession of the Bombay Presidency for my signature. In reply, I beg to say that I cannot conscientiously put my signature to a petition which I, as a medical practitioner of 20 years' standing, think tends more to help a movement which is not on the side of truth and justice than otherwise, and the following are some of my reasons:—1. I have not observed many evil effects on the population from the moderate, though habitual, use of opium; on the contrary, living in a district—Mandvi—where opium is largely used both by Mahomedans and Hindus of both sexes, I have observed that those who habitually take opium take it as a stimulant and not as an intoxicant, and its use gives them strength, and enables them to carry on their work, and I have seen many a confirmed opium eater who has lived to a good old age. It is true that those who take it regularly do require it at stated hours, and here they take it at 6 a.m. and at 6 p.m., and if the quantity of opium he takes does give him stimulus enough for work, he seldom increases the dose, and if he increases it, it is simply to get that amount of nerve force which he requires for carrying on his avocations. 2. I have myself, many a time, prescribed the opium habit in many chronic cases of disease with marked benefit to patients, and have also reclaimed several confirmed drunkards by substituting the habit of opium eating for that of spirit drinking with complete success, and I have had the satisfaction to see them retrieve their fortunes under its use when they had brought ruin on themselves and on their families while addicted to drink. 3. It is a fact that a person habituated to take opium feels languid and unable to work if he does not get his usual dose at the proper time, but once he has had his required quantity he does not crave for more. 4. I cannot understand that if, out of 100 persons who once take opium in any form, 99, if not all, become confirmed opium slaves in a short time, as the petition says they do, how can any one be saved from being a confirmed opium slave if he takes it in any form under qualified medical advice. 5. There is a vast difference between an habitué of moderate use of opium, and that of its immoderate use, as there is difference between an habitué of moderate use of alcohol and that of its immoderate use. The symptoms described in the petition are those presented by an habitué of its immoderate use. If there is no prohibition to use alcohol moderately, why should law be asked to prohibit the moderate use of opium? 6. There are many things in this world, besides opium, the abuse of which is pernicious to mankind, and for all

" that it would not be right to forbid their use. Fancy, for example, asking Government to prohibit the sale of meats and other foods, simply because there is a large amount of dyspepsia caused by their abuse. 7. I am aware that small pills are given to children both among the rich and the poor, but in the majority of cases they are bala golis, pills containing minute quantity of opium, but chiefly composed of aromatic and stimulant drugs. These are administered to the children traditionally, and because they are thought to be beneficial to them. Among the poorer classes the mother gives to the child a little opium to keep it quiet until her return from her work, and this she is obliged to do out of sheer necessity. She must go to her work to earn her livelihood, and where she cannot carry it along with her, and if she leaves the child without the opium, there is nobody to take care of it; the mother under the circumstances chooses the lesser evil. The habit of giving bala goli and of opium is continued until the child becomes a couple of years or so old; then the child is weaned from it. I confess to having seen and treated many cases of accidental poisoning of children, but you must observe accidents are not the rule. What would be said if people in Bombay had petitioned Government to prohibit importation of kerosine oil, simply because through it some fires have occurred in the town. 8. It appears to me that the petition puts forward an exaggerated and vague view of the matter, and gives no facts and statistics to prove the assertions made therein; for these and other reasons I feel that I should not sign the petition." ?

—Yes.

25,877. (Sir James Lyall.) You say that the opium eater does not wish for more when he has had his quantity of opium, whereas an alcohol drinker does take more than is good for him?—Yes.

25,878. How do you explain that?—The opium eater takes just sufficient to enable him to do his work, and the stimulus given by the opium lasts a certain time, but if an opium eater takes more than his usual quantity he will become drowsy, and not able to do his work; that is not what he wants, and so he will not take more. Alcohol being rapid is not so lasting, but in the end it accumulates and is more exciting, and the narcotic effects afterwards are too much.

25,879. A man drinks a glass of alcohol partly for the taste?—Yes.

25,880. He does not swallow a pill of opium for the taste?—No; he does not taste the pill of opium at all because he takes it with a little ghi or water.

The witness withdrew.

(Sir James Lyall took the Chair for the remainder of the sitting.)

DR. TEMULJI BHIKAJI NARIMAN, L.M., called in and examined.

25,881. (Sir William Roberts.) You are a Licentiate of Medicine of Bombay College?—Yes.

25,882. In what district have you practised?—I am a medical practitioner of 21 years' standing. My practice is limited to Bombay alone. I am practising among all classes of the inhabitants, both European and Native, but largely among the Parsis.

25,883. Is opium used to any extent in Bombay?—I think opium is used to a very limited extent by the people in Bombay, excepting Hindus and Mahomedans; the other races seldom or never resort to it as a luxury. A very small per-centage uses it habitually for some physical ailment, but the number is infinitesimally small. Out of a population of 830,000 about 7,000 eat opium and 600 smoke it according to the Census report. I do not think more than a score among the Parsis eat opium. They never smoke it. The Marwaris, among the different races I treat, are the largest opium eaters. I believe I in 20 eat opium.

25,884. I suppose you mean among the adult males?—Yes.

25,885. What effects have you observed from the use of opium?—The effects of opium are either stimulant or narcotic in proportion to the dose taken. Age, sex, diet, individual peculiarity, and a variety of other causes influence its effects. In moderate dose to an habitual consumer the effects are not prejudicial to his health, and it does not affect him physically or morally in the least. In the very commencement, if a little larger dose is taken, there is dryness of the mouth, impairment of appetite, headache; but these effects are temporary, and when the habit is established the consumer's appetite is improved;

he gets a regular evacuation of the bowels, his intellect is kept very clear, and he does not suffer the agony of the ailment for which he first commenced opium eating. A large number of consumers resort to this practice for some supposed or real bodily disease, especially asthma, bronchitis, diarrhoea, rheumatism. I can describe the symptoms of abuse as read in books, but I have never seen a single case of abuse of opium, except in accidental or suicidal poisoning. Some of my patients taking opium are very shrewd men of business trading on an extensive scale.

25,885a. How is opium taken?—All those who take opium eat it from 2 to 5 or 10 grains once or twice daily, generally twice. I have seen a large number of opium smokers who smoke chandul and madat in the different opium dens. If I observed anything prejudicial it was the place where they generally clubbed together. The rooms were small, with hardly any ventilation, and likely to suffocate one by the prevention of fresh air. But with all these drawbacks I never saw one living skeleton, as described by some observers. I saw men of all ages, from 20 to 80 years old. There were some who had haggard, wasted countenances and thin bodies, but they were sufferers from chronic dysentery, asthma, and such other chronic complaints of from two to 30 years' standing. They were generally people of the working classes, also tailors, barbers, weavers, carpenters, &c.

25,886. What is your opinion as to the use of opium as a prophylactic in malarial fever?—Opium is used to cut short an attack of ague. Given in the cold stage, I have seen it cut short an attack of fever. It very often shortens or aborts an attack of coryza or cold and its subsequent

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effects. It is used as a prophylactic against asthma by some with good effects. It is also used by patients suffering from diarrhoea and rheumatism.

25,887. All those examples you have given us are examples of the medicinal use of opium?—Yes.

25,888. Have you formed any opinion as to whether habitual users of opium derive any benefit from opium in regard to their liability to malarial troubles?—Opium is not used so much at Bombay as a preventive against malaria as it is up-country; in fact it is hardly used at all for that purpose here.

25,889. There is not much malaria in Bombay?—No.

25,890. Does the use of opium, as habitually indulged in, lead to such serious consequences as the use of alcohol?—The habitual consumers of opium and alcohol in moderation do not suffer any evil consequences. If any, the consumers of alcohol suffer more than those of opium. In excessive doses the consumers of opium harm themselves, while the consumers of alcohol not only harm themselves, but are a nuisance and a danger to society. I have not seen a single case of an excessive opium eater in the streets, but I have seen hundreds of alcohol consumers, and in some streets, where there are taverns and liquor shops, disturbing the peace of the neighbourhood by their quarrels and obscene language. Some of them while drunk are a regular terror to the peaceful neighbours.

25,891. Have you made any post-mortem examinations of opium users?—No.

25,892. Is the opium habit difficult to give up?—I think it is very difficult to give up the habit of taking opium, but I know of cases where, after years of habitual use, patients have given it up altogether without resorting to any other stimulants; but the majority of natives would take to other harmful stimulants if opium were prohibited.

25,893. What is the effect of opium on the mental faculties?—So far as I have seen, opium has no deleterious effect on the mental faculties of the moderate consumers. On the contrary, they carry on their business with marked ability and foresight, and are expert in calculation.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. M. D.
Cama, L.M.

MR. MANEKJI D. CAMA, L.M., called in and examined.

25,898-9. (Sir William Roberts.) You are a Licentiate of Medicine of Bombay and Joint Honorary Secretary of Grant College Medical Society?—Yes.

25,900. You practise in Bombay?—Yes. My observations apply to the city of Bombay and its vicinity, and chiefly to Mahomedans and Hindus, and a few Chinamen and Parsis.

25,901. To what extent is opium used among these people?—Opium is used habitually by a very small percentage of the population of Bombay, at the most perhaps 20 per mille, but it is used casually to a large extent by natives of all nationalities and creeds, as it is the commonest of all household remedies.

25,902. What is your experience as regards the moderate use of opium habitually?—The use of opium taken in moderation, say not more than 10 grains a day, is not injurious in any way either as regards the moral or physical condition of the consumer. On the contrary, it is decidedly beneficial to people in the condition of life of those who habitually use it, such as poor Hindus and Mahomedans. They are generally very hard-worked, their food is poor in quality and quantity, they live in damp and ill-ventilated places, and as they mostly sleep in the open air, they are enabled to work so hard, digest their bad food, and cope with chill and damp only by the use of opium. The abuse of opium, as of everything else, is bad, both physically and morally, but not so bad as the abuse of spirits, bhang, and other intoxicants, inasmuch as the opium sot injures himself only, and there is no tendency to become aggressive and do harm to those around him, whereas the alcohol sot easily becomes quarrelsome, aggressive, and violent, and thus becomes dangerous to society.

25,903. In what modes is opium consumed in Bombay?—Opium is consumed as—chandul and madat when it is smoked, crude when it is eaten, kasumbha when it is drunk, balagolis given to children. When smoked as chandul or madat its main action is on the respiratory system. Being absorbed as vapour, diluted with pure air or vapour of water, by the pulmonary alveoli, it acts as a direct sedative to the respiratory system, soothes cough and irritation of the larynx, restores the respiratory rhythm, promotes

25,894. What has been your experience of the use of opium among infants?—I have seen numberless cases in which bala goli pills are used by nursing mothers for their children. I always discourage the use of them. I have seen some children thriving on these pills, especially of the middle and upper classes; but ill-fed and badly nourished children suffer from them. They are used to quiet children when they cry much at night. Improper food is the principal cause of the pain from which children cry. Bala goli temporarily soothes them, but the cause is there, and the irritation and inflammation set up continue unabated, and until that is removed, children pine away, suffer from diarrhoea and constipation alternately, and die of exhaustion. This, of course, is seen in poorer classes. Instead of drugging them with bala goli, I always instruct my patients to pay more attention to the hygienic and dietetic treatment of their children. I know of cases where the nurses apply opium to their nipples and then give wet breasts to sucking children with the object of keeping them quiet at night. I have seen two or three cases of poisoning by it, but no death. Mahomedan nurses resort to this practice much more than Goanese.

25,895. Have you any other observations to make?—In conclusion, I must say that I am personally against the habit of using alcohol, opium, or other stimulants, excepting the use of opium in certain localities where it is said to be a great help in the mitigation and prevention of climatic diseases. One unfortunate result, however, of this Commission would be the increased use of opium, as its virtues have been so highly extolled by medical and other witnesses and so widely circulated all over India.

25,896. Have you formed any opinion as to whether there is a difference in the European constitution and the constitution of the native of India with regard to tolerance for opium?—I believe the natives of India have a greater tolerance than Europeans.

25,897. Do you think the difference is accounted by race, diet, climate, malarial conditions, or what?—That is rather a difficult question to answer, but I think it is a combination of those things you mentioned.

expectoration, and regulates respiration by relieving the spasm of the bronchi, and thus aiding impeded and harassed circulation, it restores the normal action of the heart. It also dilates the arterials of the skin, and thus relieves internal congestion of the lungs and other viscera, helps the elimination of deleterious products, and thus promotes the absorption of food, and helps the building up of tissues.

25,904. What is the effect of opium eaten in the crude state?—When eaten as crude opium, or sipped as kasumbha, its main action is confined to the digestive system, and enables it to tolerate and digest the hard food stuff which it receives, which it would otherwise peremptorily reject. It regulates and slackens the peristalsis of the intestines, promotes absorption and assimilation of food, and prevents colicky pains, and the flow of the chyme being retarded time is given for the absorption of the liquid element, and the formation of stools of normal consistence, and diarrhoea is thus prevented.

25,905. How are the pills used?—As balagolis, being made up of an infinitesimal quantity of opium with various carminatives, they are decidedly beneficial and a real boon to infants.

25,906. Is opium used as a prophylactic against fever?—Opium is used as a prophylactic in cough, asthma, fever, diarrhoea, cramps, colic, toothache, diabetes, dysentery, and for the prevention of chills, the king of causes of all diseases, and with very good results indeed. With all the various resources of medical aid in Bombay the mass of the Hindu and Mahomedan population rely upon a few cheap indigenous drugs, of which opium is the chief.

20,907. Do you mean that they use opium not as a prescribed drug but as a household remedy?—Yes.

20,908. Does the use of opium, as it is indulged in by natives, lead to consequences as serious as those resulting from the use of alcohol?—Though opium is used habitually by the natives, it does not lead to consequences so serious as result from the use of alcohol, whether taken in excess or in moderation. Opium in moderation helps digestion, promotes the elimination of deleterious products of tissue change, braces up and gives tone to the system, enables it

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to work hard, and bear privation with fortitude. It is cheap, and this is a *sine qua non* with the poor. Cheap alcohol is of a deleterious quality, acts as an irritant, makes the consumer quarrelsome, and ends in making him a public danger. Even taken in excess opium is less injurious than alcohol. It takes a long time to work its ravages, which at the worst are less extensive, and are more functional than structural, whereas cheap spirits act more quickly and cause rapid degenerative structural changes of the nervous, circulatory, respiratory, and digestive systems, producing degeneration of the liver, paralysis agitans, and raging mania, thus making the consumer a danger to others, while at the worst opium makes him emaciated and apathetic to his surroundings.

25,909. Have you made any post-mortem examinations of opium eaters?—In my practice I have had no opportunity of making a post-mortem examination of an opium eater, but while a student, my attention was frequently called to the lesions of alcoholic excess in the various regions of the body, but never, to the best of my recollection, to any opium lesion.

25,910. Is there much difficulty in giving up the opium habit?—I do not think it is at all difficult to break the opium habit except for those who suffer from some chronic incurable disease, which is sure to return on stopping opium. But by those who take it only as a stimulant or for some acute malady, the habit is easily broken. Some lascars while on land are known to take opium, while at sea they stop it without inconvenience, and the same is the experience in the jails, where opium eaters have to do without it.

25,911. Has the use of opium any injurious effect on the mental faculties of the consumer?—Opium has no injurious effects on the mental faculties of the consumer. On the contrary, it clears his mind, sharpens his intellect, and enables him to drive better bargains than when without it.

25,912. Have you any other observations you wish to make?—I have had several opportunities, in company with other medical men, of visiting the opium dens of Bombay. I was a frequent visitor, and had ample opportunities for interviewing and examining hundreds of confirmed opium eaters. I went there at all hours of the day and night, without giving any previous notice. All our questions were readily and willingly answered by the smokers. I have many a time watched the farmers working in their rice fields at Thana and Saisette during the monsoon, when their fields are flooded, they have to wade knee deep in water and mud all day, and sleep at night in huts soaked through with water. They are protected from rheumatism, diarrhoea, and ague by opium alone. From what I have observed of the food and habits of life of opium consumers, I consider a little dose of opium is a real boon to them, and to deprive them of it would be to consign them, if not to immediate death, to life-long and terrible ailments and to a miserable existence.

25,913. You speak of farmers working in their rice fields during a monsoon—is the use of opium very common amongst them?—Very common.

25,914. Are you speaking from personal experience?—Yes. It is only taken during the monsoon, when the fields are flooded. They cannot do without opium then.

25,915. You say they do not use it after the monsoon?—Not to such an extent.

25,916. Do they take it to protect them against chills?—Yes.

25,917. Fever is often the result of chills?—Yes, and also pneumonia.

25,917a. (Mr. Mowbray.) When did you visit the opium dens you speak of?—In the months of October, November, and December last year.

25,918. That is since the licensed houses were closed?—These were regular visits; when I went there the last time I was informed that the opium dens would be shortly closed.

25,919. They were the old licensed dens which were open under license?—Yes.

25,920. You told us you had had ample opportunities of interviewing and examining hundreds of confirmed opium eaters. I suppose you meant opium smokers?—Yes.

25,921. What sort of questions did you ask and what sort of statements did they make to you?—I was always attended by a very capable shorthand reporter, who took notes in my presence, and those notes have been published in the form of a history of opium smokers of Bombay.

25,922. Are you the author of that work?—I am not the author, but most of the evidence was taken in my

presence by a shorthand writer. I cross-questioned these men.

25,923. (Mr. Fanshawe.) The book you refer to is **"Lives of Bombay opium smokers"* by Mr. Rustomji?—Yes.

25,924. (Mr. Mowbray.) The accounts of opium dens in that book are compiled from shorthand notes taken by a reporter in your presence?—Yes.

25,925. You can vouch for the statements in that book?—Yes.

25,926. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Are you in the Government service?—No, I am a private practitioner.

25,927. Were you specially employed to do this work?—No, but I had a great interest in the work. I was told of the mischief opium was doing in Bombay, and so I volunteered to go and find out all about it.

25,928. For the sake of truth and justice?—Yes.

25,929. You say the farmers working in the fields will take opium, do not those take it who do not work in the fields?—Yes, during the monsoon, because the outhouses are very damp and wet. They give up the habit afterwards.

25,930. Have you had charge of any jails?—No, but I have had opportunities of seeing jails.

25,931. Have you heard that a prisoner suffers when he is not allowed opium on admission into jail?—Yes, they suffer at first and they are unable to work and then a little opium is given to them.

25,932. They cannot easily be weaned from the habit?—No.

25,932a. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You spoke of farmers using opium during the wet season, do you mean that they eat opium or smoke it?—They are opium eaters.

25,933. We have been told by witnesses in Bengal that persons who eat opium are unable to work in water, your experience is directly contrary to that?—Yes.

25,934. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) You say you vouch for the accounts of opium smokers in Mr. Rustomji's book?—Yes, the questions were asked in my presence and I can vouch for them.

25,935. You consider the statements contained therein correct?—Yes.

25,936. (Chairman.) Did Mr. Rustomji go with you to these dens?—On a few occasions, not all.

25,937. You went with the shorthand writer?—Yes.

25,938. Did you go to translate?—The shorthand writer knew Hindustani very well, and he took it down in my presence.

25,939. (Mr. Mowbray.) The whole book is a series of statements made by the opium smokers to you, and taken down by the shorthand reporter, who was present?—Yes.

25,940. (Chairman.) Some witnesses who have been before us stated that when they visited the smoking dens the smokers called out to them that they were ruined by the habit, and entreated them to get Government to close the shops—did ever such an incident occur in your experience?—There was one solitary incident of that sort, but we were informed that the man was not a smoker himself, but that he was sent there by the missionaries on purpose to corrupt the other people.

25,941. You stated that your observations covered a few Chinamen?—Yes, there are a few in Bombay, they do bamboo work.

25,942. Are there a thousand Chinamen?—I should say more. One of the opium dens was kept by a Chinaman, and of course there were more Chinamen in his den than in the other dens.

25,943. Was both chandu and madak smoked in these dens?—No, there are separate dens for each. In madak smoking the opium used is taken from the scrapings of the pipe. It is a mixture of opium, and not pure opium.

25,944. Do you think it has a worse effect than chandu smoking?—Yes; it is not so good as chandu because it is a mixture, there are greater chances of contamination.

25,945. What bad effects do you think it has? Have you come to any conclusion as to the smoking of chandu and madak?—Madak is only resorted to as a cheaper practice. The smokers prefer chandu.

25,946. Have you come to the conclusion that madak is more deleterious to health than chandu?—Yes.

25,947. In what way?—It dries up the secretions of the lungs more than chandu does—that is the only difference I can find out. The smokers confess themselves that they

* For extracts from this book, see Appendix XXII. to this Volume.

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would rather have chandu than madak. Just as the waste end of cigars are made up into new cigars, so madak is made up of the dregs of pipes when they are cleared out.

I should like to hand in a *copy of the book by Mr. Rustumji.

(Chairman.) Certainly.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. A. T.
Bocarro, L.M.

Mr. A. T. BOCARRO, L.M. called in and examined.

25,948-9. (Chairman.) You are a Licentiate of Medicine of Bombay?—Yes.

25,950. In what districts and among what races have you had experience of the opium habit?—Bombay, including Salsette and Bassein. The native Christian community of Bombay, Salsette and Bassein designated under the term "Bombay East Indians"; Europeans and Eurasians. The Mahomedans, the Hindus, including Banias, Bhatias, Marathas, and other low classes of Hindus. The Bombay East Indians number about 60,000 souls. Amongst these opium is not consumed as a rule, but rather as an exception. About 1 in 2,000 may be habituated to its use. The Europeans and Eurasians do not take opium. The Mahomedans take opium in the proportion of about 500 per mille male adults. The upper and lower classes of this community, excepting the more educated persons, take opium as a general rule. It is also universally used as a soporific for infants. The Banias, Bhatias, and other class of Hindus take opium in the proportion of about 250 per 1,000 male adults.

25,951-2. What are the effects of the habitual use of opium?—From those people with whom I have come into contact, whether as patients or socially, I have not observed any ill effects from the use of opium when taken in small or moderate doses, whether morally or physically. In fact, no very decided effects can be traced morally on the condition of the user. It is used as an aphrodisiac from a mistaken popular notion that it possesses such properties, chiefly by those in whom the virile powers are at an ebb or entirely lost. Its effect is to render the mind active and the imagination vivid; hence its aphrodisiac effects. Its general use besides the above is to relieve pain, to allay mental worry, and to stay the effects of hunger in the poorer classes, whence arises its habitual use.

25,953. Is opium used as a household remedy for any purpose?—Therapeutically it relieves pain of a rheumatic or neuralgic character, acts as an astringent in bowel complaints, and as a direct sedative on coughs or lung affections, and as a soporific in distressed conditions of the brain and general nervous system. It is employed as a soporific in wakefulness and mental worry, and is principally in use as a soporific for infants by both the upper and lower classes of Mahomedans and Hindus. Amongst the upper classes it is used to procure quiet and rest to infants and the parents themselves; in the lower working classes to ensure sleep during their absence from home.

25,954. What is the effect on the physical condition?—The effect on the physical condition of the user and general appearance as regards nutrition of the body is almost *nil* if taken in small doses and coupled with good living and a sufficiency of food. In fact, it produces a beneficial effect upon the general constitution of the user. When, however, it is taken in large or increased doses repeatedly its beneficial effects are lost; firstly, because the nervous system is repeatedly stimulated unnecessarily, and secondly, because less food is taken, the appetite being lost or impaired. Hence follows emaciation and loss of colour of complexion, &c. In excessive doses all the above conditions are augmented, the circulatory and urinary system being implicated. Hence follows extreme lassitude, inability for any mental or physical work, and exhaustion.

25,955. In what form or forms is opium indulged in?—In the form of crude opium taken as pills and smoking. It is also used as a soporific for infants. Smoking is carried on in two forms—chandu and madak. The former contains about six grains of opium, the latter five grains. When opium is taken in the solid form its effects are slower and more gradual, and are less deleterious to the system than smoking it.

25,956. What is the effect of smoking?—In smoking the effects are more rapid from the concentrated form in which it is taken, its sedative effects rapidly supervening. Hence it produces very decided evil effects constitutionally. Smoking is generally had recourse to by hardened habitual opium eaters.

25,957. What have you to say as regards the effects of opium as a prophylactic against malarial fever?—Opium has been reputed as a prophylactic against malaria; but, as far as Bombay is concerned, opium is not used for any such purposes that I know of. Opium would undoubtedly act as a prophylactic against cholera from its stimulating and astringent properties.

25,958. Comparing opium with alcohol what is the result of your experience?—The habitual use of opium does not lead to the serious consequences which follow the use of alcohol. In moderate doses it acts as a tonic and stimulant, the individual having no tendency to the commission of any crime or acts of immorality. He is able to follow his daily avocation and to undergo a greater amount of physical and mental strain than non-consumers, or those that take alcohol. In larger doses it checks the secretions in the body, impairs appetite, and, if persisted in habitually, it brings about an enervating effect upon the general constitution, emaciation, and exhaustion. Alcohol taken in moderate doses assists digestion, and produces a general stimulant action upon the nervous system, which is more evanescent than that produced by opium. In large doses it generally leads to acts of immorality and crimes. In opium no organic lesions have been observed to take place, whereas alcohol, even in small doses, produces some organic changes in the tissues of the body. In large and continued doses alcohol gives rise to tremors, delirium tremens, and paralysis; and dementia has also been observed in habitual drunkards. None of these results occur even in the excessive use of opium.

25,959. Do you wish to say that even in small doses alcohol produces organic changes?—Even in small doses when it is long continued. Easy circumstances of life seem to retard the evil effects of opium, while on the contrary they enhance those of alcohol. Cases of opium-poisoning are generally suicidal; those of alcohol almost always accidental. It has been proved beyond doubt that alcohol in excessive doses produces degenerative changes in the offspring, and hereditary moral degeneracy. No such results have been observed to occur in cases of habitual use of opium.

25,960. Have you observed whether there is a tendency to increase the dose among opium eaters?—In the case of opium, the doses are gradually increased, because the system gets rapidly habituated to its use. In the case of alcohol, the system becomes habituated to increased doses from mere self-indulgence. Opium sustains the mental and muscular powers of the individual more so than alcohol, which decidedly lessens the capacity for active muscular exertion; the mental faculties, too, being only temporarily stimulated. I believe that a consumer of opium is able to bear a low temperature and other climatic influences to greater advantage than one taking alcohol under the same circumstances of life. In large doses opium checks the various secretions of the body, without producing degenerative changes. Alcohol checks them, producing degenerative changes in the liver and the circulatory system at large.

25,961. Have you made any post-mortem examinations of an habitual opium-eater?—No lesion whatsoever was discovered in the post-mortem examinations made during my college career, that I remember. Since then I have had no opportunity offered for a post-mortem examination.

25,962. Is the opium habit difficult to give up?—It seems difficult to give up the use of opium, even more so than that of alcohol. If compelled to give up, it will most probably be followed by the use of Indian hemp by the poorer classes of the people, which is a drug much more injurious than either opium or alcohol. The more educated and richer classes may substitute alcohol instead, but alcohol being strictly prohibited by both the Mahomedan and Hindu religions, the substitution will not be looked upon with favour by either of these communities. Alcohol could not be easily substituted for opium by the poorer classes, as alcohol is at least four times dearer than opium; hence its suppression will be most likely followed by the use of Cannabis Indica.

* For extracts from this book, see Appendix XXII. to this Volume.

25,963. What effects have you noticed opium has on the mental faculties?—Opium when taken in small or moderate doses acts as a stimulant to the general nervous system, thus stimulating the mental faculties and rendering the imagination more vivid. And this action does not, as in the case of alcohol, produce any degenerative changes in the brain. It does not destroy the discerning power of the individual or produce loss of memory, thereby interfering with his ability to conduct his own business, when taken even in increased doses. In excessive doses, although there is a disinclination or inability for any physical exertion, yet the mental capacity seems to remain intact—the patient not speaking incoherently as in the case of alcohol.

25,964. Have you any further observations you would like to make?—Since alcohol is a substance which is religiously prohibited by both the Mahomedan and Hindu religions, the suppression of opium and its substitution either by alcohol or Indian hemp will not be very acceptable to either of these races. Again, all classes of people over the world, so to say, from the most barbarous to the highly civilised, have recourse to some kind of nerve tonic and stimulant, whether for pleasure or to counteract the depressing effects of mental toil and bodily fatigue; the use of opium for the people of India cannot, therefore, be too strictly prohibited, without producing disastrous effects upon the country at large. If the use of opium was suppressed, some other form of nerve stimulant, probably alcohol, would replace it; but as I have already pointed out that alcohol produces degenerative changes in the tissues of the body, and offspring, and sows the seeds of moral degeneracy, the substitution of alcohol for opium cannot be considered good or wise, inasmuch as it could not morally be substituted for opium. Besides, the excessive use of alcohol it is always associated in the lower classes with crime and immorality—90 per cent. of prostitutes and their paramours are spirit drinkers, whereas hardly 10 per cent. of them take opium, and 20 per cent. take both opium and alcohol. Alcohol may consequently be said to be a direct means to immorality, which cannot be said to be the case with opium. The general use of alcohol would certainly be much more ruinous than that of opium amongst the lower classes of the people of India, on account of the heat and other climatic conditions here. Besides, it would appear probable that the adulteration of spirits, such as brandy and whisky, would be more easily done than that of opium. I consider it would be a boon to the people of India if alcohol were more restricted, or at all events lessened in strength. The masses of the people of India, with the exception of the educated classes, seem to be more or less dissatisfied with the Government on account of taxation and general poverty existing amongst the working classes and rayats. And any further interference with their privileges and liberties would in all probability give rise to very general dissatisfaction amongst all classes of people, which may result in disastrous consequences to the Government and the country at large. The policy would, therefore, appear unwise.

25,965. (*Mr. Moubray.*) Did your name appear among the signatures to the anti-opium petition?—Yes, I think it did.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. G. B. PRABHAKAR, L.R.C.P., called in and examined.

25,982. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You are an L.R.C.P. of London?—Yes.

25,983. You are practising at Bombay?—Yes.

25,984. What opportunities have you had of studying the effect of the opium habit?—My observations are applicable to Gohelvad Prant, one of the four districts of Kathiawar, and to the city of Bombay with respect to both Hindus and Mohamedans.

25,985. To what extent is opium used in these localities?—In Gohelvad its use is general. It largely enters into the social customs of Rajputs and Kathis, the two dominant castes of the prant; no gathering, either social or State, being complete without kasumbha or opium drink sipping. Kunbis, or cultivators, and other labouring classes who have to work hard in inclement weather, as well as artisan classes of whom patient and steady work is required, indulge more or less in this drug. Though they are not so much addicted to the use of this drug as Hindus, Musalmans, nevertheless, contribute a large per-centage to the opium-consuming population of the prant; Banias or traders, though otherwise a very sober people, are not

25,966. I presume, after hearing your evidence, you do not agree with the terms of that petition. Will you tell me how you account for your name appearing among the signatories?—I may have signed the petition but I do not remember it. If I did sign a petition it was not like that one, and so I had to change my opinion after signing it. That was the reason I said I wished to withdraw if I had signed.

25,967. When did you take that step?—After I received a letter from Mr. Rustomji some two or three months ago. Mr. Rustomji is one of the opium inspectors.

25,968. Was that the first time your attention was drawn to the fact that your name was appended to this petition?—Yes.

25,969. When was that?—I think it was two months ago. I do not recollect the exact time.

25,970. Did you then say that if you signed the petition the first time you saw it you certainly did not agree with it when you saw it the second time?—I think, probably, the wording of the petition was changed.

25,971. Do you mean to say that the petition which we now have before us, and to which your name is appended as a signatory, is not worded in the same way as that to which you originally put your name?—I think so.

25,972. Do you say you never saw this petition which is before us, and to which your name is attached, until two or three months ago?—I cannot say the exact date, it may have been more than that.

25,973. At any rate, it was not until two or three months ago that you took any steps to withdraw your signature from the petition which you now say you disagree with?—That is so.

25,974. What steps did you take to dissociate yourself from the petition when it was brought to your notice that the petition to which your name was appended was not the one which you agreed with?—I wrote to say I had no recollection of signing it, and that if I did sign it my name was wrongly spelt.

25,975. Whom did you write to?—To the Parsi gentleman who brought me the papers. I did not care much; I was very indifferent about the matter. I also said that if I did sign the petition I saw reason to withdraw my name, because the wording was different from the one I saw.

25,976. Did you keep a copy when you signed the original petition?—No.

25,977. Can you say what your impression is about it? Do you recollect having signed the petition?—I recollect having signed some petition. I may have signed, or I may not have signed.

25,978. And if you did sign, the petition did not contain the terms which it now contains?—That is so.

25,979. (*Mr. Pease.*) Was a form handed to you for signature like this [*exhibiting a form*]?—I think it was in manuscript.

25,980. Who was the individual who handed it to you for signature?—A peon.

25,981. You do not know his name?—No.

quite free from this habit, and even Brahmins have solitary instances of opium eaters among them. But these two castes are comparatively small. I would put the proportion per mille of persons using opium at about 150, mostly males, though women in this part of the country are not quite free from the use of this drug; these cases are few and far between, and it is taken as a remedy for some chronic complaints rather than for intoxication. In Bombay the proportion is small, the habit being more or less confined to persons hailing from Kathiawar, North Gujarat, Central Provinces, and Upper India. Among the Dekhans the use of this drug is limited to labouring classes, who administer it to their infants in the form of soothing pills called bala golis.

25,986. What effects have you observed from the opium habit?—I have not come across cases where moderate use of opium has led to physical deterioration or moral degradation. I have seen many respectable persons, 60 to 70 years old, who, though using the drug for the last 30 or 40 years, have been keeping very good health for their period of life. I do not believe that moderate use of opium leads to any untoward consequences. There is no

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change in appearance, and it is often very difficult to distinguish by appearance a consumer from a non-consumer. And even when a person abuses the drug he suffers rather in body than in morals. The abuse of the drug results in physical inactivity, dulness of intellect, and emaciation.

25,987. In what manner is opium consumed in these districts?—In Gohelwad, among Rajputs and Kathis, and among such persons as have the privilege of attending the gatherings of these classes, kasumbha is the favourite form of using opium. In preparing kasumbha, opium is first dissolved in water and then strained through a piece of cloth, and the solution is flavoured with sugar and cardamoms, and scented with rose petals. But pills are the more general form of opium taking. In Bombay it is also smoked, and there are some persons who are in the habit of getting morphia injected hypodermically. Opium drinking and opium eating are similar in effect; opium either drunk or eaten in moderation sharpens intellect, assists digestion, partially increases staying powers, and has a soothing influence. Opium smoking is said to be always attended by evil results, but I have had very few patients from among opium smokers. The number of persons injecting morphia is negligible.

25,988. Is opium, so far as you know, used as a prophylactic against malarial fever?—Opium is used as a prophylactic with considerable beneficial results in the following diseases: dyspepsia, diarrhoea, dysentery, malarial fever, cold, rheumatism, neuralgia, and diabetes. In some cases it acts as an antiperiodic, and when taken in cold stages it cuts short the cold stage.

25,989. Does the habitual use of opium affect the people more than the habitual use of alcohol would?—No. The consequences of the habitual use of opium are not as serious as those which follow the use of alcohol. I have already stated that habitual moderate use of opium does not lead to any serious consequences, nor is moderate use of alcohol attended by evil consequences. But in the case of alcohol there is one danger. An habitual drinker when drinking in company often drinks more than he has been accustomed to, while an habitual opium consumer rarely exceeds his usual dose, though he be in company. Opium when taken in excess impairs the digestive system in general, engenders lazy habits, causes dulness of intellect, and produces anæmia and emaciation. In this stage the person becomes careless about his affairs and regardless of public opinion. An opium eater is always quiet, while a drunkard is always boisterous, and is thus troublesome to his neighbours. Again, the effects on the human body of excessive use of alcohol are more serious than those of excessive use of opium. It impairs the digestive organs in general, causes enlargement of liver, and produces degeneration of brain and spinal cord, and often ends in delirium tremens.

25,990. Is the habit easy to break off?—In the majority of cases it is found difficult to break off the habit, but it is not so difficult as is generally supposed. I have seen several persons giving up the habit in their old age, and I

have made prisoners break off the habit. While at Palitana (in Kathiawar) as State medical officer in 1880, I was ex-officio superintendent of the State jail, containing 70 prisoners, of whom 25 were opium eaters. I stopped altogether the issue of opium to prisoners, and they grew mutinous, and I had to give in; but I changed my plan and gradually reduced their doses, substituting extract of gentian for opium, and within three months the habit was broken off. If the habit is given up by consumers of their free will they will not take to alcohol or other narcotics, but if they are forced to break off the habit there is every chance of their taking to alcohol or some narcotic, and there is every probability of their preferring alcohol to narcotics, as the use of alcohol is coming in fashion and religious scruple against the use of alcohol is wearing away. Among younger generations of Rajputs the use of opium is on the wane, but alcohol is taking the place of opium and with frightful results.

25,991. What is the effect of opium on the mental faculty?—I have already stated that moderate use of opium sharpens intellect, while its excessive use causes its dulness. I do not believe that habitual moderate use interferes in any way with the consumer's ability to conduct his business successfully.

25,992. Have you any further observations to make?—Moderate use of opium does not shorten life, as is generally supposed. I have seen habitual opium eaters living to the old age of 80 years and in good health. I had a case of a riding fracture of the thigh bone. The patient, a Rajput of 80 years old, was an habitual opium eater. He did not allow me to administer to him chloroform, but took himself an opium pill and allowed me to handle his thigh for about 25 minutes without moving a muscle of his face. It is again urged that sale of opium should be prohibited, except for medical purposes. If such a measure were carried out, it would prove disastrous; instead of being a boon it will be a bane to the rural population of the malarious parts of Kathiawar. There are hundreds of villages in these parts where either a qualified medical practitioner or a native vaidya or hakim is not found to treat poor villagers. And if the sale of opium is prohibited to any one but medical practitioners, the poor will be deprived of the only remedy they know for most of the prevailing diseases, and as a consequence the death-rate of such districts will increase considerably.

25,993. (Mr. Haridas Vekaridas.) You say "religious scruple against the use of alcohol is wearing away," what is the cause of that?—I think it is owing to the spread of education and western habits and manners.

25,994. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You are a Parbhu, are you not?—Yes.

25,995. Can you tell me whether the use of opium as a restorative is common among the old men of the Gohelwad district?—It is very rarely used in that way.

25,996. Your personal experience has been in Kathiawar and Bombay only?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

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KHAN BAHADUR DOSSABHAI PESTONJI, called in and examined.

25,997. (Sir William Roberts.) You are assistant surgeon at Surat?—Yes.

25,998. You are honorary assistant surgeon to H.E. the Viceroy and a Fellow of Bombay University?—Yes.

25,999. Where have you gained your knowledge of the opium habit?—My observations as regards the use of opium are applicable to the district of Mahi Kantha, to the men belonging to the Gujarat Irregular Horse at Ahmedabad, and to the city of Surat, and the races to which they extend comprise Mahomedans and Hindus. In the year 1860 I was appointed to the medical charge of the Mahi Kantha Political Agency at Sadra. In this station there were located at that time 1,000 horse belonging to the Gaekwar Contingent. Their duties consisted in patrolling the district, in furnishing escort party to the political officers during their tour in the province, and in bringing mails from Ahmedabad to Sadra, a distance of about 20 miles. The men of the Contingent consisted principally of two classes, viz., Marathas and Mahomedans. Amongst them there were a great many addicted to the use of opium, and they were considered most useful and active in the proper discharge of their duties. In the year 1862 I was appointed to the medical charge of the Gujarat Irregular Horse, under the command of Colonel Harpur. Most of these men consisted of Mahomedans, and some of them were opium eaters. Since the year 1865 I have been stationed at

Surat in medical charge of the Parakh Dispensary, where nearly 10,000 patients are treated annually. I have also extensive practice amongst the population of the city, which number about 110,000 people, of whom the greater portion consists of Mahomedans and Hindus.

26,000. To what extent is opium used in this district?—In the province of Mahi Kantha there were, on an approximation, 20 per cent. of the total population addicted to the use of opium. Amongst the men of the Gujarat Irregular Horse the proportion was not so great as above, and in the city of Surat consumption of opium is much limited, being only 2 or 3 per cent. of the whole population. Amongst a class of people called the Dheds, who are the principal operatives in the mills, the use of opium is almost unknown.

26,001. What effects have you observed from the habitual use of opium?—In small doses it produces exhilarating and a tonic effect, it sharpens the appetite, and increases the power of endurance to physical work and mental application. It is a good anodyne in cases of rheumatism, gout, and lumbago. When taken in large doses it produces general emaciation of the system and a pale and sallow expression of countenance.

26,002. In what form is opium used?—It is used in two forms, solid and liquid. In the solid state it is taken in the form of a pill or smoked in a pipe. In the liquid form

it is mixed with pure water and filtered through cotton wool and then called kusumbha, which is generally used amongst the rich on occasions of marriage and general rejoicings amongst their families.

26,002. Is it used as a prophylactic?—Opium is used as a prophylactic in malarial districts against fevers, chills, and rheumatism. Also in cases of asthma and chronic bronchitis it is used with beneficial results. In diabetes and chronic dysentery its effects are sometimes marvellous.

26,003. How would you compare the effects of opium with the effects of alcohol?—I am of opinion that the habitual use of opium as indulged in by natives does not lead to consequences as serious as those which follow the use of alcohol. When opium is taken in small doses it renews the vital powers and renders its user more able to endure fatigue and mental exertion. The well-to-do habits take it to excite and increase their sexual powers. This cannot be said about the use of alcohol, the after effects of which are languor and lassitude. In large doses, opium produces general emaciation of the system, but produces no organic lesion of any kind. When alcohol is taken in excess it produces delirium tremens, hepatic abscess, and softening of the brain.

26,004. Is it difficult for the habit to be given up?—It is difficult for a confirmed opium eater to give up the habit, and if he is compelled to do so, he would soon fall into the habit of taking alcohol or dhatura seeds, which would be a greater calamity to him both bodily and mentally.

26,005. What is the effect of the opium habit on the mental faculties?—When a man is in the habit of taking opium in moderate doses it produces no mental disability of any kind, even when he attains to an old age. I know the case of an opium eater, who is now 80 years old, but who is as strong and active and is considered a most useful servant by his employers and is still in their service.

26,006. Have you any other observations to make?—I am respectfully of opinion that any attempt to prohibit the growth and sale of opium would cause considerable discontent amongst the people and would lead to political

complications with the Native States. It would also cause much deficit in the revenues of India, which, in the present straitened condition of the finances, would render the administration of the country extremely difficult.

26,007. (Mr. Pease.) Have you met with numerous cases of this general emaciation of the system, and the pale and sallow expression of countenance to which you allude?—Not many cases of confirmed opium eaters.

26,008. What quantity did this person of 80 years of age, whom you mention, take?—Nearly 12 grains, six in the morning and six in the evening.

26,009. He was not a very excessive consumer then?—No.

26,010. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You state that the mill operatives at Surat are not consumers of opium—is it the case that they are large alcohol drinkers?—They drink a large quantity of toddy.

26,011. (Chairman.) Is there any particular custom of any class to take dhatura seeds?—No, there is no particular custom; the people smoke it along with ganja.

26,012. (Mr. Pease.) Is it not the fact that when toddy is first drawn from the tree there is no alcohol in it at all?—It does contain alcohol to a certain extent, but it is not strong until it undergoes fermentation.

26,013. Is not toddy consumed in the evening when it is drawn?—Sometimes in the morning and sometimes in the evening. If it is allowed to remain 12 hours it becomes strong.

26,014. There is a certain amount of alcohol, but it can hardly be called intoxicating when it is only 12 hours old?—It depends on the kind of tree, some trees give strong toddy, some give mild.

26,015. I have understood that it was impossible for a person to become intoxicated with toddy which was drawn one day and consumed in the evening of that day, but if it was allowed to stand for another 20 hours it would become heady?—That is so.

26,016. It is usual to consume toddy the evening of the day it is drawn?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. B. H. NANAYATI called in and examined.

26,017. (Chairman.) I believe you are a graduate of Bombay University, an assistant surgeon in the Bombay Medical Service, and a teacher of surgery and midwifery in the Byramji Jijibhai Medical School, Ahmedabad?—Yes.

26,018. In what districts have you had experience of the opium habit?—I have held charge of dispensaries in parts of Gujarat, Dharwar, and Khandesh, and my observations regarding opium eating are based on experience gained in the discharge of my professional duties extending over a period of about 12 years.

26,019. To what extent is opium used among the population you have had experience of?—I do not think the consumption of opium is unusually great either in the Ahmedabad city or in its districts, for in the former, with a population of 144,451 souls, the amount of opium sold during the year 1892-93 was 4,781 lbs., and in the latter, with a population of 780,845 souls, it was 15,104 lbs. only.

26,020. Do you think these figures show the real consumption?—They have been taken from the farmers and are reliable statistics.

26,021. Is there much illicit opium used?—I cannot tell you.

26,022. What are the effects of opium on the physical condition of the consumer?—A moderate use of opium does not debase a man's morals, or degrade his sense of truth and honesty, and I do not believe that the habitual opium eater is the degraded and untrustworthy individual he is so often represented to be. As regards the physical effect of the opium habit, I may say that I do not share the belief of those who state that it produces a slow, but steady, degeneration of the muscular tissues, with various disorders ultimately leading to extreme emaciation of the body. On the contrary, I am of opinion that its moderate use enables a man to undergo a vast amount of toil and fatigue; that it happily makes him regardless of the minor evils of life, such as insufficient clothing, bad food, scanty meals, and renders him to a certain extent proof against exposure to cold, wet, &c. Such a person is generally hardy and well-conditioned, and fit for hard, active work. When the habit is first contracted, opium produces a slight

sense of drowsiness; but this wears off soon, and its effect upon the habitual consumer is one of exhilaration of spirits. Its moderate use, especially during the middle and old age, brightens the intellect, promotes digestion and general activity of the body, and sustains the system during periods of great hardship and exertion without any marked discomfort and pain. But opium, if taken in excess, is certainly deleterious in its effects, and produces those trains of symptoms such as derangement of digestion, diarrhoea, and general wasting of the body, and which are so often erroneously supposed to result from its ordinary moderate use. Its moral effects under similar circumstances are equally pernicious. It weakens memory and moral control, often rendering the man unfit for any active occupation. Such cases, however, are very rarely met with, and I do not remember having come across more than one solitary instance of this kind in the course of my experience.

26,023. How is the habit generally began?—The poor, and perhaps the middle class persons, generally begin the use of the drug for relief of some bodily infirmity or pain, as rheumatism, diarrhoea, dysentery, diabetes, &c., whilst amongst some of the well-to-do and the better class of people it is perhaps used more as a luxury. The usual period at which the habit is contracted is between 35 and 40 years. People of this age use it more largely than those under it, with a view to prevent bodily waste, to add to their comfort, and to keep the various functions of life in order and regularity. It is at this period of life and after that it proves of the greatest benefit. I have already mentioned that in the habitual consumer opium exerts a stimulating effect, and that is the reason why the habit is kept up, even after the relief of pain for which it was probably originally used.

26,024. Do you think opium is ever used in this country as a prophylactic, and, if so, for what reasons?—I am of opinion that it is a prophylactic against malarial fevers, and under this belief it is often generally used by the labouring poor. I believe that it is a potent factor in conferring, to a great extent, immunity from these diseases in districts where they are widely prevalent. My personal testimony may be of some value in this respect. I was in medical charge of Kharaghoda (a small place about 80

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miles away from Ahmedabad, where extensive Government salt works exist) in the years 1886-87, and was struck with the fact that whilst the residents of that little place—almost to a man—suffered from malarious fever and its effects, the only class of people who almost entirely enjoyed immunity from them were the “Agrias,” men who manufactured the salt, and a few others. This led to an inquiry on my part, which revealed the important fact that most of them were in the habit of eating opium habitually, and that they had a belief in its efficacy as a prophylactic. This belief is well grounded, for “narcotine,” one of the constituents of opium, has been known to possess considerable anti-periodic powers. A similar inquiry was, at my request, made by the officer in charge of the works, and the results of these inquiries have also gone far to strengthen my belief in the prophylactic virtues of opium. It is also valuable in subduing neuralgic pains of all kinds, as well as in preventing their recurrence.

26,025. Are the consequences of the habitual use of opium very serious, and how do you contrast them with those that follow the excessive use of alcohol?—Opium in moderation, especially during the middle and old age, acts as a soothing stimulant, helps digestion, and promotes general bodily vigour and comfort. A moderate amount of alcohol, at a similar period in life, acts in an equally beneficial manner. But both, in excess, are injurious, and alcohol, certainly, much more so than opium. It is perhaps needless to add that an opium sot is an idle, lazy, inoffensive creature, but a drunkard is a great nuisance. The former is sure to remain in a state of repose or lethargy, but the latter is most likely to grow quarrelsome or dangerously violent at any unexpected moment. Alcohol is a good deal responsible for poverty, destitution, and crimes; and certainly this cannot be said of opium. Every medical man knows that alcohol in excess causes degeneration and diseases of the various organs in the body, but I am not aware of any organic disease being caused by opium whether taken moderately or in excess; of course, the abuse of opium leads to various disorders, e.g., diarrhoea, emaciation of the body, with a weak state of mind, perhaps bordering upon imbecility, but such cases are exceedingly rare. Briefly speaking, it may then be said that the evils attending the excessive use of this drug are very insignificant in comparison with those resulting from the abuse of alcohol. It is said that the use of opium (even in moderation) shortens life to a very great extent. I disagree from this view, for I know a large number of men who, at 45-50 years, and more, are in excellent health, with every prospect of a still further tenure of life before them.

26,026. What effect has the habitual use of opium on the mental faculties?—Opium does not impair the mental faculties of the habitual consumer. The Marwaris, though habitual opium eaters, are, nevertheless, a shrewd business-like class of people. I believe, therefore, that bearing in

mind the peculiarities of the climate, the habits of the people, and their avocations often requiring them to undergo excessive bodily fatigue and exertion under a tropical sun, with perhaps a diet not far removed from semi-starvation, the use of opium in moderation, far from being a vice, is a real boon to the poor. It is in the nature of mankind to seek solace in stimulants, in one form or another, and opium is the one that is most suited to the people of India. It appears to me that it would be as difficult, if not impossible, to compel the people of India to give up the habit of opium taking as to turn the whole of the inhabitants of Great Britain into total abstainers. If Government were to prevent the use of opium, the people would naturally be driven to seek solace in a free and immoderate use of alcoholic drinks of all kinds, or of the Indian hemp, which must, unfortunately, result in increase of misery, crimes, and mortality.

26,027. Have you any other remarks to make?—In conclusion, therefore, I venture to state that as stringent rules in connexion with the growth, sale, and consumption of opium already exist, additional prohibitive measures are unnecessary; and interfering, as they would be, with the cherished social habits and customs of the people are likely to be viewed as oppressive, and to give rise to great discontent.

26,028. (Mr. Pease.) Do you think the quantity in the Gujarat district is decreasing?—I cannot say.

26,029. We were told in Ahmedabad that there was a very great decrease?—I am not in a position to confirm that.

26,030. Do you think the custom of using opium on ceremonial, social, and other occasions is losing its hold on the people?—I do not know that it is losing its hold on the people of Gujarat.

26,031. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Do not you think opium eaters require nourishing food?—I do not think so necessarily.

26,032. Opium would not do those who cannot afford to get nutritious food so much good as those who can afford it?—I have said that a moderate amount of opium enables a poor man to tide over many difficulties, and he can go without a meal and work all the same with the help of opium.

26,033. That would only be for a time. Of course if he took opium every day he would require some nourishing food?—I do not think so.

26,034. Would the effects of the excessive consumption of opium be the same on a poor man who could not afford nutritious food than on those who can afford it?—Yes, the same.

26,035. Would it not do the poor man injury?—It would do them both injury; but I think it would do more injury to the man who could not get nutritious food.

The witness withdrew.

Dr. Vishram
Ramji Ghole.

Dr. VISHRAM RAMJI GHOLE called in and examined.

26,036. (Sir William Roberts.) You are a retired assistant surgeon and an honorary assistant surgeon to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India at Poona?—Yes.

26,037. Where have you had opportunities of studying the opium habit?—My observations are applicable chiefly to the district of Poona, though I have served at Ahmedabad, Bassein in Thana Zilla, Bombay in the Sir Jamsetji Jijibhai Hospital, Karachi, Kumta in Kanara Zilla, Mhow, Sehore, Jhansi, Gwalior, &c. My observations are applicable to all classes of people, viz., Musalmans, Hindus, Parsis, Jews, Christians—natives as well as Europeans.

26,038. To what extent is opium used in the districts of which you have had experience?—In the district of Poona grown up persons eat opium, and opium is given to children. About 60 per cent. of children amongst Hindus and Musalmans are given opium. It is commenced when the children are about a month old or earlier, and continued until they are about two years old. The quantity given to each child averages from one-twentieth of a grain to one grain for a dose given morning and evening. The quantity taken by grown up persons averages from one to twenty grains daily taken morning and evening. In exceptional cases the quantity taken averages from one to two drachms or more daily. The proportion of persons taking opium amongst the urban population is about 20

per mille and about 2 per mille amongst the rural population.

26,039. Are you speaking of the entire population?—Yes.

26,040. What effects have you noticed from the opium habit?—In moderate doses, such as are commonly used by the working and other classes of people, the effect of opium is as follows:—It excites and exhilarates the person, his intellect is brightened, he feels invigorated (while he is under the influence of the drug) to do his daily work; he is able to digest his food better. Morally speaking the opium eater is quiet, non-quarrelsome, and is just as well behaved as one who does not take opium. His body is pretty well nourished if he gets sufficient food. By long usage his features look haggard and careworn. His life is in no instance shortened, but, on the contrary, it seems to be prolonged and is rendered more enjoyable, especially in old age. Abuse or excessive use of the drug is baneful both mentally and bodily. The excessive opium eater looks haggard in the face, is emaciated, looks dull and inactive, and is generally unfit for work. He loses his appetite, and suffers from constipation of the bowels, nervous and mental weakness, but such cases are few, and are found only amongst the idlers and mendicants. Opium is eaten in the shape of pills. Opium is made into solution called kasumba and drunk. This method is practised in Gujarat, Kathiawar and Marwar, and it is smoked

either as chandul or madat. Chandul is prepared thus :—A piece of opium is taken and mixed with the dregs of previously smoked opium. This mixture is macerated in water. The infusion thus prepared is boiled and strained through a piece of felt or thick cloth to purify it or remove the extraneous matter and the resultant fluid is kept in a phial. The smoker takes an iron spit, dips its further end in the fluid and holds it on a flame of a burning lamp to thicken and dry it. He goes on doing this several times until a mass about a grain or two in weight is formed on the end of the spit. He puts this dried mass into a hole made in the side of a small China inkstand, on the top opening of which a small pipe is attached for a mouth-piece. He applies a flame of a ghee or cocoanut lamp to the mass put in the side hole of the inkstand and smokes it in a whiff or two. He repeats the smoking till he is sufficiently under the influence of the drug. Madat is prepared thus :—About five grains of opium are taken and mixed with about a treble quantity of powdered charred babul leaves and made into a bolus of the size of a small betel-nut. The smoker provides himself with a small hubble-bubble or hooka which consists of a cocoanut shell for containing water and a pipe stuck on the top of the shell and another pipe stuck in the side of the shell for the mouth-piece, the top pipe is without the usual receptacle called chillum which is used for smoking tobacco. The smoker takes a small piece out of the bolus, puts it on the top of the top-pipe and applies the burning end of a small stick to it and takes in two or three puffs when the opium burns off with a slight noise and the refuse falls down. Opium takes about half an hour to act when taken in the shape of pills. When taken as solution it acts sooner than when taken as a pill. When smoked, it has effect in a minute. Smoking of opium acts more injuriously on the system than eating it. Dull and heavy looks, wrinkled face, debility, emaciation, some deterioration of the mental faculties, moral weakness, depraved appetite, &c., are more pronounced in opium smokers than in opium eaters.

26,041. What is your opinion about the use of opium as a prophylactic?—It does not seem to be used as a prophylactic for any disease in the district of Poona.

26,042. How would you compare the habitual use of opium with the habitual use of alcohol?—The use of opium as taken by the natives does not seem to lead to consequences so serious as those which follow the use of alcohol.

26,043. Does the use of opium appear to shorten life?—No, I have seen men 70 and 80 years old who take opium.

26,044. Have you known it to cause suicide?—No.

26,045. Have you made post-mortem examinations of opium eaters?—I may have performed post-mortem examinations on persons addicted to the use of opium, and who had died of other diseases, but my attention was not drawn to any organic lesion as caused by opium eating alone.

26,046. Is the opium habit difficult to give up?—In the case of adults it is very difficult and distressful to leave off the habit when once formed, and when it is given up it is very likely to lead to the use as well as abuse of other intoxicants, notably to alcohol primarily, and then

to bang or to datura, stramonium, hyosciamus, nux vomica, cocculus indicus, nutmeg, narium, oleander, &c. In the case of children, when they are once weaned off from the habit they cry for some days and feel uneasy, but no other drug is resorted to as a substitute in their case. The practice of giving opium to children, highly reprehensible as it is, does not seem, when once given up, to lead to the formation of the habit in after life.

26,047. You disapprove of giving opium to infants?—Yes.

26,048. What is the effect of the habitual use of opium on the mental faculties?—In moderate doses the habitual use of opium brightens the mental faculties and produces a state of exhilaration and invigorates the body and mind, and enables the consumer to perform his mental and bodily work better and without feeling fatigued. If he does not get his usual dose, then his mind becomes confused, his attention is diverted, his bodily powers become languid and he feels exhausted; there is running from his nose, his bowels become relaxed, and he cannot digest his food properly—in a word, he becomes uncomfortable and unhappy.

26,049. Have you any other observations to make?—No doubt the habitual use of opium is a vice, as is the use of alcohol, and, as such, both should be reprobated. The habit of using opium is acquired by some persons by imitation and association with opium eaters; by others, as in Marwar, Gujarat, Kathiawar, &c. by custom. Majority of persons get into the habit by taking it for the alleviation of suffering and prevention of disease; many persons take it to prop up their strength in old age; some persons become accustomed to take opium by using it for sexual weakness and to ward off fatigue after exertion; so it will be found impossible to suppress the evil, nor would it be justifiable to do so. The practice of giving opium to children, so universally followed in India by working and other classes to put their children to sleep so as to enable the mothers to do their daily work, is another insuperable obstacle to the prohibition to the use of opium. If it is stopped for “non-medical purposes” it will be obtained by opium eaters under the pretext of sickness or by smuggling, so it will be found very difficult and vexatious to limit its use to medicine alone. The people would certainly feel aggrieved and oppressed if the use of opium were prohibited for non-medical purposes. By taking all these circumstances into consideration it seems to me unnecessary to interfere with the production and sale of opium. The present restrictions about it are quite sufficient to control its use.

26,050. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) We have been told that in some parts of India the practice of giving opium to infants is common amongst the better classes as well as among the lower classes. Is that your experience?—Yes, in some cases among the better classes.

26,051. You speak mainly of the working classes?—Yes, but the better classes also do it.

26,052. In their case do you think it is open to objection?—I think it is open to objection in both cases.

26,053. Have you known cases among the upper classes where the practice has led to loss of life?—I have seen some cases, but they were accidents.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. GANESH KRISHNA GARDE, L.M., called in and examined.

26,054. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You are a Licentiate of Medicine of Grant College, Bombay, and a private medical practitioner of Poona?—Yes.

26,055. What opportunities have you had of studying the opium habit?—My observations are applicable to the Poona district, and to Hindus, Mahomedans, and native Christians. In this district opium is given to children as a soporific, calnative, or soothing agent. It is commenced after they are a few weeks old, and is continued in gradually increased doses until they are about three years old. The dose ranges, according to their age, from one-sixth of a grain to a grain and a half, morning and evening. About 90 per cent. of the children of Poona are habitually drugged with opium. The proportion of opium-drugged children in the district is a little less than this. I have estimated it at 75 per cent. The proportion of opium eaters among the adult population of the city is approximately 9 per mille, and in the district about 1 per mille. The majority of these are Mahomedans.

26,056. That is a very small proportion; you say not more than 1 per mille of the grown-up people are opium eaters?—Yes, in the district.

26,057. What effects have you observed from the habitual use of opium?—In moderate habitual consumers it does not seem to produce any appreciable effects on the moral and physical condition of the consumer. The only bad effect that may be attributed even to a moderate dose in many cases is constipation of the bowels, and disturbance of digestion consequent upon it. But the habitual opium eater tries to prevent this effect by the use of large quantities of fatty substances, especially milk, in his diet. The above statement is true only with regard to the internal use of opium by the adult. The effects of opium smoking, on the other hand, are pernicious even in small doses. It produces dyspepsia, anæmia, emaciation, nervous debility, dulness of intellect, and failure of memory.

26,058. Are you speaking of madak or chandu smoking?—Both. The same may be said with regard to the effects

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of administering opium to children for the purpose of keeping them quiet. Even small doses produce a very injurious effect on their delicate constitution. The principal disorders attributable to opium drugging in children in this province are constipation, dyspepsia, anæmia, enlargement of the liver, and convulsions. The excessive habitual use of opium produces very injurious consequences; the digestive organs are greatly impaired, the energy of the mind is lessened, memory is destroyed, the person is incapacitated from managing himself or his affairs, a state of fatuity and abject misery is induced. The excessive consumer's look is haggard, sallow, and stupid; he is extremely emaciated, his blood is impoverished, and he wears a cachectic appearance. But with all this it is very curious that none of the important organs of the body seem to be specially affected with any organic lesion, as is the case with alcohol. His moral nature may also be altered to some extent, but not in such a way as to make him offensive to his neighbours, or to excite him to crime.

26,059. Is the excessive consumer very exceptional?—Yes, in Poona.

26,060. In what modes is opium consumed in Poona?—Opium is consumed in Poona in two ways, viz., eating and smoking. It is eaten by the habitual consumer, in the form of a pill, generally twice a day—morning and evening. The average dose in the case of adults is 8 grains. The majority, however, eat much less than this (about half that quantity), and a few (and these are exceptions) consume as much as 48 grains at a time. There are two ways of smoking opium prevalent in the district—madak (vulgarly called madat) and chandu. Madak is thus prepared:—A little opium is boiled with water. The resulting decoction is strained and again boiled down to the consistence of an extract. One tola of this is mixed with a quantity of leaves of babul (*Acacia arabica*), the whole beaten together and made into 24 pills. One of these pills is put in a kind of huka, kindled and smoked. An ordinary smoker will use on an average six pills (containing 48 grains of opium) each time. The preparation of chandu differs from madak in not containing a diluent like the leaves of babul. A liquid extract of opium is kept ready. It is condensed into a solid pill by the heat of a lamp just at the time of smoking. The dose for an average smoker is about the same as madak. The effects of a moderate dose of opium, whether taken internally or by inhalation in one of the above methods, are as follow:—The pulse is increased in force, fulness and frequency, the temperature of the skin is augmented, the muscular force is increased, the senses are quickened, the spirits animated, and new vigour given to the intellectual faculties. Its operation, while thus extending to all parts of the system, is directed with peculiar force to the brain, the functions of which are considerably exalted. In a short time this excitation is cooled down into a general calmness both of body and mind; and the individual becomes forgetful of all care and anxiety. If the person is not a habitual consumer, these effects are followed by sleep, which having continued for four or five hours is succeeded by some after-effects, such as nausea, headache, tremors, &c., which soon yield to the reaction of the system. These after-effects are not produced to any appreciable degree in the habitual consumer. Opium diminishes all the secretions of the body with the exception of perspiration, which is slightly increased. The peristaltic action of the bowels is also lessened. Both these effects are not so general or marked in the habitual consumer. When opium is taken internally, the effects commence to take place after about half an hour, but the effects of smoking are instantaneous and more energetic. The majority of opium smokers are Mahomedans. Since the closing of the shops where the preparations of opium for smoking (chandu and madak) could be obtained ready prepared, and were allowed to be smoked by Government license within the premises, the number of these smokers has lessened. There are said to be, however, about 500 opium smokers in Poona.

26,061. Is opium used as a prophylactic by old men in Poona?—It is used as such by some old men in this province for preventing cold, bronchial catarrh, and senile asthma, and, I think, with success.

26,062. How do you compare the effects of the use of opium with the effects of the use of alcohol?—The effects of the habitual use of opium are much less serious than

those of alcohol. The effects of moderate doses of opium and alcohol, both on body and mind, are well nigh similar, with this difference, that while both act as general stimulants and exhilarants, the intellectual and imaginative faculties are more exalted by opium than by alcohol. The secretions with the exception of perspiration are diminished by opium, while they are mostly increased by alcohol. The sleep following the exciting effect in the case of opium is more sound than that of alcohol, but the after-effects of the former are in many cases, especially in novices, more marked and disagreeable. Taken in excess, both lead to serious consequences, those produced by alcohol being by far the most dangerous. Although excessive indulgence in opium produces, in the long run, the most miserable condition of body and mind by inducing dyspepsia, languor, nervous prostration, poverty of blood, emaciation, and a cachectic condition of the body and weakness of memory and intellect, yet it is not known to produce any organic mischief in any organ of the body, nor to induce any particular disorder of the body or mind beyond those mentioned above, nor to shorten life. Alcohol, on the other hand, when habitually indulged in, in excess, is known to produce gastric catarrh, congestion, cirrhosis and abscess of the liver, hæmorrhoids, diabetes, gout, acute and chronic Bright's disease, gravel, ascites, laryngitis, palpitation, angina pectoris, heart disease, delirium tremens, dipsomania and other forms of insanity, in many cases characterised by suicidal and homicidal tendencies, moral degradation, apoplexy, atrophy of the brain and paralysis. It acts preeminently as a cause of shortening life, and producing premature old age. The connexion of drunkenness with crime is also a well-established fact. No lesion of any kind in any part of the body, attributable to opium, has been ever discovered from post-mortem examinations.

26,063. Is the opium habit difficult to give up?—A habitual consumer of opium finds it impossible to give up the habit, and when given up, it is in many cases likely to be substituted by the use of alcohol or other intoxicating drugs, as ganja, bhang, charas, dhatura, &c.

26,064. What is the effect of opium on the mental faculties?—The habitual moderate use simply stimulates and exalts the mental faculties, and instead of interfering with the consumer's business, it enables him to do more work. The habitual excessive use of it, however, renders the mental faculties dull, and so interferes with the consumer's ability to conduct his business successfully. From the foregoing observations it is evident that no case has been made out for legislative interference with the growth of poppy and manufacture and sale of opium in British India, and that the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the opium traffic can control the consumption of opium as far as it is practicable. Any further restriction on the consumption of the drug is sure to be followed by the greater evil of intemperance, or resort to other drugs. The idea of total prohibition, therefore, is, under existing circumstances, mischievous and calculated to do more evil than good, both from a medical and financial point to view. Before such a prohibition is thought of the liquor shops that have spread all over the country, and the number of which is increasing every year, should be closed each and all, and the growth, manufacture, and sale of the hemp narcotics should be prohibited all over the kingdom.

26,065. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You said that since the closing of the smoking shops in Poona the number of opium smokers has lessened—have you any trustworthy information to enable you to make that statement?—Yes, I have made careful inquiries.

26,066. You can speak with some certainty about it?—Yes.

26,067. You also say, "The liquor shops are spread all over the country, and the number is increasing every year"—are you referring to native liquor shops, or what?—All shops; toddy shops, &c.

26,068. Are you quite sure that the number of shops is increasing every year?—The consumption is increasing.

26,069. Are you sure about the shops?—The consumption is increasing, and therefore I presume the shops are also increasing. I am sure they have increased in Poona city.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. R. M. DANE called in.

26,070. (*Chairman.*) I believe you wish to make an application to us?—Yes. The evidence of the witnesses from the Madras Presidency who were selected by the Commission for examination was taken yesterday, and I now request that, if there be no objection, the abstract of evidence of Surgeon-Captain Williams, one of the witnesses selected, who was prevented from attending by illness, may be printed in the Appendix, and that the abstracts of evidence of the following witnesses, who were tendered for examination by the Government of the Madras Presidency, and who furnished abstracts, but were not called by the Commission, may also be printed in the Appendices, and that a note may be made of the fact that they were not required to attend:—

Mr. P. Nageswaram, Pantulu, Deputy Tahsildar.
R. B. Narainswami, Naidu.

Mr. Geda Krishnama, Kannapuram.
Mr. Prendergast, Superintendent of Police, Kistna.
Mr. P. S. Ganapati Aiyer, B.A., Treasury Deputy Collector, Salem.
Surgeon-Major J. Lancaster, District Surgeon, North Arcot.
Surgeon-Major J. Maitland, M.B., General Hospital, Madras.
Surgeon-Major W. O'Hara, District Surgeon, Bellary.
Surgeon-Major W. H. Thornhill, M.D., Superintendent Lunatic Asylum, Madras.
Surgeon-Major J. L. Van Geyzel, M.B., Chemical Examiner, Madras.
Syed Mohildeen Sahib, 1st class Hospital Assistant, Triplicane Dispensary.

(*Chairman.*) The abstracts* of evidence will be printed in the Appendix as you request.

Adjourned to to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

Mr. R. M.
Dane.

14 Feb. 1894.

At the Town Hall, Bombay.

SEVENTY-SECOND DAY.

Thursday, 15th February 1894.

PRESENT:

THE RIGHT HON. LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B. (CHAIRMAN, PRESIDING).

Sir JAMES B. LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.
Sir WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.
Mr. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P.

Mr. A. U. FANSHAWE.
Mr. ARTHUR PEASE.
Mr. HARIDAS VECHARIDAS DESAI.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT, C.I.E., *Secretary.*

Dr. RUSTAM N. RANINA called in and examined.

26,071. (*Chairman.*) I daresay you have seen a statement which was made to us by Mr. Horne?—Yes, I have seen it in to-day's papers.

26,072. Will you briefly describe to us the part which you personally took in connexion with the preparation and signing of the Bombay Medical Anti-Opium Petition?—I was a member of the committee of the Anti-Opium Alliance, and a proposition was brought forward that a petition from the medical profession of Bombay should be presented to the House of Commons. I was asked by the secretary to supply him with some material for that purpose, and I sent him extracts from medical and other works. A rough draft of the petition was prepared, and it was then submitted to the committee of the Alliance. I had some objections to some statements contained in that rough draft, which I put before the committee, and a sub-committee was then appointed, of which, also, I was a member. The sub-committee revised the draft, and subsequently the revised draft was presented to the committee of the Anti-Opium Alliance. There were some statements also in that revised draft which I did not agree with; but the majority of the committee adopted it. I was not present at the last meeting of the committee of the Anti-Opium Alliance when the draft was officially adopted. Subsequently, when the draft was finally adopted, I was deputed with the secretary of the society to engage in the further preparations of the matter, and take the necessary signatures from the medical men. I personally saw two of the signatories put down their signatures in my presence; the rest were waited on by a peon, who carried a letter, over the signature of the secretary of the Anti-Opium Alliance. Some of the medical men signed and others declined to sign.

26,073. Who were the two who signed in your presence?—Dr. Atmaram Pandurang and Dr. Gerson da Cunha.

26,074. They signed in your presence?—Yes.

26,075. Did they read the petition before they signed it?—Both of them did.

26,076. Do you know anything about Dr. Khory's signature?—I sent a peon with the letter of Mr. Horne, and I believe Dr. Khory put down his signature.

26,077. Did Dr. Khory give you his photograph?—Yes, he did. It was subsequent to the sending of the petition. Mr. Horne wrote to me that it would be much better if we had some photographs to append to the copies of the petition which were to be given to the public, and I asked Dr. Khory whether he would like to give me his photograph. He said yes, and sent two copies of his photograph to me, which I sent to Mr. Horne. One photograph was accepted, and the other was returned to me, and I subsequently returned it to Dr. Khory.

26,078. You selected the photograph which you thought gave the best portrait of Dr. Khory?—No, I did not select; I sent them both to Mr. Horne.

26,079. And he chose?—I do not know. One was returned to me, which I subsequently returned to Dr. Khory.

26,080. Did you assume when these photographs were given that it implied approval of the movement?—We had been talking for nearly half an hour on the matter, and I think that Dr. Khory was in favour of the movement about that time.

26,081. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) I understand that you and Mr. Horne together drew up the original petition?—No, not I and Mr. Horne.

26,082. That is what Mr. Horne stated yesterday?—Then it is rather inaccurate. I believe all that I did was to supply Mr. Horne with some extracts from medical works, and he used them.

* See Appendix XIX. to this Volume.

Dr. R. N.
Ranina.

15 Feb. 1894.

Dr. R. N.
Ranina.

15 Feb. 1894.

26,083. You state that in the revised draft, as finally adopted, there were certain statements of which you did not approve; will you kindly tell me which those statements were?—There is one statement in the petition saying that it “leads the victim from grains to drachms.” I have not seen any case in which any individual had consumed drachms of opium by himself. When that petition was prepared I had not seen any case where any individual had consumed more than one drachm of opium in 24 hours. Subsequently I heard of cases, and I know there are some individuals, but at that time I was not aware of it, and I objected to that statement. There is another statement about “when the means of purchase are exhausted rather than endure the physical torture caused by its discontinuance a man will sell his wife and children to purchase the drug.” As I was also not aware of any such case I objected to that statement going in. Mr. Horne assured me that he knew of a case, but as the case was not properly investigated by myself, and as I had not heard of it before, I thought it ought to have been deleted.

26,084. Was there any other statement of which you could not approve?—No, I do not find any other in the present draft.

26,085. Then may I take it that the fact that you were unable to approve of those statements was the reason why you did not sign the petition?—No, I was prepared to sign it. It was only because the petition was sent away in a hurry. They had no intention to send it by a certain mail, but on a Saturday morning they thought it advisable to send it by the mail of that day, and on that afternoon they accordingly sent it. For that reason I could not put my signature to the petition.

26,086. Was that the only reason that led you not to sign it?—That is the reason.

26,087. Can you tell me whether, in sending round this petition by a peon, or messenger, you sent individual letters addressed to a number of doctors?—Yes; there was a printed copy of a letter, over Mr. Horne's signature, asking the medical men to sign it, and saying that it was a petition in the anti-opium cause.

26,088. We have the form of that letter; my point rather is this, were those petitions enclosed in letters addressed to individual medical officers?—No, the petition was sent round like that (*copy of petition handed in*). There was a separate letter enclosed with it.

26,089. Was the letter addressed to individual medical practitioners or not?—There was the address on the envelope.

26,090. To each person to whom it was intended to be presented?—Yes, to each person. There is one point I may mention; on the form of the letter there are the words “My dear Dr. —,” and it was intended that I should fill up the name of the gentleman in that part of the letter. In some cases I did fill it up, but afterwards I found it was inconvenient, and so many had to be addressed. I addressed the names in some cases, but in the rest I did not write anything.

26,091. I should like to have it quite clear; you are speaking of filling in the names on the letter form?—On the form I filled in the names in some cases, and on the envelopes in all cases.

26,092. How many of these forms did you issue?—About 100.

26,093. So far as you know, was there any case in which a statement, or a sheet, was sent round on which there was no printed petition and only signatures?—A blank sheet.

26,094. I mean a sheet on which there were certain signatures, without the actual petition on the top?—No, there was not one.

26,095. Can you tell me how long the peon was occupied in this work of taking the letters round?—About a fortnight.

26,096. (*Chairman.*) Did you look over the signatures which the peon obtained?—Yes, I did.

26,097. Were you satisfied that they had a genuine appearance?—Perfectly satisfied.

26,098. Did you personally know the handwriting of many of these medical men?—Not many; some of them I knew, but very few of them.

26,099. But so far as you knew the handwriting appeared to be genuine?—Perfectly genuine. I was perfectly satisfied it was genuine.

26,100. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) There is a large number of native practitioners in this city, between 300 and 400, probably?—Not so many; perhaps a couple of hundred.

26,101. In sending round these letters addressed to 100, how did you select the particular hundred?—I did not select; I wrote to those whom I could remember.

26,102. How many signatures were there?—Some 48 or 49.

26,103. Am I to understand that the others received their letters and did not sign?—Yes; there were some who received letters and did not sign. There were others who did not receive the letters at all, perhaps because they were not in Bombay at the time, and the letters were returned to me by the peon, who said the man was not there.

26,104. With regard to Dr. Khory, there is one matter which I think should be made quite clear; at the time he gave you the photograph, do I understand you to say that you had already seen his signature on the petition?—Yes; the photograph was given subsequently to the signature being put on the petition.

26,105. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Were the two photographs of a similar kind; was there any difference between the two?—Yes, they were different. My impression at this time is that one was a large one with a pugree on, and the other was without a pugree.

26,106. If they were similar, there was no reason to send you two?—Yes, there was a reason; as Mr. Horne wrote to me, when he returned one of the photographs, that it was a little too dark, and not convenient for the artist to take the photograph from. I believe that when I returned the photograph to Dr. Khory I told him what Mr. Horne had written. I believe that Dr. Khory at that time, being at leisure, also mentioned the artist who had taken the photographs, and the amount he had paid for them, &c.

26,107. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) I should like to be quite clear why you did not sign this petition yourself?—The fact was that the petition was presented to each of the medical men in this form, so that some signed on the second, some on the third, and some on the fifth line, leaving some gaps. I had reserved my signature to fill up a gap. One morning Mr. Horne wrote to me that he wanted to send the petition by that day's mail, and in the hurry of sending it off it was not sent over to me for my signature.

26,108. When Mr. Horne was here yesterday, he said that he had asked you to get a signature on the written form of the petition, and he quoted from a letter from you saying, “There is room for only one signature above that of Dr. Mody, so I have got the first man to resign.” I wish to suggest to you why, if time was of importance, and you, yourself, were ready to sign the petition, you did not take that opportunity to sign it?—I quite well remember the occasion; but that was the very first gap on the petition, and I was anxious that it should be filled up by a senior gentleman of weight and influence, and therefore I took it to Dr. Atmaram Pandurang, and got it resigned.

26,109. I suppose that even then there would have been time for you to have signed it yourself?—Yes, if the petition had been sent back to me by 12 o'clock, as I had requested Mr. Horne to do, because all that took place in the forenoon.

26,110. You are aware, of course, from the correspondence that has taken place in the public press that some doubts have been raised with regard to the signatures of several of these gentlemen?—I am.

26,111. Can you tell me whether any of these gentlemen whose names appear on this petition are coming to give evidence before this Commission?—I read in this morning's paper that some have already been before the Commission yesterday.

26,112. The gentlemen who have appeared before us have said either that they did not sign, or that at the time they did sign they were not aware of what they were signing; can you tell me whether any of the other gentlemen whose names appear on this petition are now coming before the Commission to say that they did sign, and that it represents their views?—I do not know who is coming, and who is not coming.

26,113. You are aware, of course, that considerable weight has been attached to this petition in England?—I cannot say that I am aware of it, but I think it must be attached?

26,114. Do you think so still?—I think so.

26,115. (*Sir William Roberts.*) Was this petition sent round to European medical men in Bombay?—Most of the European medical men are Government servants, and I avoided all Government servants, whether native or European, because I believed they were not at liberty to put their signature to any petition against Government measures.

26,116. Are you prepared yourself to endorse all the statements in this petition?—Not all. There were some to which I did not agree at the time, but agree with now, and there is one with which I do not agree even now.

26,117. Which is that?—About people selling their wives and children. I have not come across any instance of that sort.

26,118. I believe that the peon who was sent round with the letters is no longer in Bombay?—I understand from Mr. Horne's evidence that he is not in Bombay; but I know nothing about the man. He was engaged by Mr. Horne who sent him over to me, and after the work was finished I had no occasion to see him.

26,119. (*Chairman.*) I suppose you took the trouble you have taken in connexion with the preparation of this petition because you feel strongly with regard to the evils which result from the excessive use of opium?—Yes, and my individual opinion on that point is midway between the two parties.

26,120. What is your opinion on that point generally? That opium does do a great deal of harm, but that in those cases in which people can feed themselves on milk and nutritious foods, and afford to live in well-ventilated houses, the evil effects of opium do not pronounce themselves so soon, and in some cases, even, they do not show themselves at all, as in the case of that witness before the Commission who was 77 years old, and who was taking opium. In his case, I think he has been taking good nutritious food, and that has kept him up; but in the majority of cases those who take opium are poor people who do not get even one full meal in the course of 24 hours, and live in over-crowded localities, and on them opium has the worst possible effects.

26,121. And you think that equally whether they are young men in the prime of life or old men who are going down the hill?—I think so.

26,122. What you say in condemnation of opium for people living on insufficient food applies equally you think to all ages of life, to the old as much as to the young?—Yes, old as well as young. If they do not get sufficiently nutritious food they suffer.

26,123. What is your view with regard to stimulants generally; do you think there are dangers and evils arising from the use of alcohol?—There are.

26,124. If you think there are sufficient reasons for State restrictions upon the use of opium so that it will not be

obtainable except on a medical certificate, would you say that similar restrictions were desirable in the case of spirituous liquors?—Yes, they are desirable, inasmuch as both are injurious. The only difference I can see between alcohol and opium is, that while alcohol expends all its force on certain organs of the system, and therefore hurries on the destruction, opium destroys the whole system at the same time, and therefore the work of destruction is only delayed.

26,125. One works its evil more rapidly than the other?—Yes, alcohol works more rapidly than opium.

26,126. Do you know whether many medical men with whom communication was made on the subject declined to sign the petition?—Yes, there were many who declined.

26,127. So that so far as you had an opportunity of testing the opinion of the medical profession in connexion with this petition you would say that there was a wide division of opinion among them, would you not?—I cannot say that, because this is a petition which goes a great way, and perhaps there may be some who may not agree with some of the statements made in it, and perhaps on that account, though they may be against the use of opium, they did not subscribe to it.

26,128. You think among them there were many who thought that certain parts of the petition presented a rather exaggerated view?—Nobody told me that, because I personally saw only two, and those two read it over and signed it without demurring. I had no occasion to speak to others.

26,129. (*Sir James Lyall.*) Supposing a case or two could be found of opium sots selling a wife or a child to supply themselves with opium, do you think it would prove much against opium. Is it not the case that if you searched among the low and degraded races of India you would find many instances where men have sold their wives or some of their children for the love of gain only, or to meet other necessities due to poverty?—I have never heard of a case like that.

26,130. Have you ever heard of a system of buying women in the Punjab to sell in Sind and in the Punjab which has given rise to criminal prosecution of late years?—I have not heard of any case in which women or children were sold.

26,131. Have you ever heard of a set of people called Naiks who live in Kumaun and always sell their daughters to be mistresses, or women servants, or prostitutes?—I have not heard they are sold for that purpose. I have heard that women of certain families are allowed to follow these occupations, but I have never heard that they are sold for that purpose.

26,132. From my information they are actually sold?—Your information is much superior to mine.

The witness withdrew.

The Hon. T. D. MACKENZIE recalled and further examined.

26,133. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are Commissioner of customs, salt, opium, and abkari?—Yes.

26,134. Will you give us a brief description of the duties of your office in respect of opium?—The opium contracts of the year are finally sanctioned by the Commissioner of opium. The Collector of each district has the tenders submitted to him. He forwards them to the Commissioner of opium with his recommendation as to the various contractors concerned, and the Commissioner, from his knowledge, both of the contractors and of the general way in which the business has been worked, makes the selection of the contractor for the time being.

26,135. On Monday last you put in a note* on the system of excise management of opium in the Bombay Presidency which will appear in the Appendix?—Yes. I have worked that note out and I think it is as full as I possibly can make it.

26,136. It is a very recent document, which is dated the 4th December 1893?—Yes. I prepared it this last cold season.

* See Appendix XX. to this Volume.

*Dr. R. N.
Ranina.*
15 Feb. 1894.

*The Hon.
T. D.
Mackenzie.*

26,137. In that note you describe the arrangements by which the Malwa opium is imported into the British territory, and the arrangements adopted for enforcing the existing agreement in respect of opium with the Native States under the political control of the Bombay Government?—Yes.

26,138. What have you to say with regard to the export of Malwa opium through British territory?—I understand that to mean foreign export of Malwa opium from Bombay after it has been imported from Malwa as distinct from the imports of similar opium for consumption in the British districts of the Presidency and the Native States under the political control of the Bombay Government. It is exported from Malwa for consumption in British India, as well as for export to China and other foreign countries.

26,139. Have you any figures to which you wish to call our attention with regard to the foreign exports of Malwa opium?—Yes; the following table gives the exports for 10 years from 1883-84 to 1892-3:—

The Hon.
T. D.
Machenzie.

15 Feb. 1894.

Years.	Hong-kong.	Shanghai.	Zanzibar.	Port Natal.	Delagoa Bay.	Noor-bay.	Mauritius.	Coomer.	Muscat.	Singapore.	London.	Brindisi.	Trieste.	Total.
1883-84 - - -	Chests. 17,014½	Chests. 22,080½	Chests. 5	Chests. 3½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Chests. 39,703½
1884-85 - - -	20,721	19,325	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40,053
1885-86 - - -	22,364½	14,155	8½	1	—	½	—	½	—	—	—	—	—	36,530
1886-87 - - -	21,966	14,784½	16	½	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	36,769
1887-88 - - -	21,522	14,167½	29½	3	—	—	—	½	½	—	8	—	—	35,731
1888-89 - - -	16,452½	13,348½	9	9	—	—	—	½	—	—	1	—	—	29,820½
1889-90 - - -	13,339	15,369	15	—	—	—	—	½	—	—	2	—	—	28,725½
1890-91 - - -	12,457	15,962	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	28,433
1891-92 - - -	11,704	17,358	4½	8½	1½	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	29,079½
1892-93 - - -	9,640½	15,803	8½	1½	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	25,455½

I further tender a similar statement of the exports from Malwa for consumption in British districts and Native States under the political control of the Bombay Government for the same period :—

Year.	For British Districts.	For Native States.	Total.
1883-84 - - -	Chests. 1,012½	Chests. 345	Chests. 1,357½
1884-85 - - -	1,063½	470½	1,534
1885-86 - - -	1,278½	318	1,596½
1886-87 - - -	1,277½	459	1,736½
1887-88 - - -	1,204	522	1,726
1888-89 - - -	1,294½	400	1,694½
1889-90 - - -	1,427½	447	1,874½
1890-91 - - -	1,171½	568	1,739½
1891-92 - - -	1,250	601	1,851
1892-93 - - -	1,146	459½	1,605½

26,140. Speaking broadly, do these figures show an increase or decrease in proportion to the population?—I should say a decrease.

26,141. A decrease in the consumption of illicit opium?—Yes.

26,142. Would you say within the same period that the preventive measures have become more effective, and that the tendency was to diminish the consumption of illicit opium?—Distinctly so.

26,143. So that the general result will be distinctly on the side of a diminished consumption of opium in proportion to the population?—I think so, looking to the fact that the population has increased since the census of 1881-82.

26,144. Are you able to give us figures showing the number of shops licensed for the sale of opium in the crude form, and for consumption in the form of chandu or madak smoking?—Yes. I submit the following statement, showing the consumption of licit opium in each district of the Bombay Presidency, including Sind, for ten years from 1883-84 :—

Districts.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	Remarks.
Bombay -	Lbs. 11,557	Lbs. 12,615	Lbs. 15,532	Lbs. 17,088	Lbs. 16,903	Lbs. 21,792	Lbs. 20,785	Lbs. 19,766	Lbs. 19,854	Lbs. 18,223	
Ahmedabad -	23,760	25,857	27,783	26,687	25,541	28,676	29,254	19,100	18,374	15,104	
Kaira -	11,658	10,994	13,136	16,310	12,374	13,730	17,898	11,398	12,818	10,104	
Panch Mahals -	2,718	2,766	2,596	2,251	2,471	2,349	2,895	2,848	3,197	3,341	
Broach -	11,739	12,353	13,507	11,799	12,054	9,895	11,772	7,704	8,693	8,762	
Surat -	3,820	3,692	4,693	3,975	4,335	3,659	4,090	3,140	3,250	3,102	
Thana -	1,636	1,337	1,688	1,764	1,496	1,312	1,258	1,385	1,332	1,062	
Nasik -	4,498	5,895	5,557	5,684	5,640	5,516	5,134	5,466	5,331	5,324	
Khandesh -	9,588	10,282	11,246	11,301	11,872	11,460	14,301	14,716	15,159	13,067	
Ahmednagar -	6,722	7,707	8,887	10,565	10,414	10,175	10,365	10,040	10,045	9,392	
Poona -	8,550	8,960	9,382	11,104	9,509	8,676	8,898	8,903	9,003	8,996	
Sholapur -	5,220	6,942	8,140	8,777	6,366	6,555	7,895	6,870	6,961	6,467	
Satara -	2,177	2,906	4,028	4,248	4,558	4,519	4,434	4,388	4,397	3,234	
Belgaum -	720	718	1,271	843	768	675	620	754	724	570	
Dharwar -	498	555	660	604	686	765	696	705	696	598	
Bijapur -	335	312	378	588	444	399	418	349	367	489	
Kanara -	137	136	179	192	161	121	133	137	138	134	
Ratnagiri -	190	190	216	218	207	238	259	271	271	272	
Kolaba -	337	679	657	607	676	696	621	651	637	729	
Karachi -	3,426	3,578	4,728	4,806	3,358	4,505	5,020	4,569	4,904	4,427	
Hyderabad -	6,051	7,185	8,273	9,137	10,032	9,824	10,698	10,040	10,926	10,070	Including figures for Thar and Parkar.
Shikarpur -	2,103	2,312	2,633	2,019	2,459	2,658	3,213	2,915	3,413	3,543	Including figures for Upper Sind Frontier.
Total -	117,440	127,971	145,170	150,434	142,324	148,295	160,657	136,115	140,490	127,010	
Aden -	228	195	225	222	203	216	192	144	148	139	

Note.—The figures given in the statement include opium used for the manufacture of chandul and madat.

I also append a statement showing the number of shops licensed for the sale of opium (a) in the crude form, and (b) for consumption, in the form of chandul or madat smoking on the premises for a similar term. It will be seen that since 1888-89 the number of shops has been

steadily lessened under head (a), while those under head (b) have ceased to exist, except in the town and island of Bombay, and it may be mentioned that even there all such shops were closed on 1st August 1893:—

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Districts.	1883-84.		1884-85.		1885-86.		1886-87.		1887-88.		1888-89.		1889-90.		1890-91.		1891-92.		1892-93.		Remarks.
	Opium Shops.	Chandul and Madat Shops.	Opium Shops.	Chandul and Madat Shops.	Opium Shops.	Chandul and Madat Shops.	Opium Shops.	Chandul and Madat Shops.	Opium Shops.	Chandul and Madat Shops.	Opium Shops.	Chandul and Madat Shops.	Opium Shops.	Chandul and Madat Shops.	Opium Shops.	Chandul and Madat Shops.	Opium Shops.	Chandul and Madat Shops.	Opium Shops.	Chandul and Madat Shops.	
Bombay	10	20	11	20	11	20	11	20	11	20	11	20	11	19	11	19	11	19	11	17	
Ahmedabad	165	4	176	4	179	4	175	4	186	4	200	4	195	4	175	4	155	2	155	—	
Kaira	134	—	127	—	137	—	141	—	154	—	156	—	157	—	139	—	154	—	149	—	
Panch Mahals	45	—	37	—	37	—	34	—	32	—	33	—	35	—	34	—	34	—	34	—	
Broach	59	1	49	—	50	—	49	—	50	1	51	1	51	1	50	1	50	1	50	—	
Surat	21	5	21	5	21	4	19	4	20	4	20	4	21	4	21	4	22	4	23	—	
Thana	15	5	15	7	15	7	17	6	18	6	18	6	18	6	18	6	20	6	16	—	
Nasik	40	4	40	7	41	7	41	7	41	8	40	8	40	8	40	8	41	6	41	—	
Khandesh	65	25	67	29	63	31	68	34	67	38	71	37	69	33	111	33	104	23	100	—	
Ahmednagar	30	4	33	4	41	4	44	4	46	4	46	3	51	2	51	2	52	3	52	—	
Poona	44	8	44	8	46	8	47	19	50	15	49	14	50	14	50	13	50	12	50	—	
Sholapur	36	*	38	2	42	3	43	4	42	4	42	6	43	6	43	6	43	5	42	—	
Satara	28	2	30	2	30	2	36	3	36	4	36	4	39	—	39	—	40	—	39	—	
Belgaum	7	3	7	3	12	3	12	4	13	4	16	5	14	2	17	4	15	3	14	—	
Dharwar	18	*	20	*	23	*	22	2	23	2	25	2	24	2	24	2	19	2	22	—	
Bijapur	9	3	12	4	14	3	14	3	15	3	16	3	18	2	18	2	17	2	17	—	
Kanara	9	1	9	—	10	—	10	—	10	—	10	—	7	—	7	—	8	—	9	—	
Ratnagiri	7	—	9	—	8	—	8	—	8	—	8	—	8	—	7	—	8	—	8	—	
Kolaba	9	1	9	1	9	1	9	1	9	1	9	—	9	—	9	—	9	—	13	—	
Karachi	90	4	90	4	90	4	90	4	90	4	90	4	87	4	86	5	79	5	80	—	
Hyderabad	98	3	98	3	95	3	96	3	96	3	105	3	97	3	97	3	96	3	99	—	
Shikarpur	64	6	65	6	65	6	74	6	62	6	62	6	62	6	62	6	62	6	62	—	
Thar and Parkar	46	—	46	—	46	—	46	—	46	—	46	—	46	—	46	—	45	—	48	—	
Upper Sind Frontier	19	1	16	1	22	1	15	1	14	1	15	1	12	1	11	1	11	1	11	—	
Total	1,068	100	1,069	110	1,112	111	1,121	129	1,139	132	1,175	131	1,164	117	1,166	119	1,145	103	1,145	17	

26,145. Is the number of shops increasing or decreasing? —The number varies slightly; but generally the tendency is towards decreasing.

26,146. Can you supply us with figures showing the annual consumption per head of population of each district

of the Presidency?—Yes. The following statement shows the annual consumption per head of population in each district of the Presidency, including Sind, for the same period:—

Districts.	Rate of Consumption per Head of Population in Tolas.										
	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	
Bombay	Tolas. '6	Tolas. '7	Tolas. '8	Tolas. '9	Tolas. '9	Tolas. '1.1	Tolas. '1.1	Tolas. '1.0	Tolas. '1.0	Tolas. '9	
Ahmedabad	1.11	1.20	1.30	1.24	1.19	1.34	1.36	.83	.80	.66	
Kaira	.58	.54	.65	.81	.62	.68	.88	.52	.59	.46	
Panch Mahals	.43	.43	.41	.35	.39	.37	.45	.36	.41	.43	
Broach	1.43	1.51	1.75	1.44	1.47	1.21	1.44	.90	1.02	1.03	
Surat	.20	.19	.25	.20	.23	.19	.21	.19	.20	.19	
Thana	.08	.07	.08	.09	.07	.06	.06	.06	.06	.05	
Nasik	.2	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	
Khandesh	.3	.3	.4	.4	.4	.4	.5	.4	.4	.4	
Ahmednagar	.4	.4	.5	.6	.6	.5	.5	.5	.5	.4	
Poona	.4	.4	.4	.5	.4	.4	.4	.3	.3	.3	
Sholapur	.4	.5	.6	.6	.4	.5	.5	.4	.4	.3	
Satara	.08	.1	.2	.2	.2	.2	.2	.1	.1	.1	
Belgaum	.03	.03	.05	.04	.04	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	
Dharwar	.02	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.03	.02	
Bijapur	.02	.02	.02	.02	.03	.02	.03	.02	.02	.02	
Kanara	.01	.01	.02	.02	.02	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	
Ratnagiri	.008	.008	.009	.009	.008	.01	.01	.01	.01	.01	
Kolaba	.03	.06	.05	.05	.06	.06	.05	.05	.05	.05	
Karachi	.3	.3	.4	.4	.3	.4	.4	.3	.3	.3	
Hyderabad	.3	.3	.3	.4	.4	.4	.4	.3	.4	.3	
Shikarpur	.09	.1	.1	.09	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	
Aden	.3	.2	.3	.3	.2	.2	.2	.1	.1	.1	

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26,147. What deductions do you draw from the table?—The deductions to be drawn from these statements are that while consumption is, as it always has been, largest in Gujarat, there has even there been since 1888-89 a general decrease all round, and it cannot fairly be said that the consumption per head is excessive in any district.

26,148. Have you anything to say on the subject from your personal experience?—I have completed 28½ years' service as Assistant Collector, Under Secretary to Government, Collector, Secretary and Chief Secretary to Government in the Revenue, General and Financial Departments, and Commissioner of Customs, Salt, Opium and Abkari. I am personally acquainted with all Gujarat (except the Panch Mahals), the Konkan districts of Ratnagiri and Thana, the Deccan districts of Nasik, Poona and Khandesh, and the Belgaum district of the Southern Maratha Country. My experience is that in all the consumption of opium is general, but that it is largest in the districts of Gujarat. It is most common among Rajputs, Musalmans, Girasias, Kunbis, and Kolis. I cannot call to mind more than one or two instances where the consumption by individuals was excessive. I am of opinion that the moderate consumption of opium, in Gujarat especially, where the climate is very feverish and during the hot weather and the monsoon trying and depressing, is beneficial to the consumer, particularly as regards the physical condition. With reference to the moral condition I do not remember any instance in which crimes of violence, fraud, or the like have come before me as a magistrate which could be attributed directly to the use of opium. Alcohol is responsible for very much violent crime. Violent crime of course occurs in connexion with the smuggling of opium.

26,149. What is your view of the disposition of the people of the districts with which you are acquainted with regard to a prohibitory policy on the part of the Government in relation to opium?—I am confident that the people of Gujarat generally consider the use of opium for non-medical purposes in every way beneficial and useful, that they in fact look on opium as a necessary of their life, as a stimulant, a sedative, and as a preventive of diseases of the bowels, and I am sure that not only would they not consent to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures, but that any such measures would lead to such discontent as to be a very serious political danger. Even with our present restrictions, which allow opium to be obtained in moderate quantities at a moderate price, it is impossible to repress extensive smuggling. With total prohibition the hand of every man in Gujarat would be against Government, organized opposition to such prohibition would everywhere successfully be set on foot, and a general feeling of bitterness against Government would be aroused. In my opinion to prohibit the sale of opium in British India, except for medical purposes, would be to invite a general rising all over the country against what would be regarded, and in my mind justly regarded, as cruel and causeless oppression. The prohibition would be as useless in preventing consumption of opium as the closing of chandul and madat shops has been. It would be impossible to extend it to Native States, from which the opium must find its way into British territory. As showing how far help might be expected from the Native States in this Presidency, their non-acceptance of the rule recently introduced into British districts whereby two tolas of opium were made the legal quantity which might be possessed by an individual may be noted. If they were averse from helping us in a comparatively small matter like that, what expectation could there be of help from them in such a business as total prohibition? Money would not compensate them for the unpopularity they would incur with their own subjects.

26,150. A great deal has been said with reference to clauses and conditions, and the form in which licenses were granted, and under which the license-holder undertook or made himself responsible for selling not less than the specified quantity of opium?—That is what is commonly known as the guaranteed minimum vend.

26,151. Have you any observation to make upon that?—I am respectfully of opinion that a mistake was made in abolishing the system which prevailed up to last year, whereby the Commissioner of Opium fixed a minimum guaranteed revenue and selected the farmer. We thereby abolished one of the chief securities for obtaining the farmer's help in repressing illicit practices. I think a further mistake was made in abolishing houses licensed

for the consumption of preparations of opium on the premises, inasmuch as Government are no longer able to exercise control and supervision over such houses, which as a matter of fact not only continue to exist as so-called "clubs," but have considerably increased in number. The moral certainty is, not that the consumption of licit opium has been diminished by that step, but that a strong stimulus has been given to the illicit consumption of larger quantities of opium, and that Government have lost and must continue to lose revenue unnecessarily. I think a third mistake was made in reducing the quantity of opium which might legally be possessed from ten tolas to two. It is distinctly oppressive in its action, inasmuch as while a man may legally possess 10 tolas in Kathiawar, the Mahi, or Rewa Kanta States, the moment he crosses the border line into British territory he becomes a criminal, most frequently in ignorance of his offence till he is arrested and punished by our officers. It is further oppressive in that two tolas is a very small quantity for a man going on long journeys to have if he is a consumer of the drug. Believing as I do that a moderate use of opium by the native consumer in India is beneficial, I think Government ought to have control over what have been called "opium dens," and that in the interests of their revenues they ought to avail themselves of all means to check illicit practices. I would therefore have what I regard as three false steps retraced, and the system restored to what it was before the changes above mentioned were made.

26,152. Turning to another aspect of the question which is referred to this Commission, I should like to have your view as to practicability and the right to enforce any changes in the existing arrangement with the Native States for the transit of opium through British territory?—I have gone into the subject at some length in my Note. I may say, without going into detail, that, having regard to the policy which has hitherto been pursued with reference to the Native States and the engagements which have been entered into with them, it would be in the highest degree impolitic and even dangerous to attempt to terminate those engagements. I can conceive no ground on which such termination could be justified, equitably, morally, or legally. The Honourable Mr. Lee-Warner* will, from his intimate acquaintance with the treaties and engagements, be better able to say than I am whether such a measure could be defended, but I cannot conceive how such defence can be made.

26,153. Have you any observations to make with reference to the effect on the finances of India with reference to the prohibition of the sale and export of opium, taking into consideration (a) the amount of compensation payable, (b) the cost of the necessary preventive measures, and (c) the loss of revenue?—It is impossible to estimate even approximately the various items coming under heads (a), (b), and (c), but I have very little doubt that the effect on the finances of India, taking those three heads into consideration, would be bankruptcy. There is a fourth head which the resolution of the House of Commons does not specify, but which in my opinion would force itself to notice if the sale and export of opium were prohibited, and that is the general uprising against the Government which would take place in the course of a very few years. England would never dream of taxing herself to pay compensation to India. If India therefore had to pay the compensation she would have to do it out of her own resources. How those are strained by the depreciation in silver it is needless to say. But to pay this compensation to Native States, to find the cost of preventive measures, to recoup her loss of revenue, she would have to raise enormous taxation by other means. She cannot do it on the land, she cannot do it on salt, she cannot do it on liquor, she would not be allowed, even if she could thereby raise enough funds, to do it by reimposing the import duties. To endeavour to gain some faint idea of the compensation which would be claimable by Native States it is necessary to remember the heads under which they would claim, viz., (a) the revenue which they derive from the drawback allowed on imports of opium into their States; (b) the revenue they derive from their internal opium arrangements; (c) the loss of prestige and popularity; (d) the cost of the very large preventive establishments they would have to maintain if they kept honestly their engagements with the British Government to suppress the traffic in opium. As regards head (a) the following statement shows the quantities of opium issued for consumption in the several Native States under the political control of the Bombay Govern-

* For Mr. Lee-Warner's evidence, see Appendix XXIII. to this Volume.

ment for the 10 years ending 1892-93 and the share of duty retainable by each:—

Years.	Share of Opium Duty retained by the States.			
	Whole.	One-third.	One-fifth.	One-tenth.
	Palanpur, Mahi, Kanta and Rewa Kanta Agency States and Cambay.	Kutch and Kathiawar States.	Surat, Thana, Sholapur, Dharwar and Kolaba Agency States, Suvarnawadi, Kolhapur and S. M. Country States, except Jath and Daulapur.	Poona and Satara Agency State and Jath and Daulapur.
1883-84	Lbs. 22,523	Lbs. 40,854	Lbs. 1,467	Lbs. 429
1884-85	24,387	56,302	1,490	470
1885-86	25,137	51,778	1,598	415
1886-87	28,267	56,310	1,796	517
1887-88	30,065	60,501	1,838	876
1888-89	26,004	52,450	1,707	848
1889-90	30,610	60,402	1,998	878
1890-91	32,072	57,476	1,946	1,030
1891-92	30,366	54,857	2,572	1,176
1892-93	31,631	57,233	3,240	1,260
Total	281,152	548,163	19,952	7,899
Average	28,115	54,816	1,995	790
Duty	Rs. 144,591	Rs. 98,970	Rs. 2,052	Rs. 406

26,154. I notice that there has been an increase in the number of opium smuggling cases detected in 1892-93 as compared with the previous year; what have you to say about this?—I put that down in great measure to the 10-tola rule which prevails in this Presidency, and does not prevail in most of the Native States. I have recently been on a tour on the northern frontier. I have made inquiries from the inspectors there, and I have found that it is quite a common practice for a man coming from Kathiawar to get drawn into conversation, and made to state how much opium he has. Knowing that 10 tolas is the limit within his own territory, he has no hesitation in saying what he has got, for he knows if he has 10 tolas he cannot be touched at the frontier station and he goes on. But with him goes an officer of the Excise Department until he comes to the first British station, Viramgam, where there is a magistrate, and he is there run in, because at Viramgam the limit allowed is only two tolas. The man, therefore, becomes a criminal perfectly innocently. I mention this as an instance of what I consider to be the oppressive working of the two-tola rule.

26,155. What is the average annual revenue of the Bombay Presidency from opium under various heads?—An examination of the tables I have given shows that the average annual revenue is Rs. 2,23,00,000.

26,156. Supposing a prohibitory policy with regard to opium were to be adopted, do you think that there would follow an increased exportation of opium from Persia and other countries to China?—I think, certainly, that would be the case. I think, also, that unless it were put down in the Native States we should recur to the condition of affairs which prevailed for many years in this Presidency, namely, that Native States would grow opium largely, and would smuggle it across our frontiers, export it to Persia, and it would then be exported to China as Persian opium, whereas it would really be Indian-grown opium. We should lose the revenue we ought to get from it.

26,157. May we take it to be your clear and distinct opinion that a prohibitive policy would be perfectly nugatory unless it was extended to the Native States?—Entirely so.

26,158. Do you consider that a prohibitive policy with regard to opium would have the effect of increasing the resort to alcohol and ganja?—I think so.

26,159. May we take it, from what you have said, that you are impressed with the belief that a prohibitory policy would be the cause of discontent among the people?—I think it would be the cause of more than discontent. I think it would be dangerous to the last degree to adopt a prohibitory policy.

26,160. Have you anything to say to us with reference to any petitions which have been presented on this subject? We have heard something of the petition which has been signed by medical men in Bombay. Have there been petitions from other places on the subject?—There was a petition in 1892 purporting to come from certain inhabitants of Poona, who said they were opium consumers. It was sent to the Secretary of State, who sent it to this Government for inquiry and report. An inquiry was duly made, and a report was submitted to the Secretary of State. I have been desired by Government to present the proceedings in the particular case to the Commission for such consideration as they may think it deserves, and I now put it in. (*Handed in.*) The depositions are in the Marathi language. Three or four taken at hap-hazard have been translated as giving the general idea of the statements made by every one of the alleged signatories to the petition. I was at that time Commissioner of Opium, and I made a report to my Government upon the subject.

26,161. I see the general result is set out in the second paragraph of your report to Government,* which runs to this effect: That “the petition is not genuine, that all the alleged signatories deny that they signed any such petition or authorised their signatures being affixed; and that three of the signatories admit having signed the petition for the continuance of chandul shops. If the petition were genuine there is no reason why the signatories should deny their having signed it.”—That is so.

26,162. You wish to say, generally, that the petition is not a genuine document?—I believe it was not a genuine document.

26,163. (*Sir James Lyall.*) I wish to ask you a question or two about the minimum guaranteed vend system. In practice do you think the minimum was fixed well below the expected vend?—I, as Commissioner, fixed it myself.

26,164. On what statistics did you fix it?—I had the statistics for some 10 or 12 years before me, from the time when the system was introduced in 1879-80, of the actual sales. It was upon that and upon the general knowledge of the department as to what ought to be the consumption of the district in the ordinary way that I fixed the amount. Having the knowledge that the sums bid had been somewhat in excess of the right and legitimate demand, I, in accordance with instructions of Government, was very careful to fix the probable demand considerably below what the statistics showed me it ought to be.

26,165. If the system were properly worked it is unobjectionable, but there seems to be a certain danger of collectors using the system to run up the vend?—I do not think where it is a question of disposing of the contract, not by auction, but by selection, that the Collectors have any power in the matter. It is the Commissioner himself who settles this from the figures in his office and from his own experience. When the Commissioner had fixed what he considered the legitimate vend, tenders were called for. The notice stated that so much was considered to be the amount which the farmers should guarantee to sell during the year. I, as Commissioner, therefore called upon intending farmers by advertisement to come forward and state whether they were willing to tender for this farm. Their applications had to be made to the Collector by such and such a date, and the Collector would then submit his recommendations to the Commissioner. He submitted all the tenders to the Commissioner with his recommendations in each particular case. The Commissioner was in no way bound by the Collector's recommendation. He was allowed to use his discretion in selecting the actual farmer for the particular district.

26,166. Then it was not done by auction but by tenders?—Up to 1889 the system was by auction.

26,167. That is the farmer was selected by auction?—The farm went to the highest bidder; but in that year Government having carefully reviewed all the circumstances found there was a tendency for men, seeing that previous farmers had made large sums of money out of the contract, to bid higher than they ought to, and they directed that the commissioner should call for tenders and dispose of the farm in the manner which I have above briefly indicated, but which in my Note is given in detail.

26,168. What was the result supposing a farmer found he could not sell the minimum amount, did he take less than the minimum amount of opium from the Government depot, or did he pay the difference?—He paid the difference; but that was sometimes considerable under the auction system. As a rule by the selection system the selections were very carefully made, and there was seldom any deficiency to be paid.

* No. 1993, dated 24th April 1893, to the Government of Bombay.

*The
Hon. T. D.
Mackenzie.*

15 Feb. 1894.

26,169. You say you object to abolishing houses licensed for the consumption of madat and chaulul on the premises. One reason you gave is that you think the clubs which have taken their place use illicit opium and not opium derived from the shops?—That is so.

26,170. I do not see why they should do that. Would not the licensed vendors look after the men who use the clubs and inform against them?—It is a somewhat difficult matter. The proprietor of the club is not entitled to have more than two tolas of opium. The way in which it is worked is this. Each person attending the club is supposed to bring his two tolas which he has bought from the shop-keeper. If they want more than that, they must get it illicitly. We have also this fact that whereas the "opium dens" were about 20 in number, they have now increased, I believe, to 130 places in the shape of clubs in Bombay itself. In the last six months of the year the consumption of licit opium has fallen from 1,500 lbs. to 300 lbs. The inference is that there being more clubs than there were "dens," the consumption of licit opium ought to be greater now, but it is really very much less. More opium is undoubtedly consumed but it is illicit.

26,171. The owners or managers of these clubs could send as many men as they liked to the shops and get opium and so get it by degrees, could they not?—They could get it by degrees, but if they were in possession of more than two tolas they would be run in on account of being in possession of more than the limit.

26,172. Were not these public licensed saloons haunts of bad characters, and was not the habit of smoking generally reprobated by the respectable public; is it not well that Government should not recognise and license such places even if private places were substituted?—It is a question of choice of evils. It seems to me to be better that the Government should be able to lay its hands upon these places and have some supervision over places where disreputable characters assemble. I think the "dens" were places of such squalor and abomination that there was no temptation for young men to enter them. I think there is much more temptation now in the so-called private clubs. There is a certain secrecy and mystery about them. It is like the desire of the school-boy to smoke tobacco in spite of his master. Men will go and smoke in these "clubs," with the idea that they are doing something which the Government will not approve of; and possibly it may be illegal. It has a savour of crime about it though it is not actually criminal. Therefore I should say that these "clubs" have an attraction to a certain class of mind.

26,173. That may be true. I suppose it is not impossible to legislate against these clubs?—I think it would be an excellent thing to legislate against them.

26,174. That could be done without licensing the opium saloons again?—I should prefer to have legislation to put down these clubs, and have the so-called opium saloons or "dens" licensed.

26,175. If two tolas is too small, do you not think that 10 tolas is unnecessarily high?—I think 10 tolas is unnecessarily high. I should fix the limit at about five tolas. It would also depend upon the districts. It has been found in part of the territory of Sind, bordering upon the desert, impossible to enforce the two-tola rule. Men had to go long distances for their opium supplies, and the two-tola rule was a positive hardship. The rule has been rescinded, and the 10-tola rule is now in force there, and it might be with advantage restored in various parts of Gujarat. I think the rule should scarcely be made a hard-and-fast one.

26,176. I believe you are prepared to give some supplementary evidence which will appear in the Appendix?—Yes. I thought possibly the question of smuggling had not been sufficiently clearly brought out, and I therefore prepared a note on the subject.

26,177. I understand that by the present system of selection you get a more respectable set of opium farmers than you got formerly?—Certainly. The Commissioner uses his discretion under the auction system; he simply took the highest bidder.

26,178. With a more respectable set of men, do you not think that if the smuggling of opium from Malwa begins again you will hear of it?—We shall hear of it, of course. Harm will be done, and when the mischief is once done it is much more difficult to repair it than to check it in advance.

26,179. The men will be under the same temptation that they were in the old days to use smuggled opium?—Precisely.

26,180. Do you think their virtue will be equal to the strain?—I should doubt it.

26,181. (*Mr. Pease.*) You state that in Gujarat the quantity consumed cannot fairly be said to be excessive. I observe that in one district—the district of Broach—the consumption is more than double that of any other district, except where there is a large population, as in Bombay and Ahmedabad. Do you know any special reason why the consumption in Broach should be so large compared with other districts?—Yes, I think I may say I do. Broach is a black soil district, that is, it is liable with very little rain indeed to become water-logged. A quarter of an inch of rain will make any road in the district impassable. I have been Collector and Magistrate of that district for four years, and I may say that it is, perhaps, the most feverish district in the whole Presidency. It has also one of the highest death returns from bowel complaints. The natives of that district who, I may mention, are amongst the most stalwart men and finest cultivators in the Presidency, protect themselves, or believe that they protect themselves, from some of those diseases by taking opium in moderation. There is a much larger proportion of the actual cultivating race in that district who are opium consumers than in any other district with which I am acquainted.

26,182. It is a question of medical or semi-medical use, and not a question of indulgence?—I think so.

26,183. You say you do not remember any instance in which crimes could be directly attributed to the use of opium. We have often heard that there were petty thefts and cases of that kind which have arisen from poverty and persons having the opium craving?—I cannot remember a case of that sort.

26,184. I thought you probably used the word "directly" to convey that idea?—I mean as compared with alcoholism. Of course there are many cases of violence and crime of a serious nature due directly to alcohol, but there is no crime of that sort, so far as I know, due to opium.

26,185. With regard to the point referred to by Sir James Lyall, do you prefer the system of selection to the system of taking the highest bidder?—Yes.

26,186. I think the selection is now made by the Excise Department?—It is made by the Commissioner. The collector never did select the contractor.

26,187. (*Sir James Lyall.*) Did the Collector never select the contractor in Bombay?—No, I do not think so.

26,188. (*Mr. Pease.*) You say the system was abolished whereby the Commissioner of opium selected the farmer?—Yes. Previous to that the farmer was, so to speak, selected by auction. Then in 1889 the Government introduced the system by which the Commissioner of opium selected the farmer who agreed to accept the minimum guaranteed vend fixed by the commissioner. Now the Commissioner still selects the farmer, but the farmer only pays the duty on the opium he purchases.

26,189. The minimum guarantee was settled with the view that the sales of the period would be sure to be equal to that minimum guarantee, was it not; the amount guaranteed was an estimate that the sales were sure to be equal to that amount, were not they?—Approximately.

26,190. Were there not many cases in which the sale apparently did not come up to that amount?—I do not think so.

26,191. And the licensee had to pay a fine?—There were a few cases in which he had to pay the deficiency, but they were infrequent and small in amount.

26,192. In those cases where he saw the deficiency was likely or inevitable, had not he a strong inducement to push his sales of opium so as not to have to pay for opium for which he had received no payment from his customers?—That is possible. He had some inducement possibly. It was owing to the unsettled state of opium affairs, the transition state, that contracts were only given for one year from 1889. The previous system was to give contracts for three years. If a farmer had a contract for three years there would be no temptation to push the sale. The first year of the contract is always a bad one. The farmer has to make his arrangements. He has to see where shops have to be placed and has to make himself acquainted with the district and the actual wants of the people. The first year is therefore always worked more or less unprofitably. If he has a contract for three years, as he formerly had, though there might be a deficiency in the first year it would be made up in the second and third years. There would be no such inducements as you now mentioned. If the farmer finds himself falling short there

is to a certain extent a desire to push the sales towards the end of the contract, if he considers he is doing badly and thinks he is not likely to have his contract renewed. If, on the other hand, he knows he has been doing well and the deficiency is small, he knows the probability is that his contract will be renewed for another term, and the temptation is lessened.

26,193. You say the first year's returns are unsatisfactory. Do you mean on account of the expense of carrying on the business or on account of opium sold?—In both ways. If the farmer is new to the district he has to come in and learn the trade, so to speak. He does not know how to manage his sales or what the demand may be. He has to learn his business, and as it were to pay his footing in the trade.

26,194. Everybody desirous of buying opium can purchase it during the first year?—Yes.

26,195. And during the next two or three years the increase of the sales will be the result of the man pushing his business?—Pushing it legitimately. I do not know that there is any harm in his doing so.

26,196. You have given us an instance of a man being drawn into conversation and acknowledging that he had 10 tolas in his possession, and then when he came over the frontier being at once laid hold of by the police; is the person who draws him into conversation a representative of the British Government?—I think it is probable that the opium officials are all on the look out for those cases. They know what the rule is; they know that if they detect a smuggling case they get a reward.

26,197. Would it not be his duty if he found a man possessed of 10 tolas to warn him of what the law was?—That is expecting a high standard of duty from a low-paid subordinate.

26,198. Has the subordinate an interest?—He has an interest, because if he has displayed any detective ability or any special merit and obtains a conviction he gets a reward.

26,199. Therefore for a breach of the customs law of this kind a man is liable to be put in jail?—He is liable to be fined, and the opium is destroyed. If he could not pay the fine he would have to go to jail to expiate his offence. As a rule the men are fairly well-to-do, and are able to pay the fine.

26,200. Do you think there is any necessity to give persons in Native States notice as to the quantity of opium they will be permitted to bring into British territory?—If the Native States accept our two-tola limit they will give the notice themselves, and it will become illegal in their territory to have more than that quantity.

26,201. You are alluding here to cases of ignorance?—Yes.

26,202. Is it not important on the border land that every man should know what the law is?—It is distinctly important. The rule ought certainly to be abolished in our territory, or made the same for all. Until that is done full information ought to be given on the border land.

26,203. It is not given at the present time?—There may be notices posted up at the stations of cases of men being punished, but I do not know that there is any special notice given on the frontier.

26,204. You feel that it is the duty of the Government to make men ignorant of the law know that they are amenable to it?—Yes.

26,205. (Mr. Mowbray.) With regard to the closing of smoking shops, you say that all such shops were closed on the 1st August 1893. Were you the person responsible for seeing that order carried out, or who was the responsible person?—The person directly responsible would be the Collector of Bombay.

26,206. I suppose he acts under your supervision?—Yes; he acts under my general supervision.

26,207. In some of the abstracts of evidence to be given before us there are allegations made that the shops are continued open with the knowledge and connivance of the Government?—It is an absolute falsehood.

26,208. Has every means to the best of your ability been taken to make the closing of these shops as effective as the law at present allows you to take?—Most certainly. Every possible endeavour has been made.

26,209. You have told us that you think the closing of the houses was a mistake because it has led to more attractive places being opened not under Government supervision. Supposing for the sake of argument that the licensed shops were reopened to-morrow, what is there to

prevent these more attractive places still being continued to be opened without Government supervision as they are at they present moment?—There is nothing at the present time to prevent them being continued. I think if the licensed shops were reopened they would attract from the "clubs" a considerable number of their present customers. Many of their customers go there under a sort of fear that they may be doing something illegal. I think it is very probable that some of these private club people in the course of time will be emboldened by impunity, and be run in for doing something illegal, whereas if the licensed shops were reopened the old habitués could go to them and have their smoke without any fear of a police raid. They would go there at once, and thereby custom would be attracted from the clubs. The difficulty is that the mischief has been done by closing these shops. It is so much more easy to do mischief than to repair it.

26,210. With regard to the limitation to two tolas, you say you think that is a mistake?—I think that is a mistake; I think it is hardly sufficient.

26,211. We had evidence given before us—I think it was by Mr. James—with regard to Sind, that the reduction of the amount which may be possessed from 10 tolas to two tolas was a considerable assistance in dealing with these unlicensed smoking houses. Do you find it is so?—I ought to explain that I have not had any personal experience of these unlicensed smoking houses, and my opinion on the point, perhaps, is not so valuable as Mr. James's, if he had personal experience. Mr. Campbell's opinion upon that point would be more valuable than mine.

26,212. The difficulty I apprehend in dealing with these clubs is to prove a sale upon the premises where the smoking is going on?—That is one of the very greatest difficulties.

26,213. On the other hand, if persons are found on any premises licensed or unlicensed, in possession of more than the legal amount of the preparation of opium, that in itself is an offence?—Yes; but it is very difficult to prove. Supposing there are five people in one of these places. If one person possesses 10 tolas of opium he would be run in; but supposing each of these five say, "It is true, there are 10 tolas here, but my share of this 10 tolas is two tolas"—you cannot do anything. The total amount which one man may possess is exceeded, but each man claims his share.

26,214. I do not say it enables you to act with certainty, but I should have thought myself that it would facilitate the detection, at any rate, of one form of a breach of the law?—I do not quite see where the help would come in.

26,215. I should have thought it would have necessitated, at any rate, to take your example, that the five men should distribute the 10 tolas among themselves, and that in itself would be a certain amount of trouble, and unless that trouble is taken there is a breach of the law that could be proved?—There are five people there jointly in possession of 10 tolas.

26,216. But if one person has all that he is obviously breaking the law. The five would have to go through the form, before any officer came in, of distributing the 10 tolas among themselves in order to keep themselves technically within the law; that I understood to be Mr. James's view—that the reduction to the two-tola limit had been of assistance in dealing with these unlicensed places?—I think that is a point which would probably have to be settled by a legal decision of the courts.

26,217. You have told us that you would be very glad to see legislation to deal with these clubs. I should like to know whether you have ever been able, in your own mind, to form any practicable scheme?—I have not attempted to do so yet. The question was put to me as to whether they ought not to legislate, if it is possible, against them. I should say, "Yes;" but it is a matter which would require very careful consideration.

26,218. In England we have had very much the same difficulties with regard to public-houses and so-called unlicensed clubs which evade the licensing law, and a Committee of the House of Commons sat upon the subject last session?—I was not aware of the fact, but I know the question bristles with difficulties.

26,219. With regard to the Native States, does your estimate of the compensation refer only to the Native States which are under the Bombay Government?—Yes; and it excludes Baroda. Baroda is territorially in this Presidency, but it is technically under the Government of India.

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26,220. I should like to know a little more about what you say as to the non-acceptance by the Native States in this Presidency of the rule whereby two tolas of opium were made a legal maximum. What efforts have been made to induce the Native States within the Bombay Presidency to adopt that rule, and how far have they been successful?—That is a matter which has been worked in the Political Department of the Government. I am unable to say what specific efforts have been made; but I know such efforts have been made, because one or two of the Native States have accepted the rule, but others have declined. I know that they have declined, because I have information of these cases coming from their territory into our territory.

26,221. Do you consider that the difficulty which has been experienced with regard to the Native States in the Bombay Presidency of inducing them to adopt this rule with regard to the two-tola limit throws any light on the question referred to this Commission as to the possibility of extending any general system of prohibition of the growth or manufacture of opium to Native States as well as to British India generally?—I think it does. I think it shows they are entirely unwilling to do such a thing. If they would not help us in a little thing, would they help us in a big thing?

26,222. I see that there has been a considerable increase during the last 10 years in trans-shipment fees on Persian and other foreign opium; are these purely trans-shipment fees?—Yes.

26,223. There is no illicit importation of Persian opium into India?—I do not think so; I am not aware of it.

26,224. It is not permitted to be imported, is it?—No.

26,225. Is it altogether prohibited, or is it admitted under duty?—Rule 11, section 5 of the Opium Act of 1878 under "Import" says, "No opium shall be imported into the Presidency of Bombay by sea except in whole or half chests for re-exportation as provided by Rule 29. Provided, however, that at the port of Bombay only, opium may be imported otherwise than in whole or half chests for exportation, subject in all cases to payments of the full duty imposed by the sea-customs tariff for the time being in force, and to any special orders passed by the commissioner, as to subsequent possession and disposal of the opium imported."

26,226. I suppose the Persian and other foreign opium which is transhipped at Bombay is mainly intended to be transhipped for the eastern market?—Yes.

26,227. And that shows, therefore, a considerable increase of Persian opium being sent to the east?—Yes.

26,228. Bearing upon that you have said that the total number of Malwa chests shipped for Singapore from Bombay was only two?—Yes.

26,229. The Malwa opium shipped from Bombay goes almost entirely to China and not to the Straits Settlement, does it not?—It goes almost entirely to China.

26,230. Do I understand you to say in your note that in future there will be no license fees?—I ought to explain that in Bijapur, Dharwar, Belgaum, Kanara, and Ratnagiri the consumption is very small, and there is little or no temptation to smuggle. The old system of license fees in addition to paying opium duty has been continued in those five districts. That is where the revenue comes from under that head, and will continue to come under the head of "license fees for the privilege of retailing opium" and preparations of opium."

26,231. I see last year the license fees had fallen to Rs. 16,000 as against a lakh of rupees in 1883-84?—Yes.

26,232. That is in consequence of the change of system?—In 1883-84 this guaranteed system was not in force in certain districts and the revenue was obtained by means of this license fee system. This minimum guaranteed system was gradually extended further and further; and as that was done the license fee system was enforced in fewer districts; consequently the revenue under that head gradually fell.

26,233. But a small amount of revenue will continue to be raised?—Yes.

26,234. With regard to the bulk of the Bombay Presidency, I understand that there will be no license fees in future, but the farmers are required to maintain additional establishments for the supervision of their retailers and the prevention of smuggling and other illicit practices. Have you had enough experience of that system to say whether it is a satisfactory system?—We have not. We have only had one year of it, and it is impossible to say with certainty. If you look at the return of smuggling cases you will find that there has been an increase in the number of cases detected from 359 in 1891-92 to 530 in 1892-93. I think

that is a possible indication to show that the farmers are not paying that attention to the repression of smuggling which they would have done had they been required to guarantee a certain minimum vend. I do not put it forward as a certainty because I have not sufficient data to go upon, there is only one year.

26,235. Who is responsible for seeing that these opium farmers keep up an efficient staff in lieu of the license fees?—The Collector of each district primarily. It is of course under the Commissioner of opium too. He has a general supervision over them.

26,236. In your judgment then is it better to allow farmers themselves under supervision to keep up this detective force rather than to take the money from them and to keep up the force yourselves?—I think in some ways it is a good thing. They have means of getting information which our people have not, and they are more personally and directly interested in the matter.

26,237. I see in the list of revenue that there has always been in the last 10 years a contribution paid by the licensees for the cost of the Government establishments?—Yes, they pay a certain amount towards them.

26,238. That has gone on increasing whilst the fees have gone on diminishing. I suppose the growth of the one and the diminution of the other are connected?—They are. As the minimum guaranteed vend system was introduced, each farmer increased his contribution towards the establishment charges.

26,239. He pays less in fees and more towards the establishment?—Yes.

26,240. You were asked a question with reference to the vendors having to make up the minimum guaranteed revenue in the last 10 years, that has amounted to an average of Rs. 90,000 a year, has it not?—Yes.

26,241. And that item of revenue, I suppose, will now disappear altogether?—That will disappear altogether.

26,242. Out of this average annual revenue of Rs. 2,23,00,000 how much is local revenue and how much is Imperial revenue?—Out of that Rs. 2,11,70,815 is Imperial. Of the remaining Rs. 11,25,619, one-fourth is provincial, three-fourths are Imperial.

26,243. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Do you believe that the effects of the use of alcohol are more injurious than those of opium?—I believe so.

26,244. In that case do you consider that restrictive measures are more necessary for the consumption of alcohol than for the consumption of opium?—Very strong efforts are now made to repress the excessive consumption of alcohol. But I would not repress the consumption of alcohol altogether. What I should aim it would be to repress the excessive consumption of alcohol.

26,245. The minimum amount allowed in the case of opium is two tolas. What is the minimum quantity of alcohol which one person is allowed to sell or possess?—I really forget the exact amount, I think it is about a gallon, but it varies in different districts.

26,246. If my information is correct I believe that there is no limit whatever to the amount of European liquor which can be sold—any quantity may be kept or sold?—Yes, wholesale, of course.

26,247. But only about a gallon of native liquor may be had at a time?—That is so.

26,248. If alcohol is more injurious than opium, do you not think that restrictive measures are more necessary in connexion with alcohol than in connexion with opium?—I am not prepared to say that more severely restrictive measures with regard to opium are required; and I think the existing restrictive measures with regard to alcohol are sufficient at present.

26,249. In neither case do you think any restrictive measures are required?—I do not think restrictive, i.e., prohibitive, measures are required with regard to opium. I should be very loath to say that stricter measures would be required with regard to alcohol except in the case of particular districts, but the question could only be decided after an examination of the circumstances in any particular case.

26,250. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Mr. James Munro, who was Inspector-General of Police in Bengal, and afterwards Chief Commissioner of Police in London, gave evidence in Calcutta with regard to preventing the smoking of opium on unlicensed premises. I put this question to him: "With regard to the closing of licensed smoking shops, your view is clear, is it not, that the wiser policy would be to keep them open because the people in them would be subject to police control," and he replied, "certainly." Do

I understand that that is the view you take also?—Certainly.

26,251. With regard to the semi-medical use of opium to which you refer in the Broach district, do you think it will be practicable to make any arrangement by which opium could be provided for that class of use, while at the same time it would not be available for use as a luxury or stimulant?—It would be perfectly impracticable. Who would be the authority to grant the permission? If it were granted by a medical man where is the medical man to be found? The district is a large one. Access throughout is

extremely difficult. The time when the drug is most required is during the monsoon, when the country tracts are practically impassable.

26,252. One of our difficulties in the administration of this country always is to find trustworthy agency, and if the power of giving medical certificates were placed in the hands of native vaid or hakims you would not consider that any certainty had been secured that opium would not be obtainable by any person for any purpose for which he required it?—I think it is certain that any person could obtain any amount of opium he wanted by paying for it.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. W. PORTEOUS called in and examined.

26,253. (Chairman.) You are Collector of Poona?—Yes.

26,254. Will you give us the summary of your services in India?—My service extends over 26 years. During that time I have served as Assistant Collector or Collector in all the districts of the northern division of the Presidency, viz., Ahmedabad, Kaira, Panch Mahals, Broach, Surat, and Thana, in the districts of Nasik, Ahmednagar, and Poona of the central division, and in the districts of Ratnagiri and Bijapur of the southern division. As Collector of salt revenue and Customs I have at different times travelled over the whole of the northern frontier line, and visited every port of any importance from Broach to the extreme southern limit of the district of Kanara. From 1874 to 1878 I served under the Government of India in the province of Mysore. I served as Assistant Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner (Assistant Collector or Collector) in three of the eight districts which make up the province, and in other capacities I visited on duty the headquarters of four of the remaining five districts. Throughout my service I have spent on an average four to five months of each year in the interior of the districts to which I belonged, living in tents among the people. I may also add that I have acted as commissioner of the northern division.

26,255. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are acquainted?—The consumption of opium by the different races of people among whom I have thus served has never forced itself upon my notice. I knew, as it was my duty to know, that opium was consumed, but I looked upon and look upon the use of it as I look upon the use of alcoholic liquors by the European community. I have always looked upon opium when taken in moderation as a temporary and harmless exhilarant, just as I look upon wine and malt liquors and spirits when taken in moderation as temporary and harmless exhilarants. I have never known tracts of country or classes of people where or among whom it was notorious that opium was consumed to excess, and this I say because I have known tracts of country and classes of people where and among whom it was notorious that country liquor, distilled or fermented, was consumed to excess. I have often heard it said of a man that he was an opium eater, the phrase being meant as a stigma upon the man, but I have always looked upon the phrase as more or less equivalent to the phrase "he drinks" when used of a European. This phrase invariably conveys the meaning that the person of whom it is said drinks more or less to excess, and by an "opium eater," the phrase being used disparagingly, I understand a man who consumes opium more or less to excess. I know that opium in some districts is very frequently given to young children; in my present district of Poona I know it is thus given.

26,256. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people. As regards the effects of the consumption of opium on the moral condition of the people, I consider that, speaking generally, it has none. If the question be meant to involve the more particular question whether the consumption of opium deadens the moral sense and leads the consumer to commit petty offences, which otherwise he would not commit, then I answer in the negative. I have never in my service had to deal directly or indirectly with any criminal offence which but for the fact that the offender was a consumer of opium would not have been committed. I have tried many hundred criminal cases, and had to deal, on appeal or revision, with many hundred more, and I have never known, say, a theft or an assault committed because the offender was under the influence of opium at the time, or because he wanted to get opium illegally which he could not get legally. I have, of course,

had to deal with many cases of breaches of the Opium Act. As regards the effect of the consumption of opium on the physical condition of the people, my experience is that taken in moderation it has no deleterious effects. Taken to excess it renders a man idle, listless, and unfit for work, but it does not render him troublesome to the police or a nuisance to his neighbours or the public. I have known, however, a few instances of excessive consumption. I have never had to discharge a clerk or a servant because he was "an opium eater," that is to say, a consumer of opium to excess, and I cannot recollect that I have ever had to discharge a peon for this reason.

26,257. Would the people of India, so far as you know, be in favour of regulations limiting the use of the sale of opium to medical purposes, and would they be willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—My opinion as to the disposition of those of the people of India whom I know in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes is this: The bulk of them do not use opium, and their attitude is one of indifference to those who do. Those who use it to excess are looked down upon. The people would not bear willingly either in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures. If the cost of such measures was by any possibility to be adjusted without the imposition of taxation, the bulk of the people of the Poona district, if left to themselves, would probably not care very much whether prohibitive measures were introduced or not, but there would be a large and discontented minority.

26,258. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—In my opinion the sale of opium in British India, except for medical purposes, should certainly not be prohibited. So to prohibit it would be an error fraught with the gravest political consequences. As I have said, the people of the district of Poona—and I take Poona as a type of a district where the consumption is small—would probably, if left to themselves, accept the position and say nothing. I do not believe that as yet 5 per cent. of the 1,040,999 Hindu and Mahomedan inhabitants of the district, the city of Poona included, have even heard of the Royal Commission which is now sitting, far less of the circumstances which led to its being appointed. But the people would not be left to themselves. If prohibition were to be enforced the motives of Government would be misrepresented to them, and put before them in every light but the true one. The connection between the missionary bodies, or some of them, and the anti-opium movement would be made much of, and that their religion was threatened would be instilled into the minds of Hindus and Mahomedans alike. The results would be such as no thinking man who knew the country could venture safely to forecast.

26,259. Do you think the motives of Government would be misrepresented?—Most certainly.

26,260. Do you think prohibition could be extended to the Native States?—I think not to the Native States with which I am familiar.

26,261. Supposing total prohibition to be impracticable, can you suggest any change in the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the opium traffic, and for raising a revenue therefrom?—I consider total prohibition to be impracticable, and I have no change to suggest in the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the opium traffic and for raising revenue therefrom. The present system works well, although I am not yet convinced that the abolition of the minimum guaranteed vend system will turn out in all districts to have been prudent. Circumstances might arise to render it necessary for fiscal purposes to raise the price of opium, but I should be opposed to any raising of the price with the sole object of making the luxury more difficult of

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attainment, of making opium dearer to consumers, so that for what is called their own good they were able to buy less of it or none at all.

26,262. (Mr. Fanshawe.) A witness from the Poona district stated yesterday that the number of liquor shops is increasing every year in your district; I should like to have your opinion on that?—I do not think that is the case.

26,263. What he said was this: that he felt sure the number of shops was increasing in the city, and he thought they were increasing in the district—consumption was certainly increasing in the district?—The consumption is not increasing in the district of Poona. The contractor pays for his contract the same now that he paid four years ago. Up to the present he has not consumed the proportionate amount of liquor that would pay him for his contract. As regards shops, I do not recollect that I have opened three shops in the last three years. I do not know on what basis that gentleman founded his statement at all.

26,264. Speaking generally, as regards this statement, you would say that it could not be founded on authority?—Certainly it could not.

26,265. (Mr. Haridas Vekaridas.) Would you like to see stronger measures taken to restrict the excessive consumption of alcohol?—It is restricted at present.

26,266. I believe country liquor is consumed to excess?—You cannot help people consuming it to excess if they get the chance.

26,267. But do you not think stricter measures necessary?—I do not quite know what you would like—the number of shops diminished or the hours which the shops are open restricted. I am not prepared to say that anything more restrictive should be put upon the alcohol trade.

26,268. They should be allowed to use alcohol in excess with impunity?—We do not allow anyone to use alcohol or anything else in excess.

26,269. Is it not necessary, seeing how injurious alcohol is, for Government to see what stricter measures could be taken to check the use of alcohol?—I did not come prepared to answer questions on the alcohol trade; but I am prepared to say that at present the restrictive measures are as good as we can make them.

26,270. (Mr. Mowbray.) I think most of your evidence relates to the eating of opium?—Entirely so, almost.

26,271. Have you any views to express with regard to opium smoking?—Opium smoking is not considered respectable. I have served in Gujarat, where it is occasionally smoked; but it holds a very different position in the eyes of the general public from opium eating.

26,272. Do you consider that that arises from the fact that it is considered a disreputable thing in itself, or because it is a practice that is indulged in by disreputable people?—The people who smoke are generally the idlers who get money to spend occasionally, and spend it all at once.

26,273. I believe there are smoking dens at Poona? Are you responsible now for carrying out the order of the Government of India for the closing of shops in which opium is consumed on the premises where it is sold?—Yes; as head of the executive police, I am responsible.

26,274. Have you done everything in your power since that order was made to see that it has been effectively carried out?—Everything has been done to carry it out loyally.

26,275. Have you found any difficulty owing to these licensed shops being turned into unlicensed clubs?—I personally have not found any difficulty; but I have no doubt that a number of clubs have been formed since the shops have been shut up.

26,276. Have you ever tried to bring any of these clubs to a test case, as to whether they were illegal or not?—I have not.

26,277. Mr. Mackenzie just now put in some petition from Poona; had you anything to do with that?—It came to me from Government. I saw the petition about 12 or 18 months ago.

26,278. Were you responsible for making investigations with regard to the genuineness of the signatures?—I sent it to the city magistrate, and he investigated it.

26,279. (Mr. Pease.) You recognise, I suppose, that the purpose of licensing is not to raise revenue from the taxation of a luxury but for the purpose of repressing an indulgence which is injurious?—I am prepared to admit that.

26,280. And, therefore, if the present system of licensing alcoholic liquors is not effective in preventing a consumption which is injurious it so far falls short of the intention of the system?—I should like to know how it is assumed that consumption is injurious if consumption is increasing. It does not follow that the same number of people drink more liquor; it may mean that a larger number of people drink a moderate amount of liquor.

26,281. I only assume it from your own words; you say, "I have known tracts of country and classes of people where and among whom it was notorious that country liquor, distilled or fermented, was consumed to excess"?—Yes, I can mention those districts.

26,282. Therefore it is possible that the restrictive laws with regard to alcohol are insufficient, and might be improved?—I am referring in what I said, principally, to the district of Surat, in which I served many years ago. At that time there were several tracts of country in that district where the original settlers used to drink to excess every night. Our rules, then, for obtaining liquor were such that it was very easy to get it, and everybody used to be drunk every night. Now things are changed in a very marked degree. I also know, from my own personal experience, having been in Surat since the days of which I speak here.

26,283. Do you think that result has arisen from restrictive legislation?—Most certainly.

The witness withdrew.

The Rev. D. O. Fox, M.A., called in and examined.

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26,284. (Chairman.) How long have you been in India?—Twenty-one years.

26,285. In what capacity?—Pastor of the Native Mission of the Methodist Church in Poona.

26,286. You have come before the Commission, I understand, with the view of making a statement of your experience with reference to the consumption of opium?—Yes; I have been in India over 21 years. I have been pastor of the Native Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Poona for several years. My attention has been called to the use of opium among the people for some time past. For a year and a half I have looked up the matter carefully in Poona. A part of my work is in a locality called Bhanghatte, among a community of sweepers. There are many cases among the men and some among the women and many among the children who use it. I have also visited the opium shops and smoking dens in the city of Poona many times. I find the men with very few exceptions began the use of opium for the purposes of lust. I talked with a large number at different times and in different places and they give this as the reason for beginning its use. The common cause among women is that of disease, especially diarrhoea and

dysentery. The effect of its use physically, mentally, and morally are evil. This is admitted by those who use it almost without exception. The degree of the evil physical effects varies according to the constitution of the opium user, the amount of food he can obtain and its nutritiousness. The evil effects are much more apparent in those who have used for a long time and have used it in large quantities. It is difficult to measure the mental and moral effects. But from careful observation I am satisfied that the use of opium is damaging. This is especially true morally. They seem unable or unwilling to grasp the truths of morality so as to be influenced by them. They are habitual liars and, so far as I know, the men are without exception immoral. In conversation with the men they admit this. And this is the charge made by their neighbours. The users of opium are ashamed of the habit. They freely admit that it is degrading, that they are slaves. There is a universal feeling among those who do not use it that its use is a disgrace and is debasing. Once it is formed the user must have his usual quantity of opium. Without it he is in a most miserable condition, entirely unfit for any kind of work. His legs cramp, water runs from his eyes and nose, and he has great difficulty in breathing. I have never found one man or woman who had

broken off the habit though with few exceptions they all express the desire to be saved from it. The smoking dens in Poona city which were closed by Act of Government on the 31st of July 1893 are still in operation. They claim now to be conducted on the principle of clubs. In January 1894 in one room, 8 feet wide by 10 long, I found 16 men smoking opium. I visited the dens before the Act went into operation, and I have visited them since. The same places are used for the same purpose. In one room at 8 o'clock at night I found a native policeman. He said he had stepped in to have a chat. That the known relation of Government to the opium traffic is an encouragement to the people to use it there can be no doubt. The feeling among the people is that Government not only approves its use but desire them to use it. But the more intelligent know the Government is only seeking a revenue, and they speak in strong terms of contempt of its relation to the business. From careful inquiry I do not think there is the least reason to apprehend a rebellion by the opium users. The disaffected and evil-minded class of the people could be incited to rebel on this question as they can be on any other similar question. But that the opium eaters and smokers will rebel there is not the least fear.

26,287. (*Sir James Lyall.*) Is it not curious that the opium smokers and eaters you speak to tell you frankly that they began the habit for lust, and that they are immoral men. People do not generally run themselves down in that way?—I do not say they do that.

26,288. You say that "in conversation with the men" they admit they are immoral; and you say in another place, "I spoke to the men, and they gave as a reason for beginning its use that they took it for lust"; I say is it not curious that people you speak to all seem to tell you with such extraordinary frankness that they are immoral people?—They admitted it on being questioned.

26,289. But is it not very curious? It is not easy to get anything out of a native?—I would not think it curious, if it was a matter of fact in their experience, if they told the truth.

26,290. You think in this country—or in any country—people always tell the truth when it is very much to their discredit?—Regarding this question, I think they told the truth. I may say I have not only their own testimony, but that of those I am acquainted with who live in the locality. The neighbours confirm their statements that they use it for that purpose.

26,291. I say it is curious that they should make such a statement about themselves; you say, "I found the men, with very few exceptions, began the use of opium for purposes of lust. I talked with a large number at different times and different places, and they give this as the reason for beginning its use"; that is a direct statement that they told you so. Then you say, "so far as I know the men are without exception immoral. In conversation with the men they admit this." You have distinctly stated twice that the people you spoke to all made these admissions. I say it is a very curious fact?—Yes; my explanation is that I asked them about it. I do not claim that they came to me and told me without being questioned on the subject. I questioned them and they admitted that was the reason that led them to begin the use of it.

26,292. You say that you are confident these men told you the truth, and yet you say they are habitual liars?—I judge they have told me the truth, because their statements were confirmed by their neighbours, who knew them.

26,293. In this particular thing you think they told you the truth; in other things they are habitual liars?—I believe they told me the truth in this. I have evidence to prove what they said was correct by their general life.

26,294. Take a class of men who are habitual liars; what interest have they in telling the truth in a matter which is to their discredit?—They are more likely to be telling the truth if it is to their discredit.

26,295. Why?—If they tell me that which is to their discredit frankly, and that statement is confirmed by the neighbours, it goes to show that what they say is correct.

26,296. That is not an answer to my question. My question is, if you have a class of men who are habitual liars, why should these habitual liars tell the truth in a matter which is greatly to their discredit?—I do not think it is necessary for me to explain that. My answer is, that I believe they told me the truth regarding the question of their beginning the use of it, because they admitted it themselves, and the neighbours confirmed their statement.

26,297. You cannot explain why they should tell the truth on this occasion when they are habitual liars on other occasions?—Is it necessary for me to go into a dissertation on human nature just now?

26,298. We will take it that you cannot explain it.

26,299. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You say that the men with very few exceptions began the use of opium for the purposes of lust; I presume you would regard the using of a remedy for the sake of lust an immoral thing?—Yes.

26,300. Do not you think that even amongst the people of India that would be also regarded as an immoral act?—Yes, largely.

26,301. I would infer, therefore, that those who take opium for the sake of lust they must have been immoral before they commenced the habit of using opium?—The purposes of lust have a special significance here in the use of opium. It enables them better to enjoy the lust as a doctor would tell you.

26,302. According to your statement they must have been degraded and immoral characters before they would resort to the habit of using opium for such a purpose?—They began the use of opium for the purpose of enhancing their ability to enjoy their lust.

26,303. They were immoral characters. It was not opium that made them immoral; they were debased before. Had you any experience among respectable classes?—Not much. I know of some Brahmins who use opium.

26,304. Did you find that they were debased or demoralised or injured physically?—I know of one or two exceptions; but most of them admitted that they used it for the purpose of lust, of increasing their power to enjoy lust.

26,305. I may take it that your experience of what we call moderate opium consumers amongst the decent respectable classes is very limited amongst the non-criminal classes?—The class I speak of are non-criminal. They belong to a decent caste of their own.

26,306. I mean people who are called respectable citizens by their fellow citizens; have you had much experience amongst opium eaters of that class?—I do not mean to convey the impression that because they are sweepers they are disreputable persons. They are of low caste, but they are respectable people. They are not what we would term a degraded caste.

26,307. Have you studied the use of opium in moderate quantities?—Yes. For a year and a half I have given careful attention to it.

26,308. That is not a very long time; you have been in India 21 years?—My former experience in India was amongst Europeans entirely, and of late years I have been among the natives.

26,309. So that your experience has been very short with regard to the opium habit?—A year and a half.

26,310. Your attitude with regard to alcohol, like that of other members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, is antagonistic, is it not?—Yes.

26,311. So that you would wish to have both opium and alcohol prohibited by law?—Yes.

26,312. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) How long have you actually been in Poona?—Except for three years I have been in and out for 21 years. I was there four consecutive years. Then I went away for three years, and returned again, and was there as general supervisor for five years. I then went home for two years; but since 1887 I have been stationed there; so that except about three years in Karachi and two years at home I have been there all the time.

26,313. What has been the change in your position there that led you for the bulk of the time to mix with Europeans and only for the last year and a half to mix with natives?—Our church began here in Western India among Europeans. I came out in 1872 and was made pastor of the English church at Poona, and my time was taken up with that. Subsequently I went to Karachi, and three years afterwards I was made presiding elder of the English work of our church in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. In 1887 I was made pastor of the English church in Poona. Our native work was just beginning in 1887. In 1890 I was made pastor of the native work entirely.

26,314. The thing is divided; do you mean that somebody else takes the English side and you take the native side?—We have now an English pastor in Poona who has charge of the English church, and I have charge of the native church.

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26,315. That is since 1890?—Yes.

26,316. In your evidence you almost invariably speak of the use of opium; do you wish to draw any distinction between smoking and eating?—No; I use the word as including both smoking and eating.

26,317. And the remarks which you make on the one are applicable to the other?—I think that, so far as my observations go, smoking is more deleterious than eating.

26,318. But when you use the word “use” here, you have deliberately intended to include eating as well as smoking?—Yes.

26,319. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) These Bhangis are the lowest class, are they not?—Yes.

26,320. A low caste people would not possess such morals as you expect to find in the higher castes; you say the Bhangis are habitual liars; opium would not make them worse, would it?—I compare opium users with those who do not use opium, and the latter are more reliable.

26,321. You find the non-opium users are not such liars as the opium users?—Yes, and they are more accessible religiously too.

26,322. Do they use alcohol freely?—These sweepers use alcohol.

26,323. Are they violent when they drink alcohol?—Yes.

26,324. They are not violent when they eat opium?—No, they are not.

26,325. Then so far opium is better than alcohol?—No, I do not think so, because if opium had the same effect on them that alcohol has it would make them violent. It has a contrary effect, it quiets them.

26,326. It makes them liars, but not violent or senseless?—It makes them senseless when they eat much.

26,327. Alcohol drinkers are mischievous to others, while opium eaters only injure themselves; do you make that distinction?—Yes.

26,328. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) I understand that you have not had any experience of the people in the district, and that your experience of native life is mainly confined to the Bhangis, people low down in the social scale?—Among some of the Brahmins too, but my work is confined to the lower caste.

26,329. You have nowhere apparently distinguished between the use in moderation and the use in excess; do you wish it to be understood that all people who take opium, whether in moderation or not, are, without exception, habitual liars and immoral?—You notice I say that the evil effects are much more apparent in those who have used it for a long time and have used it in large quantities.

26,330. You would not extend that general condemnation to persons who take opium in moderation?—Not so much; it would be measured by the time they had been using it and the quantities they used.

26,331. In describing the effects on the user, are you speaking of persons who take opium in excess or moderation?—Of those habituated to it.

26,332. In excess or in moderation?—If he is a moderate user the effects will not be so great as in the case of a person who is an immoderate user; but the moderate user must have his daily quantity or else he is useless.

26,333. But the physical effects that you describe would not be the physical effects that would follow the moderate use of opium?—Not so marked, but there are evil physical effects even in the case of the moderate user if he does not get his quantity of opium.

26,334. You are aware, of course, that the consumption of opium, on the whole, is small in the city of Poona?—Yes.

26,335. What do you mean us to understand when you say that “the same places are used for smoking opium”; do you mean to say that they are used with the sanction and by the arrangement of the licensed vendors, or that smoking is now carried on in the present licensed shops?—No, I refer here to the smoking of opium in unlicensed shops.

26,336. You say, “I visited the dens before the Act went into operation and I have visited them since. The same places are used for the same purpose.” Do you mean to say that the smoking is going on in the licensed shops?—I do not think they are licensed shops.

26,337. The shops are no longer in the same place?—They are in the same room, but I am sure they are not licensed by Government.

26,338. The place where smoking is carried on is not the licensed shop of Government?—It is in the same room that was used when the place was licensed; but now though the license is revoked the place is used for the same purpose still.

26,339. Have you seen any sales taking place yourself there?—Not personally; but it has been brought to my notice. One of my preachers went, under my directions, to see if they would sell opium in the place. I may say I went myself to investigate this matter. I tried the men, but they knew the law and were so shy that they would not tell me. I was satisfied that the fellow who owned the room sold the opium to these men, and that they used it there. I therefore sent my preacher. I said to him, “You go; they will not suspect you. Find a man you know who smokes, give him the money, and go with him and see that he buys the opium and smokes it there.” In two different shops the man my preacher took went in and bought opium and smoked it there. In the second shop the owner of the shop, suspecting what he was there for, gave the money back and drove the man out of the shop.

26,340. You obtained certain evidence of an illegal sale; did you bring that to the notice of the City Magistrate or the Magistrate of the district?—I only secured it last week.

26,341. You have not thought it necessary to take any steps to bring it to the notice of the authorities?—No. I would if the officers wished to investigate it.

26,342. (*Sir James Lyall.*) Does your church place its converts under discipline in the matter of the use of opium?—Yes.

26,343. Is it found difficult to keep up that discipline?—No, not in our church.

26,344. (*Mr. Moubray.*) When you found the opium sold and smoked on the premises you say you did not inform the authorities?—It did not occur to me that I had better at once inform the Government.

26,345. How are the Government to interfere with illegal sales if well-disposed citizens who have evidence on the subject do not come forward to tell them?—I would be willing to do that to help suppress it. I am prepared to help suppress it in every way.

26,346. In your evidence you say that you found in one room at 8 o'clock at night a native policeman. I do not exactly know what you mean by stating that?—I think he ought not to have been there.

26,347. Then if you thought that the policeman ought not to be there, and if well-disposed citizens like yourself and your preacher when they are there do not report breaches of the law, how are the Government ever to discover a breach of the law?—I will report it to Government if they wish it.

26,348. (*Chairman.*) Do you place the members of your church under discipline in regard to alcohol?—Yes.

26,349. They are under discipline both with regard to opium and alcohol?—Yes, and ganja.

26,350. Which of the two restrictions do you find it most difficult to enforce?—We have never had any case among the Christians either of opium or of alcohol, but we have of ganja.

26,351. You have had experience of over 21 years of spiritual work in India, and you have told us that during the last year and a half your attention has been given to the evils arising from opium, but not before that. Now during the earlier years of your somewhat long service was not your attention called to the evils arising from the abuse of alcohol?—Yes.

26,352. You had become sensible of the evils which arise from the excessive use of alcohol in the earlier stage of your experience; may we draw the conclusion from that circumstance that of the two alcohol is the greater evil?—I have to tell you that my attention was called to the evils of alcohol before I left America, and it was no new subject to me when I came to India. I had to deal with Europeans here, and I never found any case of habitual opium consumption amongst them. I had heard of the Ayahs giving it to children, and all mothers being on their guard in regard thereto. So far as alcohol is concerned, I have had frequent occasion to deal with persons who have been ruined by it.

26,353. Does it not appear to you evident that you have been asking us to take up two positions which are inconsistent and contradictory; you have asked us to believe that the consumers of opium are habitual liars, and at the same time you have asked us to attach value to their confession to you in answer to your questions to the effect that they took opium for the purposes of lust. Now, if we

are to attach value to the confession must not we give up the assumption which you ask us to make that those who made that confession are habitual liars. If, on the other hand, we are to believe that those who made this confession are habitual liars, is it not evident that we cannot attach value to the confession?—You can attach value to the confession if it is confirmed.

26,354. But confining ourselves to the testimony of the men; if we are to believe, with you, that the consumers of opium are habitual liars, can you seriously ask us to attach much value to the confession made by these men—I mean, apart from the testimony of the neighbours?—I say that their admission is reliable, because their admission is confirmed by the testimony of those who know them. That goes to show that what they said to me regarding their use of it is correct.

The witness withdrew.

Dr. THOMAS BLANEY called in and examined.

26,360. (*Chairman.*) You are, I believe, a private practitioner in Bombay?—Yes.

26,361. And President of the Municipal Corporation?—Yes.

26,362. (*Sir William Roberts.*) Where have you acquired your knowledge in reference to the opium habit?—In the city of Bombay only. I have practised medicine here for 46 years, with the exception of a month at the Hills and a summer trip to England.

26,363. What is your opinion as to the extent in which opium is used in Bombay?—I do not think it is very extensively used. My practice has been as extensive as that of any medical man in Bombay, and it continues to be so. I practise among all classes of the community.

26,364. You cannot give us any estimate of the extent of the practice of opium eating?—No, I cannot do that.

26,365. Have you had an opportunity of seeing the effect of the habitual use of opium amongst the natives of Bombay?—Yes.

26,366. Will you tell us the result of your experience?—The result of my experience is that it is always used in what medical men call moderation, that is to say, appropriate doses. These doses may sometimes be increased from usage; but my own experience is that there has been no large increase. All the hundreds and hundreds of natives I have seen taking their doses in Bombay have taken doses of about 2, 3, or 4 grains.

26,367. You recognise that some individuals seem to be able to tolerate much larger doses than others?—Yes, that is a fact.

26,368. For what purposes have you observed opium to be used?—Generally, I think, they begin to take it for aches and pains. The natives of Bombay are so liable to run to something to relieve their aches and pains, especially stomach and bowel troubles, that they even consume Eau de Cologne very largely—they say for alleviating wind. In the same way, if any little ache or pain begins they resort at once to this household drug, opium; and I believe that is how the habit commences.

26,369. Have you observed the practice of giving opium to infants?—Yes. I may say I have been Coroner of Bombay for 17 years. I only gave it up last year because I found the work took up too much of my time. In that 17 years, of course, I have had great experience of the effects of opium on infant life. In the last 22 years there have been 463 inquests of suicide by opium.

26,370. That is among adults?—Yes, of course. The children's deaths were accidental. There have been 44 inquests held when the verdict returned was "accidental death." Many of them were infants. As regards infants' deaths, it happens in this way: the infant has been used to its dole of opium, which is generally kept in a small tin box, on the floor or within reach of the infant. The infant, perhaps 2 years old or so, gets hold of it and takes a quantity. The friends come in and find it in a state of narcotism, and the child is taken to the hospital.

26,371. How many accidental deaths?—44 in 22 years, two a year.

26,372. Are those amongst infants?—Not always. The minority are infants. I have distinct recollection of five or six infants that have been accidentally poisoned.

26,373. Have you known injurious results from the practice of giving balagoli pills to infants?—I have very great experience of their use among infants in Bombay. I

26,355. Is it really worth while to rely upon any statement made by a man that you describe to us as an habitual liar?—It is worth while if it is confirmed by good evidence. If I had not been told, except by themselves, that they used it for such purposes, I admit it would be unreliable; but their testimony has been confirmed by their neighbours.

26,356. On such a matter as that do you think the testimony of the neighbours goes for very much?—Yes.

26,357. You think that on such a matter as we are discussing the testimony of the neighbours or anybody is really of much account?—Yes.

26,358. You do?—Yes, as confirmatory.

26,359. I am very much surprised that you should think so.

think I am medical man to all the balagoli manufacturers of Bombay. I know that opium is used very largely indeed with infants of the lower classes. I estimate the labouring classes to amount here to 200,000 persons, including men and women. They use balagoli for their children, but not always so, as crude opium is cheaper. In one form or another the poor labouring classes give their infants opium for the first two years or so of their life.

26,374. With what effect?—I have never seen any bad effects.

26,375. Do you think that the infants of the natives are more tolerant of opium than the children of Europeans?—I am quite certain of it, and adults also. Native adults and children can certainly tolerate larger doses of opium than Europeans.

26,376. I presume you have also had brought to your notice cases of the use of opium habitually by adults and elderly people?—Yes, I may say thousands.

26,377. What has been your conclusion as to the consequences upon their physical health and upon their moral health?—Absolutely none whatever; and I think I can quite understand the stimulant action of an ordinary dose of opium. I myself start work early in the morning, visiting my patients. I get home to breakfast between one and three o'clock. I am 71 years of age; and I have found that for the last one or two years muscular and nervous energy shows decided failure about this time. After my breakfast I take what would be called a strong cup of tea, because, finding a great desire to have a little nap I have had to resist it, as I want my afternoon to myself to do my work in connexion with the school board, technical institute, and various committees. The cup of tea revives me, and I do some of the hardest work in the afternoon after that cup of tea. I believe the opium eater feels in the same way after taking his doses in moderation.

26,378. But occasionally you have observed opium eaters go to excess?—Yes, very few. So few that I think I could count them on my fingers.

26,379. Sometimes occasional excess, and sometimes habitual excess?—I have no knowledge of a single pure abuser of opium habitually. I have seen a man taking a large dose of opium, and he has explained the reason why, and stopped it again, and gone back to his usual dose; but of the opium debauchee I have no experience whatever.

26,380. Have you had personal experience of the lower classes?—Very largely.

26,381. And even amongst them have you not met or seen cases of habitual excessive use of opium?—I have not.

26,382. Have you ever been connected with any jails?—Having been sheriff for two years I had the charge of the civil jail, and was responsible for this jail. When the Government conducted inspections of the jails through certain justices I was always selected by my brother justices to draw up the reports. I have had experience of jails in that way.

26,383. You have heard of such things as excessive opium eaters becoming thin and emaciated?—I have read of it in newspapers; but I have not seen it.

26,384. Is it difficult for the habitual consumer of opium to give up the habit?—I know of many cases where it has been given up on my recommendation.

26,385. And so far as you know, has the habitual use of opium had any effect on the moral status of the individual?—None whatever.

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26,386. Have you any further observations to make?—I wish to say that as coroner of Bombay I have never held an inquest on a destitute opium-eater whose body was found lying in the open, or on the maidan. I have held a great many inquests on poor people who have died on the roadside, and these cases have always involved a very full coroner's inquiry; but in no instances have I known an opium eater becoming emaciated or dying on the streets. If it was a common thing one case would have surely come under my official notice in 17 years; but there has been no such inquest held. I should like to say that I am very strongly of opinion that the abolition of opium in India would be a very great deprivation, and be very greatly destructive to life. That is my honest and firm opinion. There is nothing in the world that can accurately replace opium.

26,387. As a household remedy?—For the purposes which it serves in the nervous system.

26,388. Have you formed any opinion as to the usefulness of opium in the morbid conditions produced by malaria?—Yes. When Warburgh was alive he prepared a tincture which went by the name of "Warburgh's Drops." He kept its nature secret. The East India Company was then the Government of India, and they bought the remedy from Warburgh. It was brought to India largely, and I was one who used a lot of it. We used it with the best effects. The worst Gujarat and Sind fever cases that came to Bombay were treated with it; and one or two bottles of Warburgh's Drops brought them round. We all wanted to know for many years the secret of its preparation. It was said there was only five grains of quinine in each bottle, and that it contained opium. I do not think anything was proved on analysis. So far as I know it contained no opium.

26,389. I did not know Warburgh's Drops contained opium; do you state that, as dispensed here, it contained opium?—No; we thought so. There was no chemical analyst in Bombay in those days.

26,390. It only contained quinine. I do not see what hearing that had on the opium question?—I and others have added a little opium to a preparatory dose of quinine when the cold attack was expected, and it had a very good effect.

26,391. (Mr. Pease.) Is it a common practice for healthy, native young men here to take opium?—No; it is not a common practice, certainly.

26,392. Is it the practice of some of them who are in health to take opium?—Yes, I think so.

The witness withdrew.

Khan Baha-
dur Kazi
Shahabudin,
C.I.E.

KHAN BAHADUR KAZI SHAHABUDIN, C.I.E., called in and examined.

26,405. (Chairman.) I think you are late Dewan of Cutch and Baroda, Fellow of the University of Bombay, formerly a mamlatdar and district deputy collector in Gujarat, and now residing in Poona?—Yes.

26,406. What is your experience with regard to the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are acquainted?—I am personally acquainted with the Native State of Cutch; the province of Gujarat, including the Baroda State, and with that portion of Kathiawar which forms the Amreli division of the Baroda State. Much opium is consumed in these provinces, particularly in Cutch, Kathiawar, and the northern districts of Gujarat. The use of opium is not confined to any one class of the people. All classes use it, the Rajputs and Charans being larger consumers than others. Opium is taken in its crude state or dissolved in water. I have not heard of opium smoking in these provinces. The bulk of opium eaters take it moderately.

26,407. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—The effect of opium on the moral and physical condition of those who take it in moderation is beneficial. Opium checks propensities to violence and crime. One does not witness exhibitions of brutality and self-degradation or domestic misery resulting from the use of the drug. Opium does not cause nerve or brain affections. Opium eaters are steady and devoted to their pursuits. The above is true of a moderate use of the drug. Excessive indulgence leads to the enfeeblement of the body and mind. It makes a man dull, lazy, and impotent. A man who takes opium habitually cannot easily leave off the habit, or do his daily work well without taking his dose at the appointed hour.

26,393. Do you think that that is a good or bad habit?—Just as good as taking tea, or just as bad as taking tea, whichever way you like to express it.

26,394. (Mr. Mowbray.) As President of the Municipal Corporation you are elected by the Corporation itself?—Yes.

26,395. I should like to know from you whether you have any regulations in the city of Bombay dealing with the sale of poisons?—Yes.

26,396. Is that under the General Municipal Act?—No. It is under the Poison's Act, an Act by itself. It is regulated by the police, and not by the municipality. There is nothing in that Act about the sale of poisons.

26,397. It is an Act applying to the whole of Bombay Presidency or to the city itself?—I believe to the Presidency, but I will not be sure.

26,398. Could you tell me the provisions of it?—Not right off. Opium and arsenic are omitted. According to the returns I appear to have held 128 inquests on deaths from arsenical poisoning in 17 years. Arsenic may be purchased in large quantities; but there is a limit to opium.

26,399. Opium is under special restrictions of its own we know; but I wanted to know what restrictions there were as to the sale of other poisons?—I think there are restrictions on prussic acid, strychnia, and one or two others; but on very few.

26,400. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) There is this difference, is there not, between a young man taking opium and tea, that while he would be able to give up tea he would find a difficulty in giving up opium?—I think he would feel just as uneasy in giving up tea. If you stopped my tea I should feel extremely uneasy.

26,401. That is your own case, I am speaking of other people?—I should feel it a great deprivation. Never having taken opium or alcohol I can say nothing about them, but about tea I can speak decidedly.

26,402. You cannot compare the giving up of the habit of tea and opium because you have no experience of the latter?—No.

26,403. (Mr. Fanshawe.) I rather gather that you have had no experience of opium smoking?—None whatever. I never saw a pipe of opium smoked.

26,404. The use of opium which your practice has brought you into contact with has been a very moderate use of opium. I think you said about four grains was the largest dose you knew of?—Yes.

26,408. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India with regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes?—The people of the districts I am acquainted with would certainly feel sorely aggrieved, and regard it as an act of oppression if deprived of opium, except for medical purposes. Many who are not addicted to it use the drug in their own ways as medicine. It is common to administer it, mixed with other drugs, to infants. Rajputs, cultivators, Charans, and certain other classes at marriages and such like occasions entertain their guests and friends with opium. On these occasions opium is as indispensable as the marriage feast at weddings.

26,409. Would the people of India be willing to bear, in whole or in part, the cost of prohibitive measures?—Assuming that this part of the question relates to the British districts, I have no doubt but that an impost for prohibitive measures would be very unpopular, the more so as it would be imposed for a purpose which the people would regard as despotic. And, too, there is at present no room for further taxation. If funds must be raised, they would not feel so much an indirect tax, say a duty on Manchester cloth, as a direct one. The vexation to the people, hindrance to trade, and extortion, attendant on prohibitive measures, are also matters worthy of consideration.

26,410. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes, and could such prohibition be extended to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—I am of opinion that the sale of opium, except for medical purposes, should not be prohibited either in British or native territory. As regards the Native States, the Chiefs would, I feel convinced, never consent to such a measure; and if the

British Government insisted on their adopting it, they would regard the act as arbitrary and as a breach of faith. For instance, the British Government have entered into a fresh agreement with the Baroda Government, under which the latter cultivates opium in its own territory, and issues it to its own subjects. It also, when necessary, imports opium from Central India or Bombay free of British duty. The Native States derive revenue from opium under arrangements entered into with the British Government, and I think they would sorely feel the injustice, and regard it as bad faith on the part of that Government if they were deprived of an established right, and the revenue derived from its exercise. This is not all. They would feel their status lowered by such an interference in a matter which pertains entirely to their internal administration. All this would create a great discontent in their minds, and distrust as to their future status. We have to add to this the grievance of their people in order to comprehend the full effect of prohibition.

26,411. Can you suggest any change in the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the opium traffic?—The present system is well calculated to serve its purpose, viz., to raise a revenue and prevent illicit traffic in opium. I am unable to suggest any change.

26,412. (*Mr. Pease.*) Have you known many instances of cases of excessive indulgence leading to the results you speak of?—I have known a few—not many.

26,413. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Do you take opium yourself?—No, I do not take it. I have used it rarely on certain occasions; for instance, after a hard day's shooting or a long ride, with great benefit. I have given it to my horses when they were over-worked; it is the best thing to do according to my experience.

26,414. You think it is beneficial to take it occasionally for the purposes you mention?—There are certain occasions when it is beneficial. It is beneficial for colds, coughs, pains in the body, and so on.

26,415. You would not, I hope, consider it a good habit for young men in good health to take it habitually?—No; it is not necessary for men in good health to take opium. Opium satisfies in a very harmless way a kind of hunger and longing. I think it is in our nature to take something different from mere food. We all drink tea or smoke tobacco, or take tobacco in various ways. I have seen people clean their teeth with tobacco, and they could not do otherwise. Then there is alcohol and all sorts of wines, bhang, madak, and chandu, and all these things. There seems to be a universal craving felt for something. Opium satisfies these cravings in a most harmless way.

26,416. If a man is at all inclined to have something exhilarating, you would prefer opium to all the other things?—Yes. I think taken moderately, opium acts as a benefactor to the people, inasmuch as it keeps tens of thousands from the liquor shops.

26,417. I suppose you look upon the liquor shops in the worst possible light?—Yes; I think liquor is a great curse of modern times, to India more especially, as it is invading classes which never touched it before—the higher classes of Mahomedans and Brahmins; and its use is increasing. I would rather have these people take a little opium.

26,418. What do you consider the cause of the increasing tendency to take alcohol?—I attribute it to the religious restrictions which formerly existed having been removed, and to our education having become too secular. I fear that is one cause. People who formerly thought it a degrading habit to take alcohol do not think so now, because the highest men in India take alcohol. I do not think there is the stigma attached to taking alcohol that there was formerly.

26,419. Do you attribute it to English education?—I do not attribute it to English education altogether, but to the sort of education given in our schools and colleges. There is, as it were, no home education such as children receive in Europe. All the education we receive is in schools and colleges, and that education is entirely without moral teaching or religion; it is entirely secular and utilitarian, as it were.

26,420. If any prohibitive measures were adopted, you would like to see alcohol stopped first?—I should like measures adopted to minimise the consumption of alcohol as much as possible. I do not think these evils can be eradicated entirely, but they can be minimised to a great extent.

26,421. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) We have had some evidence to the effect that Rajputs and kindred castes are giving up the ceremonial use of opium. What is your experience in Gujarat and Cutch upon that point?—I do not think they

are giving up the use of opium. They use opium on all possible occasions, at funerals, marriages, births; and when friends visit one another they are treated to kasumbha. If an opium eater did not treat his friends to a little kasumbha I suppose it would be thought a slight.

26,422. As far as your experience goes there is not any marked tendency to give up the ceremonial use of opium?—No.

26,423. We have been told in many parts of India that opium is generally taken by elderly men as a restorative; is that within your knowledge in Cutch and Gujarat?—I think so.

26,424. Is opium taken among the better class of Mahomedans?—There is no distinction as to the classes who take and who do not take opium. It is taken in Kathiawar particularly by the Rajputs, who are the rulers of the country, and by the Kathis.

26,425. Do young men take opium at all as a stimulant—in moderation—as we may take tobacco? Is that within your knowledge?—Yes. In Kathiawar and Cutch and North Gujarat I should think fully 20 per cent. of the population take opium. There are a great many young men also who take it. The habit is very common, and they take it in company. When once they begin to take it, as is the case with tobacco and even with tea, they do not give it up afterwards.

26,426. Is the use on the whole a moderate use with young men, or does it tend to become immoderate?—Whether used by young or by the old, the use of opium is, as a rule, moderate. The instances of immoderate use are very few and far between.

26,427. We have been also told that opium is to some extent taken for the purposes of lust; what have you to say about that?—I think it does excite lust when taken moderately, like any other stimulant. When taken immoderately, as I have said, it leads to impotency.

26,428. What I wished to know was more directly whether this was a general or common object with which opium is taken?—No; the habit is contracted in company. A great many people take kasumbha and shake hands and laugh over it. The habit is caught by the young generation and they imitate their elders. It has the effect, as I have said, of exciting lust, but it is not taken in the beginning for that purpose.

26,429. (*Mr. Pease.*) You have stated that you do not think there has been any giving up of the practice in connexion with social and ceremonial observances; is it not a fact that there has been a very considerable reduction of late years in the quantity consumed on these occasions?—I do not know the statistics; but I must modify my answer to this extent, that owing to the great spread of education among the better classes; those who are educated do not take as much opium now as they used to do formerly. There is a movement in Gujarat to give up the old custom of taking opium at marriages, dowries, and other ceremonies. It costs a great deal to treat opium to some five or ten thousand people.

26,430. When we were at Ahmedabad I got the impression that partly in consequence of an increase of price, and also on account of a change of custom, there was an enormous decrease in the quantity of opium that was provided and consumed on such occasions?—Amongst the educated classes that may be the case, but I do not think that there has been any increase in the price of opium lately. I should like to make one or two other remarks. I have heard a statement about the selling of wives and daughters. It is said that opium eaters, when they have no money to procure the opium, sell their wives and daughters. I may say that I have never heard anything of the kind. I was Magistrate and I was Dewan in two of the most important Native States, and such a thing I have not heard. I know when children are sold, particularly girls, they are sold to prostitutes. The profession of prostitutes is supplemented from time to time by sales of children, but not by opium eaters. The other day I heard a statement made by a witness about a certain class of people selling their children. It is very common among the jungle tribes. Among the people living in Songadh, in the Gaikwar's territory, and the Dang forests I have heard of cases in which a debtor when he is unable to pay off his debt goes and pledges his wife or daughter or son to the creditor. He says, "Keep them, they will serve you for some time." The people do not repudiate their debts. They are very truthful. With the exception of these two cases, children bought by prostitutes and children assigned as pledges for debt by some jungle people, I have never heard of a traffic in children in any other way. I have heard of compensation being paid to Native States. I was

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for a long time connected with the Native States, and I am still connected with Baroda. It is my firm conviction that these Native States would not, first of all, consent to the prohibition of the opium traffic in their States, and if compensation were offered to them they would not think it an adequate return for two things they are now enjoying, the right and long-established privilege of selling opium, and the revenue they derived from it, which, it must be remembered, is progressive. Then there is prestige. They would not like to give up this source of revenue on any account. When they are compelled to do it they would regard it as oppression and a breach of faith. Now that I am on the subject I may mention that I have heard from good people that the opium agitation is in order to increase European liquor in India. Of course I do not say so. When I heard it formerly I thought it came from very ignorant sources, in fact, from the very low classes. A fortnight ago, however, I was dining with some Bombay and Poona merchants, and one of them said the same thing. I poochpoohed the suggestion, and I told him that it was not the case. They put me down with a high hand, and they said, "You do not know." I wish to bring these things to the knowledge of the Commission, because these opinions really exist even among the better classes, classes which ought to know better. There is not the least doubt in my mind that the suppression of the opium traffic would increase the consumption of liquor; and whether that result would be very desirable, it is for the Commission to consider. At the same dinner table there was this talk: "Why do not they suppress the liquor traffic, which is doing so much injury?" One gentleman instituted a very striking analogy as it appeared to me, and I put it before the Commission. He said, "The British Government derives a very large revenue from liquor, and so does the Government of India derive a very large revenue from opium. There is no prohibition against the taking of liquor in England. There are not the strict rules and regulations which hamper the sale and consumption of opium in India; liquor which is manufactured in England pays duty to Government, is exported to Africa and to all the countries in Asia; but opium, which is

"manufactured in India, is exported to only one country, namely, China." He said, "Look at the difference between the results of the consumption of opium and the consumption of liquor." I could not answer him. Those who know what a curse liquor is becoming in India could answer.

26,431. (*Chairman.*) You have referred to liquor. Looking at this question from the moral standpoint, if there were to be prohibitory legislation with reference to the use of stimulants, you would say that of the two there was more urgency to deal with the alcohol question than with the opium question?—In the first place I do not believe that it is possible to prohibit entirely either the traffic in liquor or the traffic in opium; but if there must be prohibition I would prefer it to be applied to the liquor traffic, at least that the consumption should be minimised as much as possible; and it is in the power of the State to do it.

26,432. I take it from what has fallen from you that you do not believe in the practicability of dealing with any evils which arise from the excessive use of stimulants in certain cases by a sweeping measure of prohibition?—No, I do not.

26,433. Would you say that we must look to the moral and social influences and education to bring about the reform that is desired so far as it is necessary?—The consumption of liquor, and even its excessive use, can be minimised by certain measures by the Government. I can give an instance. I can mention cities in which there were only two shops; now there are 30 or 40 or 50. If there were only two shops people would not have the temptation when they had three or four pice in their pockets to have a glass. A man would not care to walk two or three miles to have a glass of liquor, but he would take his money home to his wife. Now the shops are staring him in the face and inviting him with all sorts of coloured bottles to come in and drink, and he sees a lot of his companions who make themselves merry. I should like to see the consumption of liquor minimised in preference to the prohibition of opium.

The witness withdrew.

The Rev. A. W. Pritch.

The Rev. A. W. PRITCH called in and examined.

26,434. (*Chairman.*) I believe you have lived in India for 9½ years?—Yes, during four of which I was actively engaged as a *colporteur* of Scriptures and tracts among the natives, thus coming into close contact with all classes.

26,435. What knowledge have you of the vernacular languages?—I speak the Marathi and Hindustani languages, and I understand colloquial Gujarati.

26,436. Will you tell us your experience with regard to the opium question?—Eight years ago I first visited an opium shop, since then I have visited opium smoking shops and also shops where crude opium is sold by weight in Bombay, Poona, Surat, Sholapur, Akola, Thana, Kurla, Bhiwadi, Igatpuri, and Lucknow. I made it a point always to converse with the opium users (smokers and eaters) and find out all I could regarding the physical and moral effects and their views and opinions on the habit. Since 1890 I have visited and taken strangers to the opium smoking shops more than 100 times, acting as translator in nearly every case. I base my evidence on the above experience. The opium smokers all admit that the habit is bad and that it ought to be stopped, and that it would be very good if it was stopped. Every smoker considers it disgraceful. One year ago I was invited to visit the opium smoking shops in Bombay by Mr. Madden, who had made an appointment with Mr. Rustomji Pestonji Jehangir, Chief Opium Inspector. We visited four or five shops, found them crowded. Mr. Rustomji undertook to show that the anti-opiumists had over-stated the facts, and I undertook to show that they had understated the evil. Our plan was to enter into conversation with a group of from ten to thirty smokers, then Mr. Rustomji would ask, "How would you like to have the smoking closed, and what would happen?" Usually a chorus of voices would say, "We would die," "Our blood is dried up," "We must have opium," &c. Then I would put the question in another way, stating that as nearly all present have been in jail what did they do then? Did you die? And if there would be a lock on the door to-morrow morning, what would you do? They said, "This is true, in jail we get no opium and live, and if the door was locked we would learn to do without it, and it would be good for us," and then we would hear of their former prosperity and present ruin through opium. In Mr. Rustomji's

presence I asked regarding the statement I had always heard that many began the use of opium to stimulate sexual vice. This was generally admitted with the qualification that after a year or two the user becomes "useless" or "dried up." The conversations varied, but in every instance the smokers condemned the habit, pronounced it bad, and expressed sorrow that they were smokers. Mr. Rustomji admitted that the smokers held that position toward smoking, and stated so clearly before Mr. Madden, Mr. King, and myself. He stated that he was publishing a history of 80 opium smokers. I asked him to incorporate what he heard that night (but he did not); he said he was personally paying for the printing of the book and doing it in the interests of philanthropy, that he had only returned from England a few weeks before, and he that night told me he was going home to England again shortly. He went and published the book. It would be easy to put over against these 80 robust opium smokers, twice 80 human skeletons made so through the use of opium. That book simply shows the human material that is destroyed by the opium habit. Many opium smokers told me that they learned to smoke opium in the houses of prostitutes; a large number stated in a shameless way that they began to use opium "to increase their sexual endurance." And all but a small proportion when questioned admitted that their reason for beginning the use of opium was to stimulate their vile passions. The exceptions stated that companions and friends first taught them, and not more than fifty of the thousands spoken to said they began in order to deaden the pain of some ailment, usually chest complaints. I have met well-dressed smokers and those who had scarcely a rag on to cover their nakedness. I met those who were bright and intelligent in conversation, and those so dull that they would only mumble a few disconnected words. I have met those who were robust and also emaciated wrecks, and those of all grades between these extremes. In speaking with a well-dressed smoker who was physically in a good condition, I found that he was a new beginner, or that he was well-to-do and had nourishing food, and that the "human skeleton" smoker seldom left the opium pipe, or was a beggar whose food was scanty and uncertain. The statements of the well-dressed and the beggar were alike emphatic against the use of opium. Nearly every opium smoker declared his desire to stop the

habit, and with his next breath declared it was impossible as long as opium was obtainable, that the habit had a hold upon his life. The period when the use of opium was a pleasure was variously stated to me at from six months to two years; after that the dose in eating or the frequency of smoking had to be increased to get the same effect, and then their physical craving drove them to get their relentless appetite quieted. My attention has also been called to another condition into which the opium slave sinks, when all pleasurable sensations cease and the effort of the opium slave is to get rid of a pain caused by not having opium. I know of one woman who threw herself from her bed in the Cama Hospital in the last agony I described. I also know of a little girl nine years old who has reached this last stage where she becomes uncontrollable, and shrieks like mad when she does not get her supply of opium. My firm conviction is that there is not another such a seductive delusion of the devil to debase humanity as the opium habit. Several times as I sat down in opium dens old smokers have laid their hands gently on my shoulder or arm and begged me not to begin to smoke opium, but to look at their condition, and perhaps he would call on several to confirm his statement that opium was ruinous, and they would give me their history or point to some dirty wretch and tell how wealthy he once was. But on assuring them I had no intention to smoke, but that my desire was to stop the opium right from the growth, and that I came for information, I was blessed by these poor degraded opium smokers. One man said, "The stopping of opium may kill me, but look at the benefit to those who will not learn. This is a good work." During these several hundred visits to opium shops never once was I insulted, or rudely spoken to, or treated with contempt, or treated with indifference, but always as a friend. Every smoker approved of stopping opium. Their usual statement was, "It will be well for us if opium is stopped, but as long as we can get it we must have it," and often, "How will Government give up the revenue?" When the order was issued to close the opium smoking shops July 31st, 1893, I was thanked by over 40 opium smokers. Several times when I drove in hired carriages in Bombay the drivers turned to me and said, "That was a good work to stop the chandul shops." But after a few weeks, as I went about my mission work, persons would stop me and tell me new smoking shops are again opened, and volunteered to show them to me, and in every case the opium department was mentioned as knowing about it. I have had more than 20 persons inform me of this. At intervals I visited these illicit opium smoking shops, open contrary to Government order, but with the knowledge of the opium department. In order to disguise the crime the natives were taught to call them "ke-lubs" (clubs), but in every case I found that there was no membership fee, no charge toward the room rent, or smoking lamps, or matting, &c., that the pipes were all owned by the "manager of the club," i.e., owner of the shop; that any opium smoker could go into any one of these "clubs," pay for as much opium as he wanted and smoke it there; that the owner of the shop (or manager of the club) made two annas profit on every tola of prepared opium he sold, and this was his reason for selling. The number of these new kind of smoking shops was variously stated at from 30 to 60 in Bombay. The most open and defiant illustration of the conducting of these unlicensed, illegal smoking shops occurred between December 23rd, 1893, and January 2nd, 1894, at the Mahomedan fair at Mahim, within the municipal limits of Bombay, when three opium smoking shops and one kasumbha (opium drinking) shop were kept open for the public with opium department police stationed near them keeping the ordinary police from interfering and stopping these illegal shops. I submit the statement which I am about to read, and I quote from an article of my own in the *Bombay Guardian* of January 9th:—"Continued investigations into the systematic deception practised by certain officials in the Bombay Government Opium Department compel us to state the following facts so as to make apparent the hollowness of any so-called reform which comes short of absolute prohibition of the growth and manufacture of opium except for medicinal purposes. On the 31st July 1893, as before stated, an order was issued to close all existing opium smoking dens in Bombay, but in the preceding article we have shown that a number of illegal smoking shops were thereafter conducted with the connivance of the opium department (in place of the smaller number of licensed places which the authorities professed to have closed). The general public will be surprised to hear that the way in which the Bombay Opium Department carries out the Government order to close licensed opium dens is by actually conniving at a larger number of unlicensed

"ones. We learn on the evidence of several witnesses that Damaji Laxmanchand, a vendor licensed to sell opium for consumption off the premises, illegally sent opium to Mahim (an out-lying portion of Bombay) for the manufacture of chandul, and sold it through his own servants in smoking dens opened for that purpose during the Mahomedan fair held there between December 23rd, 1893, and January 2nd, 1894. We charge Rustomji Pestonji Jehangir, chief opium inspector of Bombay, with personally taking a staff of opium department police to Mahim on the above stated occasion to supervise the illegal smoking shops either under the direction of the collector of customs or contrary to his order. We further affirm that the opium department police were stationed at the three opium smoking shops and one opium drinking (kasumbha) shop conducted at Mahim on the occasion of the above-named fair, and kept the ordinary police from interfering with these illegal departmental opium smoking shops. We affirm that the following illegal shops were conducted with the full knowledge and consent of Rustomji Pestonji Jehangir, chief opium inspector: (a) one madak shop in Kassibharri, Mahim, was kept open for eight days by one Aga Mahomed and a woman named Saddi; (b) a chandul shop was kept open for five days on Mahim Bazar Road by one Karim Jetli and Khuda Bux; (c) another chandul shop was kept open for ten days by one Rahimtulla in Mahim also; (d) a kasumbha (opium drinking place) was kept open for seven days by Haji Ahmed, near Kassibharri, Mahim. We, therefore, as a matter of common justice, demand that Rustomji Pestonji Jehangir be called to account for the above-named fraudulent and illegal proceedings, and, with his official accomplices, in whatever position, receive adequate punishment. We also call for the adequate punishment of Damaji Luxmanchand, the opium license holder for Bombay. We respectfully invite Lord Harris, Governor of Bombay, to institute a thorough and impartial investigation, conducted by others than officials, into the above stated charges, in order to further bring to light the existing fraud and want of integrity on the part of the opium department and to punish the criminals. This investigation should embrace Rustomji Pestonji Jehangir's two recent visits to England; the origin, publication, and statements of his recent book purporting to give the history of Bombay opium smokers; and also his visits to Bombay medical men who signed the Medical Anti-Opium Petition to Parliament, and which visits were followed by the alleged repudiation of a number of the signatures."

26,437. Have you anything to say with regard to giving opium to children?—It is my experience that the giving of small quantities of opium to quiet children—regularly dosing them—is all but universal in India. It has the sanction of Government in that balagolis (children's pills) are advertised to be sold only by licensed opium vendors, by order of Government. This unnatural stupor in which a child is kept can only be hurtful to its physical or mental development, and there is no doubt in my mind but that many vicious traits in older persons are directly due to opium dosing in childhood. A case of blindness in a child came to my notice in February 1893. I wrote about it at the time in the *Banner of Asia* for March, as follows: "My attention has been called in a very painful manner to the subject of blindness caused by opium. My native preacher at Thana has a child (a boy) 18 months of age. Six weeks ago the boy was attacked by diarrhoea and was taken to Dr. Lazarus, of the Scotch Free Church Dispensary, Thana. Dr. Lazarus wrote a note to me saying that the child had been dosed with opium and could not be cured while this drugging continued. I had an earnest talk with the father and mother who promised to stop giving opium to the child. Shortly after the child's eyes became ulcerated. He was by my directions taken to the eye ward of Sir Jamsitji Jijibhai Hospital, Bombay. The European doctor treated the eyes for a week. Then my native preacher asked me to come personally to see the doctor, to learn if any hope existed for the child's eyesight, for if not he and his wife and boy would return to Thana. I went to the hospital on Friday, February 10th. Dr. Maconachie was in attendance. We took our turn. I asked Dr. Maconachie what hope there was for recovery of the child's sight. He said, 'none whatever. The sight has entirely gone. Suppuration has set in and the eyes will slough off, and only large white spots will remain. The child, if it lives, will never see again. Its eyes have been ruined by opium. It is very common for natives to dose their children with opium, and it often causes just this condition of the eyes. I

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" 'have hundreds of native children brought to me whose sight is utterly destroyed by opium. Some are even in a stupor when brought here. They are ill-fed and then to quiet them opium is given to them. All I am doing for this child is to reduce the inflammation and to tone up its general health. The sight is entirely gone and the child might as well be taken to Dr. Kirtikar, civil surgeon of Thana, as that will be more convenient.' A few days afterwards I went with the child to see Surgeon-Major Kirtikar at the Civil Hospital, Thana. At the first glance he said, 'Another case of opium poisoning. Nothing can be done for sight.' I then told the foregoing experience at Bombay and that Dr. Maconachie had sent us to get the general health of the child toned up. In answer to a question Dr. Kirtikar said, 'I have many cases of children dosed with opium. I register them in my books as chronic cases of opium. They usually begin with chronic diarrhoea, and often they lose their eye-sight by supuration of the cornea. This is very common among the natives,' &c., &c. It would be well if the connexion between giving opium to children and blindness were examined more closely and made more widely known, as I gather from the medical authorities above quoted that the practice and the result are very common, adding another to the many and great recognised evils arising from the wicked traffic in opium."

26,438. Have any steps been taken to bring these cases of infractions of the law before the courts?—There was a case reported to be a genuine case, but I have my doubts as to whether the case was real or whether it was "fixed up."

26,439. What association do you work with?—I work with the Methodist Episcopal Mission.

26,440. Did your Mission take any steps to bring these infractions of the law before the courts?—No.

26,441. With reference to your general attitude of mind and experience generally on the subject, I should like to ask you whether in recommending a prohibitory policy by regulations of the Government, that the use should be limited to medical purposes only, you would say that what you desire in the case of opium would be equally desirable in the case of alcohol?—Certainly.

26,442. (Mr. Fanshawe.) I understand that the headquarters of your work are at Thana?—Yes.

26,443. Do you do actual mission work in Bombay itself?—Not now. I was transferred to Thana a few years ago. Up to that time I was stationed in Bombay.

26,444. In your description of your visits to opium-smoking shops, you seem to assume that nearly all the smokers present had been in jail; is it the case that any such large proportion of them can be said to be criminals?—Yes. I made that statement to the smokers in Mr. Rustomji's presence. There was a general admission when I made that charge broadly to them. There was no dissent from it.

26,445. You are aware, I presume, that a careful statistical inquiry was made by Government officials in 1891, and it was reported that two-thirds of the smokers in the smoking shops were regular artisans following their ordinary daily avocation?—I never knew of those statistics.

26,446. In the Blue Book on the Consumption of Opium, 1892, there is this statement by Mr. Campbell, Collector of Customs in Bombay: "It is true the houses are watched by the police, for thieves meet in them and scheme crimes. Still, are all or nearly all the smokers ne'er-do-wells? Not nearly all. So far as I have seen a Bombay opium-smoking house is much like Dr. Morison's description of a Bengal smoking house:—'Almost all the smokers are of the labouring classes, tailors, day labourers, and one or two shopkeepers.' So far as I could judge by questioning the smokers in Bombay smoking houses about two-thirds are regular working craftsmen and labourers. I asked the assistant collector to frame a separate estimate. His estimate was:—'At the fewest 70 per cent. regular craftsmen and labourers; at the most 20 per cent. beggars and 10 per cent. bad characters.' I made a further personal test in three houses taken at random. The result was, in one house of 11 smokers all were craftsmen in regular work; in a second house of 25 smokers all were craftsmen in work; in a third house of 47 smokers one was a woman, nine were beggars, the rest were craftsmen and labourers." The results of that careful statistical inquiry do not seem to agree with your assumption that nearly all the smokers in Bombay were criminals?—I had a conversation with

Mr. Campbell two weeks ago, and he made about the same statement to me, and I differed with him then.

26,447. You still wish us to believe that nearly all the persons who smoked opium in these licensed shops were criminals?—I told them "when you are in prison your opium is cut off and you do not die." My argument was to convince these people that they did not die if they got into jail, and therefore they would not die if the shops were closed.

26,448. Do you wish us to understand that nearly all the people are criminals who smoked opium in those shops?—I do not say that of all opium smokers; I am not going to make sweeping statements.

26,449. You do not wish us to understand that all of them were criminals?—I made inquiries at the Bombay police headquarters, and I looked at the photographs of the people who had been imprisoned more than once; I saw a hard look upon most of the faces. I put the question to three of the police officials of Bombay, "Is it true that large numbers of these people are petty thieves?" They said, "You can safely say that all the Mahomedans are."

26,450. How do you apply that to smoking dens?—They must get their smoking in the dens. If their photographs are in the rack at the police station they are, perhaps, most likely frequenting the dens.

26,451. You say, "most likely"?—The chances are that if they are opium smokers they are opium smokers in the dens. The men were photographed as criminals. The fact of their being opium smokers leads them to petty thefts, because they lose their occupation.

26,452. What was your proof that they were opium smokers; I do not quite follow that?—I did not get any evidence that would pass in a court of law as evidence; but in conversation with the police they made this admission.

26,453. Do you mean that the police admitted that these criminals were largely opium smokers?—Yes.

26,454. That is that the men whose photographs you saw were largely opium smokers?—Yes.

26,455. With reference to this visit to the opium shops with Mr. Rustomji Pestonji Jehangir, apparently from what you state, the opium smokers first agreed with Mr. Pestonji Jehangir, and then they agreed with you; ought not that to suggest that you should have received their statements with a great deal of caution?—I always receive an opium smoker's statement cautiously.

26,456. I understand you to agree with Mr. Rustomji Pestonji, to whose book you have referred, that there are a large number of opium smokers in robust health?—They are apparently in robust health; that is the way to put it.

26,457. You have stated, that in order to disguise the crime, the natives were taught to call the places where they smoked opium "clubs"; what do you wish us to understand by the meaning of the words "were taught"?—Not once but a dozen times in visiting the opium smoking shops the people said, "We are allowed to keep these places going, but we must tell the people that they are clubs when they call here. We are tutored to say that."

26,458. Tutored by whom?—They were tutored by Damaji Laxmanchand.

26,459. Who is he?—He is the licensed vendor of opium, to whom I referred in the *Bombay Guardian*.

26,460. With regard to the occasion of the Mahomedan fair at Mahim, you state that three opium smoking shops and one kasumbha shop were kept open for the public with opium department police stationed near them, keeping the ordinary police from interfering with and stopping these illegal shops; kindly tell us on what knowledge you state that?—I personally went to Mahim; I asked the police there, and got a statement of the fact in the presence of a witness that they all saw these places where I describe them.

26,461. You did not see them yourself?—No.

26,462. Did you personally see any sales in these places?—I did not visit Mahim during the fair.

26,463. Had you any information that absolute sales were going on in these places?—Yes.

26,464. What information?—The manager of the smoking shop, under Rahimatulla, informed me of this, and gave me the facts.

26,465. What did he inform you—that he had personally seen the sale of opium in one of these places?—He told me he was the manager of the shop.

26,466. Did he tell you that he had been making sales in the shop?—Yes.

26,467. Sales on that day?—On the 10 or 12 days of the fair.

26,468. He informed you that he had himself made sales during the days on which the fair was open?—Yes; and he told me he would give me 12 witnesses of those who bought and smoked. I took his testimony very cautiously, and went and checked him up at the police. I did not believe him at first because he was an opium smoker.

26,469. What authority have you to say that the opium department police were stationed near the shops for the purpose of keeping the ordinary police from interfering and stopping these illegal shops?—Mr. Rustumji came to Mahim and told the civil police not to interfere.

26,470. Would it not be more reasonable to say that the opium department police were stationed there to see that sales were not carried on in defiance of the law?—I was not there; and I am not in a position to answer that.

26,471. Have you ever been asked by officers of the opium department to assist them in detecting illegal sales of opium?—I was; two weeks ago.

26,472. Is that the first occasion?—Yes; to my recollection.

26,473. Have you ever had any personal discussion with the collector yourself as regards these sales?—I only saw him for two hours two weeks ago.

26,474. Did he make any statement to you then with regard to the legal difficulty in stopping colourable sales?—Yes; he told me that at present they are more difficult to stop than before the law was enacted on the 31st of July. When I asked him what new law went into effect, he told me that practically no new law went into effect. I asked him, "How did you suppress shops before July, and yet you are unable to do it now?" He did not answer that, except that this agitation was all wrong and all a mistake, and that we had weakened their hands.

26,475. Surely the previous shops were held by licensed vendors who would be required by Government to alter the terms of their licenses in such a way that might be thought proper?—What objection was there to clubs before; nothing new was enacted. The same law that applies to clubs now applied to clubs then; you could not have stopped them then, any more than you could now.

26,476. Was it your opinion that there were no private clubs in existence before the smoking on licensed premises was prohibited?—I never inquired into that.

26,477. With regard to Thana, is it the case that native liquor is drunk to a large extent among the people of Thana?—It is drunk to a fearful extent. Its ravages are perceptible.

26,478. (Mr. Mowbray.) These statements of facts which you have given us from the *Bombay Guardian*, which I have not had the pleasure of seeing before, and also these statements of fact in your evidence are, I suppose, you would agree with me, facts which can only be tested in a court of law?—They are about to be tested in a court of law on the 21st of this month.

26,479. (Sir William Roberts.) Have you had any experience of the moderate eating of opium?—I have heard men state, whose words I did not disbelieve, that they had taken a small quantity, and kept to that small quantity for a number of years.

26,480. I understand your statements apply practically and exclusively to opium smokers?—Mostly to opium smokers.

26,481. Except what you have stated about children?—Yes. The opium eaters, in my statement, buy their opium in quantity and go home and eat it. It is not so easy to get into conversation or address them with regard to it.

26,482. (Chairman.) Your observation seems to me, so far as you have described it, to have been amongst a very low class of the population, persons you have spoken to as frequenting the opium dens which you have visited in your missionary work; they seem to have belonged very largely to the criminal class?—Opium has a tendency to make people criminal. They neglect their legitimate business, and they have practically to get their living by any plan they can invent.

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26,483. It seems when challenged by you that they did not attempt to dispute that they were all more or less acquainted with the interior of prisons?—That is so.

26,484. You have also been referring frequently to the police, and to a class of persons whose photographs are in the possession of the police, in fact, they are the class we speak of at home as "well-known to the police." Does it not occur to you that the phenomena you might observe when looking at this unfortunate class of the population might perhaps not be the true indication of what you would see among the large majority who, happily, do not belong to the criminal class?—I have met what would be called respectable people—because they are wealthy—I met one man who has two brothers who are householder. He is supported by his two brothers—he has practically out-casted himself because of his vice of opium. I have met a pleader with his briefs smoking. He still had on his pugree with gold lacing on it. He had evidently not got down to the strata where the opium habit leaves them. As I have said in my evidence I have met people of all classes in smoking dens. It is more perceptible in poor men, as I have said, because their food is scanty and not so nourishing.

26,485. It seems to me that I am not drawing an unfair inference when I assume that your view of the evil and degrading facts of the use of opium have been drawn from your observation of its effects among a class which may almost be described as a criminal class?—A class who congregate in opium-smoking shops, and who are practically degraded through their habit, whatever their previous standing might have been. They are drawn from all classes—Brahmins and Mahomedans—all congregate in one place. It levels them all.

26,486. These persons of whom you speak have, as it were, segregated themselves from the mass, and become, by resorting to very low places, a specially degraded class?—I made that statement in my evidence. I said it is a peculiarly "seductive delusion of the devil."

26,487. Have you anything you would like to say to us with reference to a certain petition of which we have heard which was got up at Poona?—I got that petition up myself. I confess I am little surprised at the diligence with which the opium department have sought to suppress anti-opium evidence. I thought their business was to look after opium illegally and illicitly consumed, instead of looking after a petition. That petition is *bona fide*; I sent to-day to get a fac-simile of it. It was printed two years ago. This happened in 1892. I have before me a copy of the *Banner of Asia* for 1892, and I will present to you a fac-simile of the petition which was written by a man named Shankar. I, personally, went and got signatures. I think there were 72 signatures to the petition. I got them nearly all myself. I sent that petition on to England and it was *bona fide*. It was signed in my presence. The only man who refused to sign it, stated as his reason that he was a Government servant, and that he could not sign any petition against Government. I, personally, went and got the petition ready myself.

26,488. You wish to say that you are really personally responsible for the preparation of that petition, and that to the best of your knowledge and belief the signatures appended to it, with few exceptions, were made in your presence?—With very few exceptions, I think, they were all signed in my presence.

26,489. (Mr. Pease.) When did you first know that this petition had been made the subject of Government inquiry?—Two hours ago.

26,490. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Could you give me the date when you went up with this petition?—Two years ago.

26,491. Your actual work is in Thana, but you went to Poona and got up the petition?—I went up there to protest against the traffic, because it was an evil to the cause of God.

26,492. You are well known in Poona?—Yes.

26,493. You would be well known by the people who signed it?—Yes, I think so. I told them I was a missionary. There is one other matter I should like to mention. I think I understood Mr. Slater the other day to say that not one case of opium eaters had died in his insurance company.

26,494. (Chairman.) I think he said that there had been no case in which his office had been called upon to make a payment on account of death which have been attributed to the use of opium.

(Witness.) If it is permissible I should like to put in the *Bombay Gazette* of Saturday the 10th, in which a case

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was decided against the Oriental Insurance Company with reference to a confirmed opium eater.

26,495. (*Chairman.*) We will take it into our consideration.

(*Witness*) I also desire to submit a copy of the prospectus of the Oriental Life Insurance Company, dated May 1893, on page 4 of which I find that the total number of policies

in force is 14,967. Mr. Slater is, no doubt, able to explain that. He states that there are 20,000 native lives. This document states that the 14,900 includes natives, Europeans, and Eurasians.

26,496. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) What date is that?—May 1893.

(*Chairman.*) We will let Mr. Slater see these papers.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. E. M. Gordon.

Mr. E. M. GORDON called in and examined.

26,497. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are a missionary of the Christian Mission, Mungeli, in the Central Provinces?—I am.

26,498. Will you tell us what you have to say with regard to the opium question?—For the past four years I have been interested in the opium question and have made observations on all occasions. During 1890 I frequently visited the opium smoking dens in Bombay and was repeatedly told by opium smokers that they first acquired the habit in order to increase the sexual appetite. Since 1891 my work has brought me into close contact with the people of the Bilaspore district, Central Provinces. Opium eating and smoking is not common in this district, the habit of consuming opium is considered contemptuous, and it is an insult to ask a man if he takes opium. The common word for opium is amal which, according to Bate's Hindi Dictionary, means—intoxication. 100 per cent. of the non-Christian native children in Bilaspur district are fed with opium from a few days after birth until they are able to sit up or walk. Opium is given to children twice a day. The quantity is increased with the growth of the child. If the opium is suddenly discontinued, the child will not sleep, and suffers from diarrhoea. Fever is very prevalent in the Bilaspur district, especially during the monsoons, and shortly after. I have never heard of opium being used as a remedy for prevention against fever. On making inquiries I find that Indian nurses frequently give opium to the children of European parents in order that the children may not be troublesome. In 1889 my niece was drugged with opium by her Indian nurse. The child's parents were unable to arouse the babe and finally had to consult a doctor. He declared that the child had been overdosed with opium, and with difficulty he succeeded in arousing the babe. On the way from my station at Mungeli to Bombay, I spent Wednesday, February 7th, at Kampti with Rev. C. G. Elsam of the M. E. Church. Together we visited a madak smoking shop. It was about 10 yards off the main road leading to the bazaar, well hidden behind large buildings. The shop was in charge of one Mahomed Yesu who was selling the madak golis or balls from a small box before him; there were four men outside in the verandah and about twelve men inside the room; all were Mahomedans. Mahomed Yesu, who sold the golis, told us that he allowed the men to congregate "for friendship's sake." The next day, February 8th, at 9 a.m., Rev. C. G. Elsam and I visited the shops at Sitabaldi and Sudder Bazaar, Nagpore. In the former place we saw no smokers, but in the Sudder shop about 15 men had assembled, some had evidently just stopped smoking, and one man's pipe appeared under his coat. At 3 p.m. on the same day Rev. C. G. Elsam and I visited a shop in the locality known as "ganja ka khet." This shop was off the road, well hidden from view. The man in charge was one Pappa Meer, a Mahomedan, who was selling the golis at two for a pice. The liquid opium was being boiled in the shop. 32 persons were in this place, all smoking, one prostitute was with them. As we left the place a chorus of voices exclaimed "Sahib log is ko band karo, is ko band karo"—freely translated—"Gentlemen, stop this business, stop this business." A policeman watched us making our inquiries. The second shop visited was near the Itwari Dispensary. It was a shed. A license was hung up on a board. There were 28 men in this shed. Madak was being prepared on the spot. Man in charge was one Mahomed Ali. The third shop was in the locality called Bhandara Darwaza. A Mahomedan was the man in charge. The men were smoking in a shed where the golis were being sold. The license board, however, was not in the shed, but in a room across the road about forty yards away. In this room across the way, the opium balls were being prepared. The fourth shop visited was near Juma Darwaza, Haji Khan was in charge. This man informed us that the license to sell opium in Nagpore was bought by Bichraj,

Marwari. This Marwari, in turn, had sublet a part of the business to Haji Khan, our informant, who had engaged men to open the other shops we visited. There were two prostitutes in the shop near Juma Darwaza. In one room we counted 20 men and in the other about 10. This shop was on the main road near the Small Cause Court, but it was upstairs. What Haji Khan called his license was signed thus:—"W. R. Dholily E.A.C., for the Deputy Commissioner."—The signature was not clear and the initials may be different.

26,499. You have been engaged in missionary work in this country, and carefully considering the main cause of moral evil here, you have come to the conclusion that opium is a pregnant source of evil?—That is so.

26,500. Would you say the same with regard to alcohol?—Yes.

26,501. Would you desire that the prohibitory legislation which you recommend in the case of opium should include alcohol as well?—Yes, certainly.

26,502. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) How long have you been at missionary work?—I have been at missionary work for the past three years.

26,503. Have you been during the whole of that time in the Central Provinces?—Yes, altogether in the Central Provinces—in the Bilaspur district.

26,504. What do you wish us to understand about the sale of these madak balls; the sale of madak is not prohibited in the Central Provinces, is it?—I was told that the sale was not prohibited, but that they were not allowed to smoke on the premises. That is how I understand the business.

26,505. You have described certain sales, but there is nothing illegal in that, is there?—I do not think I said it was illegal.

26,506. Why did you bring it to our notice?—I was merely giving a description of our visit to the dens.

26,507. In what you call "ganja ka khet" you saw some smoking, I understand?—Yes; there were 32 persons in this place all smoking.

26,508. Is that on the licensed premises?—I did not notice a license board for this shop, but I did in the other place.

26,509. It was a private gathering of people for smoking so far as you know?—From the fact that opium was being sold on the spot, and that they were smoking in the same place, I should conclude that it was a licensed shop, though I did not see the board.

26,510. You had no other reason for believing that it was a licensed shop?—No.

26,511. Did you see any sales yourself in this place?—Yes; I saw men come in, pay their pice and sit down and smoke on the spot.

26,512. Did you take any steps to bring this to the notice of the authorities?—I left the same night by train for Bombay.

26,513. Even then it might have been in your power by letter or otherwise to bring it to the notice of the authorities or the deputy commissioner?—I did not do it. I might have done it.

26,514. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) These were visits that were paid on your way down to this Commission?—Yes; on my way down to give evidence.

26,515. Your frequent visits to Bombay were before you went into missionary work at all, I suppose?—Yes.

26,516. In the Bilaspur there is not much eating and smoking, is there?—No.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. S. C. KANAGA RATNAM, B.A., called in and examined.

26,517. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are assistant master of the London Missionary Society High School at Belgaum?—Yes.

26,518. We should be glad to hear any statement you have to make with regard to the question under our consideration?—I am a native of Jaffna. I take great interest in the opium question, as it has a close bearing on the moral progress of the Indian community, and I have given my special attention to it. It is my firm conviction that opium is injurious to man physically, mentally, and morally. The Tamils and the people of South India regard opium as poison, and look down upon both opium eaters and opium smokers with the utmost contempt. Opium smoking is considered more deleterious than opium eating. The use of this drug is so much condemned by the public opinion that no one would like to be known as having anything to do with opium. Those who use opium are more or less emaciated in form and lead miserable lives. Life is a burden to them, and they are known and treated as the wrecks of society. The Tamil word for opium is aphin, and it is a significant fact that one of the most contemptuous and meanest terms that can be applied to a man is aphini (an opium user), an aphini being always supposed to be a careless, indolent, silly, physical wreck and moral coward. I have never known any Tamil to say a good word for opium. Moderate use of opium often, if not always, leads to excessive use of it. Opium eating is frequently begun in the company of prostitutes. I am at present assistant master in a high school at Belgaum. On one occasion I wanted to ascertain what the students think about the use of opium, and asked the students of the matriculation class to express their opinion on the matter. Without one dissentient voice they all said that opium was a bad thing and no respectable person ever used it. Some of these students had friends and relatives who used this drug and have consequently impaired their health to a considerable degree. One opium eater told me, in the presence of a number of witnesses, that he had learnt the habit from a European Government official under whom he was employed as a servant. His master, owing to his indulgence in opium, soon began to dislike all active work and became quite incapable of doing any public work. He himself had suffered much and pathetically referred to the injury done to him. I regard opium as most injurious, inasmuch as it saps the life of any habitual consumer and renders him less active and deadens his moral faculties. If opium eaters are less injurious to society than those who use alcohol, it is because the former have less life in them than the latter. They suffer from want of will and are really too weak to do any harm. Many of my countrymen acknowledge that opium, except when taken in medicinal doses, is a curse to India, and is daily adding to the miseries of the already much suffering people of this country. The Tamils do not regard opium as a preventive or cure of fever. I would like to emphasise the fact that moderate use of opium, when taken habitually, produces injurious effects. I have known opium eaters themselves frankly testifying to the bad effects of this drug and wishing they had never got into the habit and that no temptations had been put in their way. It is true the poorer class of people live on a starvation diet, and when such people take opium, the temporary relief from hunger they seem to experience is more than counterbalanced by the injurious effects afterwards. The baneful results from the use of opium far counterpoise any so-called good effects. The missionaries in this country come into closer contact with, and are better informed of the natives of this country and their attitude towards the opium question, than any other Europeans, and the evidence the majority of them have given before you is exactly what the masses of the people say on the question. It is sometimes alleged that the consumption of opium in India is very insignificant, and if this were true, it is difficult to understand how the suppression of the opium traffic would cause so much discontent as would end in a rebellion, that would eventually lead to the loss of India to Britain. Only two or three days ago a rich educated Parsi gentleman who has taken an abkari contract from Government for one or two lakhs said that a single visit to any opium smoking place by the Opium Commission would go a great way towards disclosing the pernicious results of opium smoking. By the administration of opium, children are sometimes killed and often injury is done to them. Recognising the injury that is often done to children by opium, the well-to-do classes of this country are very careful in employing as ayahs (nurses) women who would not give opium to their children with a view to curtail their labour and trouble. Some time ago a

native of Belgaum and a friend of mine who has lived with me sometime began to take opium in small doses. Gradually his craving for opium increased until it culminated in a sad event. One day he brought two pice worth of opium and kept the poison at home, a portion of which his only daughter of three years old took and ate. This took place in the morning, and the child died the same evening. The same day the father in deep agony resolved he would not any more take opium, but has not yet got over this habit to which he has become a slave. There are about a thousand confirmed opium eaters and one hundred opium smokers in Belgaum, and their number is no doubt increasing day by day. I am opposed to the opium trade and strongly desire its abolition before too late for its abolition to be possible.

26,519. Do you make the same recommendation with regard to the prohibition of alcohol?—Yes, I do.

26,520. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Will you kindly tell me what is your age?—I am 25.

26,521. How long have you been in Belgaum?—It is a year since I went to Belgaum.

26,522. What is your pay as assistant schoolmaster in the High School?—I have no objection to answer the question; but may I ask whether you put that question to all the European witnesses who have been examined?

26,523. I think you had better answer the question. There cannot be any great matter of concealment about it, is there?—I do not suppose it will in any way materially affect the evidence I am giving before you. I have no objection to tell you if you particularly want to know.

26,524. I wish for a reply?—My pay is Rs. 75.

26,525. Such experience as you have had is amongst the Tamils, is it not?—Yes.

26,526. There is hardly any consumption of opium amongst the Tamil race, is there?—As far as I know the Tamils use the least quantity of opium.

26,527. Judged by the statistics the consumption amongst them is very small?—Yes.

26,528. Is it a fact that they are alcohol drinking people?—They use alcohol in greater quantity than opium.

26,529. You have given your opinion that missionaries in this country have a better knowledge of the natives than other Europeans. I suppose you will admit that the natives of the country are themselves very competent to testify to their own views about opium?—Yes; but I believe those people who are not connected in any way with Government service are better capable of getting at the opinions of the natives.

26,530. You have referred to visits by the members of this Commission to opium smoking places; perhaps you are not aware that probably all the members of this Commission have visited a number of such places in various parts of India?—I am not aware of it.

26,531. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) You have stated that there are about a thousand confirmed opium eaters, and a hundred opium smokers in Belgaum, and that their number is no doubt increasing day by day. Is that the result of your personal investigation during the past year?—Yes.

26,532. It may interest you to know that we have had statistics as to the consumption of opium in the Belgaum district for the last ten years. The consumption is '3 of a tola per head per annum. It is precisely the same rate of consumption as it was nine years ago, and it is rather less than it was six or seven years ago. It is, in fact, with one exception, the smallest consumption of any district in the Bombay Presidency. I venture to think that before stating that the number is no doubt increasing day by day it would have been well for you to take more than a year's experience?—I have lived and talked with several opium eaters and had personal conversation with them. This is what they told me, and they expressed their desire that this evil traffic may be reduced.

26,533. (*Mr. Pease.*) Has there been any change in the population of Belgaum?—I cannot say; I am not aware of it.

26,534. (*Sir William Roberts.*) What is the population of Belgaum; is it a large place?—The population of the town is about 25,000.

26,535. Including men, women, and children?—Yes.

Mr. S. C.
Kanagh
Ratnam, B.A.
15 Feb. 1894.

Mr. S. C. Kanaga Ratnam, B.A. 26,536. You say there are about a thousand confirmed opium eaters; that would mean that about one quarter of the adults use opium?—Yes.

15 Feb. 1894. 26,537. Do you really think that every fourth man is an opium eater?—I have not had sufficient time to make a thorough inquiry into the matter, but this is what the opium eaters themselves state.

The witness withdrew.

* Mr. MANSUKH LAL called in and examined.

Mr. Mansukh Lal. 26,539. (Chairman.) What position do you hold?—For 10 years I was an officer of the Salvation Army, and in that capacity have spent six and a half years in India. I am now acting editor of the *Banner of Asia*. In accordance with the custom of that society I adopted an Indian name some years ago, and although I have resigned my position there for family reasons, I desire to continue that name by which I have been known for a good many years.

26,540. We should be glad to hear what you have to say with regard to this question?—Most of my time here I have worn the Indian dress and lived in the towns and villages of the Gujarat, Kathiawar, and Marathi countries as one of the people themselves, eating their ordinary food and sharing their homes. I therefore consider that I have had ample opportunities of knowing exactly what is the feeling of the people as to what things they regard as beneficial or otherwise to themselves. In the villages I visited I was generally called to see the sick, and asked to give them something for malarial fever which is the chief thing from which the people suffer. Though not a medical man I always carried with me a few simple remedies, but up to this day have never been asked for opium as a remedy, and have met only two men who ever claimed that opium was good for them non-medicinally; one of these was an intoxicated fakir and the other was a debauchee who had lately begun the habit. As staff officer of the Salvation Army in the thickly populated parts of Gujarat I had under my charge from 20 to 30 native officers who spent their whole time in villages working among the people. It was my duty to supply these officers with a few simple remedies for fever and any other complaint that might trouble them. We kept quinine and opening medicine, and a few other things, such as Dr. Gregory's stomachic powder. We never were asked for opium and it was never hinted that opium was used in cases of fever. I was also in Gujarat when cholera was prevalent, and I myself had a severe attack. I buried four of my comrades at that time, but I never heard any man ask for opium even when they were in the greatest straits. Gujarat is a very malarious country, and I have suffered greatly from fever there. My experience is that malarial fever hinders the action of the bowels, and that the first thing prescribed or taken is an opening medicine, and not an astringent such as opium. And even if opium were occasionally prescribed for fever by doctors, which I strongly doubt, still that is a very different thing to selling opium in poisonous doses to the public without a doctor's prescription, and regardless of the purpose for which it is used. To show that I am not speaking from fancy, I should like to quote a very brief extract from the *Indian Medical Record* of December 1st, in which a medical practitioner, Mr. M. R. Ranade, discusses the question of the use of a drug called atropia in opium poisoning. He gives instances of a number of cases of people who take opium. One woman took it to commit suicide, another took it by accident. He describes the effect of this drug upon such occasions. In one part of his statement he says, "Cases of opium poisoning are very frequent, for the simple and awful reason that opium is so easily procurable in the bazaar. It is therefore commonly resorted to by poisoners and suicides." As far as I know this doctor is not an anti-opiumist. I beg to tender that extract for the consideration of the Commission. I also wish to call the attention of the Commission to the *Medical Reporter* of Calcutta, which is a pro-opium newspaper, but which in an article advocates the appointment of a commission for poisons. If every doctor in the world were to say that he used opium as a medicine for any disease whatever, that would not warrant the non-medicinal sale and use of the poison. In India snake bite is a frequent cause of death to the people, and strychnine has been stated to be a splendidly effectual antidote to the poison of the cobra, but we do not see strychnine sold in the bazaar as opium is, as though it were sweetmeat or food. I have carefully conversed with hundreds of Indians upon this subject, and can fearlessly say that the feeling of the entire community is firm against alcohol and opium.

26,538. You have mentioned a case of accidental poisoning by opium. I presume that you are aware that accidental poisoning by opium might occur when the drug is dispensed under a physician's prescription?—In the case I referred to the doctor was called in and he said that it was owing to opium.

Until the appointment of this Commission the harmfulness of opium was never disputed by the Indian people, but the idea has got about that if opium be stopped then taxation will increase and alcohol be more largely used. I regard the plea that alcohol will take the place of opium as an unsound argument upon the part of those who make it, because I think that diligent research will show that most of those Europeans who foster the alarm about alcohol do not themselves abstain from alcohol, and probably will be the first to oppose any measures for the prohibition of alcoholic liquor for India, which the total abstinence party may and undoubtedly will introduce. I am for the abolition of the liquor traffic by local option. I have paid special attention to the smoking of opium, because smoking dens follow in the wake of the ordinary opium stalls, because they enable the Government to sell more of the drug. An opium dealer informed me that men who are content to eat two annas worth of opium (which has a bitter taste) will smoke twelve annas worth in the same amount of time. It is more luxurious. The smoking dens bring in a greater profit to Government. It has been my habit to visit the opium smoking dens in Indian dress, and to converse with the smokers for one or two hours each time, so as to get their real opinions of the poison. Several times I witnessed the eager way in which they always signed any petition to Government for the closing of the dens, and they would most pathetically plead with us to make haste before they were destroyed, and before their children could learn the horrid habit. I remember one instance especially, when I was in one of these places in company with General Booth, and interpreted some remarks of his to the smokers. We also had some prayer there, and at the conclusion of the visit, some of the opium smokers cried out and said, "It is all very well to pray and talk, but when are you going to do something. Here are we all enslaved by opium, and still the trade is not stopped." The smokers frequently impressed upon me the need of stopping the manufacture of opium altogether.

26,541. Can you suggest any substitutes for the opium revenue?—I beg to suggest one or two ways by which this deficit might be met, although with regard to the anticipated loss of revenue, I do not think that the onus of finding a substitute should be put upon the anti-opium party, but upon those financial experts who are paid to raise revenue, not by morally indefensible means, but by morally as well as commercially profitable measures. The bulk of this could be raised by an almost imperceptible tax of $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. upon all ocean-borne commerce leaving British ports. This commerce has been recently estimated at 1,200,000,000 per annum. A tax of one quarter per cent. (that is to say, a little under $2\frac{1}{2}$ farthings in the £) upon this amount would yield an annual revenue of three million pounds. This tax, though so slight, is hardly to be felt by the mercantile world, would be more than compensated by the friendly relationship with China which the abolition of the opium traffic would make possible—thus opening the way for a more extensive trade in British goods with that vast nation. If this were not sufficient, a further and substantial amount might be raised by taxing an article of luxury which is extensively used all over India, but which is not in any sense of the word a food—i.e., the betel nut and pan leaf which the people chew. The present price of this article is absurdly low. In this way India would combine with Britain to abolish the cultivation of the poppy except for medicine and so ensure the future prosperity of the empire.

26,542. What do you say to the argument that there is a certain class of Indian people who use opium and yet are physically strong?—If there be any one class of Indian people who are said to use opium and yet are physically strong, it will be found that their strength is due to causes other than opium. They are strong in spite of opium and not as a result of it. Take an illustration. Britain is said to be the mightiest power in the world, and no doubt she is. Yet in Britain, according to Dr. Norman Kerr's estimate, 50,000 persons every year die directly from strong drink; Sir Archibald Alison, author of the "History of

[* This witness bears a native name, but is a European.]

Europe" and sheriff principal of Glasgow, stated that in that city alone 30,000 persons nightly went to bed intoxicated—in London 70,000; one person in every 40 in the British Isles is a drunkard, one in 40 a pauper, one in every 100 a criminal, chiefly from one cause; the cause that according to Sir James Hannen is behind 75 out of every 100 divorce cases. Dare anybody attribute England's greatness to the fact that drink is the national vice? I think not. England's power is in spite of her drunkenness, and the same is true of India's people and opium. A remark frequently made to me is, "Government wants the money" and does not care for us—we are *kala lok* (black people). And then others would reply, "Yes, but what will become of the revenue when the opium habit has taken a thorough hold upon the subjects, and they are demoralised and poverty stricken?" Bombay being considered to be a healthy place and not so malarious as other parts, I concluded that the great quantity of opium sold in this city could not be required for medicinal purposes, and to find out the truth, minutely questioned every smoker or eater I met as to the reason for which he first took opium. Their answers were a revelation to me. As a further test case, on the 31st of July 1893, I conversed with 70 opium smokers in one den, and out of that number 65 agreed in saying that the chief reason for using opium was its supposed power to sustain abnormal sexual endurance. An account of this visit appeared in the *Banner of Asia* for September of that year. As is common in eastern countries, the manner of speech is very plain and these things are more generally talked of than in western lands; but the interests of truth upon so serious a subject demand that details be fully given, though perhaps not suitable for publication in any other than the Report of a Royal Commission. On one occasion, when not satisfied with general statements such as I had heard for years, I pressed for details, the smokers stated that opium acts upon the generative organ by artificially prolonging the sexual act. On the 18th of December 1893, in the presence of two missionaries, I asked a group of men, "Is it not true that for every one man who takes opium for any complaint, a hundred take it so as to prolong their unnatural indulgence with women?" They all, as on other occasions, emphatically answered in the affirmative. This artificial aid to debauchery, while it affords almost incredible license for a short time, yet after a few months, or in some cases, a year or two dries up the man's vitality and leaves him physically and morally wrecked for the rest of his days. Another result of the habit is that those who use opium for a year or two become so dried up that they seldom succeed in begetting children. The smokers say never, but perhaps there are exceptions. It was the inward vileness of the opium traffic from this particular point of view which caused me to take an attitude of absolute hostility to it, as every Christian man and woman should do. Not only is the opium traffic a wicked thing, but it is short-sighted, and must ultimately overthrow the very revenue for which it is sustained; because it surely and increasingly drains every other source of social strength in the family life of the Indian nation. I am acquainted with men who, though able to earn 20 or 30 rupees per month when at work every day, now are content to struggle along on one-third of that amount of money, and who spend the rest of their time in the opium dens. Even better class people who eat opium have to consume a much larger quantity of milk, ghee, and sugar in order to counteract, in some measure, the debilitating effect of the poison. A regular user of opium is easily recognised by the peculiar look in the eyes, the form of which is altered until some of them are almost almond-shaped. The lips also become thin and of a purple colour. Both within and without India the Government is engaged in a stupendous business of pandering to lust.

26,543. Turning to the question of opium dens, which has been raised by previous witnesses, have you anything to say on that subject?—I am prepared to conduct the members of this Commission around Bombay, and to give them an opportunity of hearing from the lips of the ordinary populace the truth of what I have stated about the harmfulness of opium, the dread of it which respectable people have, and their anxiety to keep it from their own children. The Commission to choose their own interpreters, to name the localities to be visited, and to ask any questions they may think fit. The only stipulation I make is that the time of the visit be not made known to any Government officials, and that no employés of the opium department be allowed to accompany the party. Early in August 1893 the *Times of India* informed the public that the opium smoking dens in Bombay had been finally closed (in response to the agitation of the anti-opium party) on the 31st of July. A few days later the same paper stated that the result of closing the dens would be the formation of "opium clubs,"

thus throwing out a hint to those who wished for such a suggestion. It was known to me and others shortly afterwards that a number of fresh opium dens had been opened, and we also suspected what ultimately came to our knowledge, that these "clubs" were of a charmingly primitive character. The names had been changed, but the identical things remained. On Monday, the 18th of December 1893, I, in the company of two missionaries, paid a visit to some of these "clubs." The first one we entered was in the same building as the previous licensed opium den, but upstairs instead of on the ground floor. The entrance to the room in which we found the smokers was so small that one had to stoop almost double, and in the inside we saw eight men reclining for the opium smoke. Three opium lamps were burning, and two men were in the act of smoking. One of our number made a few inquiries which took the following forms:—"What place is this?" (chorus of voices) "A kalab, sahib." "What kind of club?" "Oh, like the Byculla club that the sahibs use." "What is the subscription rate, and what are the rules, then?" "Whatever one likes. It depends upon what he has to eat, drink, &c. There is no rule or anything for membership, and you only pay for what you get." "Then can anybody come here and smoke opium?" "Oh, yes, of course, if he pay for his smoke." "Then what is the difference between this place and former dens?" "Kuch nahin" (nothing at all). We were then interrupted by the owner of the place, who was uneasy. He extinguished two of the lamps, and told the men to *chup raho*, i.e., keep quiet. Before leaving, we asked them whether there were any more of these clubs, and they shook their heads, saying, "We know not." But when one of our party offered four annas (sixpence) to any man who would take us round to a few of them, a man jumped up and said, "Come on then, I'll show you." We went with him and, within an area of 200 yards, visited six other dens in which the same thing was going on. In every place we introduced ourselves as missionaries, and asked the smokers to give us their real opinions as to the use of opium. They did so, and were absolutely undivided in their vigorous condemnation of the opium use and traffic, saying, "If the opium trade were stopped, we would be compelled to do without it, but now that it is so easy of access, we cannot abstain from it." In order to verify what we had heard, we made an appointment with one of the opium slaves, to meet him and four others the next day, and they accordingly came. We stipulated that they should receive no fee or reward whatever, beyond payment for half a day's coolie (labourer's) work. These four men came to a place arranged by us, and though at first a little afraid to speak, they slowly gained confidence when convinced that our object was merely to get a true statement from them. The spokesman, a fairly intelligent man, said that he first took to the habit on the suggestion of a friend, who told him that opium greatly added to the power and pleasure of sexual indulgence. In this manner he abandoned himself to the most horrible debauchery for a month or six weeks, after which he became very weak, and now is compelled to smoke three annas' worth of opium daily to alleviate, for a few hours, the evil effects of the poison. This man also stated that he previously earned Rs. 30 per month, while now he could not work for many hours without going to the opium den. All the men agreed in making the following statement of facts:—(a.) The opium smoking dens in Bombay were all supplied with opium by the man Damaji, who holds the license to sell opium in quantities of two tolas only to each purchaser. (b.) Any man who starts a "club" without the permission of the opium vendor is immediately prosecuted by the authorities, but those who agree to purchase all their opium from Damaji are perfectly safe from prosecution. (c.) The men who run the "clubs" themselves manufacture the chandul from the crude opium, ready for smoking, making two annas' profit on every tola. (d.) The existence of these mock clubs is well known to opium Inspector Rustomji Jehangir, who has frequently visited them. (e.) The men who own the "clubs" instructed the smokers to say that the opium does them good, and so on, when questioned by the sahibs. (f.) Messengers are sent round to inform the smokers whenever visitors are near, and two or three lamps are extinguished. (This was done when they were visited by myself and others.) (g.) All of them heartily desire that the supply of the drug, through other than medical men, be stopped entirely. "While it is so easy to get opium we cannot abstain from it, but if the supply were discontinued, then we would have to do without it, and would go to our different occupations." From time to time many stories I have heard from the lips of the poor, of misery caused by opium, were very sad, and so numerous that they would fill a large volume.

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26,544. What is your experience of the views of opium smokers themselves with reference to this source of moral weakness?—It is a singular fact that if you converse with a man in a friendly manner, while he is in the act of smoking opium he generally will denounce the opium in strong language, but that same man when deprived of his smoke for a few hours, and feeling the opium crave, will beg that his supply of the drug may not be stopped. To compare this with the smoking of tobacco is absurd and thoughtless. It is my belief that if this vile trade in poison be longer upheld, then there will assuredly be a fearful retribution for the English-speaking races, caused by the subtle encroachment of the opium habit upon them. First the wealthy and idle, and ultimately the poorer classes will succumb to this insidious plague. These words are the outcome of an inward conviction as the result of personal observation and thought, and I feel constrained to add my voice in warning, to those thoughtless persons who, for the sake of revenue, are willing to submit to the organised debauchment of two splendid nations—India and China—and through them the ultimate devastation of the whole world.

26,545. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Are you aware that we have had some number of natives of India before us in various parts of the country who have stated that opium is used as a protection against chills and malarial influences?—I should not be surprised at anything that might be stated by a man of any nation whatever.

26,546. Your own experience extends over six and a half years, and is limited to certain parts of India, is it not?—My experience of India is that I went straight away into the villages on my arrival in the country. The six and a half years' experience have been divided between Kathiawar, Gujarat proper, and the Maratha villages.

26,547. Your experience extends over six and a half years, and to certain parts of the country only?—Yes.

26,548. You can quite understand that a use of opium which you have not found in your experience may be known in other parts of the country, I presume?—I understand that, if it is stated so, that may be so; but I strongly doubt it.

26,549. You speak very confidently about the feeling of the entire community being against opium?—I do not speak of the southern part of India; I speak for the people in that part of the country in which I live.

26,550. From what you have said your argument appears to be that alcohol will not be given up because Europeans are in favour of it; therefore the danger that alcohol will take the place of opium will remain, as far as I understand?—I may say my argument is this, that if to-morrow any society were to introduce a Bill for the local suppression of the liquor traffic, the first persons to oppose that Bill would be those very official Government witnesses who now raise the alcohol bogie. The future will prove the truth or otherwise of my statement.

26,551. We want to go a step further. Your argument requires that alcohol will not be prohibited?—I do not say that.

26,552. You anticipate that by your argument?—I do not anticipate it, because the public will agitate and agitate until it is prohibited.

26,553. That is what you mean?—That is what I think.

26,554. You say that you think that alcohol will be prohibited?—After a severe struggle.

26,555. And therefore there is no fear of alcohol taking the place of opium if opium is prohibited?—That does not follow.

26,556. Many natives as well as European officials have expressed to us great fears that the alcohol habit will spread if opium is prohibited?—Those same officers and those same newspapers which are the voice of the officials while they hold up the alcohol bogie hold out their advertisement pages to advertising various kinds of whiskeys.

26,557. We have had native witnesses before us who have expressed their opinions that if opium is prohibited alcohol will spread?—The people of India have a very great dread of alcohol, and I think rightly so. The entrance of a man, the worse for liquor, into a village is sufficient to cause all the women to run away outside.

26,558. Your argument is not quite intelligible?—I am sorry for that.

26,559. You have said, "An opium eater informed me that men who are content to eat two annas' worth of opium (which has a bitter taste) will smoke 12 annas' worth in the

same amount of time." Opium is taken in the shape of pills, is it not?—Not always. People have stated to me that they prefer to chew it.

26,560. Do you think that the suggestions thrown out by the English daily papers are likely to reach the class of people who frequent these smoking places?—Every leading statement made by the Bombay daily papers is translated into Gujarati and Marathi by the editors of the Anglo-Vernacular papers who understand both languages. I myself have continually perused newspapers in Gujarati and Marathi and Hindi, and I know that it is the fact that every remark, even a rumour, about anything that happened in China is mentioned in the Vernacular the next day.

26,561. That is so; but even accepting that, are the lower classes who have been described to us as going to the smoking places in the habit of reading Vernacular papers largely?—I have met men in these smoking places who now belong to the lower classes who were very intelligent, and who could read the various Vernaculars; and they discuss in these smoking dens the various topics of the day.

26,562. But speaking generally, the classes of people that meet there would be the lower classes, would they not?—Not at all.

26,563. I am speaking of the opium smoking dens?—They would not necessarily be all of the lower classes. I have met men of every class. They told me at one place that a European used to go there every day and then he disappeared, the inference being that he had died.

26,564. We have been told this afternoon that the people who frequent the dens are largely criminal and people of the lowest classes?—It might be so, but my observation has not been about criminality.

26,565. Do you think from your experience that much reliance can be placed upon the statements of these opium smokers when you are discussing the subject with them?—I think as much reliance is to be placed upon the statement of a native as upon that of a European.

26,566. I was not drawing a distinction between natives and Europeans, I was speaking of opium smokers—whether much reliance could be placed upon the words or statements of persons in the habit of smoking opium in these dens, who have been described to us as habitual liars and in language of that kind by a witness to-day?—My impression is that they are by no means habitual liars—they are not habitual liars any more than the inhabitants of another country. The question of whom does it benefit comes up in the matter of believing a man's testimony. If a man testifies against himself and he has nothing to gain by that testimony, and everything to lose, and that testimony has to be got from him by quiet talking and questioning, then I am inclined to believe it, but if I offer a bribe to a man I cannot believe him.

26,567. Do you think the statements of these people would generally deserve credit?—Generally on the matter of the injury of opium to themselves I think their statements deserve credit.

26,568. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) I suppose you know that China is supplied with opium not by India alone but by other nations?—I have heard that Persia is competing for the Chinese trade.

26,569. Persia and Turkey and other places are supplying opium to China, and perhaps you know that if there was any obligation on the part of China to accept Indian opium, it has lately been declared by a responsible secretary before Parliament that China is free to accept Indian opium or not?—My impression is that no official intimation as the outcome of the expression of Parliament has been sent to China to that effect.

26,570. That might be the case or not, but it has been declared publicly; and in that case do you think that the British Government would supply opium and ruin China in the way you have suggested?—Every word in my statement is the outcome of very serious thought. I purposely have abstained from reading the statements of other witnesses in order that I might not be biased. With regard to China, I think that whatever others nations might do England, who holds her head so high, should certainly do right first.

26,571. You are talking about England and her high standard; do you expect England to do such things?—I may explain that I am an Englishman, though Indian by adoption; I am proud of England. I am not against an Indian Government as a Government. I am against the vices.

26,572. (Mr. Mowbray.) You have stated that any man who starts a club without the permission of the opium

vendor is immediately prosecuted by the authorities; can you give any instances of prosecutions that have taken place?—I think you will find that what I said there is a record of conversation that took place. The name given to me was that of Abdulkhan; I think it will be found that one of the witnesses against him had been employed to sell opium by the opium vendor.

26,573. Did you test that statement when it was made?—I questioned it.

26,574. Can you tell me when that case was?—Without reference I could not tell you, but I will endeavour to furnish you with the information.

26,575. That is the only case, as far as you recollect, that was mentioned to you in proof of that general statement?—Many of them said, "It is all very well, we cannot come and make a statement; the Commission will be going to-morrow and these authorities with whom we have to deal will remain. We might come and give evidence to you but afterwards injury will come to us." They said that, whether rightly or wrongly.

26,576. Whether their statement was right or wrong, you asked the question and you had this one instance mentioned?—Yes.

26,577. And you cannot recollect that you had any other instance mentioned?—No.

26,578. You have told us that all the statements you have made in your evidence in chief are the outcome of serious thought; but it does not require a license in the Bombay Presidency to sell sweetmeats or food, does it?—Yes, it does require a license.

26,579. To sell sweetmeats or food?—Every Irani shop in Bombay has to be licensed by the police. A case occurred in which the Government or the police authorities refused a license for a coffee shop but granted a license for a liquor shop.

26,580. Do you really mean to tell me that there are as great restrictions upon the sale of sweetmeats and food

as there are upon the sale of opium?—Nominally there are not, practically there are.

26,581. That is your opinion?—Yes.

26,582. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) Perhaps you are aware that it is not the British Government who have brought opium or the consumption of opium, but that it existed before the advent of the British Government into this country?—I am not now dealing with the matter of who introduced it, any more than I would ask who introduced a snake into this room. My contention is that a snake having got in it should be got out as soon as possible.

26,583. If the snake were kept within bounds, and not free to bite many persons but only a limited number, would not that be better than if the snake were left free?—I prefer to kill the snake.

26,584. Perhaps you know that opium is grown very largely in China?—I believe it is.

26,585. If other nations did not supply China with opium, would not China grow more opium herself, and then would she not be ruined by it?—I have heard it stated that the late Viceroy of China, Li Hang Chung, said, "China is not free in the matter." If she were at liberty to refuse the trade from other nations she herself would be able to deal with the internal traffic." I understand that China is a difficult country to manage, but no doubt the Emperor of China could explain that point. I should like to make one further statement to the Commission. It is my firm conviction that many people could be got to speak against the traffic, but there is in their minds a very great fear of what we have called, whether rightly or wrongly, official pressure. When spoken to a man says, "Opium is a bad thing," but when we ask him to give evidence, he will say, "For God's sake do not mention my name." These men have a fear of the Government because they know that Government is the dealer in the drug. If any means could be taken to get at the real genuine opinion of the public on the policy of Government I shall be glad, and if I find that any of my statements are wrong I shall be only too happy to withdraw them.

The witness withdrew.

PANDIT GANESH ANANT BHIDE called in and examined.

26,586. (Chairman.) I believe you wish to make a statement to us on the opium question?—Yes. I am an inhabitant of Kihim, near Alibag in the Bombay Presidency, and have resided in the city of Bombay for fourteen years, and during that time I have been a professional teacher of Sanskrit, Marathi, Hindi, Gujarati, and Mathematics. About eight years ago I saw the body of a woman who had committed suicide by taking opium which she had purchased in the bazaar. From that time until now I have taken particular and careful interest in the opium question. By the members of the Hindu community to which I belong the taking of opium in any form, except through a medical man, and as medicine, is considered to be a very disreputable thing. When we wish to insult a man, a very sure way of doing so is to call him "aphubaj" (that is opium drunkard). Nobody ever attaches any truth to the statements of an opium eater or smoker, and he is regarded by young and old as a contemptible person. Fever and other complaints are common among us and we are acquainted with many native remedies for such complaints, but I never have known an instance in which opium was used as a protection against fever or as a remedy for any other common disease. Some of the reasons for which people of my country take opium are (1) for the supposed pleasure of abnormal sexual indulgence; (2) in order to forget some great trouble, such as the death of a dear relative, &c.; (3) by learning the habit from one's associates and taking it merely for the sake of sociability; (4) for the purpose of committing suicide, as in the case of a woman who was my neighbour two years ago. She had a disagreement with her husband, and in his absence bought some opium which she swallowed and died four or five hours afterward. For the last five years I have been a frequent visitor to the licensed opium smoking houses in this city. Though my people consider it to be a shameful thing to enter such places, still in the interests of truth and in order to ascertain the real facts I have made these places a rather special matter of study. I have conversed with the greatest freedom, with thousands of opium slaves, and have looked into their miserable condition. Some have wept when speaking to me of their moral and physical ruin, caused by the opium drug; others have expressed a fervent desire to be freed from the habit, and have begged me to give them

some kind of medicine which would enable them to give up the use of opium; all without exception have denounced the drug and the traffic, even when the opium pipe was in their mouths. Any man, medical or other, who said that opium was a thing necessary to or beneficial to the common people would be, and now is, laughed at by the entire Hindu community. Any person wishing to take opium does so always without the knowledge of his own household. If opium were the precious article of food or nourishment that some thoughtless persons have stated it to be, then its use would be open and without shame. Even the people who use opium themselves are most anxious to hide the fact from their own children. These who eat opium require a large and substantial quantity of food in order to counteract the effects of opium eating or smoking. I have marked this personally in many cases. Those who eat a large substantial quantity of food can have a healthy state but not for very long. But hundreds and thousands there are who with the greatest difficulty get one or two poor meals of very common sort, and such persons who use opium in either way soon become emaciated and useless for any work. Their thirst for opium so increases that they soon become immoral in order to get money for their vice in an easy way, or have the alternative of starvation. Food is cheap. The opium is very dear, and to say in time of famine people subsist on opium is nothing but silliness. Opium does not kill appetite but increases it, and at any rate none supposes it as an article of food, and if some do they can be placed in the same rank of Europeans who, if there be any, say that rum is an article of food, and that when famine comes people can manage to live on rum without food. Opium brings shame. Respectable and young (new) opium consumers are always ashamed if they be called aphubaja. Every one shrinks at that name. If in a family a son uses opium in any shape then he does it very secretly, and he always tries that none should know about it (young or old). If the father smokes or eats opium he also has the same idea. Opium consumers never advise their children to eat opium, but on the contrary if they hear that their sons and daughters are following the same course and copying them in using opium they abuse and rebuke them and sometimes drive them away. These very facts show that the opium is not

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an article of food and also that it is not beneficial to the human constitution. If it was, none would have been ashamed to use it and people would have circulated the use of it very widely. All Indians would have been opium consumers. No one feels ashamed to drink milk in the presence of young or old and they freely, joyfully, and persistently allow the use of milk or other similar articles of food as rice, wheat, &c., &c., so if the opium was harmless and good and profitable people would have used the opium freely and without any shame. My father is a landowner in the Alibag district, and he has some workers in his charge. They work in all seasons; none of them use opium and they do not require it. If we find a person in our service who uses opium we call him "aphubaja," and so make him leave our service. Aphubaja are looked upon contemptuously by all. No one will trust an aphubaja (opium user). I suppose opium to be far more dangerous than alcohol although alcohol is also very bad. Alcohol makes a man noisy and turbulent and the effects of liquor are quickly seen. But an opium sot simply becomes drowsy, nerveless, and stupid. The very quietness of an opium smoker's life is one of its worst features, because it remains so long unobserved, and when the results of the drug cause alarm to a man's friends, then it is too late to save him, because he has become a slave to the treacherous drug. It increases adultery. When people become slaves of this drug they become helpless and are unable to feed their wives and children, so when women are in the state of difficulty of getting food and clothing some professional female and male pimps take opportunity of inducing the tender, uneducated, pained and unfed women, or, say, girls, to the adulterous path. In which the pimps soon with very little difficulty succeed and sooner or later the poor women become tenants of rooms on a highway. Sometimes husbands themselves being in difficulty of food and clothing lead them to the adulterous path and take the place of a pimp for their own wives or daughters or sisters (this of course is seen among very poor and low class of people). I once heard in an opium den from an opium smoker's lips that he sold his wife for Rs. 20 in order to get necessary articles for himself. This I heard in the presence of one or two persons. I have heard a number of stories from the lips of opium smokers. If I were to write them all, it would take months to write them. But in short, do not remember one man in the opium den or outside who uses opium and whom I met and who said to me that opium is good, or opium makes a man healthy, or opium is an article of food, &c., &c. And on the contrary every one said that it is a curse, it is very bad, and if Government, our Maya Bapa (mother and father), stops the public sale of opium, it will do an immense lot of good, though even not to us, at least to our children. Hinduism speaks very strongly against intoxicants of all kinds, and I have seen many people offering rice, ghi, cooked food, &c., &c., to many deities, but I never saw or heard or read, any one offering to God opium. And other religions of India also speak against intoxicants. And so I come to the conclusion that opium is morally, religiously, and physically bad and it is the only desirable thing that its sale except for the medical purposes should be prohibited.

26,587. You come here to recommend that opium, the effects of which you have drawn in such dark colours, should not be sold except for medical purposes?—Yes.

26,588. You have referred to the prohibition by the Hindu religion of intoxicants of all kinds?—Yes. Opium is not mentioned in the Hindu religion, but intoxicants are mentioned.

26,589. The Hindu religion speaks, as you say, against intoxicants of all kinds?—Yes.

26,590. Would you not, therefore, recommend that the same prohibition, which you advise in the case of opium should extend to intoxicants of all kinds?—Yes; all kinds of intoxicants should be prohibited. By the articles of religion all intoxicants are prohibited.

26,591. You would like to see that religious prohibition receive the sanction of the law?—Yes.

26,592. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You say, "opium is very dear," and to say in time of famine people subsist on opium is "nothing but silliness." Has anyone made the statement that in times of famine people subsist only on opium?—

I heard so, and besides I have read in a certain book that it helps men in the time of famine.

26,593. It helps them, but it does not enable them to subsist?—Of course not, it is not food at all. It does not decrease the appetite but it increases it.

26,594. With regard to the word aphubaja, you have given the translation as "opium drunkard" in one place, and in another place "opium user"?—Aphubaja is an opium user of any kind. In whatever way he takes it he may be called aphubaja.

26,595. If a man takes opium in very small quantities is he called aphubaja?—We call him aphubaja. In our society it is not taken. I have only seen one Brahmin who takes opium and we call him aphubaja. Speaking generally, when we see a man eating or smoking opium we call him aphubaja whether he takes it in moderation or not.

26,596. We have been told that the term aphubaja is only used when the person takes opium immoderately?—Whether a man takes opium moderately or immoderately, we call him aphubaja.

26,597. With regard to your remarks about the use of opium leading to adultery, have you many or any authenticated cases of that kind?—I have personally seen many cases half-a-dozen or more. I have seen many cases of the same sort from liquor as well as from opium.

26,598. These cases were mentioned to you, did you authenticate them by inquiry?—I went myself and made inquiries. I went into the affair properly—I went into the opium dens.

26,599. Did you verify the cases where wives had been led into adultery?—Yes.

26,600. You have stated that you heard from an opium smoker's lips that he sold his wife for Rs. 20, did you verify the facts of that case and ascertain whether it was really so?—No, we did not. We simply heard a smoker saying it, that is all.

26,601. In the first part of your evidence, you state, "Nobody ever attaches any truth to the statement of an 'opium eater or smoker,'" will you explain why you should believe extraordinary statements made by an opium eater or smoker, such as you have mentioned?—Generally when they are not drunk they will say something true, but when they are drunk or when they are thirsting for opium they scarcely ever speak the truth. So we are led to say that no one can trust them.

26,602. Just so. Then why should we believe this extraordinary statement that an opium smoker had sold his wife?—We heard the statement made. We did not go and inquire about it minutely. We had no reason at that time to go into it, otherwise we would have done so.

26,603. (Mr. Mowbray.) What little book was it in which you saw about the opium famine, was it a native or an English book?—It was an English book.

26,604. You say opium is very dear, has it ever occurred to you how much of the dearness is due to the taxation which Government levies upon it?—I do not know anything about the finance question.

26,605. You are not aware that opium at present is heavily taxed?—I know this much, opium is dear and we can get food very cheap. I can get a larger amount of food for As. 2 than I can opium.

26,606. You are not aware how much of that dearness with regard to opium is the result of Government putting so heavy a tax upon it?—No.

26,607. (Mr. Pease.) Are you aware that we have had evidence that if a man had not sufficient money with which to buy himself sufficient food to eat it would still be wise for him to spend a small portion of what he had upon opium?—It would not be wise for anybody to spend any money upon opium.

26,608. I thought you might have seen that we have had evidence of that kind brought before us. I do not unite in the view?—I did not hear about it. Food is very cheap and opium is very dear. Foolish people spend money on opium that could be spent on food. Opium is very dear, and they get intoxicated.

The witness withdrew.

Surgeon-Major K. R. KIRTIKAR called in and examined.

*Surg.-Maj.
K. R. Kirtikar.*

26,609. (Chairman.) I believe you are Civil Surgeon at Thana?—I am.

26,610. To what districts of the Presidency and to what races are your observations applicable?—My observations

apply to men of all classes in Bombay, Sind, and the Thana district, and chiefly to the Hindus and the Mahomedans.

26,611. To what extent is opium used among the population of the districts to which your observations apply?—I cannot give even approximately the proportion of persons per mille using opium habitually. Such a calculation is difficult to arrive at for a general observer like myself. But from the figures obtained from the collector of Thana, showing the quantity of opium sold in the Thana district during the last ten years, it appears that opium is not much in use in this district. With regard to the people of Bombay and Sind, my remarks will be confined to those whom I have known personally either as a member of society or as a medical practitioner.

26,612. What have you to say with regard to the effect of opium upon the moral and physical condition of the user?—A moderate use of opium may be considered a luxury with some and a necessity with others. In the former, it contributes to the day's pleasures; in the latter it enables them to work. My observations will be, under this head, chiefly confined to opium eating. A moderate use of opium does not in any way prejudicially affect the moral and physical condition of the user. The latter is often improved; at any rate, if the user is subject to, or has been a sufferer from, any kind of bowel or chest complaint previous to contracting the opium habit, he is enabled by the habitual use of opium to shake off these ailments, and lead a comfortable life, and, moreover, earn his livelihood. It is a slander to even suggest that moderate consumers of opium have no moral stamina. The abuse of opium, *i.e.*, excessive use in any case, whether as a luxury or as a necessity, has decidedly a damaging effect on the body, and the mind becomes enfeebled. I cannot say, however, that every abuser of opium is an immoral man. He does not form an ordinary member of our criminal classes, as our jail statistics would show. He is his own enemy. He becomes helpless and suffers in the long run from effects of chronic opium poisoning. I know some instances of opium smokers of the excessive type, who, as men of business, are unsteady and unreliable. I know nothing of persons who smoke opium moderately.

26,613. Have you anything to add with regard to the methods of consumption and the effects of the drug?—The methods of consumption are by means of pills and watery solutions. The usual dose of solid opium is from 5 to 10 grains daily in one, two, or three pills. Watery solutions contain about the same quantity of opium per day, taken singly or in divided doses. But it varies with different individuals. The effect also varies according to the nervous or phlegmatic temperament of the user, and according to the time how long an individual has been using the drug. As a rule, in course of time, the drug ceases to take effect. The quantity has thus to be increased from time to time, according to the craving of the individual, or according as the effects of the drug are desired. As much as a drachm of solid opium has sometimes to be taken to satisfy the craving. Small doses act as excitants, such as a grain or two. Larger doses necessitate a shorter or a longer sleep with some habituels; with others the case is different; they can follow their avocations without any desire or necessity to go to sleep.

26,614. Is opium used as a prophylactic?—Opium is used as a prophylactic in many diseases, especially those of the chest and bowels. In all kinds of neuralgia, especially the headache caused by malarial poisoning, opium is very valuable. It is well known to eminent European writers on *materia medica* as an anti-periodic, and as such it is invaluable in a country like India where malaria is so much prevalent. People under the advice of vaidyas and hakims use it with advantage in the affections I have mentioned. They take to it almost instinctively. The habit is generally formed by an individual commencing the use of opium, in the first instance, for the relief of pain in some of the maladies mentioned above.

26,615. Does the use of opium as habitually indulged in by natives lead to consequences as serious as those which follow the use of alcohol?—When habituels use opium judiciously they show no bad consequences on their system as the results of such use. Every organ of a moderate habitual user of opium may be sound and he may die, not necessarily of disease resulting from the use of opium. This is exactly what may happen in a moderate consumer of alcohol. But among men who use opium in excess, diseases of the intestinal canal, of kidneys, and of the mind are prevalent. In cases where alcohol is used in excess, the liver suffers in two ways, *viz.*, either from engorgement leading to acute inflammation followed by an abscess, or from atrophy ending in abdominal dropsy. The kidneys are also affected in some cases; mania supervenes in others.

26,616. In making post-mortem examinations have you discovered any serious organic lesion, or any lesion at all, attributable to opium?—I have had a few occasions of making post-mortem examinations among men known to have been moderate users of opium, but I have never discovered any kind of lesion in any organ. I have had no opportunity of holding a post-mortem examination on any excessive user of opium, except in one or two instances where there was atrophy of the intestines, in all its coats, mucous as well as muscular.

26,617. Is it difficult for an opium consumer to give up the habit, and when given up, is it likely to result in the use or abuse of other drugs, or of alcohol?—It is not difficult for an opium eater under restraint to shake off his habit, as, for instance, when an opium eater is a prisoner in jail. Of his own accord he would perhaps not give up the habit. But in jails we do not allow opium except as medicine. He therefore out of sheer hopelessness begs for something else that would stop the craving. I have been off and on nearly eleven years in medical charge of the Thana Jail with a daily average population of from 500–600 convicts. It being a depot jail we get convicts from all parts of this Presidency. In this jail I have come across convicts who prior to their entry into the jail were habitual users of opium. When they find out that they cannot get their customary allowance, they are miserable. If at such a time they could get alcohol or any other stimulant they would certainly take it. The result of withholding opium is that sometimes such convicts become depressed mentally and physically. For some days I have to keep them on a stimulant mixture of spirits of ammonia to counteract the depression which the absence of opium brings on. If opium is withheld from the people of the country, to a certainty the use of alcohol would increase; or people would go in for bhang or ganja. Alcohol is already on the increase in this country.

26,618. What effect has the habitual use of opium on the mental faculties, and does it interfere with the consumer's ability to conduct his business successfully?—Among men who use opium moderately the drug tends to sharpen the intellect and makes a man talkative. It seldom, if ever, interferes with the consumer's ability to conduct his business. The same cannot be said of men who use large doses. Such men are helpless, unreliable, and unsteady in their habits, and they are mere wrecks as regards their physical and mental condition.

26,619. Have you any other observations which you desire to make?—The excessive use of opium in children in such quantities as send them off to sleep the whole day long, causes emaciation, bowel disorders, and loss of sight by producing opacity of the cornea. This proves that opium puts a stop to the process of nutrition in children. I have seen this during the last sixteen years of my practice. Native mothers administer a preparation called bal goli to keep them quiet. It contains opium. It does children immense harm, although it keeps them quiet and allows the mothers to follow their in-door or out-door occupations while the babes are asleep. This quiet, however, is de-r-bought, and at the expense of the children's general health and eyesight. The sale of bal goli should be stopped with a stringent hand. The damage done by it is irreparable.

26,620. (Sir William Roberts.) Do you regard the injury done by opium to children in affection of the cornea as a direct or indirect cause of starvation?—It is the result of starvation. It is the final symptom. It is when emaciation has gone on to such an extent and the absorptive power of the bowels is so far reduced that the child is unable to retain food in the stomach, and there is absolute starvation in spite of food being put into the system, that this ulceration of the cornea and disintegration takes place.

26,621. Have you ever seen cases of opacities of the cornea such as you have mentioned among the children of well-to-do classes, and those who are comparatively well off?—No.

26,622. You have only seen such cases amongst the very poor classes?—That is so. It is not always the result of children not getting sufficient food from their mothers. There may be sufficient food for the children of the lower classes, but the opium itself being given causes opacity and emaciation; so that the general starvation of the body is not on account of poverty of the mother, although the mothers are of the lower classes and earn their daily livelihood. Opacity of the cornea is attributable to balagoli and indirectly to opium—chronic opium poisoning.

26,623. (Mr. Pease.) Have you met many of these cases?—Since 1883 I have had about 63 cases in Thana

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K. R. Kirtikar.*

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of affection of the cornea, as the result of chronic opium poisoning.

26,624. Mr. Prautch, in his evidence, alluded to one case?—I was not here at the time, but I heard something about it.

26,625. Mr. Prautch stated, "In answer to a question "Dr. Kirtikar said, 'I have many cases of children "dosed with opium. I register them in my books as "chronic cases of opium; they usually begin with "chronic diarrhoea, and often they lose their eyesight by "suppuration. This is very common among the natives." Do you confirm that statement?—I should modify that statement; it is not very common.

26,626. (*Sir William Roberts.*) How many patients passed through the hospital?—On an average 3,000 patients passed through the out-door dispensary in the Civil Hospital during the year. Besides that I have a daily fluctuating population of 600 or 700, or even sometimes 800, prisoners in the Thana Jail, where I get the opportunity of seeing men from different parts of the country—from Kathiawar. All the transports come from Karachi, from Hyderabad, and Kathiawar, and all the principal towns connected with the Presidency; so that every year I get an opportunity of seeing men who are opium eaters, men who take large quantities of opium. There is a man now who used to take opium before he came to jail, as much as 300 grains a day of solid opium. He was helpless after taking it. It was a case of excessive use of opium.

26,627. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Do you know anything about the native medicines?—I have lately been studying some old Hindu works on botany.

26,628. Have you come across any mention of opium in Hindu medical books which would support your view to some extent?—Yes; I have come across a work called "Raja Nighanta," which is one of the oldest works we have. It was written by a man in Cashmere; in that book, four kinds of opium are described. There is the white opium, called "jarran," which adds to the digestive power of the stomach; then there is the black variety, called "maran," which is the killing variety. Then there is the "dharu," which prolongs life, and then there is "saran," which is of mixed colour, and is productive of diarrhoea.

26,629. (*Mr. Pease.*) As a medical man do you consider anything in that theory with regard to the different

colours of the poppy having different medical effects?—I am mentioning what this author says. I am not giving my opinion. The author, Chudamani, seems to have examined the specimens of opium prevalent during those times; that was several hundred years ago. Now we have our Malwa opium, and we speak of that. You will find a description of that in books. The best opium is considered to be the Turkish opium. This is modern. I have not any special experience of the various kinds of opium that were known in the old days.

26,630. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) In your experience do the medicinal properties correspond with those mentioned in the old books?—Yes.

26,631. So that seven or eight hundred years ago those doctors knew that there was some use in opium which is acknowledged by English doctors?—Yes. Lauder Brunton, for instance, and Dr. Ringer, who is one of the greatest authorities, consider opium to be essentially useful for the natives of India, who take large quantities of food, to enable them to get rid of the excreta formed by those large quantities of food. That is mentioned in Dr. Ringer's book, where he says something with reference to the power that opium has in expelling large quantities of food from the intestinal canal of the natives of India, who are in the habit of taking large quantities of food.

26,632. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Are you aware that at the beginning of last year the Bombay Government had a special inquiry made into the use of these bala golis or children's pills?—I am not aware of it. But this much I know, that of late the sale of bala goli is not quite so great. There are some restrictions here upon the sale of bala goli in Bombay; and if that is so, it is a great gain.

26,633. I understand that a number of professional men were consulted in Bombay, and that the opinions were fairly divided between the advantages and the disadvantages of the habit; are you aware of that?—I am not aware of that.

26,634. Do you think the practice of giving bala goli to children is a dangerous one?—In any case where a certain quantity is exceeded, and it is given in poisonous doses, it is dangerous. It is given by mothers to keep their children quiet, and sometimes they give such enormous doses as to almost starve the children, who are not able to take any food afterwards.

The witness withdrew.

Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel M. L. BARTHOLOMEUSZ, M.B., called in and examined.

[*Surg.-Lieut.-
Col. M. L.
Bartholomeusz, M.B.*

26,635. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are civil surgeon and superintendent of the Byramji Jijibhai Medical School and Lunatic Asylum at Ahmedabad?—Yes.

26,636. (*Sir William Roberts.*) To what district or districts of the Presidency and to what races are your observations applicable?—My evidence is based on personal experience gained in the performance of my official duties in Sind and Gujarat during the past 19 years. I have been civil surgeon of Ahmedabad, Nasik, and Sukkur for the last 10 years, and have had ample opportunities of judging as to the effects of the opium habit on the general population in these localities. During the six years I was in medical charge of a regiment I do not remember having ever admitted a soldier into hospital or recommended his discharge on account of the ill-effects produced by the abuse of opium, although a certain number of these men had the reputation of having been addicted to the habit of taking opium. During the whole of my professional career I do not suppose that I have come across half a dozen individuals whose constitutions were undermined by the abuse of opium.

26,637. To what extent is opium used among the population of the districts to which your observations apply?—With reference to the extent to which opium is used, I can only produce reliable statistics from the jail population in this station (Ahmedabad) for the last four years. I have invariably noted down against every prisoner's name on admission into the jail the nature and quantity of narcotic each man was addicted to; and I find that during the last four years 4,799 men and 277 women prisoners were admitted into the jail; of these 264 men and one woman were addicted to opium, or about 5·2 per cent. of the total jail population. Of these opium eaters, 10 were in bad health suffering from chronic ailments, such as partial paralysis, chronic bronchitis, enlargement of the spleen, scurvy, &c., but none of these (with one exception) were so

bad as to deserve exemption from light labour. The exemption referred to was an old man committed to the jail, I believe, for smuggling opium. His condition was so bad that he was discharged from the jail by the authorities at my recommendation. It is quite the exception for an opium eater on admission into the jail to receive any opium; yet these prisoners perform their allotted labour, partake of the jail diet, and as a rule leave the jail without having suffered in health, and apparently cured of the habit of opium eating.

26,638. What is the effect of the use and the abuse of opium on the moral and physical condition of the user?—With reference to the effect of the use and abuse of opium on the moral and physical condition of the user, I can best describe this by comparing the use and abuse of opium with the use and abuse of other stimulants, such as alcohol. The use of opium in the East may be compared to the use of alcohol in the West. That is to say, the moderate use of these stimulants after middle life and when the vital powers begin to fail is, in my opinion, conducive to long life and adds comfort and contentment to old age. The abuse of them is both pernicious and demoralizing; but the abuse of alcohol is a great deal more so than the abuse of opium, both morally and physically. I believe there is more moral and physical degradation from the abuse of alcohol than there is moral and physical degradation from the abuse of opium, although the abuse of alcohol in this country is of small extent when compared with that which prevails in the British Isles. As I have stated before, during my 19 years' professional experience in India I do not think I have met more than half a dozen cases where life was apparently shortened by the abuse of opium; even in these cases I am not in a position to give a decided opinion, as the opium habit was accompanied more or less by chronic diseases. I believe that the majority of English people have exaggerated ideas regarding the use of opium

in the East, ideas acquired no doubt after the perusal of such books as De Quincey's "Opium Eater," the use of such expressions as "opium dens," and so forth. One might travel a long distance in India and yet not meet a single individual who had abused opium as De Quincey did.

26,639. What have you to say with regard to the methods of the consumption and the effects of the drug?—Opium in the form of a watery solution is used by a large section of the Gujaratis for the same reason that a whisky and soda or a glass of sherry is used by Englishmen of culture who are neither drunkards nor total abstainers. The effect in the two cases can hardly be different. But opium is also used extensively by the natives of India to ward off pain.

26,640. Have you any other observations which you desire to make?—People living in malarious districts, as the majority of the agricultural population in Gujarat do, are subject to various ailments accompanied with neuralgic pains. Hospital experience in Gujarat will prove this. To these people living, as they do, far away from hospitals and dispensaries opium is a Godsend. A few grains of opium daily will not only ward off the pain, but, what is more important, it will enable the poor man to pursue his daily avocations and earn his daily bread. To deprive these people, who already enjoy but few comforts in this life, of their only means of relief, would be showing little consideration for their comfort and physical welfare. In fact, it would be as reasonable to deprive the sober and temperate people of the British Isles of their glass of whisky or gin by prohibiting the distillation of these spirits because a certain portion of the inhabitants stepped beyond the limits of temperance as to prevent the cultivation and manufacture of opium because a very small proportion of the people of India had their constitution shattered by the abuse of opium. Most nationalities partake of some form of stimu-

lant, and opium seems to be the drug best suited for Oriental races. Should the State interfere and prevent the growth and manufacture of opium, what substitute is the State prepared to supply in the place of opium? Surely not alcohol, and surely not Indian hemp. To have recourse to either of these as an alternative would be, to use a homely phrase, "jumping from the frying pan into the fire."

26,641. Have you seen much of the administration of opium to infants?—Not much. During my practice in Ahmedabad I have had a number of children brought to me in the out-door department more or less drugged with opium. In some cases the mothers had left the bala golis lying about and the children had got hold of them by mistake.

26,642. Did you hear what the previous witness said about ulceration of the cornea?—Yes.

26,643. Have you identified that group of cases?—I am inclined to attribute that ulceration of cornea to poverty of the blood, and not directly to opium, because the child loses its appetite after taking opium.

26,644. The incautious use of opium brings on inanition and marasmus from the imperfect assimilation of the food?—Quite so.

26,645. (Mr. Fanshawe.) A witness who has been before us this afternoon, the editor of the *Banner of Asia*, states that he has lived for some time in the villages of Gujarat, and as far as his experience went he never heard of opium being used as a remedy for fever or any other ailments; can you suggest any explanation of that?—I cannot; I think opium is a very common remedy.

26,646. Your experience is diametrically opposed to his?—Yes.

26,647. You are perfectly sure that it is a common domestic remedy throughout Gujarat?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

At the Town Hall, Bombay.

SEVENTY-THIRD DAY.

Friday, 16th February 1894.

PRESENT:

MR. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P., IN THE CHAIR.

The Right Hon. LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B.
Sir WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.
Mr. A. U. FANSHAWE.

Mr. ARTHUR PEASE.
Mr. HARIDAS VEJARIDAS DESAI.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT, C.I.E., Secretary.

Mr. A. H. PLUNKETT called in and examined.

26,648. (Chairman.) I believe you are City Magistrate at Poona?—Yes.

26,649. What has been your service in India?—I have served for over 41 years in various parts of the Presidency including Sind, all the large towns of which I have frequently visited. I was resident deputy collector and magistrate at Karachi and Hyderabad, and eight years in Sind. I have served over 30 years as deputy collector and magistrate in Dharwar, Thana, Nasik, and Poona. I was also for some time, 1874-75, assistant and deputy commissioner of Customs, Bombay. Since 1876 I have been city magistrate in Poona, being also for nearly two years cantonment magistrate, Poona and Kirkee.

26,650. Will you give us the benefit of your experience with regard to the effect of opium consumption on the people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—My experience is that opium smoking prevails to a small extent in towns. The number of people

who use opium in the districts with which I am acquainted is comparatively small. As a common domestic remedy it is found in almost every household where there are young children. The villagers and poorer classes in towns use opium as a panacea for almost all diseases.

26,651. When you speak of using opium are you referring to smoking or eating, or both?—To eating. I have some experience of opium smoking, but my statement refers to eating.

26,652. What is your experience as regards the effect of opium consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—The moderate use of opium is, in my opinion, not harmful. Smoking to some extent affects the physical constitution, but I have seen no bad effects, either physical or moral, from opium eating in moderation. In my experience of over 30 years as a magistrate I have never known an offence committed which could be attributed to the use of opium.

Surg.-Lieut.-
Col. M. L.
Bartholomewsz, M.B.

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Mr. A. H.
Plunkett.

16 Feb. 1894.

Mr. A. H.
Plunkett.

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26,653. Have you any evidence to give as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—I am of opinion that the people of India would not consent to further restrictions being placed on the use of the drug, and that they would be unwilling to bear in whole or in part any of the cost of prohibitive measures.

26,654. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?—I consider that the sale of opium, except for medical purposes, should not be prohibited in British India, and any attempt so to interfere with the use of the drug would be impolitic.

26,655. Could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?—I cannot say whether prohibition could be extended to Native States. Any restrictions there would be very difficult to enforce. Even under our existing arrangements smuggling prevails, and if further restrictions were imposed on the sale or possession of the drug, it would be impossible to stop the increase of smuggling which would ensue.

26,656. Have you any further remarks that you wish to lay before the Commission?—I should like to make some observation with reference to what I heard in this room while I was here yesterday in regard to the licensing of shops and as to whether the licensing of such shops would lead to control. The main point in licensing is to provide control. The question is how can opium smoking be effectually checked. The licensing has been stopped, but it has not stopped opium smoking. It is done on the sly, as we heard yesterday.

26,657. Have you any practical suggestions to make?—I am going to make a suggestion. We have put down gaming in public. A man is punished for keeping a gaming house, and the question is whether any kind of measure can be introduced for checking the smoking of opium. I would suggest that it shall be an offence for a person to keep any place the use of which is for the common purpose of smoking opium. Gambling has been put down, and there are strict laws upon the subject.

26,658. Would you wish to see some such law as you have indicated passed with regard to smoking?—Yes; it is quite practicable.

26,659. In this room yesterday, allusion was made to a petition which was presented, I believe, to the Secretary of State with regard to smoking shops at Poona. Have you any remarks to make on that subject?—I have. The Secretary of State for India received a petition in the Marathi language, purporting to come from certain persons, the names on the petition being 73. The Secretary of State sent it to the Government of Bombay with a view to inquiry being made whether it was an original or genuine document. The Government sent it to the collector of Poona. I, as his deputy, was referred to, and I made inquiries. I have before me a few notes of the inquiry I made. 54 of the alleged signatories were traced. They were called up and questioned by me as to the circumstances under which the petition was got up, and at whose instance. The persons so examined bear the numbers from 1 to 54. All the persons traced were opium smokers, except number 54. They alleged that about 10 months ago (this was at the end of March or the beginning of April 1893) chandu shops were visited by two padre sahibs, accompanied by three natives: that the sahibs said they wished to see how chandu was smoked, and asked the people who happened to be at the shops what they would say if the chandu shops were closed, to which the chandu smokers said it was a matter for the Sirkar to decide.

They also said that their names were taken down by the padre sahibs, but that no petition was read out to them, or agreed to, or made, or sent by them. Three only admitted having affixed their signature to a paper in the belief that it was for a continuance of the chandu shops, and that they did not know that any petition was to be made for closing the opium shops. In the remaining instances, the alleged signatures of the persons who were at the chandu shop at the time they were visited by the padre sahibs were taken down. The petition is without date, but it is believed to have been made in March 1892. Two meetings were held in Poona city on the subject of opium.

26,660. Do I understand that the inquiries that you made in regard to this petition were made in consequence of the Secretary of State having referred the petition to the Government of Bombay for inquiry?—It was so.

26,661. (Mr. Pease.) Did you find out who the padre sahibs were?—They were unable to tell me. The opium smokers were called up. There was a column for their names and a column for their addresses, so that they were easily traced. The statements were taken down in Marathi and read over to them.

26,662. Have you found out who they were?—I heard Mr. Prautch say yesterday that he got the petition up, and I have found out myself that it was he who gave it to be signed.

26,663. Were the statements of the opium smokers made to yourself personally?—They were taken down in Marathi by a clerk under me and read to them, and they were stated to be correctly taken down. They were attested by me and sent to the Government. The statements are not with me now. I have not even a copy of the petition, but I have my notes here.

26,664. Did you hear Mr. Prautch's statement yesterday?—Yes.

26,665. That the signatures were taken in his presence?—They were not signatures; only three were signatures, the others were names; the people were not able to read or write. They said they were in the chandu shops when they were taken down. Mr. Prautch stated correctly when he said that he took their names down at the shops where they assembled to smoke.

26,666. I suppose it is a question of veracity between the chandu smokers and Mr. Prautch?—I dare say. I may mention that the persons who were sent for by me had no previous intimation of what they were required for. Having their names to the petition they were easily found, and I had their statements taken down and read to them in their own language. They had no idea of what they would be asked.

26,667. What you have said may account for Mr. Prautch's statement yesterday that that was the first time you had heard that any question had arisen with regard to the petition?—I have no doubt he is correct; perhaps it is so.

26,668. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You are clear that the majority of these men, that is all of them except the three you have mentioned, were unable to read or write?—Just so; the number of these opium-smoking shops at that time was seven.

26,669. (Chairman.) The statement made by Mr. Prautch as reported in yesterday's *Times of India* is to this effect: that he went to Poona to obtain the signatures of 72 men to that petition; that almost all the signatures were obtained in his presence; that only one man refused to sign because he said he was a Government servant and therefore could not sign it?—There were 73 names, but there were only three signatures, the rest were the names of the persons.

The witness withdrew.

Vaid
Parbhuram
Jivanram.

VAID PARBHURAM JIVANRAM called in and examined (through an interpreter).

26,670. (Chairman.) You are a medical practitioner according to Sanscrit medical works?—Yes.

26,671. You are practising in Bombay?—Yes.

26,672. (Sir William Roberts.) To what district or districts of the Presidency and to what races are your observations applicable?—My evidence applies to Bombay city, where I have been practising for 23 years, and to the province of Kathiawar, where I practised before I came to Bombay, and which I have often visited since on professional business.

26,673. To what extent is opium used among the population of the districts to which your observations apply?

—In Bombay the use of opium for non-medical purposes is very insignificant; not more than two or three per 1,000 use it. They take it in moderation. In Kathiawar the proportion would be about 10 per cent.

26,674. What is your experience of its effect on the moral and physical condition of the user?—Regarding excessive habitual consumption, if the consumer is a poor man not able to take with it very strong and substantial food he becomes dull, pale, and sleepy. But when the consumer is wealthy he finds opium greatly advantageous to his health. I remember the case of a rich and habitual consumer, a late chief of Manavadar in Kathiawar, who was under my treatment for several years. I was attend-

ing him when he died, at the age of 82. He habitually took 1½ tolas of opium a day, yet he was very healthy and strong, and would brave any gymnast in combat. With moderate habitual consumers the habit is contracted to cure disease of long standing, or to get relief from daily fatigue. In both these cases the habit is advantageous. It is commonly given to small children with advantage. I have never seen any bad effect from opium thus used.

26,675. What are the methods of consumption?—Opium is taken in pills mixed with musk or other fragrant and harmless materials; also as kasumba, *i.e.*, opium mixed with water. Over this mixture some cotton is placed which absorbs the pure liquid which is then squeezed out and drunk, and in the crude form as brought from the shops, as medicine by children in “bala goli.” It is considered essential for children by mothers, and I have never known harm done by these pills. The moderate habitual consumer is healthy and strong.

26,676. Is opium used as a prophylactic, and if so, for what diseases, and with what results?—People take opium as a preventive against sangrahani (a form of painless diarrhoea). I have very rarely found habitual consumers suffer from this disease or atisar (diarrhoea), or vishamaj-var (remittent fever).

26,677. Does the use of opium by natives lead to consequences as serious as those which follow the use of alcohol?—No. Alcohol when taken moderately sometimes leads to languor, diseases of the chest and liver. The moderate opium consumer is never attacked by any of these diseases. The excessive consumer of alcohol is wild and intoxicated; he sometimes goes mad, and commits horrible crimes, such as murder or suicide. The excessive opium consumer never goes mad, nor commits crime under the influence of opium.

26,678. Is the habit difficult to give up?—It is believed that it is difficult to give up the habit, but I do not think it is. I have known a case in which a friend of mine, an old Sanyasi, gave it up even in his old age. At first it is difficult, but by allowing other stimulants the habit is easily given up. If the consumer has a strong will, and is careful, the giving up of the habit does not result in taking to other drugs or to alcohol.

26,679. What effect has the habitual use of opium on the mental faculties?—The moderate habitual use of opium has no bad effect on the mental faculties of the consumer. The habit is found mostly among old men, and these do their work carefully and promptly. When they are under the influence of opium they are very zealous, vigorous, and energetic. One of the best examples I know was that of my own teacher, a great medical scholar of his time. His best lectures were delivered after he had taken his usual dose of opium.

26,680. Do you desire to make any other observations?—Opium is known to the people of India from very ancient times. The plant, seed, flowers, and the drug itself are mentioned in several Sanskrit medical books. When necessary the drug is used by all, old and young, male or female. It produces no bad effect on the morals. It is a most necessary stimulant for the natives of India. To stop its production means unforeseen harms in India, the first of which would be a free resort to alcohol. Excessive con-

sumption is now not nearly so common as it was. In Kathiawar many Rajputs have given up the habit on account of the costliness. Formerly it was generally and even now is sometimes used to show respect to one's guests, or as a means of reconciling enemies to each other. It is used in much the same way as liquor is used by Europeans in drinking each other's health at a dinner. The diminution in the use of opium is due partly to the heavy tax levied on it, and partly to the spread of education having done a good deal to prevent unnecessary consumption. This much is certain that the use of opium has no bad effects on the morals of the people.

26,681. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Will you give us the names of the several Sanscrit medical books to which you have referred?—Yes; their names are: Raja Nighanta; Nighanta Rutnahar; Bhava Prakash; Atarka-Timira-Bhas-kara; Madav pala Nighanta; Rasendra Chintamani; Dhanvantari Nighant; Harit; Charak; Shushruta.

26,682. Will you tell me when “Raja Nighanta” was composed?—The oldest is “Dhanvantari Nighant,” and that is about a 1,000 years old. “Bhava Prakash” is the last written work and is 400 or 500 years old.

26,683. Do you mean that from very ancient times opium has been known to the people of India—a 1,000 or 1,100 years ago?—About 1,100 years ago.

26,684. Can you mention any books on medicine still older than the books you have named?—There are many.

26,685. How old are they?—In my essay on the forceps used by the ancients of India, sent to the Oriental Congress in 1892, I have proved that these works were written more than 3,000 years ago. “Charak” is the oldest of them.

26,686. Would you say from 2,000 to 3,000 years?—Yes.

26,687. Is opium mentioned in these very old books?—I do not find opium mentioned in any of them.

26,688. What deduction would you draw from this fact?—It seems to me that opium was brought to India 1,200 or 1,300 years ago by the Mahomedans.

26,689. Have you authorities from the latest Sanscrit works?—Yes.

26,690. Have you a large practice in Bombay?—Although I do not wish to say it, among the native practitioners I perhaps stand first in Bombay.

26,691. Have you also a large practice among the Kathiawar chiefs?—I was called on professional business to Wadhwan, and there often consulted Dr. Manser, who said that if the chief wanted to be treated by a native practitioner he should be under my treatment.

26,692. With regard to bala goli, you have mentioned that you use bala goli extensively?—I am against anybody making a habit of taking any stimulant, but I often give bala goli to children in cases of dysentery and diseases attendant on teething. I have had an experience of bala goli for 45 years. If children are given the doses as advised by me they are always healthy and take their food regularly.

26,692a. Can you tell us what is the proportion of opium in these bala goli pills?—One pill is as big as one and a half mustard seeds and the proportion of opium is equal to an opium seed.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. GEORGE COTTON called in and examined.

26,693. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are Chairman of the Millowner's Association, Bombay?—Yes.

26,694. Are you an owner of mills yourself?—We are agents for mills in Bombay. We manage eight mills in Bombay.

26,695. I believe you have resided in India for 30 years, half of which period has been spent in Khandesh, the Berars, and Gujarat?—Yes.

26,696. Will you give us the benefit of your experience as to the use of opium by people in your employment?—For many years I was in Broach and Gujarat, and we had some runners whom we employed to run between Broach and Jambusar, 36 miles distant. There was one man in particular, about 50 years of age, who had been a runner for many years. He would leave Broach at six o'clock in the evening and take messages to Jambusar, and he would leave Jambusar the next evening and come back to Broach on the following morning. This man used opium regularly, and so far as I could judge he was only able to undergo this great exertion because he was an opium eater. In addition to that there were two of my Jamedars whom I noticed particularly

as opium eaters. They were most reliable men, always on the alert, and most praiseworthy. In the Berars I had not noticed the use of opium to such an extent among those in my employ as I did in Broach and Gujarat, but I had very trustworthy sepoys, who were users of opium. Among my mill hands in Broach, nearly all the Mussulman weavers used opium more or less, and they seemed, so far as I could judge, to be none the worse for it; they were certainly very good workers.

26,697. With regard to the cases of the runners, had you any opportunity of comparing the physical capacity of the runners who were opium consumers with the runners who were not?—No; we had several runners. There were two Mahomedans who used opium, and there were I think two Hindus employed regularly who were not users of opium. The best man I had, and the most reliable, was this elderly man, who used opium—a man of 51 years of age. But I could not say that I drew any comparisons or that I thought of drawing any comparisons. All I can say was that he was certainly none the worse for the opium. He was the best runner that I had.

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26,698. Can you tell us whether there is much consumption of opium among your mill hands in Bombay?—I cannot express any opinion that would be of any value whatever.

26,699. What is your opinion with regard to the proposal to prohibit the production and consumption of opium?—I am strongly of opinion that were it possible to prohibit the production and consumption of opium, without the gravest political and financial danger resulting, some other drug or stimulant (most probably alcohol) would come into greater use with effects more injurious to the stamina and vitality of the community than those now obtaining from the opium habit.

26,700. Will you tell us your general opinion as to whether it would be possible, if such prohibition were carried out in British India, to extend it to the Native States?—I most certainly think not.

26,701. Do you wish to make any remarks as to the effect of the loss of revenue upon the trade of India?—The direct loss of revenue would, I understand, be about five crores of rupees, or perhaps nearer seven, and it is not evident in what manner this could be made good. As it is, the Government of India will not be able to balance expenditure and income without additional taxation. The possibility of further direct taxation being fraught with great political dangers, it appears to me that the re-imposition of the import duties which, it will be remembered, were abolished in deference to Lancashire only, may be necessary, but this would probably not cover a further deficiency, such as the loss of all opium revenue would bring about. Not only that, but if we were to curtail the export of opium it would still further embarrass us financially. At present we are suffering very much because of our imports being in excess of our exports. The balance of trade for the time being is against us, and consequently the Secretary of State has been selling bills at 1s. 1½d. If we were to still further curtail our exports, the balance would be still further against us, and there is no telling what the result might be.

26,702. In your opinion the prohibition of the China trade would not only directly affect the revenue but would indirectly seriously affect the balance of trade and increase your difficulties?—Yes.

26,703. (Mr. Pease.) How did you ascertain that all your Musalman operatives at Broach were opium con-

sumers?—I did not say that they were all consumers, but the great bulk of them were. You can see by the way the men come in that they are opium eaters. There is something about an opium eater that indicates that he does take opium. There is a brightness of the eye that indicates him as being an opium user. That is the only way I could tell.

26,704. That is your general impression?—That is my general impression.

26,705. (Mr. Hariḍas Veharidas.) Have you anything to say with regard to the present unrest throughout the Empire?—At a time when much unrest exists throughout the Empire, owing to the religious differences of the two great portions of the community; when business is unsettled and trade bad, owing to the fluctuations in all values, consequent upon the closing of the mints; when the compensation granted to Government servants at enormous cost to the State is regarded by non-officials with great dissatisfaction, and when the feeling has reached strong development that the interests of India were deliberately sacrificed for the advantage of Lancashire manufacturers by the removal of the import duty, it strikes me as particularly unfortunate that measures, which could be only rendered effective at the expense of the resources of India, and at the risk of widespread trouble within her borders, should be considered or entertained at the instance of a party whose objects, however well intentioned, are distinctly mischievous in their tendency.

26,706. (Mr. Pease.) Are you aware that the effect of the opium trade has been to introduce into India annually an average of one and a half crores of rupees in silver from China, and would not that have a mock effect in depreciating the value of silver in India?—I do not think that is anything compared with the effect of the balance of trade being against us. What we want, whether in regard to China or England or any other part of the world, is to have the balance of trade in our favour. As a matter of fact we receive large shipments of gold from China. I do not know the exact figure with regard to silver.

26,707. So far as it goes it would tend to reduce the value of silver in India?—But that would be nothing in comparison with the loss that we should suffer by the balance of trade being against us; at least I take it in that way. I think we receive more gold than silver.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. W. R. SCROGGIE, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., called in and examined.

Mr. W. R.
Scroggie,
L.R.C.P.,
M.R.C.S.

26,708. (Chairman.) You are Civil Surgeon at Sholapur?—Yes.

26,709. (Sir William Roberts.) To what district or districts is your experience confined?—My experience is confined to the Sholapur district and relates to the natives thereof. It extends over 11 years.

26,710. To what extent is opium used among the population?—Opium is mostly consumed by male Hindu and Musalman weavers. About 166 per mille of the adult males use it to the extent of from two to eight grains per head per diem.

26,711. What effect has it on the moral and physical condition of the user?—Consumers state that the moderate use has a sustaining power, enabling them to undergo greater exertion without fatigue, deadening hunger, brightening their mental faculties, averting the effects of cold and wet, and as age advances acting as an aphrodisiac. The habit is usually begun on account of some bowel or chest complaint, and once formed is often continued, even though the disease has ceased, because of the feeling that they are the better for it. Taken in moderation no evil result, either physical or moral, appears to ensue. Taken in excess it causes a craving for the drug when the usual time for the dose arrives, and possibly then a bad moral effect might ensue by causing the consumer to do wrong in order to obtain the opium. In excess it deadens the desire for food, and the body not receiving nourishment becomes emaciated, and the mind becomes torpid. Opium in doses of from ½th to ¾ths of a grain is commonly given to infants during teething, to prevent or control disease, and to enable the mother to attend to her work or to rest for a few hours. As a rule there is no baneful effect, and many infants appear in the best of health though habituated to the drug.

26,712. What are the methods of consumption?—It is generally eaten in the crude state as sold by the dealers. When smoked as in chandul or madut the effect is more rapid and probably more deleterious.

26,713. What is your experience as to the effect of opium in malaria?—It is taken as a general prophylactic and is not confined to any particular class of diseases.

26,714. Is it used as a general protector against ailments of all sorts?—Yes.

26,715. What is your view as to the comparison of opium with alcohol?—Opium as contrasted with alcohol has a much less injurious effect. It is difficult to detect the moderate opium consumer, and I have known a case in which a man took 14 grains in one dose, but there was nothing to show that he had taken any. There is generally some sign in the breath, manner, speech, or appearance of even the moderate consumer of alcohol to show that he has taken it. Opium taken in excess induces somnolency and a desire for solitude, whereas alcohol in excess makes a man boisterous and quarrelsome, offensive to witness, and if continued may cause delirium tremens.

26,716. Have you made any post-mortem examinations of habitual opium eaters?—I have, in making post-mortem examinations, discovered no lesions directly due to opium, except in cases of opium poisoning.

26,717. Is the opium habit difficult to give up?—It is difficult for the opium consumer to give up the habit; and cases admitted into jail or hospital, where the opium was stopped, have had the result that for a few days there was distressful longing, accompanied by pain and restlessness, but after a few days these symptoms pass off.

26,718. How does opium affect the mental faculties?—Opium in moderation does not appear to do any injury to the mental faculties.

26,719. Have you had charge of the jail at Sholapur?—I have now medical charge of it. Before I was superintendent and medical officer.

26,720. Do many opium eaters come in?—Not a very large number.

26,721. What is the jail population?—Just now 20 or 30 per diem; it used to be 60 or 70.

26,722. Have you also charge of dispensaries?—With the civil hospital there is a dispensary. I am in charge of the whole district.

26,723. Have you had experience of any accidents from the practice of giving opium to infants?—Very few cases have occurred.

26,724. Were they cases of over-dosing?—Over-dosing, probably through the child getting access to the opium itself.

26,725. With fatal results?—With fatal results.

26,726. In your 11 years' experience how many fatalities of that sort have you been able to trace to the practice of giving opium to children?—I hardly think more than about six or so.

26,727. Do many children attend at the dispensary hospitals?—A great number attend.

26,728. Have you noticed that mothers have brought infants affected with marasmus that you could trace to this practice?—I cannot say so.

26,729. Have you noticed any ulceration of the cornea that you could trace to the habit?—No, I have not. I have found indigestion and diarrhoea probably due to an excess of opium, but never ulceration of the cornea among infants.

26,730. I suppose in Sholapur the people are well fed?—Fairly, I think.

26,731. Perhaps better than in most parts of India?—I do not think there is much difference in that respect.

26,732. Is it a great cotton centre?—Not now. It used to be a cotton mart, but now the cotton is brought to Bombay. The population of the town of Sholapur is 61,915.

26,733. At any rate there is not much deficiency of food?—No.

26,734. (*Mr. Pease.*) Do you think that the practice of taking opium is more prevalent among the Hindus than it is among the Mahomedans?—It is more prevalent among the weavers.

26,735. Do you draw any distinction between Hindus and Mahomedans as to the practice of taking opium?—No, I think it is about equal.

26,736. You estimate the proportion at about one-sixth?—Yes.

26,737. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Are the Hindu and Musalman weavers a large section of the district population, or are you speaking mainly of the town of Sholapur?—Of the town of Sholapur principally.

26,738. Speaking generally, have you come across many cases of the excessive use of opium in your experience?—

The witness withdrew.

Mr. A. J. DUNLOP called and examined.

26,752. (*Chairman.*) You are senior member of the Board of Revenue, Hyderabad State?—Yes.

26,753. And you have been deputed by His Highness the Nizam to tender evidence on the opium question?—Yes.

26,754. You hand in a *paper with regard to the administration and control of opium in the Hyderabad

The witness withdrew.

RAO BAHADUR GOVINDRAO RAMCHANDAR GARUD called in and examined.

26,756. (*Chairman.*) You are Chairman of the Bench of Magistrates at Dhulia, Khandesh, and member of the Local District Board* and Municipality?—Yes, also vice-president of those bodies.

26,757. Will you give us your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—Being a native of Khandesh, and having had the opportunity of mixing with almost all the classes of people for nearly 50 years, I can only say from the knowledge I gained of the people using opium in this district, viz., Khandesh, that the moderate or habitual use of opium was never proved or even alleged to be the cause of injury or ill-health or moral depravity. Opium in small doses is used amongst the people of all classes, not as a luxury or for intoxication, but as a medicine, mostly by men in advanced age, to give them strength and alleviate pain, and is administered to young babes by many mothers to keep them quiet, and in either of the above cases no evil has been known to have resulted from such small doses. The use of opium is not confined to any particular classes of the community, but the drug is generally used among the lower classes much more than others.

* See Appendix XXVI, to this Volume.

No. I should like to make one other observation. I have here a copy of the *Banner of Asia* of October 1892 in which there is a photograph of a person supposed to have been brought into the condition represented through the effect of opium. In reality, this man was born an idiot and was in a deformed condition from his birth. The condition he is shown in here is not the effect of opium. The man had a sister who was born before him, and she also was in that deformed and idiotic condition.

26,739. How do you identify that particular photograph?—I knew the man well, and I often saw him.

26,740. Is this man actually living at Sholapur?—He was, and he died there.

26,741. In that way you had personal knowledge of him?—Yes.

26,742. You are satisfied that the picture represents the person to whom you are referring?—Quite satisfied.

26,743. This photograph appears from the paper in question to have been sent to the Government from a public meeting held at Sholapur on February the 26th, 1892, as an example of the evil effects of the opium traffic?—So it states.

26,744. (*Mr. Pease.*) Do you know Dr. P. B. Keskar?—Yes. I got that copy from him.

26,745. Do you know that this report was obtained from him?—Probably.

26,746. And that it is the story as told by this man's brother?—I am not sure about that.

26,747. Do you know whether Dr. Keskar accepted the truth of the statement or not?—I did not ask him. I may remark that when I got the copy I said that the man was born an idiot. There is no doubt about it, because I know persons who knew him from his very infancy.

26,748. Can you tell us what Dr. Keskar told you about the case?—I thought it was an exaggeration, and I told him that the result shown there was not the effect of opium, that the man was born an idiot and in that deformed condition.

26,749. What did the doctor say?—He said, "I do not know, but he used to take opium." The man used to take opium, but he commenced about his 18th or 20th year.

26,750. You knew that the authority of the *Banner of Asia* was Dr. Keskar?—I took it for granted that there was some reverend gentleman who went there and took the photo, and that this story with regard to the man was given to the reverend gentleman—not that Dr. Keskar wrote the history there.

26,751. Mr. Prautch says that Dr. Keskar wrote the story as recorded here?—I am not aware of that.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. W. R. Scroggie, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.

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Mr. A. J. Dunlop.

Rao Bahadur Govindrao Ramchandar Garud.

State?—Yes. I should like also to be permitted to hand in a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister wrote to the Resident containing his own views on the opium question.

26,755. (*Chairman.*) The letter will be inserted in the Appendix.† We will ask you to attend again on Monday.

26,758. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—I can say from my experience of the people that opium does not, like alcohol, either excite the brain, or stimulate animal passions, or lead to the commission of heinous offences, by persons addicted to its use. The use of opium allays anxiety and soothes pain without inducing any unnatural excitement of the powers either of the body or the mind. Taking all things into consideration I am of opinion that the effects of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people do not seem to be so injurious as they are represented to be by those who are agitating for its prohibition.

26,759. What do you say as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—I am of opinion that there would be serious dissatisfaction amongst the people if the use of opium for non-medical purposes were prohibited. The people of India will not be able or willing to bear the cost, either in whole or in part, of any prohibitive measures, as they are already overloaded with taxation, both direct and indirect. The sale of opium

† See Appendix XXV, to this Volume.

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in British India should by no means be prohibited, not only because of the heavy loss of revenue to the exchequer, but because of the grave dissatisfaction that is likely to arise therefrom. It would, I think, be impolitic and inadvisable to prohibit the sale of opium in British India, and it would be much more so in the case of Native States such as Indore.

26,760. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Are you an elected or a nominated member of the district board?—I was elected twice.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. Dadamia
Anwarka.

Mr. DADAMIA ANWARKA called in and examined (through an interpreter).

26,764. (Chairman.) I believe you are Deshmukh of Pachora?—Yes.

26,765. What is a Deshmukh?—A Deshmukh receives a pension from the fixed land revenue. They are old officers from the Moghul Government, and still have fixed pensions from the local revenues of the town.

26,766. From the times before the British Government?—Yes. They are now only pensioners; they do not perform any services.

26,767. I suppose you have lived in the district of Khandesh all your life?—Yes, we have lived there for ten generations.

26,768. How old are you?—Sixty-two.

26,769. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted?—In Khandesh all classes of people give opium to their infant children, and all people who become weak on account of old age also eat opium. Vicious men also eat opium, but their number is 5 per thousand.

26,770. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—Opium is considered to keep the children quiet and make them strong as their food consists of milk. Old men get sufficient energy to do their work and do not

The witness withdrew.

Mr. FAZLULLAH LUTFULLAH called in and examined.

26,773. (Chairman.) You have been Sessions Judge, I believe, at Radhanpur?—Yes.

26,774. Will you state generally what your experience has been in regard to the consumption of opium?—I have served Government for nearly nine years in the Surat and Ahmedabad districts, and have been judicial officer for nearly nine years more in a Native State in North Gujarat. I have further visited and acquired information regarding the manners and customs of Musulmans in Nasik, Khandesh, and Ahmednagar, and have specially studied the daily life and conditions of the Musulman population of the town and island of Bombay.

26,775. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—The antiquity of the use of opium in Asiatic countries is proved by the "Makhzan" or pharmacopoeia of the Yunani or Greek school of medicine, which highly extols the value of the drug. Eastern medicine recommends the habitual use of opium during infancy and after the age of 40. Hence the practice of giving pills to infants from the third or sixth day after birth to the fifth year, a custom which is almost universal in Northern India, Gujarat, and Bombay. In Malwa, where the people are amongst the healthiest and most vigorous in India, they give their children opium to eat till they are three years old. It soothes the pains of teething, the whooping cough, and measles, and prevents convulsions. It is erroneous to suppose that as a rule adults take opium from sensual motives. It is mostly taken to check some chronic or constitutional disorder, to cure coughs or chest diseases. Embroiderers and others use it to check cataract. It is in general use in Gujarat by Musulmans, Rajputs, Kunbis, Narodas, Ahirs, Kolis, and Bhils, and the greater number eat it in moderation. The effect on their physical condition is shown by the fine physique of the Gujarat opium eaters, the stalwart condition of the labourers. No province in the Bombay Presidency can show hardier or finer men than the Narodas, and Musalman Jats and Rajputs of North Gujarat, the Kathis and Rajputs of Kathiawar, and the cultivating Vohoras of Broach and Surat, the greater per-centage of whom are opium eaters. Most of the Kathiawar outlaws, whose lives involve extreme physical exertion and privation, are opium eaters. Excess is hardly known among these classes. The moral effect of the moderate use of opium is to calm the passions, tone the faculties, promote thought, and sharpen insight.

The last time I did not offer, and I wanted to resign, but the Collector put me on the nomination list, and did not allow me to resign. I was an elected member for many years.

26,761. On the last occasion the Collector nominated you as Vice-president?—Yes.

26,762. As regards the Dhulia Municipality?—I am Vice-president of both. I wanted to decline, but the Collector nominated me, and I continued.

26,763. On both boards?—Yes.

feel tired after work, and are enabled to keep good health. Opium is thus useful for children and old persons. It, however, proves injurious to the health of those who cannot afford to get sufficient food. Vicious men, including those given to resorting to houses of ill-fame, become lean and weak by the use of opium, but their life is not shortened thereby.

26,771. What is the disposition of the people of India as to the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—The people of Khandesh are poor, and both men and women have to attend to agricultural and domestic work. They cannot look after their children nor engage servants for the purpose. Opium keeps the children quiet and the parents are enabled to attend to their work. It is the belief of the people that opium eating is good as it enables old men to apply themselves with vigour to their work. There are very few persons who use it as a luxury, and in their case also opium is supposed to be taken as a tonic. Opium is useful to almost all classes of people. The people of Khandesh would not like its sale to be prohibited, nor would consent to pay the cost of such a prohibition.

26,772. (Mr. Fanshawe.) So far as your knowledge goes, do you think that the use of opium among children does harm or not?—It is advantageous.

26,776. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes and as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—When it became known that a Royal Commission was appointed to consider whether the abolition of the use of opium was feasible, the general feeling among the people of Gujarat and Bombay was one of incredulous surprise. They consider that to stop its use would cause mortality, for which the most virulent of epidemics has seldom been responsible. Sudden and forcible deprivation of opium would be fatal to the middle-aged and old. The people would not consent to bear the cost of prohibitive measures wholly or even in part. Such prohibition would cause widespread dissatisfaction.

26,777. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes, and could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?—In my opinion the sale of opium, except for medical purposes, cannot be prohibited in India. Habits of centuries cannot be uprooted by the stroke of a pen. Considering how our trained and expensive agency fails at present to stop smuggling of opium when the drug is moderately cheap and easy to obtain, it is difficult to imagine a force strong and effective enough to cope with the contraband growth and import of the drug, to obtain which thousands would make great sacrifices if it were prohibited altogether. In view of the present political temper of the country the prohibition would be unwarrantable. If it were possible to prohibit opium, Government would suffer a loss without any gain. The demand for opium would be met by illicit imports from the native seaboard of Egyptian and Persian, and across the Afghan frontier, of Khorasan opium. Difficult and ruinously expensive as the prohibition of the growth of the poppy and the sale of opium in British India would be, the prohibition or even extreme restriction in Native States would be still harder of achievement.

26,778. (Mr. Pease.) What is your present position?—I am a retired officer of the Radhanpur State; I receive a pension from the State.

26,779. Can you tell us the number of Musalmans in the town and island of Bombay?—I cannot say exactly what it is, but I think about 60,000.

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26,780. Have you studied the daily life and conditions of those 60,000 people?—Not severally, but as a class.

26,781. Do you think you are justified in saying that the fine physique of the Gujaratis is the result of eating opium?—They may have a fine physique from their birth. What I mean to say is that their habit of opium eating does not affect their fine physique.

26,782. You say, "The effect on their physical condition" is shown by the fine physique of the Gujarati opium eaters"?—That is what I mean.

26,783. It does not appear correctly to represent what you mean; you mean that they have this fine physique notwithstanding the fact that they are opium eaters?—Yes.

26,784. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) You distinguish between the occasional and the daily habit in regard to the effect on the constitution?—Of course.

26,785. What would you say to a young man in good health taking opium?—If he had any tendency to chronic disease, and took it moderately, it would do him good. If he took it wantonly, or indulged in it from any other than a good motive, I think it would be wrong.

26,786. You do not take opium, I suppose?—No, I do not. I have administered opium to my children in their infancy, and I have found that it has been attended with great advantage, keeping them from colds and helping them in teething.

26,787. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Can you tell me the date of the pharmacopœia to which you refer?—The book is mainly taken from the writings of Avicenna, who was called the father of the present Greek School of Medicine. He lived in the 9th and 10th centuries.

26,788. You say that embroiderers are in the habit of using opium to check cataract; are you referring to any special class of embroiderers?—To the Mahomedan embroiderers with whom I have been acquainted.

The witness withdrew.

MAULVI HIDAYAT ULLA SAHEB, J.P., called in and examined (through an interpreter).

26,798. (*Chairman.*) You are a Mahomedan lawgiver, a Yunani Hakim and Maulvi?—Yes.

26,799. To what district or districts of the Presidency and to what races are your observations applicable?—They apply to Bombay only and to the Hindus and Musalmans inhabiting it.

26,800. To what extent is opium used among the population of the districts to which your observations apply?—From 4 to 5 per cent.

26,801. Will you state your opinion as to the effect of its use and abuse on the moral and physical condition of the user?—One of phlegmatic temper in a damp climate eating opium in a moderate degree will, if he takes a proper diet with it, as milk, sweets, &c., find his health rather improved thereby. If he goes to excess he will lose flesh and become debilitated. A bilious person eating it moderately, and taking sufficient quantities of milk, cream, sweets, and fresh and dry fruits will find it harmless. In case of abuse he will become debilitated sooner than a phlegmatic person. Opium eating makes a person forbearing and patient though somewhat slow.

26,802. What are the methods of consumption and the effects of the drug in each?—Opium is used in four ways: (1) as opium pure and simple, (2) as diluted with water, (3) is smoked as chandu, (4) and is smoked as madak, which last is a mixture of opium water and hemp. The effects of opium pure and simple I have already stated. Kusumbha, opium diluted with water, is but opium in a milder form, and the same effects follow its use and abuse. Chandu and madak are always injurious, and spoil both mind and body though smoked but a little.

26,803. Is opium used as a prophylactic, and if so, for what diseases and with what results?—Eating opium is good in cases of dysentery, diarrhoea, chronic and intermittent fevers, delirium, headache from biliousness, cold, &c. In cases of melancholia its proper use will generally prevent the influx of diseased thoughts. It need not be added that it is necessarily a preventive against the above diseases, and also against asthma, cough, &c.

26,804. Does the use of opium, as habitually indulged in by natives, lead to consequences as serious as those which follow the use of alcohol?—Alcohol is vastly more injurious in every way than opium. It brings on head-

26,789. In what part of India?—In Bombay, Surat, and North Gujarat.

26,790. Do you mean that their actual work puts a special tax on their eyes?—Yes.

26,791. And they take opium in connexion with that?—Yes.

26,792. You have referred also to the cultivator class, the Vohoras of Broach and Surat; are they Mahomedans?—They are Mahomedans.

26,793. Your evidence generally seems to deal with the moderate use of opium; I suppose you have come across cases of excessive use?—I have personally come across two cases of excessive use. One was a native chief of North Gujarat; but notwithstanding his excessive use he was considered to be a very sharp man in regard to his faculties, though the effect on his body was very bad. The other case was that of a beggar. My conclusion is that people who have no necessity to take trouble to win their bread—either great chiefs or beggars—do sometimes indulge in its abuse.

26,794. In your experience cases of excess have been very few?—Very few.

26,795. (*Sir William Roberts.*) You do not approve of taking opium in the same way as people take tobacco or wine in moderation, simply for a pleasurable stimulus?—People who require it as a stimulant may take it; I do not disapprove of it. In the case of cultivators and others, whose duties keep them out in the sun labouring the whole day, if they are kept without it, I think, they are not able to perform their duties as well as they do now by taking it.

26,796. (*Chairman.*) You have told us that you have given opium to your children; I suppose you did that in accordance with the common custom of your friends and neighbours where you live?—Yes.

26,797. Not under the direction of any medical man?—No.

ache, diseased liver, heart disease, impurity of blood, dysentery, diarrhoea, lunacy, palsy, the shaking palsy, piles, fistula, and seldom allows its abuser to live the natural period of his life. On the other hand, opium seldom results in premature death. While opium rather incapacitates a person from all offences of a violent kind, alcohol may be called the chief cause of them from causing hurt to another, to murdering him, and committing suicide. It leads also to licentiousness and extravagance. These are, indeed, some of the consequences of excess in the use of alcohol, and I may add that natives generally fall into such excess.

26,805. Is it difficult for an opium-consumer to give up the habit, and when given up, is it likely to result in the use or abuse of other drugs or of alcohol?—It is generally difficult, but for persons of strong resolve not really difficult to give up opium consumption in any form. Such giving up is by no means likely to be followed by one's becoming addicted to any injurious drug or alcohol.

26,806. What effect has the habitual use of opium on the mental faculties, and does it interfere with the consumer's ability to conduct his business successfully?—Opium in a solid or liquid form does not harm the mental faculties. Chandu and madak are positively injurious to them. Alcohol in excess is injurious to them, as above stated. Opium in a solid or liquid form does not interfere with one's business, while chandu and madak incapacitate a man from it.

26,807. Are there any other observations which you may desire to make?—Excessive drunkenness leads to debauchery, and when the man's blood is hot and in a state of ferment he is particularly liable to catching syphilitic diseases, which again, in his case, takes long to cure, and at times proves incurable, and these, in rare cases, bring on leprosy, but more often being handed down, make his progeny very prone to consumption and also to leprosy. This is my opinion.

26,808. How many years have you been in practice?—Twenty-five years.

26,808a. (*Sir William Roberts.*) Have you had any experience of the practice of giving opium to infants?—Personally I have not had occasion to do it, but I have seen others do it.

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26,809. Have you had any knowledge of the injurious effects produced by that practice?—No.

26,810. Do you think it is a beneficial practice?—For the climate of this country I consider it is decidedly good.

26,811. Even for perfectly healthy children?—It will not harm them.

26,812. In what way do you think it proves useful to the children in this climate?—It is given to children mixed with other drugs, such as nutmeg, which, if there is any harm in it, deprives it of that harm.

26,813. (Mr. Pease.) Do many of the Mahomedans in this district think that opium is forbidden by the sacred books?—In the books general principles are laid down, and intoxication is a thing which is interdicted.

26,814. My question is whether there are many Mahomedans in this district who think that opium is forbidden by the sacred books?—There are.

26,815. What do you know about the smoking of chandu and madak?—I think it is bad.

26,816. Do you think that injury is done by the smoking of madak and chandu, or by the company in which it brings people?—By the smoking itself.

26,817. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Do you think that the authors of those medical books to which you have referred were religious men?—They were Musalmans, and as Musalmans must be considered as religious.

26,818. Is opium prescribed as a medicine in those books?—Yes.

26,819. Is alcohol prescribed in those books as a medicine?—No.

26,820. Do you think that opium is allowed even by religious authorities?—Opium is not prohibited by the Mahomedan books of law.

The witness withdrew.

(Lord Brassey took the Chair during the remainder of the sitting.)

The Hon. W. R. MACDONNELL called in and examined.

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26,828. (Chairman.) You are a member of the Legislative Council of Bombay and president of the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay?—Yes.

26,829. You are here to speak to us upon the financial aspect of the question submitted to this Commission?—Yes.

26,830. It has been proposed, as you are aware, to prohibit the production and consumption of opium in India except for strictly medical purposes. Such a prohibition would naturally immensely diminish the production of opium and lead to a cessation of the export trade in the drug?—Yes.

26,831. What have you to say as to the probable financial result of such a policy? First, we have to deal with the question of compensation which the Government might be called upon to pay. Have you made any estimate of the sum which might be payable by way of compensation to the Native States?—No. I found it so difficult to form any idea that I have not hazarded an estimate.

26,832. Have you anything to say to us with regard to the compensation to the Bengal ryots?—Yes. I see that the cultivation and manufacturing charges paid by the Government in the two years which I looked at, 1890-1 and 1891-2, amounted to a very large sum, Rx. 1,900,000; consequently, if prohibition were enforced and the crop not grown, a very large compensation would have to be given to the ryots.

26,833. What do you suppose the annual amount might be?—I take Rx. 2,000,000 as the amount which they would be deprived of by the prohibition of opium. No doubt they would be able to grow other crops, but I should say very much less remunerative crops, and there the difficulty of estimating what would be payable to them by way of compensation comes in.

26,834. It is almost better to confine ourselves to the fact that it would be a very large sum?—A very large sum.

26,835. And if that sum were not paid these people would probably be discontented?—Extremely discontented, I should say.

26,836. Turning to what are described as the Bengal and Bombay establishments, and the compensation for loss of occupation, can you explain what in your view might be the demand made upon the Government under that head?—You have a body of men from the Behar and

26,821. As a medicine alcohol is prohibited?—The prohibition or non-prohibition of wine as a medicine is a matter of controversy between men learned in the Mahomedan law.

26,822. Is alcohol mentioned as a medicine in these medical books?—There is a controversy as to the use of alcohol. Some say that it is allowable, and some say that it is not, even as a medicine.

26,823. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Do you say that many Mahomedans in Bombay consider that the taking of opium in moderation is forbidden?—To such an extent as to produce a flaw in the human reason—if it is taken to that extent it is prohibited.

26,824. (Mr. Pease.) My question was whether many Mahomedans in Bombay think that opium is forbidden by the sacred books?—As far as my knowledge goes, which is limited to Bombay town and island, many people must be thinking so.

26,825. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Do you mean that there are many Mahomedans in Bombay who consider that the taking of opium in moderation is forbidden?—There are many people of religious education in Bombay who think that opium if taken moderately is not forbidden.

26,826. What opinion do you wish to express in regard to the proposal to prohibit the use of opium except for medical purposes?—It is not good; many evils will be spread thereby, many ailments and diseases. There are many ailments which are stopped by opium, and if the use of opium is peremptorily stopped those diseases will return.

26,827. The question is as to prohibition except for medical purposes?—If opium is prohibited sickness will come.

Benares establishments drawing Rx. 122,000, and you deprive them of their employment.

26,837. How are they employed?—In Bombay, with the working of the department; and, on the other side, I take it that these are all Government officials employed in this business, and if you stop the business, you cease to pay them salary, consequently you must give them compensation.

26,838. You hold that there is a sort of implied contract with these men to continue their employment or to compensate them for the loss of employment?—Certainly.

26,839. Then we come to a class of men with whom you are, perhaps, in more close personal relations, namely, native and European merchants engaged in the opium trade; have you examined the question of compensation for the destruction of the trade?—My firm is not interested in buying or selling opium; we have nothing to do with it as merchants, consequently I do not come into personal contact with these traders.

26,840. They are members of the mercantile community?—In that sense I look upon them broadly as a class of men who have spent their lives in this special trade, and if you stop the trade, I think they have a very good claim for compensation.

26,841. What do you suppose is the extent of their trade, and what do you think might be the annual amount of profit in carrying on that distinctive business?—In the last three years the annual average of the exports was Rx. 9,250,000. It is one of the largest trades in the country. It is an extremely important trade, and if at one blow you sweep it away, you must destroy the livelihood of the very large number of people who are engaged in it. As to the profits, I have no means of ascertaining them, but they must be very large. I understand that opium goes through a number of hands.

26,842. It is hardly conceivable that compensation for the loss of such a trade could be dealt with by an annual payment, and it would, therefore, have to be dealt with, if at all, in the same way as we compensated the West India planters on the suppression of the slave trade, namely, by a lump sum?—Yes.

26,843. That would be a formidable question for the Government to deal with?—Extremely formidable.

26,844. Another head of charge with which the Government might have to deal would be the cost of the necessary preventive measures?—Yes.

26,845. Having regard to the wide extent of country where opium is and can be grown, you anticipate that if prevention is to be effective it must involve a very costly establishment?—Very costly.

26,846. You have not estimated the cost, I presume?—I have not.

26,847. Dealing with the loss of revenue from opium, what is your estimate of the loss which the Government would have to bear, as compared with the average of the last 10 years?—After deducting the charges, the net loss of revenue, as far as I can arrive at it from the accounts for 1890–91 and 1891–92, may be taken at Rx. 6,600,000 per annum, viz., Rx. 5,900,000 on account of provision opium, and Rx. 700,000 on account of excise. It is one of the main sources of revenue after land and salt.

26,848. In your printed statement you say that you are "unable to suggest how this deficit can be made good," bearing in mind sections 35–45 of the Herschell Committee's report." Could you develop that view a little? Perhaps you can show us how the loss of the opium trade with China would affect the position of the country commercially, because of the increased difficulty in liquidating the home charges, which we know form an important aspect of the question?—With regard to the taxes, I should mention first of all the salt tax; that is the second great source of revenue after the land. It would be possible, by doubling the salt tax, to make up for the loss of revenue which would arise from the prohibition of opium; but that, I take it, would be considered an extremely harsh measure, as affecting the very poorest classes throughout the length and breadth of India. Secondly, the salt tax has, I understand, for many years been looked upon by the Government of India as their great resource in case of exceptional financial embarrassment.

26,849. Like the income tax at home?—Like the income tax at home. Then with regard to the import duties on one great branch of traffic, the Manchester piece goods trade, you would have to put on such an enormous tax that it would be practically prohibitive. If you take the average value of imports of cotton goods at 25 millions, you will have to put on something like 25 per cent. to make up for the deficit, which, of course, is out of the question.

26,850. So heavy an import duty would make it impossible for the Lancashire manufacturers to compete with the local trade?—The trade would come to an end. There would be no articles upon which to levy a tax; the Government, therefore, would lose its chance of making a revenue. On the other hand, the consumers would have to pay a greatly enhanced price. It has been suggested that the income tax might be raised, but if you double the income tax you would only raise about a million and a half tens of rupees. That is stated in the Herschell Report. There are only two new taxes that I have seen suggested; these have come before the Finance Minister of the Government of India at various times, namely, taxes on tobacco and sugar. But there again arises a difficulty. You grow these articles all over India, and the cost of preventive measures would be so great that the taxes would be unworkable. Of course the other way of meeting the deficit would be by reducing expenditure. The Herschell Committee have, I think, made some very wise remarks on the difficulty of doing so. As civilization goes on, the demands on Government get greater and greater, and as this country gets more and more developed the demands on the Government will increase. I say nothing about the military expenditure, that is a very wide subject.

26,851. Beyond your purview?—Yes.

26,852. It is before us that there has been a considerable addition to our military expenditure. Our assumption must be that those additions were made upon such military advice as no Government would decline to accept?—Yes.

26,853. It is said that there has been considerable elasticity and development in the railway revenue?—Yes, but I fancy that no one expects that it will be sufficient to meet such a serious deficit as we are now considering.

26,854. At any rate, having regard to what you have said, the increase is not likely to be more than sufficient to meet the demands arising from an increasing civilization?—No.

26,855. Have you considered the alternative of taxation which might possibly be imposed in substitution for the opium revenue?—Perhaps you could tell us something as to the effect of the cessation of exports of opium upon

exchange?—The export trade in opium amounts to about Rx. 9,250,000 per annum. This trade is financed in a somewhat peculiar way. The bulk of it is not, like other exports, financed by the drawing of bills when the opium is shipped. I understand that as a rule the shippers take no advance, that they raise no money by bills of exchange as European merchants do in shipping the products of India to Europe; but when the opium is sold in the Straits or in China the consignee arranges through the exchange banks that they pay the proceeds of the opium in rupees in Bombay and Calcutta; consequently the exchange banks have to lay down in round numbers Rx. 9,250,000 to finance the opium trade, and they have to find these rupees either by buying council bills or in the other well-known methods of banking. I therefore hold that this large trade has the same effect upon exchange as the exports, say, of cotton to Europe. The banks have to find their rupees in the two cases in precisely the same way. Consequently, if you abolish this trade, amounting to 9½ millions, you at once alter the balance of trade.

26,856. And prejudicially affect the demand for council bills at once to that extent?—And to a great extent, because the opium crop represents about one-tenth of the total exports from India.

26,857. If the demand for council bills in connexion with the opium traffic were to cease, it would necessarily add very seriously to the financial difficulties of the Indian Government in dealing with home charges?—Enormously.

26,858. In fact it would be a most serious blow?—Yes.

26,859. Looking to the difficulties of the silver question at this particular moment you would say that the time is peculiarly inopportune for discussing the question of abolishing the opium trade?—Extremely. At the present moment, as we all know, the Government of India has to face a most serious deficit, and the whole country is in a state of alarm as to the taxes which every one foresees must be imposed, so that to sweep away one great source of revenue, or even to talk about it, seems to me most undesirable.

26,860. It there anything more you would like to say to us?—No. I hope I have made my point clear about the effect on exchange.

26,861. You are not prepared from your standpoint to consider in what way, if at all, the home charges or the military expenditure could be reduced?—No.

26,862. Looking to those home charges as being a burden which for the present must be borne, and to the fact that you cannot leave India open to the attack of an enemy, you have to accept the military expenditure and the home charges?—Yes.

26,863. And with those figures remaining as at present you see an enormous difficulty in abolishing a trade which is a very powerful factor in maintaining the demands for council bills?—Yes.

26,864. (Mr. Mowbray.) You are a member of the Legislative Council of Bombay?—Yes.

26,865. Do you hold that office by nomination from the Government or as a representative from the Chamber of Commerce?—I am elected by the Chamber of Commerce, subject to the approval of the Government.

26,866. How long have you been President of the Chamber of Commerce?—For one year, and I have been elected for another year.

26,867. May I ask your opinion as a commercial man representing the great body of commercial opinion, and practically conversant with this question of the opium trade, with regard to two statements made in the memorial presented by the Anti-Opium Society to Lord Kimberley in November 1892? It is said that "the stoppage of trade in opium with China would probably give a powerful stimulus to the exports of other Indian produce to that country;" have you any reason as a commercial man of great experience for disagreeing or agreeing with that?—I disagree with that statement.

26,868. Do you wish to make any remarks upon it?—I cannot imagine what produce they would take in addition to the articles they take already.

26,869. I should like to draw your attention also to this statement: "It" (that is the stoppage of trade in opium) "would also in all probability have a very beneficial effect on silver exchanges by putting an end to the drain of silver from China to India in payment for opium, thereby enabling the Chinese to substitute the use of silver for their present cumbersome copper coinage. It would thus tend to check the depreciation of silver, which is at the present time so serious an embarrassment in the finances

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"of India"?—It seems to me that the question is this. If we stop exporting opium from India the question we shall have to ask ourselves is, will the Chinamen who have hitherto bought opium buy anything else from us? Will they take more of our cotton goods, one of our principal articles of export? I can hardly imagine a Chinaman accustomed to Indian opium being satisfied with a substitute in the form of Bombay yarn. I think he would go and buy the inferior opium of his own country. From that point of view I cannot imagine how our trade can be stimulated. With regard to the second point, of course we have to bear in mind that the expression "silver exchanges" is somewhat ambiguous. So far as regards India at least there is no such thing as silver exchange. The rupee exchange is now divorced from silver; formerly it was linked with silver, but it is so no longer; consequently the expression "silver exchanges" is exceedingly ambiguous.

26,870. As put in force by recent legislation?—By recent currency legislation. The stoppage of the opium trade might have an effect in this way, that if the Chinaman ceased to import opium, and went on with his exports on the same scale as before, he would have to take the difference either in silver or in goods from England. But, as I have just said, I cannot imagine the buyers of Indian opium being satisfied either with Bombay yarns or English cutlery or cotton goods. It is therefore possible that it might lead to an increased demand for silver; but (to come back to the previous point) that does not help Indian exchange. You might improve silver and yet it might have no influence on the rupee exchange at all.

26,871. (*Chairman.*) It has been suggested, in discussing this question from the anti-opium point of view, that if the Chinaman were to abstain from spending so much of his substance upon the purchase of opium he would have more money in his pocket wherewith to buy Lancashire goods; what do you think of that?—I say, as I said before, that the man who used to buy opium will not be satisfied by an extra piece of cotton print. He wants something stronger. I take it that he would buy the inferior opium of his own country. The drain of silver from China to India is not very large. I see from the Herschell Committee's report that the imports for 1891-2 from Hongkong and the China treaty ports to India amounted to Rs. 1,700,000.

26,872. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Is that the net import?—The net import. There are practically no exports of silver from India—they are very trifling. The amount varies. In 1870-1 it was about 1½ million. In 1875-6 it fell to 349,000. In 1880-1 it fell to 160,000. In 1885-6 it was 1,600,000; in 1890-1 it was about 2½ millions, and in 1891-2 it fell to 1½ millions. One can hardly speak of that as a serious drain upon a great country like China.

26,873. Do you regard that import of silver from China into India to which our attention has several times been drawn as insignificant in comparison with the general question of the balance of trade?—Quite insignificant.

26,874. (*Mr. Pease.*) Did you say that it was gross or net import?—I was reading the figures of the gross import, but the exports are practically nil; so trifling that they may be left out of the account.

The witness withdrew.

*Mr. Gulabrai
Durgaram
Mancharam
Mehtaji.*

MR. GULABRAI DURGARAM MANCHARAM MEHTAJI called in and examined.

26,890. (*Chairman.*) You are the sub-editor of the *Gujarati*, an Anglo-vernacular paper published in Bombay, and having a wide circulation in the city?—Yes.

26,891. As regards the feeling of the people of this country about opium, what can you say to us from your knowledge of their habits?—I can say that opium is entirely disliked by the people, and they will gladly support any legislative or administrative action that will tend to the gradual suppression of this drug except for medicinal purposes.

26,892. What is the feeling of the people in regard to intoxicants?—It is strongly against intoxication of any sort whatever, and especially against opium, alcohol, and ganja. To eat opium is considered bad, and the term *afinio* (opium eater) is always used in contempt. The sayings and the poems of the people are always a sure index of the people's feelings about the questions dealt with, and there are various sayings in which the opium habit is denounced, and among the sayings there is not a single one in which the opium habit is spoken of as good. Similarly our poets have always sung inspiring songs about the evil result of the opium habit. The question is gene-

26,875. What are the figures for 1890-1?—That is the largest year.

26,876. Have you added the Hongkong and treaty ports?—By mistake I omitted the treaty ports in the figures for 1885-6, 1890-1, and 1891-2. I will add them. Taking 1890-1, the largest year, the figures would be 3,600,000 for all China.

26,877. That was an extraordinary year?—Yes, but that of course does not represent anything like the balance of trade between the two countries. The excess of exports from India to China over imports are very much larger.

26,878. If the Chinaman consumed the same amount of Chinese opium that he at present does Indian opium, it would cost him a considerably smaller sum?—I understand that the Chinese opium is cheaper.

26,879. Therefore there would be a very much larger balance of money in his pocket?—It depends upon how much he took.

26,880. If he took the same amount of Chinese opium that he does Indian opium it would cost him a much smaller sum and he would have a larger balance in his pocket?—If he took the same amount, but if it is an inferior drug he may require to take a great deal more to give him the same sensations that he had from the Indian opium.

26,881. In so far as it cost him less he would have more money which he might spend upon cotton goods?—Possibly.

26,882. Whatever produce there was upon land at present occupied with poppy would be so much value in reduction of the 9½ millions worth of opium, would it not?—If exported.

26,883. Looking at the export trade I mean, as wealth to India?—As wealth to India—quite so.

26,884. Perhaps you noticed that Sir David Barbour stated that the net revenue from provision opium was about 4½ millions and was not likely to be more?—I did not see that.

26,885. I see Sir David Barbour says that it is possible that the revenue may be less this year by Rs. 500,000 and that at present the average may be taken at Rs. 5,000,000?—I take my figure from his own statement and the accounts of the Government of India, viz., 5,900,000.

26,886. (*Chairman.*) Made up to what date?—For the two years 1890-1 and 1891-2.

26,887. (*Mr. Pease.*) Are you aware that when there was in 1891-2 that very large quantity of silver from China it had a marked effect on the Indian Exchange?—I am not aware of it.

26,888. Do you think that the average receipt of about 1½ crores of silver from China would have any effect upon the value of silver in India?—Very little I should think.

26,889. (*Chairman.*) Virtually it comes to this, does it not, that looking at the question of exchange for India, which has to meet such heavy charges at home, it would be a very serious thing to lose the important export trade that is now done in opium with China?—Most serious.

rally asked as to how it is that Hindu shastras have strongly denounced and attached penalties against alcohol yet opium is not denounced and no penalties are attached against it. My answer to it is that in those ancient times when the shastras were written, the vice of drink must have been so widely spread that the writers of the shastras must have felt it their duty to denounce it and attach severe penalties against it. While in those ancient times opium never existed, and therefore the writers of the shastras could not denounce it and attach penalties against it. But I am positively sure that if opium had then existed and had been as widely used as it is now for intoxicating purposes the writers of the shastras would surely have denounced it and attached penalties against it. That being the case the Government should the more necessarily take such steps as would more and more lessen the opium habit to make up for the absence of any penalties in the shastras on account of the state of things mentioned above. That opium was not even known in India up till recently is best proved from the fact that in the famous Sanskrit standard medical works, Charak and Shushruta, which are known to be between 3,000 and 4,000 years old, there is absolutely no mention of opium. Opium seems to have become known in India only about

500 years ago as there is mention in a Sanskrit medical work Saragdhher and which approximately is 300 or 400 years old,

26,893. In the course of our inquiry it cannot be said that there has been any complete indication of a wide-spread popular feeling, or of eagerness to see prohibitory legislation in regard to opium; can you explain that?—Indians do not come out so readily to express their abhorrence of the opium traffic because they fear that if the use of opium is curtailed, alcohol will the more extensively take its place. If the Commission had been entrusted with the duty of inquiring about alcohol, opium, and ganja, all of them together, I am positively sure that Indians would have unanimously come forward to support the proposed curtailment and gradual abolition of the opium traffic.

26,894. You come here, I assume, to tell us that what in your view is really desirable is a prohibitory legislation which would embrace alcohol equally with, if not more absolutely than, opium?—Yes.

26,895. And you desire to see prohibitory legislation extended to all stimulants whatsoever?—Stimulants of the kind I have mentioned, opium, alcohol, and ganja; opium more especially, because in the shastras there is no prohibition against opium but there is against alcohol.

26,896. What do you say about the use of opium for the purpose of suicide?—Opium is so easy to buy from the licensed opium shops that any native woman who is dissatisfied with her domestic life from one cause or another, immediately buys it and commits suicide, which fact is plain from this, that about 80 per cent. of the suicides committed in Bombay and the Presidency general are committed with the assistance of opium.

26,897. Have you anything to say about the system of selling "balagoli"?—The system of selling balagoli in licensed opium shops is very wrong in principle, as by giving facility to ignorant women to buy, its use instead of curtailing is likely to vastly spread. The system of giving balagoli to children is considered by educated natives to be bad, and even among the ignorant people the tendency is not to give balagoli to children.

26,898. What is the general view taken by Indians of this Commission?—The Indians of the middle class look towards the Commission with a mistaken suspicion that the Commission has been appointed by the influence of English wine merchants and their sympathisers, with the deliberate motive of extending the use of alcohol by curtailing the use of opium in India. It is hardly known among these people that the anti-opium party and its leaders entirely sympathise with the temperance movement, and that they have nothing to do with any wine merchants. This mistaken impression of these people serves the Government interest greatly, as it keeps the people aloof from the Commission.

26,899. Have you anything to say with reference to possible discontent which might arise from the suppression of the opium traffic?—As regards the suppression of the opium traffic producing any general discontent among the people it is all a myth, provided, with the suppression of the opium traffic, steps were taken to check the use of alcohol by giving the right of local option to the people which they very much desire, and which the Government decline to give them, because it would diminish their revenue, which they always try to increase, even at the expense of the morals of the people. The Indian people are not in a condition to bear any further taxation that might be necessitated by the suppression of the opium traffic, as the last limit of taxation are already reached. The loss of revenue by the suppression of the opium traffic should be made up by suitable temporary assistance from the English Exchequer, by reductions in the military and civil expenditure in the administration, for which there is great room, and by stopping the perennial visits of Viceroys and Governors to the hills, and their tours, which have now become too common. These are the views which I would like to place before the Commission, which educated natives consider to be a God-send, as it would sooner or later be an instrument of saving India from the opium traffic, and in addition to that the liquor traffic.

26,900. (Mr. Fanshawe.) We have had a great deal of evidence from various classes of people from Native States in favour of opium; I suppose you will admit that they are competent to represent the feelings of the people?—Yes.

26,901. I understand you to say that there is a genuine feeling of apprehension on the part of the people in the districts with which you are acquainted that the prohibition

of opium would lead to an extension of the alcohol habit?—There is a belief.

26,902. Among the natives of the country?—Yes.

26,903. Can you give us any statistics in support of your statement about the number of suicides in the Presidency of Bombay?—I could not find any official reports, but from the reports of the newspapers, my impression is that suicides occur to the extent I have mentioned.

26,904. Do you know that Dr. Blaney told us that in 22 years there were 463 suicides in Bombay owing to opium, which is, of course, something very short of 80 per cent.?—Yes.

26,905. With regard to the term "afinio," is it used for opium eaters in moderation or only those who use it in excess, opium sots?—It is never considered whether it is taken in moderation or in excess. Anybody who eats opium is looked upon in a bad way.

26,906. We have been told that a large number of people take opium in moderation later in life, as a restorative in old age; is the term you have mentioned used with regard to such persons?—There are very few who take opium in old age, it is only the minority.

26,907. If such persons in middle or old age take opium as a restorative, is the term used with reference to them or not?—Not in the way in which it is used in the case of younger people.

26,908. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Are you the son of the well-known Durgaram Mancharam, the Kathiawar reformer in Gujarat?—Yes.

26,909. You know that he always preached against these habits?—Yes.

26,910. May I ask what authority you have for saying that opium was only known in India about 500 years ago?—I inquired of the Shastras, and they say it is in Saragdhher, which is approximately 300 or 400 years old.

26,911. A previous witness, a Vaid, referred to one or two old books going back 1,100 years?—Yes.

26,912. Alcohol has always been known as prohibited?—Yes.

26,913. And it has been religiously prohibited?—Yes.

26,914. You know there are some religious persons who will not object to eat opium as a medicine, but who would have religious objection to alcohol as a medicine?—Yes.

26,915. There are many who do not go to English doctors because they know they prescribe spirits?—Yes.

26,916. They would use opium freely?—Yes.

26,917. You state that opium is not mentioned in religious books, but you say it should be first prohibited?—Yes; all people do not think that it is religiously prohibited.

26,918. How old are you?—35.

26,919. How many opium eaters have you come in contact with?—I had an uncle who was an opium eater and my experience of his opium habit was that it was very injurious.

26,920. How old was he?—He died at the age of about 58.

26,921. When did he contract the habit?—Long ago when I was a child.

26,922. How many persons in your caste do you know who take opium?—Very few; it may be two per cent.

26,923. You say that one or two per cent. of the people are opium eaters—do you generalize it for the whole of India?—I have read so much about this matter.

26,924. You form your opinion from what you have read?—Yes.

26,925. (Mr. Mowbray.) I understand you would not be in favour of the abolition of the opium trade and the revenue derived from it unless the English Government were prepared to make up the deficiency?—I have said with temporary assistance, there must be reductions in the expenditure of the country so that the loss of the opium revenue may be made up.

26,926. Are you aware that Lord Kimberley, the Secretary of State for India, on the part not only of his Government, but of any British Government, says that he does not think there is any chance of the English Government meeting you in that way?—Yes. The majority in Parliament in favour of the prohibition of opium must make Lord Kimberley or the English Government willing to help us.

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26,927. Are you aware that the Anti-Opium Association who made that suggestion to Lord Kimberley themselves, draw a distinction between making up the revenue derived from the export trade on opium and the revenue derived from the excise on opium for consumption within the country?—Yes.

26,928. Are you aware that so far as the excise revenue is concerned, they are of opinion that no substitute and no assistance from England are required in that matter?—Yes.

26,929. Let me read you an extract from a work published by the authority of the Anti-Opium Association and ask you whether you agree with it: "We need not look for substitutes. The greatest gain will undoubtedly be that derived from the people of India to whom it will be far more profitable to pay the amount of the excise revenue in the form of direct taxation than in a mode which involves the corruption and ruin of their sons, brothers, husbands and village headmen." Let me ask

you whether in your opinion the people of India or those for whom you speak, will prefer to make up the excise revenue by the payment of direct taxation?—They would be willing if they had the power to make up the loss, but as they are powerless their willingness is useless.

26,930. Which amounts to saying that they will not be able to do it?—They are not in a condition to do it.

26,931. (*Chairman.*) You mean that they have not the financial ability to do it?—Yes.

26,932. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) When you use the word "powerless," do you mean that you have not the power of curtailing the expenditure of the Government, and therefore you are not able to make up this sum?—That also.

26,933. And if you had the power to curtail in other directions, you would do so?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. R. H.
Vincent.

Mr. R. H. VINCENT, C.I.E., called in and examined.

26,934. (*Chairman.*) What position do you occupy?—I am Acting Commissioner of Police of Bombay.

26,935. You have been in India for more than 29 years and have served in the Police Department for 25 years?—Yes.

26,936. You joined the police as a District Inspector in 1869 and served as such in the Ahmednagar and the Neesik districts for three years?—Yes; in my then position I had unusual opportunities of noticing the habits of the people, as I, so to say, lived amongst them, often not seeing a European for months at a time. In both these districts Hindus (Maharattas) are most numerous, but there is also a fairly large Musalman population, the ruling power having been for centuries of the latter faith.

26,937. You afterwards served as a Deputy Commissioner of Police in Bombay?—Yes; and as Assistant and District Superintendent in several districts of the Deccan and Sind, and again as Deputy Commissioner and occasionally as Commissioner in Bombay; later on again for years as District Superintendent of Police in Sind and the Deccan (Khandesh), for six months in Egypt as Deputy Inspector-General of Police and so on, until I was appointed to Act as Commissioner of Police from April 1893.

26,938. Your experience, therefore, extends to six districts of the Deccan, three of Sind and to the City of Bombay?—Yes.

26,939. Roughly speaking, you have had to deal with 8,000,000 of people, with 50,000 persons accused of committing more or less serious crimes, and have had the command, at various times, of an aggregate of 10,000 policemen?—Yes.

26,940. That is a very wide experience; one can hardly conceive of anybody having a wider. What has that experience taught you with regard to connection between opium and crime?—In my opinion there is no connection whatever between opium and crime. The former is not the cause of the latter, for in not one of the several thousands of serious offences which I personally investigated has it ever been noticed by me or reported by my subordinates that the consumption of opium was directly or indirectly the cause of the crime. All that can possibly be averred in this direction is that poor persons—accustomed to opium—would commit acts of petty larceny to procure money for its purchase, but the proportion is so infinitesimally small that it must be left out of consideration just as much or far more so even than acts of the same kind at home for the purpose of procuring a glass of gin.

26,941. There are more than 2,000 native police serving under you in Bombay?—Yes.

26,942. Do you see those men every month?—Yes; and many of them every day.

26,943. Is there a single native policeman in all the force who shows outwardly or inwardly any signs of opium having the slightest injurious effect upon him?—Not a single person amongst the whole lot.

26,944. What is the number of men you have had under your command during the last 25 years?—I should say about 10,000.

26,945. In all that large number how many cases can you call to mind in which men have been dismissed from the force, or given you cause of complaint for inefficiency

arising out of the use of opium?—About half-a-dozen; certainly not more.

26,946. What have you to say with regard to opium smoking in houses; do you consider that it was well to abolish those places?—I think it was a great mistake to abolish them.

26,947. Has opium smoking decreased in consequence?—I do not think it has decreased at all in consequence.

26,948. Does it result from the abolition of the licence system that the places in which the smoking does take place are less under your supervision?—They are not at all under my supervision just now. No law can, in my opinion, be invented or rather practically carried out against private opium-smoking clubs any more than against other clubs in India or Europe. When such houses were licensed the police could freely visit and inspect them, and from the habitués of such places clues to crimes and information regarding the attitude of the lower classes have frequently been obtained. Now these habitual opium smokers hire private rooms through one of their fraternity and these the police cannot enter, and thus one of the not too numerous sources of information has been stopped. The measure which closed licensed opium-smoking shops is almost on a par with a law closing all drinking bars in England, a step which it would be more than foolhardy for any European Government to adopt. Of course the person who frequent opium smoking houses in India and the evil effects of the habit on them (small and great) are as nothing compared to those who visit gin palaces, &c., in Europe, and the evils produced thereby, and it might be argued that therefore there is no reason to fear trouble or discontent. But as the final aim is to stop opium consumption entirely, the possible dangers of such a measure are almost incalculable. In fine, licensed opium houses did some good and no harm, while the opium clubs which have been substituted do no good and much harm.

26,949. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Your view is clear that the wiser policy would have been to retain these licensed opium shops in order that the people who visit them might be subjected to police control?—Yes.

26,950. Can you express any opinion as to the number of persons in the habit of smoking opium who might be called criminals? Is the number in Bombay large or comparatively small?—It is not so much that these persons are criminals themselves, but having supervision over these places we could obtain information. We there come in contact with the lower classes of the population and from them we hear a great many things. I do not remember a single instance in which we have arrested any of these persons, but we get a good deal of information from them. I think therefore from a police point of view that it was a very great mistake.

26,951. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) You say that the opium clubs which have been substituted for the licensed places do no good and much harm; how do they do much harm?—We have no access to them and we do not know what takes place there. These people have established their opium clubs knowing that we cannot invade them. They have gone up two or three or four or five storeys and if we had a warrant and went with it the result would be nil, for before we could get there they would have got away. Formerly we had opium shops in fixed localities

open to inspection so that any detective could go in. He cannot now go at all.

26,952. You cannot go into a private house?—No; the licensed places were very useful means of obtaining information.

26,953. If any crimes are committed there, you have no means of knowing about it?—We get no information. I do not think crimes are concocted there.

26,954. You believe that there must be something wrong and that you cannot find it?—They are a mixed class of people who congregate there just as in public houses you overhear a great deal of conversation and from that you may get a clue to crime. That source of information is now shut off.

26,955. In that way harm is done?—Yes; of course it is a good thing to obtain information with regard to criminals, and now we have not the facility for obtaining that information.

26,956. (Mr. Mowbray.) Supposing people are selling illegally preparations of opium in these places, have your men any power to go in?—None whatever.

26,957. Do you require a warrant?—You must show a very good reasonable ground for entering someone else's premises. If the case comes before the magistrates it is always the question what were the reasons.

26,958. You spoke of entering with a warrant?—I should have to issue a warrant. An ordinary police constable could not go. It would require a superior police officer to execute it.

26,959. Would that be with a view of seeing whether any illicit practices with regard to opium were going on or generally for the purpose of arresting any criminal who

might be there?—It would serve both purposes. We have no means of entering those houses; we do not know where they are. A man might say, "This is my zenana, occupied by my women folk, you cannot go in there." All these difficulties confront us.

26,960. Do you send any men in plain clothes?—They would not let them in; they know their customers too well, and they know my men too well.

26,961. I asked yesterday whether there was any law against poisons in Bombay; can you give me any information on that subject?—There is a law against poisons, and I believe that Government have it under consideration to amend the law and strengthen the hands of the police as regards poison.

26,962. What is the Act?—It is Act VIII. of 1866.

26,963. Is it enforced all through the Bombay Presidency?—Yes.

26,964. Do you find practically that you have much difficulty in enforcing that Act?—Government has called for the opinion of the officers. I was called on to report when I was in Karachi, and I explained that the Act is not workable. My predecessor, Colonel Wilson, reported against the Act. There are only 11 shops licensed to sell poisons, and their ought to be perhaps a couple of hundred. Many men who have been compounders in shops such as Treacher & Co., Kemp & Co., set up dispensaries, and they need not take out licenses; they may sell as much poison as they like.

26,965. Practically, anybody who likes can set up as a chemist, and is able to sell poison in spite of the Act, is that your experience?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. THAKERSEY GANGARAM called in and examined.

26,966. (Chairman.) You are a justice of the peace and an opium merchant of Bombay?—Yes.

26,967. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—Opium is largely consumed to my knowledge in Rajputana, Malwa, Central India, Kathiawar, and Gujarat, not to speak of other minor places in this Presidency, as well as out of its jurisdiction. It is swallowed more extensively in the shape of pills as a mild stimulant by the lower classes who have to undergo hard physical labour. A small number of the higher classes also take pills (especially in old age) as a stimulant, or sip it in a liquid form called "Kusumbba" as a luxury. The smoking of it is met with in very rare instances. The consumption of the drug varies from half to two vials per head per day, very few persons consuming as much as five vials. Generally speaking, I do not consider that it acts injuriously on the moral or physical condition of the people. On the contrary I consider it to be a good stimulant, as it keeps up the spirits and energies of the working people. It is not injurious in effect as liquor is. In old age it acts as a charm in maintaining the strength and vitality of the general system both mentally and physically. The people of India do not, in my opinion, in any way look upon its use for non-medical purposes with alarm, nor do they consider any person using it as degraded in

their estimation. It is looked upon by them, in many instances, as a necessity in this climate for the poor working classes as beer is in the European climate. They do not, I opine, see the necessity of any prohibitive measures, and will, therefore, not be willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of the same. The sale of opium should on no account be prohibited in British India for other than medical purposes, as the large revenue it brings into the Government Treasury will unnecessarily be lost, and will have to be replaced by fresh taxation which the already over-taxed poor subjects are unable to bear. Moreover, it would be an undue interference with the rights of those people who are honestly engaged in its trade. When such sale is prohibited the production of the drug, to a very large extent, must naturally stop too, and thus the rights of the rayats as well as of the landholders who are honestly engaged in its production will also be unduly interfered with. For the same reasons as adduced above in respect of British India, such prohibition could not be justifiably extended to any native states, and should it be forced upon them, the inevitable result would be smuggling and adulterated drug in the market.

26,968. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Have you personal acquaintance with any Native States in the Presidency of Bombay?—No.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. SHIVMUKHRAI SUREKA called in and examined.

26,969. (Chairman.) I believe you are an opium merchant of Bombay?—Yes.

26,970. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—I am an inhabitant of Ramgad under Jeypur, and am acquainted with Mandasaur, Ujain, Indore, Ratlam, &c. in Malwa, as also with Jeypur, which I have visited at times. I am an opium merchant by profession, and, therefore, have knowledge of the opium trade. I have been residing in Bombay for eight years past. All those districts of Malwa, wherein opium is manufactured, are subject to Native Princes, and the manufacture of opium in those districts has been carried on for many years past. All classes of people eat opium in the above-mentioned districts. When a person goes to visit another at his house, opium is offered to the visitor as a mark of hospitality, and the latter takes as much of it as he likes. Many sick persons find it necessary to eat opium habitually when no medicine gives them relief. Again, some healthy persons eat opium for the sake of pleasure

and strength. If an opium eater gets good food his body remains strong. Further, some poor men eat opium because they have much labour to undergo. The eating of opium diminishes the effects of fatigue and flatulence, and enables men to live on scanty food. With regard to the people of all races, it may be remarked that they use opium through necessity. Moreover, in our country people know nothing about the medicines of doctors, but place themselves under the treatment of native physicians. The latter use opium in the case of certain diseases, and such use gives constant relief to the patients. No quarrels or dissensions take place in the homes of opium eaters, and they always remain contented with their lot. On the other hand, those who drink liquor are not found in a happy state, a fact which is well known to everybody. By eating opium moderately men are able to preserve their moral and physical well-being. Eating it immoderately is bad, and I have not seen many persons doing so. It is not good to prohibit the use of opium for non-medical

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purposes, nor is it possible to prohibit the same in any way, for those who are addicted to the habit of eating opium will not give it up, and failing to obtain it honestly, they will have recourse to surreptitious means. They will import it from foreign territory, and also manufacture it in their own country. How far will Government adopt prohibitive measures? And if they attempt to do so there will be no limit to the cost. If the people of India be called upon to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures they will regard the call as nothing but an act of oppression. In my opinion it is not proper to prohibit the sale of opium in British India. People require it as a medicine, or as a source of pleasure, or for the sake of their health. By prohibiting Native Princes from manufacturing opium Government would trample upon their rights, and, in order to remove this stigma, Government would have to pay to those Princes a very large sum

The witness withdrew.

Mr. J. M.
Campbell.

Mr. JAMES MACNABB CAMPBELL recalled and further examined.

26,971. (Chairman.) I understand you wish to make a statement for the consideration of the Commission?—I should like to do so. On the 25th October, 1893, the manager of an opium smoking club was brought before the third Presidency magistrate charged with having in his possession more than two tolas of opium. The point that possession by the manager was such possession as constituted a breach of the two tola rule broke down. Six or seven members of the club stated that a share of the opium was theirs. The two tolas to which each had a right together, amounted to the quantity in the manager's charge. The magistrate held there was no infringement of the two tola rule. He warned the inspector to be careful, or he might be punished for trespass. To check the sales of chandul in clubs and private houses, since August 1883, a special staff of eight detectives has been employed. This increase enables us to keep a detective near each group of houses or clubs in which opium is smoked. Though we have failed to procure evidence enough to justify a charge of sales, we believe we have succeeded in stopping sales in the sense of shop sales. Strangers seldom come into these houses. If a stranger comes the manager will not give him chandul. The manager knows detectives are employed to go into these houses and try to buy chandul. He is afraid to sell. The members, as a rule, do not pay at the time of smoking. They pay at some other time. What they pay is for the room, the pipes, and the cook. After the closing of the licensed smoking houses, both from inquiries from the opium staff and from inquiry in recently opened smoking houses, I satisfied myself the rule against sales was known. So far as I could judge the rule was respected. Before the Mahim Fair at the end of December I consulted with the Opium Assistant Collector and Inspector. The staff of men usually employed at the Mahim Fair was strengthened, and the necessity of special watchfulness was enforced. The Commission have had before them the issue of the *Bombay Guardian* newspaper of the 5th January, containing an article headed "Official Opiumist Fraud in Bombay." After reading this article I made fresh inquiries in case any laxness or mistake had occurred either as to allowing sales in the clubs, or in the matter of selling opium to club managers in quantities larger than two tolas at a time. I found both rules were understood. That the former did not supply opium to any manager in excess of two tolas, and that efforts were made to prevent retail sales in houses and were believed to be successful. I examined and took the statements of eight opium smokers. They knew they might smoke but might not buy chandul in the houses. I did not see what further action I could take. On the 18th of January Inspector Rustom brought the Rev. W. Prautch to my office, and said Mr. Prautch would like to make a statement before me. I asked Mr. Prautch what statement he had to make. He gave an account of visits to smoking houses with Mr. Rustom. With parts of those statements Mr. Rustom agreed, parts he differed. I asked Mr. Prautch why he had not come earlier. I said it was my duty to hear all complaints against the Opium Department. Mr. Prautch then complained that the opium staff did nothing to prevent the opening of chandul houses and clubs. I explained to Mr. Prautch we could not prevent people smoking in their houses. That as regards clubs we had taken a case into court, but it was given against us. We could not work the two tola rule so as to prove that opium in a club was in the manager's possession within the meaning of the rule. Mr. Prautch said, "they are shops not" houses or clubs, and the opium staff openly allows chandul

of money as compensation. Further, the duty on opium exported to China would no longer be realised, and Government would have to bear this loss. The people would not be able to meet the deficiency. To suppose that the people of India would cease to export opium to China, and that consequently the Chinese would give up opium eating is certainly equivalent to building castles in the air. China can obtain opium from many other countries besides India, and even in China itself opium is manufactured to a very large extent. If the manufacture of opium be prohibited in India its production in China and other countries will increase, and opium will make its way into India from China and other countries. The trade of China with India in other commodities is so extensive that if opium were surreptitiously imported into this country it would be difficult to detect it.

"to be sold and paid for." I showed him the difficulty if not hopelessness of proving a sale. Mr. Prautch seemed impressed. He said then the fault is the feebleness of the law. I said the law might or might not be feeble, but he had no right to accuse the opium staff of fraud without knowing the circumstances. He said I am not responsible for the heading Official Opiumist Fraud. It was the editor Mr. Dyer who set the headings. Mr. Prautch admitted that the heading was indefensible. Mr. Prautch further told me that at Mahim Fair opium smoking and drinking were under the protection of the opium police, who allowed sales and prevented the regular police interfering. I explained to him again we could not prevent people meeting to smoke and drink. That the opium peon at the door was to prevent sales, not to protect the sellers. What evidence of sales had he? Mr. Prautch said that after the fair was over he was in Mahim. He found a booth at which chandul was smoked. He sent two of his men, one Syed Ghos and another whose name he preferred not to give, to the booth to try and buy a smoke. Mr. Prautch went to the chief European police officer Mr. Holdway, and asked Mr. Holdway to come to the booth. On their way they met Mr. Prautch's two agents. One of the men said he had bought a smoke. I asked Mr. Prautch if he had made any inquiries regarding his agent's statement. Mr. Prautch said no. This is all my proof. Instead of any explanation of the mistaken charge of opiumist official fraud, the next *Guardian* (20th January) had a still fiercer attack under the title "Further Opiumist Official Fraud," and with special remarks regarding the protection given by the opium staff to the Mahim smoking shops. A few days later 24th January, two Musalmans, one known as Amu Mia, the other named Ajamuddin Khalifa, came before me. They presented a petition signed by 18 of 21 members of a smoking club of which Ajam-ud-din was the manager. They said they wished to be allowed to buy 42 tolas in a lump, that is the legal allowance of the 21 members. I asked them why they wished to buy in a lump. They said padres came in and interfered with them. If they had leave to buy in a lump the padres could not trouble them. I asked how they got the opium now. They said each member brings his two tolas. I said is opium ever sold in the club. They said no. We may smoke: we must not sell. We have been told this often by the opium officials. We know this. I said I saw no ground of complaint. That their petition to get a lump of 42 tolas was against the rules. That I could not sanction it. I have proof that Amu Mia the spokesman is Mr. Prautch's agent, and is the same man whom Mr. Prautch employed at Mahim and whose name Mr. Prautch preferred not to give. I have trustworthy evidence: Ajam-ud-din is also an agent of Mr. Prautch. It is remarkable that two of Mr. Prautch's informers should come before me and petition for a concession, which, and much more than which, according to Mr. Prautch's statement all managers of smoking clubs already enjoy. The petition was referred for inquiry to the Commissioner of Police. In reply Mr. Vincent stated that in his opinion the request should not be granted, and further that the petition was said to be made in the interests of certain anti-opiumists. As regards Mahim Fair Mr. Prautch admits that he was not at the fair. His information is that the opium police in their eagerness to profit the managers of the smoking houses had peons at the doors to warn off all regular police interference. How contrary to fact is the information given to Mr. Prautch is shown by the statement before me of Inspector Holdway, who was in police charge of the fair. Mr. Holdway stated

that before the fair Inspector Rustam came to him to help in detecting sales. Further, I have evidence that the Inspector of the Abkari or Liquor Police, sent one of his men as a detective to try and purchase chandul or madat. At the smoking place this man was told that neither chandul nor madat was for sale. On every night of the fair the Abkari police were present and on the look out for illicit sales of opium or its preparations. They failed to detect a single case of illicit sale. I have had three of the headmen of the Mahim smoking rooms before me. The three statements agree. They had friends from Bombay, made chandul, and smoked. They sold to no one. The opium police had warned them; you may smoke; you may not sell.

26,972. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) You have referred in your statement to a seizure of opium at a certain club in Bombay?—Yes.

26,973. When was the case heard before the courts in Bombay?—On October 25th, 1893.

26,974. What number of tolas was seized?—I think about 14, I am not certain.

26,975. How many persons claimed to have a share in the opium seized?—Six or seven.

26,976. Was there a report of the proceedings in the newspapers at the time?—Not that I know of.

26,977. With regard to the Mahim Fair I understand you to say that you are satisfied after careful inquiry that the information given to Mr. Prautch to the effect that the opium department police were stationed near the smoking shops to keep the ordinary police from interfering and stopping illegal sales was inaccurate?—I am.

26,978. And you state as a fact that the opium department police were stationed near those shops in order to see that illegal sales were not made?—Yes.

26,979. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Do I understand you to say that these matters referred to are now the subject of proceedings pending in the law courts?—Not directly. The plaintiff in the suit in the law courts is a different party. The plaintiff is the opium farmer. The charge is defamation in connexion with statements in the *Guardian* newspaper that the farmer sold illicit opium.

26,980. The issue will more or less raise these questions which have been referred to as being in dispute?—Yes, the case will cover a good deal of the same ground.

26,981. (*Chairman.*) In the responsible position which you occupy in relation to the question which is before us, the suppression of illicit smoking, may I take it from you that the department with which you are connected is sincerely desirous of doing everything in its power to put down the illicit smoking of chandul?—Yes, that is so. We have increased the staff and we have certainly done our best to enforce the rules.

26,982. Do you desire to tell us that your doing your best to put down what are called the smoking dens?—Yes. As far as we can.

26,983. Your difficulty, as I understand, is this, that the actual smoking is not prohibited by law, that what is prohibited is the sale of the stuff?—If we could have shown that the placing in the charge of the manager of more than two tolas was illegal, we might have succeeded in closing the clubs.

26,984. You could have brought them within the pale of the law, but you were defeated by the allegation made by six or seven persons that they each had a share in this opium?—Yes, that the opium was theirs, that possession was with them and not with the manager.

26,985. Therefore, being divided among so many the quantity which each possessed was not beyond the legal quantity?—Exactly.

26,986. I take it from you that you are doing your utmost to put an end to that which the law desires to stop?—Certainly.

26,987. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Is it the case that the difficulty which you now find in dealing with these unlicensed places is a difficulty which you pointed out before the law was altered?—That is so.

26,988. (*Chairman.*) I believe Mr. Stoker, in his evidence before us, offered two suggestions for strengthening the law. One was a suggestion that the sale of opium smoking compounds should be prohibited, and another was that the keeping of smoking saloons should be prohibited; what do you say to those suggestions?—The question is, what would be considered an opium saloon. Could a line be drawn between an opium saloon, an opium club, and

smoking opium in a private house. In practice I think no such line can be drawn. Such a rule would compel police visits to private houses. Than this the former system of licensed and inspected smoking-houses seems to me a much less evil.

26,989. You think that perpetual domiciliary visits by the police might cause resentment, and if they were paid to places where there was no occasion to visit, it would cause resentment not unjustly?—I think there would be resentment. There would also be a great temptation to the police to levy hush-money upon people who smoke opium in their houses. This is one great danger.

26,990. It has been represented to us that the question before us involves many difficulties; that the old system under which such places were licensed gave more opportunity to the police to keep them under strict supervision, but that on the other hand it involved a recognition by the Government of a practice which all admit to be evil?—On the whole I think it is good that Government should regulate places where people meet to smoke opium.

26,991. As far as police control is concerned, you think you are better off?—Yes, certainly.

26,992. May I press further upon your consideration the suggestion which has been made, that the sale of opium-smoking compounds should be prohibited?—The sale of opium-smoking compounds is already prohibited. Further, the attempt to enforce the prohibition has so far as I am aware to a great extent been successful. At the same time the prohibition of sale has failed to secure the reduction of use. The smoking mixtures are not bought openly. My belief is they are seldom bought at all. Still the use of these compounds has increased. The explanation is that the use is confined to clubs and to private houses, where each smoker supplies his own opium. As I have stated above, payments are said to be for the room, the pipe, and the cook, not for the opium mixture. What makes prevention impossible is that the statement that the money is not paid for the opium mixture, is in many cases a true statement. If a sufficient staff of detectives could be kept up the statement would probably be true in every case.

26,993. What do you say about making it an illegal offence to sell such stuff in any way?—I have said the sale of those mixtures in any form is already prohibited. As regards the further question should the use of opium smoking mixtures be prohibited I am of opinion that it should not. I do not think the result of opium smoking in Bombay so evil as to justify so extreme a rule. Even if opium smoking were a public and widespread evil, I do not see how any rule against opium smoking could be enforced. The size of the city, the size of the houses makes prohibition of use impossible. Even if prohibition of use were possible, the enforcement of such a rule would in my mind cause much more evil than smoking causes. To allow the opium or any other police to enter private houses and interfere with domestic practices seems to me a dangerous and unbearable evil. No such rule would be worked. The risk of abuse in its working is too great.

26,994. Do you think that much chandul is smoked in Bombay?—Not much.

26,995. Six or seven hundred persons are said to be known as smokers?—That was the calculation before the licensed smoking houses were closed. Since the licensed houses have been closed the number of smokers has, I believe, doubled or trebled. But this calculation is necessarily incomplete.

26,996. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Are there any shops in which chandul and madak are sold in their proper form?—No. The right to sell chandul and madak was a separate contract. This contract has ceased.

26,997. The only thing which is sold by a licensed vendor is the crude opium which the person takes and makes into chandul or madak himself?—Yes.

26,998. Then practically there is no such thing as the legal sale of chandul or madak, at all?—Not at all.

26,999. (*Chairman.*) Are you acquainted with a publication on the opium question by Mr. Rustomji?—Yes, I know it.

27,000. In this book it is stated that in Bombay, according to a census taken in 1890, there are 7,000 persons taking dry opium. Do you know anything about that?—I think this estimate is based on a census we had taken in 1891. This total is the estimated users of dry opium. The calculation does not refer to the users of opium smoking mixtures.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. J. M.
Campbell.

16 Feb. 1894.

The Rev. T.
M. Hudson.

16 Feb. 1894.

The Reverend THOMAS M. HUDSON called in and examined.

27,001. (*Chairman.*) You are a missionary of the Gujarati Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Bombay?—Yes.

27,002. You have been in India seven and a half years?—Yes.

27,003. In the year 1888 you commenced to take an active interest in the opium question?—Yes.

27,004. Will you tell us what you have to say with regard to the question before this Commission?—I should like to say that the reason which first led me to take an interest in the opium question was that we had a servant who from being a smart useful man gradually became dull and quite useless as a servant, and had to be discharged. He himself confessed that it was through the use of opium that this change took place. During the whole of 1890 I had charge of a work, in Bombay, among ex-prisoners and the criminal classes generally. During this 12 months I had special opportunities of acquainting myself with the habits of these classes. I gave my whole time to it and carefully studied the subject. This necessarily brought me much into contact with opium eaters and smokers. I often visited the licensed opium smoking dens, and both in these places and at other times conversed with those who used opium. I should say that 90 per cent. of the opium smokers in Bombay are Mahomedans. Hindus more generally take it in other ways. I have never met a man, Hindu or Mahomedan, himself addicted to the use of opium, who said that it was a good thing when used in any other way than as a medicine. Opium smoking is looked upon as disgraceful, and they have given me this as one reason why they do not smoke at home but need some place in which to get together for the purpose. They also say that they do not wish their wives and children to learn. It is considered especially disgraceful for young men to take to smoking opium because almost without exception they do it for aphrodisiacal purposes. It has often been affirmed that opium does not, like alcohol, make men violent and thus directly lead to crime, but indirectly it leads even more surely to the same end. A man once a slave to the habit in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred, gradually loses all business capacity and bodily strength, and sinks down to beg or steal. He loses all moral sense and will do anything to obtain the drug. Public opinion among the common people is most decidedly against the use of opium. It is looked upon as a vice, but its easy accessibility and its reputation as a pain and trouble soother, as well as the stories told of its aphrodisiacal effects causes its use to spread. The suggestion of possible trouble through prohibition of the growth or manufacture of opium is ridiculed by the smokers, who although they themselves would at first be the principal sufferers have always expressed to me a great desire for this to be done. They have often begged me to try and get Government to abolish the trade, so that their ruin may be stayed. When the Government licensed smoking shops in Bombay were closed I was very thankful, though knowing what I did of the habits of the smokers, and seeing also the fact that opium was still obtainable in practically any quantity I doubted whether there would be any real benefit from the measure, as far as checking the use of the drug was concerned. Subsequent observation has confirmed me in this opinion. A number of unlicensed smoking places called clubs have been opened. These are not *bona fide* clubs. These clubs are simply gatherings of men who assemble for the purpose of smoking, and they told me that they bought the opium there on the premises, and that any man could come in and buy it and consume it there. It has often been stated to me that the opium is bought in quantity by the proprietor, manufactured into the mixture for smoking, and retailed to the consumers at a profit of two annas per tola. It is also affirmed that the Customs opium inspectors are fully aware of this state of things. The growth or manufacture of opium for any but medicinal purposes should be prohibited. I believe that a measure of this kind, not accompanied by any additional taxation, so far from exciting genuine opposition, would be welcomed by the people.

27,005. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Has your missionary experience of 7½ years been limited to Bombay?—I first spent 18 months in Ceylon; I then came to Bombay for three years; after that I went to Calcutta, and I have been a little in the Punjab and Northern India, and I only returned to Bombay within the last six weeks.

27,006. Am I correct in understanding that your knowledge of opium relates more to the smoking habit?—I have taken more pains to find out about that habit and I have been brought more in contact with opium smokers.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

27,007. You say "the suggestion of possible trouble through prohibition of the growth or manufacture of opium is ridiculed by the smokers, who although they themselves would at first be the principle sufferers, have always expressed to me a great desire for this to be done," that again refers to the smokers in Bombay, does it not?—Yes.

27,008. You would not apply that remark to other smokers in other parts of the country?—I can only say that those whom I have talked to about this matter have ridiculed it.

27,009. You mean the smokers you have come in contact with in Bombay?—I mean anywhere where I have talked with opium smokers. Of course it is only a short time ago that any trouble has been mentioned.

27,010. You mean political trouble?—Yes.

27,011. You also state "it is also affirmed that the Customs Opium Inspectors are fully aware of this state of things," that is, that the opium is bought from the proprietors?—When visiting the clubs I have entered into conversation with the smokers and I have asked them how they procure the opium, and they told me they procured it from the proprietor. I also asked them if the Customs officers, the police, were aware of the fact, and they told me that they were aware of it.

27,012. I presume you recognise that the opium smokers would probably be the last persons to bring themselves within the pale of the law?—I do not suppose they would bring themselves into trouble. They no doubt would tell me, knowing me to be a missionary, many things they would not tell to the Customs police.

27,013. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) You have stated that the smokers have told you that although they were taking opium they did not like the habit?—That is so.

27,014. Do not you think that, knowing you to be a missionary, and knowing you did not like the habit, that is the reason they told you they did not like it?—I have no reason to believe that; I think they spoke the truth.

27,015. You think that opium consumers hate the habit and they have told you that it is a bad thing?—When I have spoken to them, they have made unfavourable remarks about opium, and on one occasion a medical man offered to medically treat any man who could leave off the habit. I went to one of the places and told them that, and they said that it was a very good thing for any man to leave it off because it was a bad habit, and some of them wrote my name and address on the wall so that they might remember it afterwards.

27,016. Did they come to you afterwards?—No, none of those men.

27,017. Have you seen people who take opium in moderate doses in good health and none the worse for the habit?—I have seen people—generally those who have only been accustomed to the habit for a short time—but I believe in every case those who have plenty of means of obtaining good food do not appear to suffer physically.

27,018. Those men who have not sufficient to eat and who take opium to excess are the worse for it; is that what you mean?—They suffer very much.

27,019. You mean those who take opium moderately for the sake of their health are in good condition?—No, I should say that they would suffer, especially as the habit grows upon them. In every instance that I can call to mind of a man taking opium he did suffer eventually.

20,020. You have not seen a single person who has benefited by the moderate use of opium?—No.

20,021. They say that they are benefited?—I have questioned the users of opium themselves and some of them tell me that they have been cast off by their relatives; others have told me of good opportunities in life as regards business that they have lost through opium, and I have never yet had a man tell me that it was of any benefit when I talked straightforwardly with him.

27,022. (*Chairman.*) You advocate a policy of restriction by law with reference to the sale of opium?—Yes.

27,023. Would you recommend the extension of that same policy of restriction to the sale of stimulants generally, excepting for medical purposes?—Certainly, excepting that I would recommend local option in the case of alcoholic stimulants, but as regards opium I would recommend entire prohibition by Government.

At the Town Hall, Bombay.

SEVENTY-FOURTH DAY.

Saturday, 17th February 1894.

PRESENT:

Mr. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P., IN THE CHAIR.

Right Hon. Lord BRASSEY, K.C.B.
 Sir JAMES B. LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.
 Sir WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.

Mr. A. U. FANSHAWE.
 Mr. ARTHUR PEASE.
 Mr. HARIDAS VEHARIDAS.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT-HEWETT, *Secretary*.

Mr. A. WINGATE, I.C.S., called in and examined.

Mr.
 A. Wingate.
 17 Feb. 1894.

27,024. (*Chairman*.) I believe you are at present collector of Dharwar in the Bombay Presidency?—I am.

27,025. Will you tell us what has been your experience with regard to the consumption of opium during your service in India?—I have served 24 years in various parts of India (Bombay Presidency, Mysore, Rajputana, Kashmir, &c.), but my chief experience as regards opium has been acquired in Meywar, a Native State of Rajputana, where I have been engaged in settlement and revenue work for about nine years. In Meywar the Rajputs are the largest consumers of opium. Next to them the cultivating classes, especially the Jats, who have the reputation of being the finest cultivators in Meywar. With individual exceptions, the consumption is moderate. With falling prices and consequent curtailed area of cultivation of poppy, I believe consumption to be decreasing among cultivators. Of adult males, not more than 20 per cent. in Meywar, excluding Bhils, take opium, probably less, and of females 3 per cent. It is usually used with great caution. Three tolas a month are seldom exceeded. I should put the total local consumption of the State in cheap years at about 600 chests, and in dear years at about 800 chests per annum.

27,026. You have given us some statistics of the consumption in Meywar, do they include the Bhil population in Meywar?—They exclude it. I should like to mention that I have read the evidence of the Prime Minister of Meywar, at least of people speaking in his name, and I see that they have put the consumption at 1,600 or 1,700 chests, that is about 3,000 maunds per annum; but if their statistics are worked out (they say I think that the percentage of consumers is 12 per cent. of males and 3 per cent. of females of the whole population). I make the result come to about 675 chests per annum. That would point to one of two things—that either the area under opium has been a great deal over-calculated (which I think is in part true), or that there is considerable smuggling from Meywar, which may also be in part true. Compared with the consumption of opium in the great provinces of India the consumption as stated for Meywar is probably large.

27,027. You, yourself, were the settlement officer in Meywar employed to fix the rates on land in Meywar—did you fix any special rate upon poppy land?—I fixed my settlement in Meywar on the assumption that poppy could not be calculated upon as a safe basis for settling the revenue. At the same time, in the opium-producing districts, one is bound to take into consideration in a Native State the revenue which they are at present getting; and, therefore, if opium were to be taken away from Meywar you would as undoubtedly have to have a new settlement as you would if you stopped cotton in the Bombay districts.

27,028. Do I understand that you fixed no special rate for poppy land, but that you fixed general rates rather higher than otherwise you would have done on the assumption that poppy would be grown on a certain portion of the land?—I think that if poppy were not grown there you could not have the same prosperity which there is now, and, therefore, what you say would be correct; but that would not imply that if poppy disappeared by natural

causes that in process of time other valuable and exportable crops would not take its place, though it would require a very long period of time.

27,029. You draw a distinction between the poppy cultivation coming to an end from natural causes and an interruption of the poppy growth by the interference of the State?—Quite so. I think an interruption of the poppy growth would lead to widespread ruin and distress, and would be wholly impossible; but if it came about from natural causes and gradually, a certain class lose and the other class gain. The irrigated rate is the same for all land, whether it is wheat, sugar, poppy, or barley. Whatever is grown, there is one general rate now. In Meywar my highest rate was Rs. 8 (Udaipuri), a bigha, but in Chodisadre, where opium is the main crop, that is to say, half the irrigated land is under poppy, or was, at the time I was there, 10 years ago, I have put Rs. 10 on.

27,030. May I take it that your opinion is that if the growth of poppy were interfered with by law there would have to be a revision of the rates and a reduction of the assessment on irrigated land?—In the opium-producing pergunnas I think it would probably take a quarter off.

27,031. Would you kindly give us your experience as regards the effects of the consumption of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people with whom you have been brought into contact?—The effect on the moral and physical condition of the people (excluding the few who exceed) is not noticeable. This may be because the people do not smoke opium, taking it mixed with water, or because the use is moderate. Whatever the reason, the fact remains that, so far as my experience of India extends, I have seen no reason to suppose that opium, as I have seen it used, does harm. It seems to give the cultivators strength and perseverance to endure fatigue and overcome difficulty. At the same time I have seen cultivators in other parts of India get along quite as well without opium. The same thing might be said of other articles. I have seen Rajputs who take too much. The same men would drink too much were their opium stopped.

27,032. Have you noticed any tendency in Meywar to diminish the use of opium in your experience of late?—I have heard it said that in Meywar the practice of using opium is of late years falling into disrepute. But years of high prices would have to return before it could be accepted that the present curtailment of consumption is due to anything better than necessity for economy, just as the liquor bill varies in the United Kingdom. That the higher classes are preferring liquor is probably a fact, and points to the conclusion that as opium goes out liquor will come in. There has always been in Meywar some prejudice against putting land under opium, and various inoperative prohibitive orders might be quoted, the usual form being that only one bigha of opium must be cultivated to so many bighas of grain. The prejudice is partly moral but chiefly due to fear of famine. There is the same prejudice against cotton and against export of grain. These prejudices in years of scarcity grow strong among officials and the superior classes, but seldom find favour with cultivators. There are, however, traces of them. It is thought, for example, unlucky to be the first cultivator to incise a poppy, and the crop is not easily introduced

Mr.
A Wingate.
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into villages where it has not been hitherto grown. The repression of opium growing would, therefore, not be contrary to the sentiment of certain classes, but it would be resented by cultivators, merchants, the State itself, and all consumers, while the sentiment itself is weak, nor is there any abuse in the use of opium in this country on a scale to fan any sentiment that exists. What the sentiment is worth may be gauged by the fact that these very people probably give it to their children. That is the only direction in which I suspect opium is harmful to the race. This can only be stopped by the spread of common sense.

27,033. Have you any direct experience as to harm being done by the practice of giving opium to children, or do you only give us your general impression?—It is only my impression. We should not give it to our own children; I should consider it extremely harmful in that way.

27,034. You have no facts which you wish to bring before the Commission on that point?—None.

27,035. Have you any opinion to express as to the willingness of the people to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—I doubt if any large number of even individuals would subscribe any appreciable sum towards prohibitive measures, while the whole country would resent being saddled with any part of the cost of measures intended to prohibit a practice of the alleged evil effects of which they know little or nothing. A gradual disappearance of opium due to natural causes would not be a general loss, because other exportable commodities would replace it. The following is an extract from a report which I wrote in 1882, showing how the people themselves regard opium:—"The people will reply thus, 'when asked if opium is a valuable crop: It is a troublesome crop, they will say, to grow; it is a great strain on our manure, and hard work for ourselves: but we get money advances from the Mahajans for many things that are necessary, and we must give him some produce that will pay off these drawings. Now, nothing we can grow does this like a good opium crop. Opium digs our wells, buys our bullocks and our clothing, and pays for births, marriages, and deaths. If the opium is plentiful and the price good we have a year of fat things; if the season has been unfavourable, we must pinch, the debt is not reduced, the bullock is not bought, clothing must be economised, and for domestic events we can hardly get a decent advance: it is a year of tears; sugar, cotton, wheat, help, but nothing can equal the steady demand and good value for the opium. That is the great advantage of a bigha of opium to the rayat. It is his ready cash.'"

27,036. Will you give your opinion generally as to whether there is any cause to prohibit the sale of opium in India except for medical purposes?—I am of opinion that there is no cause to prohibit the sale of opium in British India. It is used moderately, and the sale being under strict supervision the sentiment against opium is growing stronger than in native States. The demand for opium must be met for the same reason that the demand for liquor in the United Kingdom is met. I do not think we can deprive people of their indulgences by force. If the growth of opium is prohibited opium will be imported. If that, too, were prevented, the usual result of repressive legislation would follow,—increased depravity and dangerous discontent. Opium is as deeply rooted in India as tobacco in Germany, beer in England, and whisky in Scotland.

27,037. Supposing such a prohibition as has been suggested were carried out in British India, what is your opinion as to the possibility of extending such a prohibition to the Native States with which you are acquainted?—I think the proposed measure in the Native States is uncalled for impolitic. I was in Rajputana at the time the price of salt was suddenly raised, and although there was the sympathy, more or less, of the Native and European officers, and although it was possible to give the people a proper reason for the increase, there undoubtedly was much discontent. If opium were suddenly cut off from producer and consumer we should not have the sympathies of the officers on our side, and the people would certainly not understand it. The chiefs would not understand why it was right for England to use and trade in alcohol and for their States to be denied to use and trade in opium, while the people would feel that a great wrong had been done to their pockets and habits, and they would rebel against any increased taxation from their straitened resources. There is only one way in which the Government can approach the people of India, and that is by first abstaining themselves and by giving compensation to the natives of India, and with these two things in their hands they might then appeal to the natives to give up opium.

27,038. I rather take it from you that you regard opium with a certain amount of dislike, but that in the present condition of this country you consider it would be impracticable to interfere with it or to prohibit it by law?—I am somewhat in sympathy with those who would try to improve men in every direction. I would not say that I am any more against opium than I am against things which I take myself; but I think it would be utterly impossible to interfere with the people of India in their domestic and acquired habits.

27,039. Supposing, for the reasons you have given, that total prohibition is impracticable, can you suggest any change in the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the opium traffic and raising a revenue therefrom?—Regarding changes in the present system, a withdrawal from the Bengal system of dealing with opium would doubtless place Government in a less obnoxious position in the eyes of anti-opiumists, but might increase the evil. On the other hand, the introduction of a system of control and excise in Native State territory would bring consumption within narrower limits and so be of more practical use. If something like the Bengal system were adopted for Malwa, the price in Native States might be gradually raised to that in British districts with advantage to their revenue and to our preventive establishments. The growth of the poppy might be confined to the parganas producing the best qualities and most dependent on it, and manufacture permitted only at centres under supervision.

27,040. I suppose any such change as you suggest could only be carried out by the agency of the Native Governments themselves, although it might result from the initiative of the British Government?—I would only advise it through the agency of the chiefs. I think, for instance, if we gave to Meywar their 600 or 800, or whatever it might be, chests of opium free, and advised the chief to tax that opium as is done in almost all the Bombay Native States that that would gradually raise the price of opium in the State and gradually tend to decrease the consumption. The cultivators would not be touched, the people who manufacture opium would not be touched, the chief would get an increased income, and it would be generally advantageous to us because it would check smuggling, which is our great trouble.

27,041. Are you acquainted with the system of opium in Baroda?—Partially.

27,042. I asked the question because I wanted to know whether you had in your mind something like the system which appears to prevail in Baroda?—Something like that; but then I believe the State has the manufacture. In my idea, I would have my centre and get the merchants who manufacture opium to come into that centre, buy the juice from the cultivator, and manufacture it up themselves in that centre, and pass it out under our Excise system. I would have no interference either in cultivation or manufacture beyond having it at a certain place under proper supervision, so as to utterly stop smuggling.

27,043. Would you suggest that that centre should be under the management of the British Government, or, as in Baroda, under the management of the State Government?—It should be under our Government, the excise part of it; but the Native State authorities would be perfectly free inside the enclosure. The only part I would have belonging to our Government would be the people who guard it; but the whole could be under the State.

27,044. (Sir James Lyall.) What inducement could we offer to the native Governments in the way of advantage?—They would get the 600 or 800 chests of opium handed over to them free, and they could tax on that. They now get Rs. 60 (Udaipuri) in Meywar per chest on exported opium, and I would increase that up to, say, Rs. 100, and in the two ways they would get an advantage. I would be prepared to pay them so that it should be an advantage.

27,045. Pay them in what way?—In that way, by increasing the tax which they now have on every chest of opium which is exported.

27,046. That would involve reducing the transit duty. As it is the trade only just pays with the present transit duty?—It pays, but there is a considerable profit inside Meywar. The cost of producing opium in Bengal, I should say, is more expensive than the cost of producing it in Meywar. There is an increased profit in Meywar on the opium. However, the chief advantage would be that they could tax opium in the State which is now perfectly free.

27,047. You mean they could tax the local consumption?—Yes.

27,048. They would require an establishment like the establishment we have under the Bengal Opium Agency, to carefully prevent the cultivator from keeping back the opium, would they not?—They would require, as I said, to have something of the sort of the Bengal plan introduced. The only point is that opium is now free in the Native States, and, I think, it could be taxed.

27,049. It is very heavily taxed in most of the Native States by the land revenue rates?—In some places that is so.

27,050. Why is it that in Meywar you fix the rates at only Rs. 8 and Rs. 10, whereas they are so much higher in many other Rajput States?—The Udaipuri rupee is only a rupee of 12 annas, and the bigha is approximately half an acre. Therefore you would have to take about Rs. 12 an acre, which would be about Udaipuri Rs. 8 a bigha, roughly speaking.

27,051. Why is it that those rates are so much lower than they are in most of the Rajputana States? We have had evidence in one State that it went up as high as Rs. 50 an acre?—It would depend on whether the assessment has been properly fixed. I found rates in Meywar as high as Rs. 16 and higher per bigha; but when I came to take the amount of area in the man's occupation and divide it by the assessment he actually paid, I often found it was only Rs. 6 or Rs. 8 a bigha instead of Rs. 16, sometimes it was Rs. 12, sometimes Rs. 10, sometimes more. But down in Indore the land is extremely valuable. Up in Meywar they only get a corner of the black soil, the opium is confined to the south-east corner of Meywar, and they have only got a fringe there.

27,052. What was the system in Meywar before you fixed the land rate?—Grain was divided by weight, and cotton, opium, and sugar cane paid a cash rate per bigha.

27,053. Do you remember what the rate on poppy was?—Rs. 8, as a rule, per bigha. Then they have two crops off the bigha. They have generally a crop of Indian corn, and the State would take half the Indian corn, and the cash rate per bigha for the opium. Then on very dry soil they commonly assessed a rupee a bigha; they get a rupee on all land however bad, and all that was paid out of the opium lands. But dry-soil land was under estimated as well.

27,054. Was opium separately taxed in those days in any way besides those Rs. 8 a bigha?—They have a transit duty in Meywar, and they have an octroi duty also—not a very heavy one—not more than 2 per cent., and sometimes 2½ per cent.

27,055. (Mr. Fanshawe.) We were told in Rajputana that if the poppy cultivation were prohibited wheat would be the crop that would generally have to be substituted for it, do you agree with that?—Wheat, cotton, and sugar would all come in, because they are all exportable.

27,056. We were told that the water supply was hardly of a character to enable cultivators to irrigate sugar cane to any large extent, so as to allow that crop to take the place of poppy generally; would that be your experience?—The difficulty with sugar is that it exhausts the cultivator's cattle; it goes on during the hot weather. There is no other trouble, I think. It is a very exhausting crop both to the cultivator and to his cattle.

The witness withdrew.

(Sir James Ljall here took the Chair.)

Mr. D. McLAUGHLAN SLATER, F.I.A., recalled and further examined.

27,068. (Chairman.) I understand you wish to read a statement in reply to something contained in the Rev. A. W. Prutch's evidence?—I do.

27,069. We shall be happy to hear it?—I observe in the local papers to-day that the Rev. A. W. Prutch, in his evidence on the 16th of February, before the Royal Commission on Opium, states that the Oriental Life Assurance Company contested a claim from Calcutta because the deceased took opium. This statement is entirely misleading. The real contention of the company was that the policies were obtained through fraud and misrepresentation. Amongst the various matters constituting such misrepresentation was the fact that the assured in his personal statement had not mentioned that he was a confirmed opium eater. If he had stated this circumstance it would have led to inquiry as to what extent the habit was indulged in. If the result of such inquiry had been

27,057. Referring more particularly to the water supply, do you think that the wells would retain sufficient water during the hot weather for sugar-cane irrigation?—Not as a rule; certainly not.

27,058. I take it to be your view that on the whole the opium crop is distinctly valuable to the cultivators in these pergunnas where opium is grown more largely?—I think it is so valuable that if you take it away you would absolutely ruin the pergunnas.

27,059. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Unless some political influence is brought to bear on the State authorities would the proposed arrangement with regard to the manufacture of opium in Meywar be welcome to the State without prejudicing its status or prestige?—It would only be welcome if you could show them it is to their pecuniary advantage.

27,060. Unless some political influence is brought to bear on them?—Very likely.

27,061. They would not do it if a merchant were to go to them and propose the arrangement?—A native chief would not care to tax the people, but if he got the advantage of throwing the odium on our shoulders a little he would not mind.

27,062. Upon what basis of calculation did you arrive at the three tolas a month; is it only a guess?—When I was settlement officer I was in about eight or nine hundred villages in Meywar, and I studied the people carefully. I used in the early days to ask how many opium eaters there were in the village and what quantity they consumed, and that estimate of mine is the result of a large quantity of answers.

27,063. Your official duties placed you in a special position to arrive at a right estimate?—Quite so. Nearly everybody there carries a small case. I have taken those cases and inquired the quantity in them, and asked the men how often they replenished them, and so on.

27,064. Do you agree with the State officials as to the quantity?—The State officials and I agree. They say, I believe, 2½ tolas, which I am perfectly prepared to admit. They and I say exactly the same quantity—in fact.

27,065. (Mr. Pease.) When you say the giving of opium to children is the only direction in which you suspect it is harmful to the race, do you include smoking?—In all my experience of India I have seen no smoking. There is no smoking up country; it is absolutely unknown.

27,066. You speak of England trading in liquor; of course you are aware that England does not trade in liquor in the sense in which India trades in opium?—I think you mean the Bengal system of opium, not the system of which I am now talking.

27,067. England does not trade in liquor, does she?—I think she trades in liquor exactly the same as the people of Rajputana trade in opium. They buy and sell for trade. I think that the people of India object to alcohol a great deal more than they object to opium, and I think they would resent alcohol being increased very strongly. The native anti-opiumists are far more anti-alcoholists than we have any notion of. I think there is no objection to opium, and I think there is a strong objection to alcohol—I mean among natives who do not use either opium or alcohol.

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that he was an immoderate opium eater, the company would have hesitated before accepting the risk. The case was based upon entirely different circumstances. The point of opium eating had very little to do with the acceptance of the life (or refusal to pay the claim), which we contended was secured through personation, fraud, and gross misrepresentation as to the assured's age, which the company contended had been, not 52 as alleged, but considerably over 65. It may be added that though judgment has been given against the company, we have been strongly advised to appeal. The company's defence showed that the concealment of the fact of opium eating was only a minor circumstance. This the Rev. Prutch could easily have ascertained from the company's statement filed in the court and published in the public journals. We have 24,016 policies on our registers, as per policy register No. 16 herewith submitted (register produced). Taking the

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ratio of English and Eurasian lives to native as one in seven, there would be 20,576 native assured lives, instead of 20,000. With regard to the number of policies given by the Rev. Prautch, he only gives the numbers in force at 31st December 1892, whereas my figures include all policies that were issued by the company up to the date of my substantiating the evidence of Sir William Moore before the Commission in London. For the purpose of arriving at a correct ratio of opium eaters it is necessary to take into account lapsed, surrendered, and claimed policies, which the Rev. Prautch, in his ignorance of actuarial matters, has not done. Is not the Padri following the precedent usually ascribed to another profession, and abusing his opponents because he has no case himself.

27,070. (Mr. Mowbray.) Do I understand the statement to be that in your evidence you were speaking of all the native policies which you had issued at various times, whereas the figure given in the report was the figure representing the policies which were actually outstanding on the 31st December 1892?—Precisely so.

27,071. You were giving the results of the whole experience of your office with regard to native lives?—Yes.

27,072. (Mr. Pease.) You say you have at the present time 20,576 native assured lives?—Yes.

27,073. That is not 20,576 policies, but 20,576 lives?—These are policies.

27,074. Is it true that it is the practice of the natives often to take out several policies?—Yes; perhaps the lives are not quite so many as 20,576. They may take out two or three policies, but they do not do this to any great extent.

27,075. Does a native take out as many as 10 policies?—Perhaps he does sometimes. Unfortunately he sometimes divides 10,000% into policies of 1,000% each. But this is not often done.

27,076. Do not you think that would have an appreciable effect in reducing the total number?—No, I should think the 500 odd we have on the registers beyond the 20,000 would compensate for that. The reverend gentleman saw most clearly that it was policies in force. In fact the number "in force" is given in italics. Up to that time we had a good number of claims, surrenders and lapses, and we put down the actual number of policies in force at that date according to the books of the company. That shows our responsibilities as to the assurances.

27,077. I understand you to say that at the present time you have 20,000 native lives assured, you have 25,000 policies which you believe represent 20,000 native lives assured?—No; I have stated that we have on our registers 24,016 policies, and out of that number I believe we have 20,000 native lives assured, because we actually have on the books 20,576 native lives. That is my statement.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. RUSTOMJI PESTONJI JEHANGIR called in and examined.

27,087. (Chairman.) You are chief inspector of the Bombay Opium Department?—Yes.

27,088. As certain statements were made respecting you in the Rev. W. Prautch's evidence we thought you might wish to make some answer with regard to it, and therefore we asked you to appear before us to-day. Are you prepared to make any statement?—Yes.

27,089. We shall be glad to hear what you have to say?—On the 25th October 1893, one Abdoolakhan, the manager of a private opium smoking club, was placed before Mr. Webb, third Presidency magistrate, charged with having in his possession more than two tolas of opium. The point that possession by the manager was such possession as constituted a breach of the two-tola rule broke down. Six or seven members of the club stated that a share of the opium was theirs. The two tolas to which each of them was entitled amounted in all to the quantity in Abdoolakhan's possession. The magistrate held there was no infringement of the rule, and warned me to be careful as I might be punished for trespass. I have a large staff of detectives under me to check illicit sales of opium and its preparations. Our difficulty is not in detecting a case, but in proving the illicit sale when one is detected. If a stranger went to a private smoking house he would not get madat or chandu. The managers of clubs know that detectives are employed to watch them. During the last Mahim fair the staff of men usually employed was strengthened. I had stationed one inspector, one sub-

27,078. How do you explain the difference between 20,000 and 14,000?—The 14,000 at that date, 31st December 1892, were policies that had existed; but these are not the actual policies now in force on the books of the company, because some policies have lapsed, some surrendered, and some were claimed; also we have added a considerable number of policies between 1st January 1893 and 16th February 1894. As I said in my statement, "For the purpose of arriving at a correct ratio of opium eaters it is necessary to take into account lapsed, surrendered, and claimed policies, which the Rev. Prautch, in his ignorance of actuarial matters, has not done."

27,079. The 20,000 which you have on the books includes a number of lapsed policies?—I am giving you the policies which were actually on the registers of the company from its commencement. To obtain the ratio you must go back to the beginning of the company.

27,080. (Mr. Mowbray.) Do these 24,016 policies represent all the policies on the books since the company has been running?—Yes.

27,081. And you say that out of those there were 14,967 in force on the 31st December 1892?—Yes, as clearly stated in the report.

27,082. You should have said, "We have had 20,000 natives lives, and we have 14,967 lives including Europeans and Eurasians"?—I did not take the 14,000 into consideration at all. I said that they do not bear any proper proportion in arriving at a correct ratio.

27,083. The 14,000 includes Europeans and Eurasians?—Yes. The 24,016 also includes Europeans, Eurasians, and natives. I have stated that the proportion is one European and Eurasian to seven natives.

27,084. Does the 14,967 include all the European, Eurasians, and natives in force at that date?—Yes. I should like to make a further statement with regard to the reverend gentleman who has been questioning my statistics. I wish to impeach the reverend gentleman, he having gone to some of the leading European and native journals in Bombay, with the object of getting them to publish a scurrilous letter reflecting on myself and the company. They unanimously refused to publish the letter, as it would have appeared the same day as my evidence before the Commission. No doubt he was aware of the great value of statistical evidence, and his desire was, if possible, to detract from and damage it. Comment on such conduct is unnecessary.

27,085. (Mr. Pease.) Have you got that letter?—I have not got the letter, I was only informed about it when I came to the Commission this morning, or I should have taken notice of it in my statement.

27,086. Will you give us the name of the person who has seen the scurrilous letter?—I could give it to you in confidence. (The witness then gave the name of his informant to Mr. Pease in confidence.)

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inspector, and ten detectives there night and day. Attempts were made to get to book some managers of the clubs, but failed. In fact, two men were brought before me, but I had to let them go because I found it would be impossible to prove the sale of opium. The Abkari police did all they could to detect illicit sales of chandu and madak in the Mahim fair, but their efforts also failed. On the 10th of January I took Rev. Prautch to Mr. Campbell. Mr. Prautch made a long statement to Mr. Campbell, who explained to him my difficulties. Mr. Prautch admitted that the fault lay in the feebleness of the law. I then begged of Mr. Prautch to bring any irregularity he might observe to my notice. I asked him to help me in detecting cases. He said he was satisfied that the clubs were like ordinary shops, where any one could go and purchase chandu. I said I had tried and failed, and asked him to give me one of his informers. I asked him more than half a dozen times, but each time he refused to help me. I thought he was satisfied of my difficulties and would apologise, but instead of that the *Guardian* of 20th January last contained a fiercer attack on me than the one in a previous issue. Mr. Prautch has never inquired into a case personally. He has paid agents, men of disreputable characters on whose testimony he relies. Mr. Prautch thinks all opium consumers are born liars and jail birds, but when these same men echo Mr. Prautch's views he considers them truthful. I and my assistants do all we can to carry out Government orders. Mr. Prautch tells me that I am conniving at these

unlicensed houses, but he forgets that by doing so I would bring discredit on myself. My superiors and Government, far from thinking it a service, would consider that I brought disgrace on them.

27,090. Is that the whole of the statement you wish to make?—Yes. I was present when Mr. Prautch gave his evidence here, when he said that about a year ago I accompanied him with two other missionaries to a number of smoking houses. He went on to say: "Mr. Rustomji undertook to show that the anti-opiumists had overstated the facts, and I undertook to show that they had understated the evil. Our plan was to enter into conversation with a group of from 10 to 30 smokers. Then Mr. Rustomji would ask, 'How would you like to have the smoking houses closed and what would happen?' Usually a chorus of voices would say, 'We would die,' 'Our blood is dried up,' 'We must have opium,' &c. Then I would put the question in another way, stating that as nearly all present had been in jail, what did they do then? Did you die? And if there would be a lock on the door to-morrow morning, what would you do? 'It is true in jail we get no opium and live, and if the door was locked we would learn to do without it, and 'it would be good for us'; and then we would hear of their former prosperity and present ruin through opium. In Mr. Rustomji's presence I asked regarding the statement I had always heard that many began the use of opium to stimulate sexual vice. This was generally admitted, with the qualification that after a year or two the user becomes 'useless' or 'dried up.' The conversation varied, but in every instance the smokers condemned the habit, pronounced it bad, and expressed sorrow that they were smokers. Mr. Rustomji admitted that the smokers held that position towards smoking, and stated so clearly before Mr. Madden, Mr. King, and myself. He stated that he was publishing a history of 80 opium smokers. I asked him to incorporate what he heard to-night (but he did not); he said he was personally paying for the printing of the book and doing it in the interests of philanthropy, that he had only returned from England a few weeks before, and he that night told me he was going home to England again shortly. He went and published the book." With regard to that statement I should like to say that about a year ago I took with me the Rev. Prautch and two other missionaries to a number of opium smoking houses in Bombay. We put a number of questions to the opium smokers there, and the answers given were generally invariably the same, viz., "Why should we give up opium?" "Why do not you give up your liquor?" "Opium has done us no harm excepting to those who, without sufficient food, have taken the drug in excess. If you stop the use of opium we shall die." I remember a hale and hearty old man of about 75 telling me to ask Government to build a few hospitals first before stopping the use of opium. I remember asking Mr. Prautch to take notice of what had passed, but he did not. He said such replies were given because they were afraid of my presence. It could not have been so for they were in no way under my orders. I remember Mr. Prautch making a desperate attempt to get replies according to his wishes, but he failed.

27,091. What have you to say with reference to the statement that the shops at the Mahim fair were kept open by the police keeping the ordinary police from interfering with the shops; was there anything to lead Mr. Prautch to suppose your police were put there to interfere with the other police?—So far as saying there were some of my police there Mr. Prautch is right. Every year I place some detectives to watch that no illicit sale takes place, and this year there being no licensed shops, I thought that the private clubs would be open and that persons would be selling illicitly, so I put on more men than I usually do every year. That is the reason why there were opium police stationed there; they were not there for the purpose of giving the illicit clubs any protection.

27,092. Were the ordinary police at the fair as well?—Yes, they were there as well. I asked Mr. Holway, the police inspector, to give any assistance that my men wanted in detecting cases, and I told him that I would give any assistance that the police wanted.

27,092a. (Mr. Mowbray.) Is it any part of the business of the ordinary police to look after illicit dealings in opium, or does that rest exclusively with the Customs police?—They are empowered under the Opium Act; they have the same powers as the opium officials.

27,092b. (Mr. Pease.) Will you tell us what your connexion has been with regard to the inquiry about the native doctors, as to their signatures to the petition?—I was asked by Mr. Campbell. He had given me a book, and I was asked to take that book round to the medical gentle-

men and show them what was written on the title page, and ask them if they would sign the petition, or if they had anything to say. I did nothing more than to show them the petition which appeared in the *Anti-Opium News* for September 1892. I did not do anything more than show them that petition, and they put down what they wished to say.

27,093. All the statements made by these medical men were written down in their hand-writing in your presence? Some of them were, but a few wrote to me as I had no time to go to them personally.

27,094. Are you the author of this book,* "Lives of Bombay Opium Smokers"?—Yes.

27,095. One statement in this book has caught my attention; you say, "the population of India has increased during recent years to a great extent. These facts do not prove that opium causes sterility." Do they on the other hand prove the reverse?—These facts do not prove that opium causes sterility.

27,096. Do they, on the other hand, prove that opium does not cause sterility?—Yes, from the histories of the smokers. I chiefly rely on their statements. Most of them told me that they were married and had children.

27,097. I suppose you are aware that it is a fact that married women of child-bearing age in India do not have the same number of children as those in England?—I do know that.

27,098. What is your own view with regard to the practice of smoking opium?—I have seen that opium smoking or opium eating in moderation has done no harm.

27,099. You have published the opinion of some leading medical men in this book, four gentlemen in all; do you unite in the views that they express?—I do.

27,100. They say, "A few men looked dissipated and withered. The cause of it was insufficient food and excessive indulgence in opium, as also in ganja, bhang, and liquor"?—I quite agree. I asked a number of those men who looked dissipated and withered and I found out from their replies that if a person earned about eight annas he would spend about five annas in opium, and in addition to that he would be taking liquor or bhang.

27,101. The injury to his health was in part caused by the opium?—It is impossible to find out whether it was due to opium or to something else.

27,102. Further on in their report they say, "The smokers seemed to be unanimous on one point, namely, that opium smoking or eating does not injure those who are well fed as it injures the starving"?—Yes, many of them made statements that it injures especially those that are starving and ill fed.

27,103. Many of those whom you have selected also made a statement, did they not, which showed they were suffering?—Yes, from starvation.

27,104. From various things?—One of these men said, "I feel very miserable and sick."

27,104a. (Sir William Roberts.) How did you get these notes of these biographies of the opium smokers?—They were taken down by an expert shorthand writer, Mr. Hughes.

27,105. Who went round?—I was present. Dr. Da Cunha and others were present, and also one or two detectives of the Opium Department. The notes were taken down in the presence of a large number of men, among whom was Dr. M. Da Cunha.

27,106. (Mr. Mowbray.) Was he present on all the occasions when these statements were made?—On almost every occasion.

27,107. (Sir William Roberts.) Were you present yourself on every occasion when these statements were taken down?—Yes, on every occasion.

27,108. Then you regard yourself as personally responsible for the authenticity of these accounts?—Yes.

27,109. Are you prepared to take the responsibility of their being absolutely authentic?—Certainly.

27,110. (Mr. Pease.) Do the police inspectors of Bombay consider it a part of their duty to watch over the opium smoking shops?—Yes, it is part of their duty.

27,111. Do they neglect their duty?—Not in any way.

27,112. You say in a letter you address to the *Daily Graphic* that the police inspector could not be considered an authority?—I thought you were asking about the Mahim fair.

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* For extracts from this book, see Appendix XXII. to this Volume.

Mr. R. P.
Jehangir.

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27,113. I was asking you whether the police inspectors of Bombay consider it their duty to watch over the conduct of the opium smoking shops?—Not to watch over the conduct of the opium smoking shops. If they have any information they can go to the shops.

27,114. Was it not their duty to watch over the conduct of licensed houses?—If they have any information they go there.

27,115. That is not an answer to my question?—They are empowered under the Opium Act, and when they have to get any information they go to these places.

27,116. I asked whether it was a part of their duty to watch over the conduct of licensed opium shops?—Yes, it is a part of their duty.

27,117. You say, "A police inspector cannot be considered an authority on opium smoking, for he has few opportunities of forming an accurate opinion about the matter. He only visits opium dens when he has some inquiry to make;" that is a charge against a police inspector that they neglect their duty?—I made this statement particularly against the Ahmedabad police inspector.

27,118. I would like to ask your opinion with regard to the native medical gentlemen of Bombay. Is this your view, "The opinion expressed by 49 qualified medical men of Bombay, comprising leading native practitioners of that place, is not worthy of much attention." It can hardly be denied that native medical practitioners, with very few exceptions, have little or no practice, and the few that have large practices rarely have opium smokers as their patients?—Yes. When I read the letter that appeared over Mr. Alexander's signature in England I went through the list of the names of 49 medical men. I knew them, some personally and some by name. I went through the list, and found that there were many who had not much practice, and so I thought that their opinion was not of much importance.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. C. F.
Underwood,
M.D.,
L.K.Q.C.P.I.,
L.R.C.P.E.

M. C. FREEMAN UNDERWOOD, M.D., L.K.Q.C.P.I., L.R.C.P.E., &c., called in and examined.

27,127. (Chairman.) Will you tell us where you received your medical education?—I received it in Bombay and also at Dublin.

27,128. Of what place are you an M.D.?—Brussels; and I am a Licentiate of the King's and Queen's College of Physicians, Ireland. I am a Licentiate of the College of Physicians, Edinburgh, and I have other qualifications besides.

27,129. When did you begin practice in India?—After I qualified. I was in Government service in 1875, and I qualified at the Grant College in 1875.

27,130. Did you practice in the Maratha country then?—I was stationed at Satara, where I had a great deal to do with Marathas and others. I was located there.

27,131. You have lately been practising in Bombay?—Yes, for the past five years. After I qualified in Europe I left the Government service and practised in Bombay.

27,132. Will you tell us to what extent opium is consumed in Bombay?—Taking into consideration the habits of the domiciled representatives of the races of Hindustan, I should remark that the following table would approximately represent the proportion of habitual opium eaters per mille amongst the various castes.

Mahomedans 250 to 300 per mille of adult males.

Rajputs	- 800	"	"
Sikhs	- 350	"	"
Bhattias	- 75 to 100	"	"
Lohanas	- 200	"	"
Banias	- 50	"	"
Marwaris	- 5 to 8	"	"
Parsis	- 5	"	"

27,133. What castes do you include in the name Maratha?—I do not mean the Brahmins, I exclude them. I mean the Marathas pure and simple.

27,134. The Kunbis?—Yes; these, as I have observed, are at best approximate calculations, and certain districts, low-lying, damp, and malarial, will give decidedly higher figures.

27,135. What is the effect of the use of opium so far as you have observed?—Opium has for centuries been used as a household remedy for young men and old—it has been given almost from birth to infants. It is also given as a prophylactic against disorders of the lungs and bowels

27,119. You say, "Native medical gentlemen with very few exceptions have little or no practice." is that a fact?—Yes. When I say "native" I mean out of those 49 medical men.

27,120. You do not say so?—That is what I mean.

27,120a. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) Did you take pains to examine the rest of the opium smokers besides those which are shown in this book, and did you find on examination that they were benefited by the smoking, or otherwise?—They were benefited.

27,121. In the way you have shown in the book?—Yes.

27,122. So that you can say you have some knowledge that all the 600 opium smokers in Bombay were benefited by opium smoking?—Yes, they were benefited by opium smoking. Those who were emaciated, opium was not the cause of it. I have given illustrations in the book.

27,123. According to your opinion opium smoking was a great advantage to their health?—Yes, to this class of people.

27,124. (Mr. Fanshawe.) As regards the Mahim fair, I understand you to say that the Opium Department police were not in any way stationed near the smoking shops for the purpose of keeping the ordinary police away?—No. The ordinary police are not under our control in any way; they are quite independent of us.

27,125. You have spoken of producing your book, "Lives of Bombay Opium Smokers," at your own expense; was that actually the case?—Yes, at my own expense.

27,126. Can you tell me the nature of the legal proceedings in which Mr. Prautch is engaged; they were mentioned the other day, but we did not have the actual facts?—Mr. Prautch has taken out summonses against eight opium consumers of Bombay for defamation, and the Bombay opium farmer's manager has taken out a summons against Mr. Prautch and three others for defamation.

and the troubles which accompany disturbed dentition. It is also much in vogue as a prophylactic against malarious fevers, neuralgia, dyspepsia, and diseases incidental to life in malarious districts. Opium again is habitually resorted to for alleviation of all pain, and in the hands of the poor, who are removed from medical aid, for instance, in the country it is considered by them as "one of Heaven's choicest blessings"—"a gift from the gods for the alleviation of suffering." Opium has been much used, and with notable results, in the treatment of diabetes, diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera, colic, acute and chronic disorders of the bowels, rheumatism, acute and chronic lung complaints, and last, but not least, the prophylactic treatment of fevers. Symptomatically, opium is used to relieve pain and irritation, to allay and relax spasm, and by reason of its soporific properties, to induce sleep, to check morbid secretions, and to influence nutrition. Opium is so efficient and convenient in the treatment of all forms of pain that the habit of indulgence is readily formed. When used in moderation, as is almost universally the case, opium is a stimulant and tonic; under its influence the action of the heart becomes stronger and the arterial tension is raised, sense of fatigue vanishes, and muscular movements become more rapid and easy; there is a slight flushing of the face, the expression of the eye becomes more brilliant and the pupil is slightly contracted; there is in fact a condition of exalted cerebration and ideation, which imperceptibly wanes till the exhibition of the customary allowance.

27,136. What have you seen of the abuse of opium?—I have never come across any individual case of abuse of the drug, and can confidently assert that I have never seen moral perversion to adequately account for criminal capability. Opium habits are characterised by shrewdness, aptitude for business, and great powers of endurance; and as a rule are law-abiding and peaceable citizens. The deplorable and exaggerated word pictures painted by the anti-opiumists are mere vagaries of thought, and figures of speech, which have no existence, or tenable grounds for existence, except in the inner consciousness of the individuals by whom they were evolved.

27,137. What are the usual doses?—The usual methods of exhibition are—For infants.—(a.) A minute quantity of the crude drug. (b.) Bala goli, where the drug is in combination with carminatives. For adults.—(a.) The crude drug in doses varying from 1 grain to 6, and even

15 grains—180 grains being the largest quantity I have observed taken in the 24 hours. (b.) Kasumbha (which contains a large per-centage of morphia) is prepared by repeated washings and percolations of the crude drug. This preparation, at the gathering of the better classes in Kathiawar and Gujarat, is passed round as a luxury in the same manner as sherbet or wine. Chandul is prepared by dissolving the crude drug in water, straining it two or three times through muslin, and then evaporating the liquor to a syrupy consistence. This is used for smoking purposes. Madat is a weaker chandul mixed with the carbonised husk of mung dhal (phaseolus mungo) (Roxburgh), and is made into small balls and dried. This preparation is smoked through the ordinary native hookah with a minute bowl.

27,138. What is the effect on the habitual consumer of opium if he is deprived of his dose?—Opium habitués if suddenly deprived of their daily allowance are liable to a sense of fatigue, weakened muscularity, and diarrhoea. If the regular dose has been a large one its cessation is followed by a feeling of unrest, partial incoherence of idea, muscular tremors, and diarrhoea. The deleterious effects usually written about are almost invariably due to pre-existent disease or the complaint for which opium was resorted to as a remedy. Of the opium smokers in Bombay the majority belong to the mendicant and working classes.

27,139. Are the consequences of the habitual use of opium serious, and how do you compare those consequences with the consequences which follow the use of alcohol?—They certainly are not. The moral influences of the two are so peculiarly and diametrically opposite. In the opium habitué there is no particular and peculiar perversion of morality, but with indulgence in alcohol there certainly is, leaving apart the criminal capability educed in those who indulge too freely. Having already referred at length to the effects of opium I do not consider it necessary to recapitulate my ideas thereon. Upon the nervous system alcohol first has an exciting effect, followed by narcotism or coma in proportion to dosage. The arterioles are dilated, thus admitting more blood to the brain, and this is succeeded by diminished mental activity owing to the effects of alcohol on the ganglion cells. The reflex action of the spinal cord is reduced, and the power of co-ordination impaired, so that walking is by a staggering gait, and finally the knees will no longer support the body. The action upon the centres in the medulla is seen in the lowered temperature, the slowing of the pulse after a preliminary acceleration, and the sighing respiration or stertor. Death is due to respiratory paralysis and lowering of the body heat. In small doses it increases the appetite and digestive power, causing increased flow of gastric juice. If taken in larger quantities appetite is lost, nausea appears, and the digestive power is suspended. Long continued indulgence in alcohol induces structural changes in the stomach, new areolar tissue being formed, which by its subsequent contraction strangulates the gastric follicles, hence dyspepsia and gastric catarrh, with morning vomiting, are very common amongst drunkards. The alcoholic habit induces pernicious tissue change in almost every organ in the human economy, which ultimately leads to the most disastrous results. Among the "results" of the abuse of alcohol may be mentioned delirium tremens, insanity, paraplegia, anæmia of the brain, chronic catarrhal pneumonia, fibroid phthisis, cirrhosis, and other conditions of the liver from tissue change, and — a sclerosis of more or less all the organs.

27,140. Have you ever made post mortems of habitual consumers of opium, and if so, have you discovered any serious organic injuries?—In connexion with making autopsies generally I have made post-mortem examinations of opium consumers, but I have found nothing particular.

27,141. Is it very difficult for an opium consumer to give up the habit?—A great deal depends on the wish and resolution of the party concerned to give up the habit; but with a little perseverance and tact in treatment, it is easily overcome. The opium habit is gradually and only too surely being replaced by indulgence in alcohol.

27,142. What are the effects of the habitual use of opium on the mental faculties?—Opium in moderation does not appear to do any injury to the mental faculties?

27,143. Have you any other observations you would like to make?—I think that the sale of opium should be restricted to smaller quantities than that now sold to individual purchasers, having in view the prevention of opium poisoning. The total prohibition of opium would be disastrous to the poor and alcohol would never supply its place.

27,144. What do you mean by "opium poisoning," do you mean suicide?—Yes, suicide.

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27,145. A very little opium would kill a man if he were not habituated to it, would it not?—Yes.

27,146. So that you can hardly stop that by reducing the quantity sold?—I believe 120 grains is the maximum allowed to be sold to an individual just now, but I am not quite certain on that point.

27,147. (Mr. Mowbray.) I understand you have come here to-day voluntarily in consequence of a notice issued by the Commission inviting anybody to attend?—I was invited to represent the Anglo-Indian and Western Eurasian Association of India.

27,148. What are the objects of the association which you represent?—It is an association to represent adequately to the authorities the wants of the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian communities. It is formed on the principle of the old saying that "unity is strength." It is to help one another in case of difficulty, to promote education, and to look after the well-being of the Anglo-Indians and Western Eurasians in general.

27,149. It is not a medical association?—No.

27,150. (Lord Brassey.) I suppose it is the same sort of association as there is in Calcutta?—Yes.

27,151. (Chairman.) How far does it extend?—Our branch extends to Western India only. The Calcutta and Madras branches are separate. Of course we have correspondence with them.

27,152. How many branches are there in India?—There are branches in Poona and the different large towns—Karachi, Hyderabad, Kotri, and other towns along the railway.

27,153. How many branches are there?—I could not tell you for certain.

27,154. Are there as many as 500?—I should say there are rather over a 1,000, but I could not correctly state the number.

27,155. (Mr. Mowbray.) Do I understand that it was the wish of the association that their views should be represented to the Commission and that they therefore asked you to come here to represent their views?—I do not represent their views. They asked me as an independent witness, as a member of the Eurasian community, to give my views on the subject.

27,156. May your views be taken to be typical of the views of the society which asked you to attend here?—I could not answer that question in the affirmative.

27,157. At any rate the society trusted you sufficiently to ask you to come here; and we may conclude they would not have asked you to come here if they expected you to say anything in which they do not concur?—That is so.

27,158. (Sir William Roberts.) I suppose the views which you express as a medical man are your own views and nobody else's?—They are my own views.

27,159. I presume your estimate of opium habitués which you have given us is rather a loose estimate?—It is as near as I could possibly get it from contact with these people professionally and otherwise extending over 12 years in Bombay alone.

27,160. Have you had much personal experience of opium eaters?—I come into contact with them nearly every day. In my practice I come across a large per-centage of opium eaters.

27,161. You have made some remarks which are obviously theoretical; you say, "There is a slight flushing of the face, the expression of the eye becomes more brilliant, and the pupil becomes slightly contracted." We have been told again and again that it was impossible to distinguish the moderate opium eater from the people who do not eat opium?—When I have seen them after the effects of the doses have passed over they have been in a languid condition and their eyes have been dull. But when I have seen them under the influence of opium their eyes have assumed quite a brilliant and bright appearance.

27,162. You mean that when they are under the influence of opium that dull appearance of the eyes is removed, you do not mean that their eyes become more bright than the eyes of other people?—No.

27,163. You give us the impression by your remarks that you mean the eyes of opium eaters becomes more brilliant than those who are not opium eaters?—I do not mean that.

27,164. You mean that when the opium is taken away the eyes become dull?—The appearance of the eyes is not so bright as when they are under the influence of opium.

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27,165. You do not mean more than that?—No.

27,166. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) You say that the prohibition of opium would be disastrous to the poor, and alcohol would never supply its place; you mean it would not supply its place in spite of its good merits?—Yes, in spite of its good merits of relieving pain.

27,167. Would not alcohol more than supply its place in point of its bad merits?—Yes, it would.

The witness withdrew.

The Rev. M. B. FULLER, M.A., B.D., called in and examined.

27,171. (Chairman.) I believe you are a missionary?—I am.

27,172. Of what church are you a missionary?—I am superintendent of the Mission of the International Alliance in Berar, Khandesh, and Gujarat.

27,173. Does that include several churches?—Yes, it is inter-denominational; the Church of England and Dissenting missionaries are working together.

27,174. I believe you are a M.A.?—I am.

27,175. Of what university are you a M.A.?—Of Oberlin College, Ohio.

27,176. Will you tell us what classes, races, or castes you have had experience among?—Amongst Hindus of all castes, and Mahomedans, as found in Berar.

27,177. How many years have you had experience there?—Eleven years.

27,178. What special opportunities have you had of observation?—I have made opportunities by visiting the places where opium is sold and smoked, and I have talked with the smokers about it and tried to persuade them to get rid of the habit. I have visited them a great many times and am known among them.

27,179. Among what classes is the opium habit most prevalent?—Among the Mahomedans opium smoking and eating are the most prevalent. I am not so much acquainted with opium drinking. That is confined more to the Marwaris and well-to-do classes. It is hard to find out, because it is carried on at their homes. Smoking is considered much worse than eating or drinking, but among adults smoking is more prevalent than eating when they have the conveniences for it, otherwise they eat it. There are a great many more who eat opium than smoke it, but the places with which I have had to do are places where it is smoked. The smokers tell me that they eat it when they go to the villages, where they have not the conveniences for smoking.

27,180. What place are you speaking of?—Akola.

27,181. Is that the only place?—That is the only place near.

27,182. Have you seen any other smoking place besides Akola?—I have seen smoking at Akoti.

27,183. Where is that?—Twenty-eight miles north of Akola, in Berar. I have seen places in some of the smaller towns, but I have not given it so much attention there. I have seen it at little huts in the villages.

27,184. Can you tell us what is the per-centage of opium consumers, and at what age the habit is acquired?—I have found it difficult to form an estimate of the per-centage. I suppose there may be something over 100 regular smokers at Akola, where there are two smoking shops, one in the city and one in the new part of the town, but I am told various per-centages by the people themselves. Some put it as high as one-third. Perhaps that is due to the Mahomedans, who eat it or take it in some form, but I found it difficult to form a per-centage, and I have not made an attempt to estimate it. It is generally acquired by men from 15 to 25 years of age.

27,185. You are speaking of the smoking habit?—Yes. I found it much more difficult to inquire into the habit of eating; it is not so easily noticeable.

27,186. Do you know what the motive is that induces people to form the opium smoking habit?—The almost universal motive given by the smokers themselves is that it is a wonderful aphrodisiac. All agree that it is ruinous and leads to sterility. If the testimony of the smokers is questioned I can give you the names of respectable Mahomedan merchants in Akola who tell me the same thing. I ought perhaps to say that the testimony of smokers was questioned here the other day, and it was said that the man who begins to smoke for the purpose of lust is already an immoral man whose evidence cannot be taken. If that

27,168. (Mr. Fanshawe.) I understand you to say that you think the prohibition of opium would lead to an increased consumption of alcohol?—I think so.

27,169. (Chairman.) With reference to the names of these castes that you have mentioned, I suppose the Marathas you refer to are at Satara?—I meet them in Bombay also.

27,170. Do you meet those Lohanas as well?—Yes, they are Hindus from Cutch.

is true perhaps it would be hard to believe the evidence that the Commissioners have already received if we are to enter into the morality of all the witnesses. But I have another thought, and that is one that has not been brought up yet, so far as I have noticed. That is, that many of these men are not immoral in that sense when they begin smoking for the purpose of lust. They are men who, being Mahomedans or low caste Hindus, have two or often three wives, and they consider it perfectly legitimate to increase the pleasure as long as they keep within the bounds of legality, so that we cannot charge them with immorality. Many of them, however, only have one wife. I am often told by respectable Mahomedan merchants that when the husband takes to opium smoking that in a few months the wife refuses to be tormented any longer, and leaves her husband and family, and the home is broken up.

27,187. According to that theory of yours it must be the most powerful aphrodisiac ever heard of?—I tell you what the respectable natives themselves told me. If you want the exact facts I can give them to you, but it is rather disgusting.

27,188. Do you think it is the most powerful aphrodisiac ever heard of?—I can give you the names of several respectable members of the Mahomedan community of Akola, who do not use it themselves, who have given me these facts.

27,189. You have explained why it cannot be assumed that these men are immoral because they take opium for this purpose, but I think you will allow that it is rather shameless for them to give this reason to a stranger when he goes into a public saloon and asks them why they take to the habit?—I can hardly admit that it is shameless. These men know me. I have been there for nine or 10 years. I talk to them kindly, and question them, and they finally confess that they were deluded, and that they took this thing on the advice of others, and they have repented that they have ruined themselves and their families.

27,190. Do you suggest the reason to them?—No, I simply ask them the reason.

27,191. You say they finally confessed, that looks rather as if you suggested it to them?—Not always. Sometimes I have asked a man frankly whether that was the reason, and he has been candid about it and told me that it was, but I have asked him kindly.

27,192. Do not you think that if you examined a native like that he would, to save trouble, admit what you suggest?—My experience is that all natives are not liars, and that all liars are not natives.

27,193. But if he is cross-examined in that way will not he eventually admit what you say to save your troubling him?—It is not a matter of cross-examination, because he realises that I have no authority. I go to them as a friend and as a missionary. I talk to them as I would to anyone, and try to get them to forsake the wrong.

27,194. I suppose it is not a very pleasant conversation, is it? He has gone there for pleasure and calm, and you go in and cross-examine him and finally get him to admit something?—Many of them do not go there for pleasure. All pleasure has ceased years ago. They go there to drive away the unbearable torment they suffer when they are without it. They do not expect any pleasure. They expect to get enough opium to drive off the effects caused by being without it. They are wrecked men and tell a sad story. I can believe their testimony when I know it is against themselves, and when I know it is not to their advantage to tell a lie. They could deny it without any thought of harm from me. I would say, moreover, that I have never heard this contradicted.

27,195. Are you aware that the medical profession generally think that it is an entire delusion that opium has an aphrodisiac effect?—I would not say the profession

generally have any such idea. Perhaps doctors could be persuaded to give any answer that is wanted if the natives can be. Whether these doctors are natives or not, I refuse to draw a line between the truthfulness of natives and Europeans.

27,196. I was not drawing lines. I was referring more to European doctors?—I have had a good deal of experience in dealing with men, and I think I know when they are telling me the truth.

27,197. Can you give us any other observations upon the effects of the opium habit?—The habit is broken in the jails without injury, but few men have courage or determination enough to break it (outside of jails) though some do by degrees, I mean outside the jail. There are many who eat a little regularly for a long time before it becomes noticeable, and no clear line can be drawn between moderation and excess. The moderates becomes excessive.

27,198. What proportion of their income do the habitual consumers spend on opium?—From one-eighth to one-half. Some tell me even more than that. Smokers often spend one-half or one-third. Eaters consume much less.

27,199. Do you mean the smokers consume one-eighth to one half?—No, smokers consume one-half or one-third.

27,200. Do you think that no eater consumes less than one-eighth of his income?—I think you would find very few. Three or four pice worth a day is considered not much for a man who eats opium.

27,201. This answer refers to very poor people?—Yes, this applies more to the labouring classes. Of course I do not speak of Marwaris. I have had less experience of them.

27,202. Is there a general tendency to increase the dose?—There is. The longer opium is used the more it requires to produce a given effect. Those who began smoking 2 pice worth get to smoking 2 annas or more daily.

27,203. What are the results of the habit physically, mentally, and morally?—Physically it makes men impotent and sterile, reduces the flesh, till many are mere skeletons, and they are unable to do any work without it. They cannot eat much food. Mentally they become stupid except when excited by opium. Morally, they seem to have little moral sense left. There is a shamelessness about their conversation that is exceedingly painful.

27,204. This all refers, I suppose, to opium smokers?—Principally to the men that I find at the opium smoking shops.

27,205. This description you have given also refers, I suppose, to excessive smoking, does it not?—Young men, who have smoked, perhaps, only a little time, tell me that it begins very soon to affect the appetite so that they can eat little food, yet I have never heard a man say that 4 pice worth of opium did him more good than 4 pice worth of food, so that the argument that opium is cheaper than food for the poor breaks down.

27,206. In what proportion of cases are these injurious results apparent?—It is difficult to determine. It has had decidedly injurious effects on nearly all the scores whom I have known about the dens. There may be many more than I realise who eat it moderately and do not show the effect so much.

27,207. The question has been raised whether opium is a protective against fever, or whether it is believed by the people in any part of the country to be a protective against fever; what do you know about that?—I have never heard of its use for fever. It is only lately that I have heard it talked of.

27,208. Do you think it is a preventive?—I do not.

27,209. Do you think any people in any part of the country believe it to be a protective?—I know what people say, I do not know what they believe.

27,210. What do they say?—Some say it is a protective, it is a disputed question.

27,211. Do you mean some of the natives in Berar say so, or where are you talking about?—I suppose there are some who say it is in Berar.

27,212. You do not know whether natives do say so in Berar?—I have never heard of it until lately. I have been there a long time, and I have given a good deal of medicine for cholera and fevers.

27,213. Have you, or have you not, heard lately that some people in Berar do consider it to be a protective?—I have talked with a native assistant at a hospital lately about it, and he spoke of it being used up in the moun-

tainous parts sometimes, but he said it had no effect upon the people living there; it was only a protective for strangers when they came there.

27,214. Are there people who believe in it there?—I suppose there are some who think so.

27,215. Among the natives of Berar whom you know is the habit of smoking opium considered disgraceful?—Most decidedly so.

27,216. Is the habit of eating opium thought disgraceful?—Yes. The terms "aphimi" and "aphubaz" are both terms of reproach.

27,217. Will you tell us what, in your opinion, ought to be done, what improvements ought to be made in the present system. Have you any suggestions to make to improve the present system?—I have said that the improvement I would suggest is the prohibition of opium except for medical purposes.

27,218. That it should not be supplied to anybody without a doctor's certificate, or how?—I suppose something like the methods adopted in America or England for protection against poisons of other kinds.

27,219. I do not know what the method is in America, but in England there is no real protection. The only thing is that it is sold at druggists' shops labelled "poison" instead of being sold at an opium shop?—I suppose I could go and buy a tola of opium in this country without any questions being asked, but I could not do so in America. I should have to get some certificate, something to show that I had a right to get it.

27,220. Who would give the certificate?—I suppose a doctor would. I am not quite sure; I have been out of America for some years, and I have had no occasion to get it. I know it is very carefully guarded. A man has to give reasons for asking for strychnine and opium.

27,221. He would have to give reasons for getting strychnine in England, but not for getting opium. You do not quite understand the American system, perhaps?—I cannot speak positively.

27,222. Do you think the closing of the licensed shops for opium smoking has had any good effect?—I have visited these shops several times since. I have always found some men there smoking, but not nearly so many as before. One of the shops is in the same place, but they are cautious.

27,223. You say that you have only seen two shops altogether?—That is in Akola itself.

27,224. Are the shops still in the same place?—One of them has been removed to another place. I have not succeeded in getting into the back part of it yet. I used to go there freely when there were 60 or 70 people there.

27,225. Is the other shop in the same place?—The other shop is in the same place. I have found people there, but they are very cautious lately. If they see me coming they say, "Be careful," and yet the men ask me every time how soon this thing is going to be shut up.

27,226. (*Mr. Moubray.*) Have you been there since the shops have been closed?—Yes, since the shops were supposed to be closed.

27,227. When was that?—The end of July; I think it was the 31st of July.

27,228. I have a particular reason for asking that question. I am quite aware that the Government of India ordered the shops to be closed in 1893. You are speaking of the district of Berar, and in the papers presented to Parliament I find—it is dated March 1891—"The Resident has now directed that in all future licenses for the retail sale of "drugs and liquor that no smoking of drugs shall be "permitted on the premises." Therefore according to that the closing of smoking shops in Berar was done or ordered to be done by the Resident of Haidarabad some time before it was enforced generally by the Government of India. That is why I asked the question?—I would only say that since I returned from America, about 17 months ago, I have found people smoking at this shop; not the numbers that I used to find, however. Since I returned from America I have not given so much time to it. I went to America in 1891 and came back in 1892, and I have not given the same amount of time to it. I used to go and preach and talk to them.

27,229. You may have been away at the time the order was issued for the closing of the shops in Berar?—I was away for a year, from October 1891 to October 1892. One of the shops in the new town has been removed from an out-of-the-way place to a more public place, and I have not yet got into the back room, if there is one.

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27,230. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Does the smoking go on in a licensed shop now, or in what you would call a private smoking den?—It is the shop in the old town, a little place where opium is sold and smoked. The room is about 8 ft. by 10 ft. square. There are two little rooms at the back.

27,231. (Mr. Mowbray.) I understand you are speaking of what is going on at the present time?—Yes.

27,232. Have you drawn the attention of the police to this sale of opium which you say is going on in places where opium is being smoked?—I am not sure that I have. I have called the attention of the native police to it, but I have not taken the matter to the superintendent of police. When I go to the places there is always a crowd gathered there, policemen and others.

27,233. Do you mean because you go there?—Yes; I am known to the opium smokers as an agitator for the shutting up of the shops, and they are begging me to do it. The Mahomedan community are watching with great interest to see how soon they will be shut up. They say, "This sahib is trying to do a good thing, trying to shut up the shops." It is not only the smokers but many respectable non-smokers who gather there.

27,234. Why do not some of these smokers go to the police and tell them that something illegal is going on? Perhaps the police might assist them in closing the houses?—I think the police know it. I do not think I could have gone to the place, and have seen the people smoking, and the police not know it. The policemen have seen me there.

27,235. I do not doubt for a moment you have seen people smoking opium, but the technical offence is selling opium, and that seems to me only capable of being decided in a law court, and I have suggested to you that both these smokers and you being anxious to have the dens closed, why do not you have the question decided in a court of law as to whether it is illegal or not. If it is illegal you can have the dens closed, and if it is not illegal then comes the question whether the law ought to be strengthened. Can you give me any idea as to the number of doctors there are in Berar practising according to European methods?—I do not think I could.

27,236. Have you any idea?—There are six civil surgeons, and under them there are hospital assistants in perhaps 25 Government hospitals. There is one dispensary at each taluk, and there are 22 taluks in the province.

27,237. I suppose there are a great many native practitioners?—Yes, a great many who have studied in the European schools, in the Grant Medical College, and other colleges.

27,238. Is there anything to prevent a man setting up as a medical practitioner in Berar?—I do not think that there is.

27,239. If opium is only to be sold on the certificate of a medical man you would have to go a step further and define what a medical man was in Berar, would you not?—I suppose Government would have to determine for itself whom it could entrust with that work.

27,240. The mere fact of saying that he was a medical man would not be sufficient, would it?—It would not be much.

27,241. I suppose you will admit also that there is a considerable difference in the conditions in Berar and the conditions in England with regard to the existence of chemists' shops?—Yes, I know that.

27,242. Therefore it does not solve the question by saying that there ought to be some sort of method like they have in England when the conditions are so dissimilar?—I suppose the same argument would apply to arsenic and strychnine, which can also be bought in the streets of Akola—at any rate, arsenic can—in any quantity.

27,243. I suppose there are not a great many people who are anxious to get arsenic and strychnine continually like there are people anxious to get opium?—I suppose not.

27,244. Therefore it is more easy to make restrictions with regard to strychnine and arsenic, which are not things in ordinary everyday demand, as opium is among certain classes of the community in India?—In the part of India where I live there are a large number of people who wish to get their living by making salt, and that is an article in very common use, and the Government has undertaken to stop it, or rather it is prohibited, but whether that prohibition has succeeded or not I am not able to say.

27,245. That is hardly an answer to my question with regard to strychnine and arsenic?—I suppose it would not be very difficult to prohibit either.

27,246. Do you mean either strychnine or arsenic?—Strychnine and arsenic on the one side and opium on the other. It would not be difficult if Government wanted to prohibit it, as they have prohibited the manufacture of salt.

27,247. They have prohibited the manufacture of salt, but they have another method of providing it. They prohibit the growth of opium in Berar, but they take measures to provide it in another way. You are asking that they may prohibit it altogether. That is a different thing, is it not?—It may be a difference in degree, but I would not accept it as an impossibility by any means.

27,248. (Chairman.) You say that arsenic and strychnine can be bought in any quantity?—I withdrew strychnine afterwards, and I said that I could only obtain that by going to the hospital, but I can buy raw arsenic any time I want it in the shops on the streets.

27,249. There is a much greater restriction upon opium than there is upon arsenic?—There is no occasion for restriction as long as there are plenty of shops within reach where opium is sold without any restriction except that the money must be paid for it.

27,250. (Sir William Roberts.) Is opium a common household remedy in Berar?—I should say not.

27,251. It is not found in every house?—It is used for children, and in that sense it may be in most of the houses, but I have heard very little of its use as a medicine. When I had a great experience of cholera—perhaps 30 cases a day—I did not use opium, and I was warned against the use of opium as a remedy for cholera.

27,252. You are not a medical man?—I am not; but I have been called upon to do a great deal of work, especially in cholera cases, and I was warned against preparations which contained laudanum or opium, and I did not use them.

27,253. Where did the warning come from?—It came from things that I found in papers issued by some Government surgeon-general, or some medical officer. The remedies I saw prescribed and which I used mostly were recommended by some surgeon-general or some official, and also by Lorbier, who has a noted cholera remedy.

27,254. (Mr. Pease.) What is your view as to whether opium could be purchased in the crude form in any chemist's shop in England?—I understand that it could not be purchased by anyone who pleased to call for it, that it is labelled "Poison," and, I suppose, it is protected as such.

27,255. I believe that is so, that it is left to the discretion of the druggist, and he would not supply it if he thought it was obtained for the purpose of crime. He would not give any large quantity, and the person would have to write his name in a book?—I think that is so, and I think it is the same in America. If there was a suspicion in the mind of the chemist, I think he would require a signature before giving it. If the man were a clergyman or a respectable inhabitant in the place, he might be asked no questions about it or to give his signature. The chemist who sells it is supposed to use his discretion.

27,256. (Lord Brassey.) For the reasons that you have set out for the consideration of the Commission you have advocated that the sale of opium should only be permitted for medical use, is that so?—Yes.

27,257. Would you for somewhat similar considerations make a similar recommendation with regard to the sale of alcohol?—I would. I would say, with regard to opium, that if it is a good thing, the cheapest of food, and the best thing for poor people, the tax should be taken off, and it should be supplied as cheaply as possible, like wheat; but if it is a thing that is to be interfered with so seriously, I should prohibit it.

27,258. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Do you consider the use of alcohol more injurious than the use of opium?—I have no experience of either, and I find there is very little to choose between them. I am as strongly against alcohol as against opium.

27,259. Have you seen drunkards in the condition that they have been violent to others?—Yes.

27,260. Have you seen opium eaters in the same condition?—No.

27,261. Do not you make a difference in that way so far as the violence is concerned?—Yes, there is a certain

boisterousness about a liquor shop that there is not about an opium den.

27,262. And so far you consider alcohol is more injurious than opium?—I should hate to choose either, but I would admit that alcohol is doing more harm in India at present than opium.

27,263. Do you not think that if any steps were taken they should be taken for the suppression of alcohol first?—I wish steps could be taken to include both. Perhaps from the absolute harm there is being done now I should put alcohol first, and opium as close after it as possible.

27,263a. (Mr. Fanshawe.) In your evidence you refer principally to opium smoking?—Yes.

27,264. That is at Akola and one or two other places?—Yes, and about the district of Western Berar.

27,265. Have you been in the habit of travelling in the districts much?—Yes, a great deal.

27,266. You rather limit your actual experience to Akola and one or two other places?—Yes. In the Akola district there are about 600,000 people, and I have made it my business to preach in those villages—several hundred villages. I have seen some of the smaller opium shops in the villages. When I see people smoking I talk to them. I have never made it any secret; they know me and I preach to them about it as I would about anything else which I think is doing them harm.

27,267. What was and is still smoked in Berar is madak, is it not?—Yes.

27,268. Not chandu?—I do not know much about chandu, madak is the name which is used.

27,269. You speak especially of Mahomedans, what class of Mahomedans do you refer to?—In Akola many of the Mahomedans are what are called the Baid sect.

27,270. Are they day labourers?—Yes, and small shopkeepers, and men who go about the bazaars with their wares, and some artizans. They are the poor Mahomedan classes—many of them are coolies and labourers.

27,271. Are you aware that among certain classes of people in this country the use of what are believed to be aphrodisiacs is very common?—I am.

27,272. So that opium, whatever effect it may have in that direction, is only one of many other substances which are taken for that purpose?—I am aware of that.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. RUSTOMJI PESTONJI JEHangIR recalled and examined.

27,279. (Chairman.) You wish to make a correction in regard to a portion in your evidence?—Yes, I wish to say that only Abdoola Khan and four others, five men in all, were placed before Mr. Webb, and ten tolas of opium were seized.

The witness withdrew.

(Lord Brassey took the Chair during the remainder of the sitting.)

Mr. DHANJIBHAI DORABJI GILDER called in and examined.

27,281. (Chairman.) You are an assistant teacher of the New High School, editor of the "Student's Friend," and Joint Honorary Secretary of the Indian Temperance Association, Bombay?—Yes.

27,282. (Mr. Pease.) You wish to give us some information which you have gathered from visiting the opium dens. We shall be glad to hear what you have to say?—I have visited opium dens and opium shops and made special inquiries among the consumers of the drug. The habit is generally formed from vicious motives; only occasionally do people resort to it as a medicine. So far as my investigations prove, the habit is rather difficult to be given up; but there have been cases in which it has been given up. In 90 cases out of a hundred, what is called "moderation" in the use of this drug, leads on to excess. Besides, what is a "moderate" dose for a habitual consumer will be strong enough to kill half-a-dozen non-users. It is believed to be necessary to enable working people to get through their daily toil. It appears to paralyse the nerves of feeling, and so the workmen does not feel fatigued. He becomes oblivious to the pangs of hunger by taking opium. The habit of taking opium is looked upon as very disgraceful. To be called an opium eater is a strong term of reproach. The closing of licensed opium shops, enforced here in August last, has not, so far as my knowledge

27,273. Are you quite sure you are correct in saying that the age at which people begin to smoke opium is from 15 to 25. You place it earlier than the other evidence which we have had?—I have inferred it from the people as near as I could judge of the ages.

27,274. It seems a very early age, 15 to 25,—do you still think that this is the usual age at which opium smoking is begun?—Perhaps for an average it would be too early. Perhaps 20 to 30 would be more correct. I only took their names, and I had to make my own estimate of their ages, and they told me as nearly as they could how long they had used it. I only inferred it. It is early manhood. Many of the Mahomedans are married at 16, 18, and 20 years of age. I speak of the Mahomedan community I have had most to do with. I know there are a few Hindus who were once respectable among the smokers.

27,275. You have given us a very unqualified statement of the physical, mental, and moral effects of the opium habit, do you refer to opium smoking only?—Principally smoking.

27,276. Do you wish us to understand that opium smoking always involves those consequences?—I have had it not only from the smokers, but from the respectable members of the community, that these are the most noticeable effects.

27,277. The question is whether opium smoking always leads to these results. We have had evidence that mechanics and others go on smoking opium without its having any such marked effects as you have described, do you wish your remarks to apply to all smokers?—That is how I found them. They are men about the shops, men whom I know personally, who do coolie work and other work for their living. I found them at the shop morning and evening. Of course, not all these effects follow at once.

27,278. You think your remarks are generally applicable?—Yes, I do. It is very noticeable in Mr. Pestonji's book referring to opium smokers, that he takes pains to note that several of them are married and have children, but he did not take pains to note the number who said they had no children. I should like to have seen that noted. Some had children before they began the habit, and some have not smoked long enough to reach these effects.

27,280. You stated before that there were six or seven men altogether?—Yes. There were only five men in all, and I wish to make this correction.

goes, produced beneficial results. It is necessary, in order to give effect to the policy of discountenancing opium smoking, to prohibit the manufacture and sale of the raw drug, except for medical purposes. Public opinion would undoubtedly favour the adoption of this measure, provided no new burden in the shape of taxation is put upon the heads of the people of India, who are already groaning under a weight they cannot bear. In connection with this I should like, with the permission of the Commission, to put in a copy of the "Jam-e-Jamshed" of the 17th of February. There is an open letter in that paper to Lord Brassey and the members of the Opium Commission. It gives a good idea of the native view of opium. It calls upon us by name to come before the Commission and give evidence.

27,282a. (Chairman.) You have responded to that call?—Yes.

27,282b. (Mr. Pease.) We shall be glad to have your further remarks on this question?—It would be desirable to make special provision, by establishing a register of habitual consumers above the age of 40 and the drug might be sold to them for five years in doses which would get smaller every six months. Only medical graduates of the local and other universities and reputable native hakims

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or voids should be entrusted with the sale for the wants of their patients.

27,283. What is the effect of opium upon the people?—The generality of people who use opium in any form become thin and emaciated. They soon lose flesh. Their dull, heavy eyes, pale, sallow faces, sunken cheeks, and haggard looks, betray the poor victims of the drug. In short, some of them are just like living skeletons, as published in my description of a visit to opium dens, on page 150 of the *Abkari* for October, 1892.

27,284. Will you give us a description of your visits to these opium dens?—These dens having been so often described I need not take up the time of the Commission by a further description of them. Suffice it to say, that those frequenting them were so anxious to have them closed for ever, that they put us question upon question as to when the Government would close these "living hells," as one of them termed these dens. On another occasion I visited the opium-smoking clubs that have been started since the closing of the licensed shops. Each club occupied a room on the first floor of a very long chawl. The same old familiar sight met our eyes—persons in various stages of emaciation, lying together in hoards like beasts. On inquiry, we were told that very few of them took to the use of opium as a medicine, but the majority took it as an aphrodisiac. They continued its use for a length of time for the same object; but latterly they had to continue the practice in order to overcome the lassitude and the feeling of pain they felt after their debauch. I was accompanied on these visits by Mr. Earle Simmons, an assistant at Messrs. Gostling and Morris, Engineers; and Mr. Framji Dadabhai Master, B.A., late Assistant Teacher, the New High School, and at present an assistant at St. Xavier's High School.

27,285. Will you give us your opinion as to how the revenue derived from opium might be recouped?—The moral law is equally binding upon nations and individuals. If it is bad for an individual to do a wrong thing; it is equally bad for a nation to do so. Hence, if the British Government desire to do right, in other words, to observe the golden rule, they should at once give up the opium traffic, Indian and Chinese, without minding the question of revenue, which will surely recoup itself in a short time. Among other measures may be mentioned retrenchment. By retrenchment I do not mean the dismissal of a dozen peons or half a dozen petty clerks, but retrenchment in its true sense, *viz.*, reduction in the heavy items of expenditure, such as the Home charges, the ever-increasing military expenditure, the exchange compensation, &c. Let the salaries of all those who draw more than 300 rupees per mensem be reduced by a small per-centage. Revenue lost will be made good without any additional burden on the already heavily-laden taxpayer. But the question is, "Is not the so-called revenue already lost even when it is available?" What is the usefulness of the China Fleet? Why should India pay for the British Ambassador at Peking? Mr. Dadabhai Navrojee said the truth when he wrote, "India derives not a particle of benefit. All India's profits of trade and several millions from her very produce, and with these all the profit of opium, go the same way of the drain to England. Only India shares the curse of the Chinese race. Had this cursed opium trade not existed, India's miseries would have much sooner come to the surface, and relief and redress would have come to her long ago. But this trade has prolonged the agonies of India." Also see the "Consumption of Opium in India," page 25; sub-section 2, in answer to argument (c) in para. 3, beginning with "The consequent loss," up to "prohibition."

27,286. You wish to draw the attention of the Commission to a book published in Gujarati in 1854?—Yes, I have to draw the attention of the Commission to a book published in Gujarati in 1854 when the anti-opium agitation was not even dreamt of. It is called "The Opium Trade: its History, Limits, Morals, and Political Effects." It contains a number of opinions of eminent scientific men, missionaries, and even Government officials on the ruin and devastation caused by opium in Assam and China. What is a poison in China cannot be a food in India, hence the application of the same arguments with equal force to India.

27,287. (Chairman.) You have compiled some tables for the information of the Commission, were these tables compiled from the official statistics?—Yes, from the administration reports.

27,288. Have you any observations to make upon the tables?—Yes. It may be mentioned that there is a discrepancy in the figures for 1889-90, as given in the administration report for that year, and the one for

1890-91. I give both. These figures show that while the population of Bombay has increased by only 6 per cent., the consumption of opium has increased by 84 per cent.; and that throughout the Bombay Presidency, while the population has increased 14 per cent., the sale of opium has gone up 60 per cent. during the last decade. The increased consumption of the drug will be self-evident from the fact only that Bombay town consumed in 1892-23 nearly three-fourths of the quantity required for the whole presidency in 1876-77. Tables A. and B. show that the consumption of opium has been increasing by leaps and bounds throughout the British territory as well as the Native States in the Bombay Presidency. Statement C. shows that while the export trade in opium between Bombay and China has fallen 39.1 per cent. during the last 20 years, the home consumption of the drug has increased 1,191.1 per cent. I would like to withdraw Table D. altogether.

27,289. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) I presume that you are aware that before these restrictive measures were introduced there was a great deal of opium smuggling from the Native States going on, and therefore these figures do not show the correct consumption of opium?—They appear in the Government Blue Books, and we have to depend upon Government Blue Books for these figures.

27,290. But there is the fact that a great deal of opium smuggling was carried on. Many people are aware of that and even the authorities say that there was an increase, but it was an apparent increase and not an actual increase. When the former consumption shown on paper be added to that of the smuggled opium it would amount to what is now shown?—I quite admit that if it were believable, but it is human nature to take credit for good things, and when bad things occur to lay the blame on the shoulders of others, and so in the same way when the consumption of opium increases Government Blue Books say that it is owing to prevention of smuggling, and when the consumption decreases they say opium is smuggled; besides this, the administration reports show that on an average about 2,000 lbs. have been annually seized as smuggled opium, not more than 2,000 lbs.

27,290a. They have not got the data to show how much smuggled opium was brought into the British territory, and so they cannot say what the amount was, but you must make some allowance for the increase?—I would like to draw your attention to the consumption in 1876-77, when it was 919 lbs. and last year it was 18,000 lbs.

27,291. You must take the smuggling into account?—We must take it into account and make certain deductions but not so much as the increase shown in these tables.

27,292. (Sir James Lyall.) Are you aware that when the Commission was in the Gujarat country we examined large numbers of witnesses from Gujarat and Kathiawar and nearly all of them said that the consumption of opium had fallen off since 1878-79, that it had become much dearer than it used to be, and therefore the consumption had fallen off. You draw exactly the contrary conclusions from the statistics?—Yes.

27,293. They said that before 1878-79 opium could be bought more cheaply, but that since the arrangements made in 1878-78 it had got much dearer. They all said that, and that the consumption of opium had fallen off. Do you believe that they were all speaking falsehoods?—I would not say so at once; I have only Government statistics to show that the consumption has been increasing.

27,294. If smuggling largely existed before, and has been since stopped, the statistics would prove nothing?—Statistics can be made to prove anything that the Government or anybody else wishes.

27,295. Exactly, do you believe that the conclusion you have drawn from the statistics are more reliable than the evidence of a great many people who know the country, and who say contrary to your conclusion that opium has fallen off because it has become much dearer?—It is for the Commission to decide whether they will believe the statistics or the people.

27,296. The statistics I have no doubt are correct as far as they can be made so, but are we to believe your conclusions derived from statistics which you say can be made to prove anything you like, or are we to believe the evidence of a great number of people from all parts of the country who say exactly the contrary?—My conclusions have been derived from the statistics and if the statistics are right you must believe my conclusions.

27,297. (Mr. Fanshawe.) I believe you are editor of the *Student's Friend*?—Yes.

27,298. Will you tell us what class of periodical that is?—It is an educational paper.

27,299. Is it published weekly?—It is published every month.

27,300. Is it issued chiefly amongst students?—Yes, only amongst students.

27,301. Is the new High School a Parsi school?—It is conducted by Parsis, but it is open to all classes of people.

27,302. Has it been opened long?—About three years ago.

27,303. Is it a large school?—It has 1,200 boys—it is the largest native High School in Bombay.

27,304. As regards the effect of opium, you say “The generality of people who use opium in any form become thin and emaciated,” what is your authority for making such an unqualified statement as that?—It is not an unqualified statement; I have seen people smoking and eating opium.

27,305. You say “The generality of people who use opium in any form become thin and emaciated”?—I have seen opium eaters and opium smokers.

27,306. Do you think your experience has been such as to enable you to make such an unqualified statement as that?—I think so.

27,307. We have seen 50 or 60 men ourselves who were opium eaters and who were certainly not thin and emaciated?—I have already answered that question—“If opium eaters and smokers who are well fed are strong and healthy, their strength and health can be attributed rather to their food than to the drug.”

27,308. You qualify that general statement then?—Yes.

27,309. With regard to the Gujarati book referring to the consumption in Assam, are you aware that in 1854 poppy cultivation was free in Assam, and that there was no excise on opium?—I was not born then so I cannot say.

27,310. Are you aware that during the last 25 years the number of opium shops in Assam has been greatly reduced—from 5,000 to 800?—I cannot say, I do not know that part of India.

27,311. You will recognise, therefore, that any conclusions that might be applicable to Assam in 1854 are not

necessarily applicable in 1894?—The detailed conclusions as to the quantity may not be applicable, but the general conclusions as to the evil effects of the drug are applicable.

27,312. When the shops have been reduced from 5,000 to 800, and the price of opium raised to Rs. 37 per seer, the highest price in India, the consumption must surely have been reduced considerably?—I do not believe in restriction by lessening the number of shops because another shop may get all the customers and the consumption will be the same.

27,313. Do you believe that people will travel 50 and 100 miles to a shop to get opium?—If they have friends who go there they will ask them to get opium for them.

27,314. You will admit the force of the argument, that what may be applicable with regard to opium in 1854 may not necessarily be applicable in 1894 when the conditions are so different?—With regard to the quantity consumed the conditions will not be applicable, but the other deductions may be applicable.

27,315. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are Honorary Secretary to the Indian Temperance Association?—Yes.

27,316. Your Association is established with a view to promoting total abstinence?—Yes.

27,317. That total abstinence extends to all stimulants, does it not?—Yes.

27,318. (*Sir James Lyall.*) You say that you have visited opium dens on two occasions?—Yes, one visit was in the evening about nine o'clock, and on the second occasion it was half-past-five or six.

27,319. On one occasion you say the consumers put question after question as to when Government would close the “living hells.” Will you tell us what was the vernacular term used for “living hells”?—Jivatū Dojakh.

27,320. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Do you think that there are more cases of suicide from opium than those which appear on the police records. The statistics do not show the actual state of things so that the Commission should take the same precaution in believing the Police Records?—The Government brings forward statistics. They say whenever you want anything “these are the real facts, you can depend on the hard and dry facts.” In the same way I have brought forward these Government statistics. They are not my own.

27,321. We have had evidence that the figures shown by the Police Records were not the actual figures?—Many cases of suicide are suppressed.

The witness withdrew.

The REV. SUMANT VISHNU KARMARKAR, B.D., called in and examined.

27,322. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are a Missionary of the American Maratha Mission at Bassein, Thana District, and you have lived in Bombay all your life?—Yes.

27,323. What have you to tell us with regard to the effects of the opium habit?—I have seen opium smokers and eaters and have no hesitation in saying that the habit is bad. Many are visibly affected by the habit. Mendicants and Hindu “bairagis” are especially addicted to opium using. It has the effect of deadening their moral sensibilities, and this enables them to follow the teachings of “Vedantism.” The idea of duality, I and thou, is eliminated by the stupor, and this fact helps them to commit all manner of vices. My observation is that usually the opium dose is increased when once began, and the users seldom stop it. The selling of bal golis (children's pills) and opium for the stupification of children ought to be strictly prohibited as the effect is evil. The entire stoppage of the sale of opium except for medicine would have a most beneficial effect on the present users and the future generations. There is no ground for supposing that there will be dissatisfaction among the people of this part of India. I have seen women giving these bala golis to their children, and I have sat in the bazaars where they sell these bala golis and I have seen hundreds of women buying opium. It is a sight which is very saddening to see, these ignorant women buying these bala golis and giving them to their children, and thereby entirely spoiling their height and health.

27,324. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) I suppose you have not any statistics to put before the Commission as to the ill-effects of bala goli?—I have no statistics.

27,325. You are speaking from your general impression on the subject?—I am speaking from what I have seen.

27,326. You are aware that the Bombay Government had a special enquiry made into the matter and consulted a large number of practitioners in Bombay who expressed different opinions on the subject?—Yes, I am aware of it.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. D. D.
Gilder.

17 Feb. 1894.

The Rev. S.
V. Karmarkar,
B.D.

27,327. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Do you mean to say that “Bairagis” are in the habit of taking opium and not ganja?—I do not want to say anything about ganja. They do take ganja, but they also take opium.

27,328. Is it not rare for these men to take opium and ganja as well?—Those who take ganja take opium as well. I have seen them.

27,329. Do not you make some difference among the bairagis between the opium and ganja eaters, you say, “the entire stoppage of the sale of opium except for medicine would have a most beneficial effect.” Is not the use of alcohol spreading very much?—I object to alcohol, I am a total abstinence man.

27,330. If you had your choice which would you abolish?—I would abolish both.

27,331. We must take a practical view of the matter, we cannot work on theory?—I say that now this Opium Commission has started deal with opium first, and when a commission on alcohol is started you can deal with that also.

27,332. Is opium a lesser evil than alcohol in your opinion?—I think opium is more injurious than alcohol in this respect, that opium has a tendency to deprive you of your will power while alcohol has not got that tendency. I mean to say that it does have that tendency but a person can be reclaimed from it.

27,333. Alcohol makes you mischievous and violent to others whereas opium does not do that?—Opium removes that moral sensibility which a man has, the will power, n him is lessened at first and afterwards it is deadened.

27,334. It is just the same in the case of alcohol during the time a man is intoxicated?—Persons under the influence of opium very often commit suicide.

27,335. Do you say that alcohol is less injurious than opium?—Yes.

27,336. So that you would like to deal with opium first?—Yes.

*Meruji Dosaji
Chudasama
and
Sardarsinhji
Rana*

17 Feb. 1894

MERUJI DOSAJI CHUDASAMA and SARDARSINHJI RANA called in and examined.

27,337. (*Chairman to Meruji Dosaji Chudasama.*) You are a native of Gondal, of the Girasia caste of Kathiawar and you live in Bombay?—Yes.

27,338. (*To Sardarsinhji Rana.*) You are a native of Kantharia in Limri State, you belong to the Girasia caste of Kathiawar and you live in Bombay?—Yes.

27,339. (*To Meruji Dosaji Chudasama.*) What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—Opium eating is very common in our caste. It is the greatest curse to our people, and many of our relations and friends deplore that they ever formed the habit. We and they would be very thankful to Government if it would stop this bad practice, by totally prohibiting the sale of opium, except for medical use. It would, however, be necessary to make an exception for those who have already formed the habit; otherwise they would grumble. According to our customs, moderate eating cannot but lead to immoderate eating. We can give instances, if required, of friends and relations who have ruined themselves and lost their estates through opium.

27,340. (*To Sardarsinhji Rana.*) Do you agree with those remarks?—Yes.

27,341. (*Sir James Lyall to Meruji Dosaji Chudasama.*) Do you come here of your own accord, or are you sent by the Thakur?—We are students in the college.

27,342. You come here of your own accord, you are not sent by anyone?—No.

27,343. Are you studying at Elphinstone College?—Yes.

27,344. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas to Sardarsinhji Rana.*) Do not you know cases in which deaths have occurred from the alcohol habit. Can you give us one single instance where a death has occurred on account of opium?—Yes, at Limri.

27,345. (*To Meruji Dosaji Chudasama.*) Can you give us an instance of a death occurring through the habit of opium?—Yes, there was one poor man living in Gondal who used to take four or five ounces of opium daily and it so happened that he could not get any opium and he died.

27,346. That was not from the direct effect of opium. He died because he could not get opium; if he had got opium he would not have died. Have you known people who died on account of taking alcohol?—Yes.

27,347. And you do not know of cases of people dying through the habit of opium?—No.

27,348. In such cases would you not say that opium is a lesser evil than that of alcohol?—Yes, of course.

27,349. If restrictive measures are necessary you would prefer to see alcohol suppressed first?—Yes.

27,350. Then if necessary you might deal with opium?—Yes. But why should we bring in the question of alcohol when we are considering the question of opium.

27,351. If opium were stopped would there not be more alcohol users in Kathiawar than there are at present?—No, I do not think so because they can get opium more easily. They come from the villages to Gondal to get alcohol. There are Girasias in almost all the villages.

27,352. But when the opium shops are closed there will be a demand for alcohol and a shop which is at Gondal will have branches in the district?—But their religion would come in the way whereas it does not come in the way in the case of opium. There are many Girasias who are religious people, they believe in their religion and they take opium but who would never take wine on account of religious scruples. So many people have been ruined through the habit. Some of our relations have been ruined and they have lost their estates.

27,353. (*To Sardarsinhji Rana.*) Do you agree with these views?—Yes.

27,354. Your father has a village, has he not?—Yes.

27,355. What village?—Kantharia.

27,356. Does the whole village belong to your father?—No, he has a share of it.

27,357. A Girasia means one who has received land from the State?—Yes.

27,358. (*Mr. Pease to Sardarsinhji Rana.*) I believe you wish to make a statement with regard to parents selling their children?—Yes.

27,359. We shall be glad to hear what you have to say?—I have seen a girl sold for five tolas of opium and half a mound of wheat.

27,360. You wish to tell us about the views of the people of your village?—Yes.

27,361-2. We shall be glad to hear what you have to say?—During last September when I was at my village I informed many of my relatives who are opium eaters that a Royal Commission had been appointed by the British Government to see whether the abolition of the opium trade was feasible. In order to see what their feelings were I added that most probably the opium trade would be put a stop to. To my surprise and astonishment they were very glad to hear this news. They said that this step of the Government was the wisest one. They expressed the opinion that they would be grateful to the Government for removing this great evil. I say that these were the feelings of those who took opium. If the Government will make a necessary provision for those who are already opium eaters there will remain no cause of complaint or discontent among the Girasias. They are tired of taking opium. (*Meruji Dosaji Chudasama.*) I agree with my friend in those views. I have also spoken to my friends about it.

27,363. (*Mr. Pease to Meruji Dosaji Chudasama.*) You wish to tell us about the effect of opium upon a school-fellow of yours?—Yes. I can cite an instance of a Girasia friend of mine who was one of my fellow students when I was doing my vernacular at one of the schools. He was then considered one of the best boys of the class and he never missed a prize at the annual examination. Unfortunately he happened to be the son of a father who was a great consumer of opium and who could not understand the good of his son. My friend left the school when he was 15 after going through some five Gujarati books. That kind of education is considered the highest in our class (Rajputs), which I can say without the least hesitation is one of the most backward classes of India. Education is a word which has hardly reached their ears till now. Thus opium makes a man leave his mental faculties totally uncultivated. The boy from the time of leaving the school had addicted himself to opium drinking as he was surrounded by his relatives and friends who were consumers of opium. He now almost forgets what he learnt at the school and can hardly read or write.

27,364. You also wish to tell us something about a man who became a thief through taking opium?—I remember the case of a man who being short of money stole some articles and clothes from the house of his neighbour. He being apprehended by the police was sent before the magistrate who sentenced him for three months. I need not give the name of the gentleman, but he was a Rajput by caste and was a landed proprietor. Really the treatment he met at the hands of the law was disgracing to himself and to his class, but he could not help it on account of the opium habit. I think, therefore, that opium makes a man entirely forgetful of his moral nature.

27,365. (*Sir James Lyall to Meruji Dosaji Chudasama.*) How long have you been a student in the college?—For the last four years.

27,366. (*To Sardarsinhji Rana.*) How long have you been a student in the college?—For the last two years.

27,367. (*To Meruji Dosaji Chudasama.*) What is your age?—Twenty-four.

27,368. (*To Sardarsinhji Rana.*) What is your age?—Twenty-four.

27,369. You say that you saw a girl sold for some wheat and opium, in what part of the country was that?—In the east of Kathiawar.

27,370. In what state?—Limri.

27,371. Who was the man who sold the girl, her father or who?—Her father.

27,372. What caste did he belong to?—Kumbhar, the potter caste.

27,373. Did you see it yourself, or did you only hear of it?—I saw it with my own eyes.

27,374. Were you present when the wheat and opium were paid?—Yes.

27,375. Was it a sudden bargain or how was the bargain made?—It was a sudden bargain.

27,376. Was the buyer a Girasia?—Yes.

27,377. What did he buy the girl for?—To give her to his daughter as a maidservant.

27,378. When these Kumbhars marry their daughters the man who gives in marriage his daughter takes a sum of money from the father of the bridegroom, does he not?—Yes.

The witnesses withdrew.

Adjourned to Monday next at 11 o'clock.

At the Town Hall, Bombay.

SEVENTY-FIFTH DAY.

Monday, 19th February 1894.

PRESENT :

THE RIGHT HON. LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B., CHAIRMAN, PRESIDING.

Sir JAMES B. LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.I.E.
The Hon. Sir LACHHMEESWAR SING BAHADUR,
Maharaja of Darbhanga, K.C.S.I.
Sir WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.
Mr. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P.

Mr. A. U. FANSHAWE.
Mr. A. ARTHUR PEASE.
Mr. HARIDAS VECHARIDAS.
Mr. H. J. WILSON, M.P.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT, C.I.E., *Secretary*.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT-HEWETT called in.

Mr. J. P.
Hewett.

27,379. (*Chairman*.) I believe you have a statement that you desire to make to the Commission?—On Saturday I received the following letter from Mr. Alexander. “February 16, 1894. Dear Mr. Hewett,—As you will see from enclosed, which was awaiting me on my return from the Commission this afternoon, Dr. Valentine’s prediction is realised, and now four witnesses at Jeypore are all in prison. One of them (the old opium eater) came after us to Ajmere, and said he was afraid to go to his house as the police were after him; but after some inquiries we doubted his story, and I gave him a rupee to pay his way home. As to the other three, you may have seen the correspondence in the *Bombay Gazette*. They all four came to us at the dak bungalow the same evening, telling us the police had been asking where they lived, and they expected all to be taken up. It was then we gave them money as mentioned by Mr. Prautch in his letter to the *Gazette* to enable him to communicate with us if the police apprehended them. The writer of this letter is Dr. Henry Phillips, Dr. Valentine’s right-hand man, a native Christian, the father and grandfather were such before him. He is a native of Jeypore and absolutely reliable, one of the best and nicest young fellows I have ever met. I hope you will wire at once to the Resident at Jeypore and make inquiries and get the poor fellows set at liberty.—Yours truly, JOSEPH G. ALEXANDER.”

“M. M. T. Institution, Agra, February 13, 1894.
“My dear Sir,—I had a letter from a friend in Jeypore that four men who gave evidence in Opium Commission have been put in jail by the Raj authorities. The friend who wrote to me is one whom I can trust. It might be as well for you to communicate with the Political Resident of Jeypore. Dr. Sahib has finished his paper, and hopes to send it to-morrow. With my profound regards.—Yours, &c., HENRY PHILLIPS.”

19 Feb. 1894.

In accordance, my lord, with your directions I telegraphed to the Resident at Jeypore as follows:—

“Resident, Bombay,
Jeypore. 17th Feb. 1894.

“It has been reported to Commission that four anti-opiumist witnesses have been put in jail by the Raj authorities. Please wire whether this statement is well founded.”

I have received the following reply:—

“From Resident at Jeypore, to Secretary, Opium Commission, Byculla Club.

“In reply to your telegram regarding alleged imprisonment of anti-opiumist witnesses, I am assured by the Jeypore Durbar that the statements are utterly groundless.”

The witness withdrew.

Dr. R. N. RANINA re-called and further examined.

Dr. R. N.
Ranina.

27,380. (*Chairman*.) You are here, I believe, to make a statement in respect of the Bombay petition?—Yes.

(*Chairman*.) I may say to you from the chair that in our Report the Commission will deal with the Bombay peti-

tion, and that in regard to what you have said to us with reference to signatures for which you hold yourself personally responsible we do not impugn your statement.

(*Witness*.) I am very much obliged.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. J. G. ALEXANDER re-called and further examined.

Mr. J. G.
Alexander.

27,381. (*Chairman*.) I believe you have a statement to make to us?—I have received a letter from Miss Sunderbai H. Powar. I told the Commission in Calcutta, in reply to Sir James Lyall, that she would come before the Commission here or at Poona and give her evidence. She now says: “I would have come to Bombay to give evidence before the Royal Commission, but now I am not well at all. I had a severe attack of influenza and it left me very weak. I am under the doctor’s treatment.” Under these circumstances she has sent me a very brief statement which I ask to be allowed to put in and read.

The room was cleared. On the re-admission of the public,

(*Sir James Lyall*.) I object to Miss Powar’s evidence being read. I do not think that a lady who has published statements of the character of those made by her should be

allowed to give evidence which cannot be cross-examined. The statements she has made seem to me to be full of the greatest exaggeration and of false imputations, and I object to any evidence of hers being read, now that she is not present to be cross-examined.

(*Chairman*.) I think the best course will be for you to hand in the statement to me. I will take care that it is circulated among the members of the Commission, and we will consider how to deal with it, whether by printing it in the Appendix or not.

(*Witness*.) There is practically nothing more in it except that she says she wishes to present copies of her pamphlets.

(*Sir James Lyall*.) I object to these pamphlets being presented without any cross-examination.

Mr. J. G.
Alexander.

19 Feb. 1894.

(Mr. Fanshawe.) I accept without the least reservation the statement made by Miss Sunderbai Powar that she is unable to attend on account of illness, but I think it right to ask you whether it is not the fact that she has been unwilling to appear hitherto?

(Witness.) I do not think I can positively answer that question. I will quite honestly say that I was given to think when I arrived at Bombay that she probably was unwilling. It only reached me in a roundabout way. Upon receiving that information I at once wrote to her, and I read the extract from her reply, which states that she is unwell or that she otherwise would have come.*

27,382. I think you will remember that on Friday last you stated openly to me that you were anxious that she should appear, but you understood that she was unwilling; am I correct in that?—I am not quite sure how I put it. I have just now put the facts as I know them. I have also to make an application with regard to a letter from Mr. Hanbury, which you have seen. I may be permitted to state the circumstances before the Commission considers whether it should receive the letter. Mr. Hanbury's name has been mentioned to the Commission before. I think you are aware that he is a merchant who lived 13 years in

The witness withdrew.

Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. GAFFNEY called in and examined.

Brig.-Surg.-
Lieut.-Col.
J. B. Gaffney.

27,385. (Sir William Roberts.) I believe you are civil surgeon at Jabalpure?—Yes.

27,386. Will you tell us what opportunity you have had of studying the effect of the habitual use of opium on the natives of India?—I have been a civil surgeon and superintendent of jails in the Central Provinces for more than 25 years, and have had considerable experience in the use and abuse of opium (a) generally as regards its use by prisoners before admission to jail, and (b) specially in the Upper Godavery district, where some 20 years ago I made a special inquiry as to the consumption of opium and ganja as affected by the increase or decrease of the duty on country liquor. I have also had special experience as a magistrate for about 15 years, when I had to deal with many cases of breach of the Opium Act and the illicit manufacture of madak. I have thus had both medical and judicial experience of the use of opium and its preparations in several districts.

27,387. What opinion have you formed as to the effects of the opium habit on the moral and physical condition of the people?—The opinion I have been led to form regarding the effects of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people who habitually use it, is that the habitual eating of opium is harmless, except when the eater is completely deprived of his usual supply. I have known men of all classes who have taken opium daily and on whom it had no prejudicial effects. Many of these have come before me as prisoners, and I have found the sudden deprivation of the drug cause the greatest prostration; diarrhoea almost invariably occurs, with loss of appetite and weight. It has been my custom in these cases to give small doses of opium gradually diminished; the unfavourable symptoms soon disappear, and the prisoner regains his former condition, and no longer feels the want of his accustomed dose of opium.

27,388. What has been your experience with regard to opium smoking?—As regards opium smoking, I have had experience of madak smoking only. On this subject I obtained much information in the Seoni district, where smoking is more general than in any other district in which I have served. I consider madak smoking as hurtful as opium eating is harmless, and am of opinion that madak smoking is one of the most pernicious and demoralizing practices in India; it ruins the health, lowers both the moral and physical condition of the smoker, and the

* The following letter was subsequently received from the witness:—

Bombay, 20 Feb. 1894.

Dear Lord Brassey,

On reading the report of yesterday's proceedings in this morning's paper, I perceive that I have done injustice to Miss Sunderbai by leaving her open to the imputation that she was unwilling to be cross-examined on her statements. I have not the slightest reason to suppose that this was the case; on the contrary, from my personal knowledge of her, I feel convinced that there are very few ladies, in England or India, who would more readily submit to have her statements publicly tested.

The unwillingness to come before the Commission which I was led to believe she entertained was, according to the information I received, due to entirely different grounds.

I shall be obliged if you will allow me to read the above statement, or if in some other way it may be made as public as the answer I gave to Mr. Fanshawe yesterday.

Yours truly,
JOSEPH G. ALEXANDER.

China. He left London to re-visit China after many years of absence, with some of his children, two or three weeks before the Commission began its sittings in London, and he gave me some hope that he might be able to give evidence personally before the Commission in India on his return. I have received a letter from him in which he says:—"I am on my way to England with my two sons —"

27,383. (Chairman.) Is this a statement that he is not coming before us?—Quite so.

27,384. Then I think if he has any testimony to communicate, and cannot appear here personally to do so, his proper course is to address a letter to the public journals or in some other channel than that of the Commission, in order to make known his views. Everybody knows his connexion with China, and would receive his respect in statements made by him with reference to the question submitted to this Commission. If he cannot appear before us as a witness I think the proper way of making his contribution to the solution of the question will be, not by a letter to the Commission, which we cannot cross-examine upon, but by an appeal directly to the public?—I quite accept that decision.

practice furnishes a large proportion of prisoners to the jail in any district where smoking is prevalent.

27,389. What do you know of the manufacture of madak?—As a magistrate in the Seoni district very many cases of illicit manufacture of madak were brought before me. To properly understand the subject, I made careful inquiries into the process of manufacture of madak, and as I am not aware of any published description of the process, I shall fully describe it. Opium, either smuggled or purchased from the licensed vendor, is placed in a small brass vessel, called a kuttori, water is added, and the mixture is slowly boiled over a charcoal fire; when the mixture becomes rather thick, it is strained through cotton wool, and the product again boiled and strained; this process is carried out three times. Then babul (*Accacia arabica*) leaves are taken, the leaflets stripped off and roasted till carbonized in a piece of an earthen chattie; the product is mixed with the opium till a sufficiently solid substance is formed to make into pills rather larger than an ordinary 5 grain pill. These pills when dry are smoked in a specially constructed pipe—choongi—made of stone or brass with a reed or wooden stem; a small cup receives the pill, which is smoked by applying lighted charcoal, no tobacco or other substance being added.

27,390. Did you ascertain the proportion of opium in the madak?—No; it is sufficient to make it of the consistence of a pill.

27,391. What is the cause of the difference between madak smoking and opium eating?—I have never been able satisfactorily to account for the vast difference in effects between eating opium and smoking it as madak; in the latter form crude opium is converted into a very pure "watery extract of opium." It is probably owing to the concentration of the active principles of opium by repeated boiling that the product becomes infinitely more powerful than opium, just as absolute alcohol is a poison, but when sufficiently diluted is harmless.

27,392. In madak smoking there is complete combustion I assume?—Yes.

27,393. And what the smoker would get would not be unaltered constituents of the opium, but the heat products?—Yes. Very little that I know of has been published regarding the deleterious effects of madak smoking. Sir W. Moore does not condemn it; he may not have seen it used in the Bombay Presidency, or he could not have failed to observe its baneful effects on its victims. In a report, dated the 29th May 1893, I reported to the deputy surgeon-general on the administration of opium to children. The general conclusion I arrived at was that the practice of giving opium to children was almost universal, and according to my experience it produced no deleterious effects. I mentioned in a previous report the custom I found prevailing in the Telugu country of administering opium to children from the time of birth till they learned to smoke tobacco.

27,394. Is opium eating considered a vice among the population of your district?—Amongst the natives with whom I am familiar opium eating is not considered a vice or even a bad habit; those who do not use it seem rather

pleased that they can do without it. I have never known them to censure anyone for opium eating, although they condemn madak smoking as a low and degrading vice.

27,395. Have you seen any evil results following the practice of opium eating?—Beyond occasional cases of poisoning by opium I have known of no evil effects following its use.

27,396. Will you now express your views generally?—I am very strongly of opinion that not only is it unnecessary and undesirable to interfere with the production and sale of opium, but that a serious wrong and a great and deplorable mistake would be made in interfering with the consumption of opium by the natives of India. It would be about as irrational and hopeless as to attempt to prohibit the manufacture and consumption of beer in England. I am familiar with the system of sale of opium in the Central Provinces, where it is not manufactured. I think any attempt to prohibit the sale of opium except for medicinal purposes would be a disastrous failure. I consider it the duty of all Governments when dealing with vice to regulate what they cannot prevent. The present system of licensing endeavours to realise the largest income from the sale of opium and so check its consumption, but it cannot go beyond that point when smuggling would naturally result if rates were made prohibitive.

27,397. As regards madak?—As regards madak, I think it would be desirable to take every means, short of absolute prohibition, to check its consumption; but here the question of the liberty and rights of the people comes in. If you sell opium to the people, it appears scarcely justifiable to dictate to them the manner in which they must consume it. No man would submit to interference with the manner in which he consumes either tobacco or brandy on which he has paid Government duty. The sale of madak might be wholly prohibited, in which case private manufacture might be permitted for individual consumption; the consumption of madak would then probably decline, as there would be no place of meeting for dissolute madak smokers.

27,398. What do you think of the prospect of further taxation?—I am of opinion that further taxation at the present time could not be borne, and that increased taxation to compensate Government for its loss of income by the abolition of an almost universal custom would be an infliction that would not be borne by the people, and could not meet with the approval of any officer of experience in India.

27,399. (*Mr. Pease.*) What proportion of adult males in your neighbourhood do you estimate are consumers of opium?—I could only venture on a guess. I could not calculate actually.

27,400. In using the expression "universal custom," do you imply that it is the custom of men, women, and children to take opium?—I should say it is customary in almost all families to use it.

27,401. As a luxury?—As more of necessity; it is considered so.

27,402. You mean for health?—As medicine for children, for their health.

27,403. Then your expression "universal" refers only to the use of opium for children?—Universal in families and households I will say.

27,404. In the same way as laudanum and so forth are universal in families in England?—Yes; only more extensively so.

27,405. You have used very strong terms with regard to smoking; do you think that the taking of opium by young persons in health is a good habit?—Eating opium is not a good habit when it is unnecessary.

27,406. Have you met with many cases in which persons, who having taken to the habit, have been unable to throw it off?—In jail I have seen many who thrive without it after a certain time—confirmed opium eaters.

27,407. In those cases you compel them to give it up?—Yes.

27,408. Do you find any difficulty in their cases?—At first the system is a great deal affected for want of the customary drug. They suffer a great deal, but when small doses are administered to them they recover completely.

27,409. You continue to give them opium or morphia?—For a short time, when the symptoms require it.

27,410. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) What do you mean by the illicit manufacture of madak?—There are licensed contractors who manufacture and sell opium, and anyone who manufactures or purchases madak, except through licensed contractors, commits a penal offence.

27,411. You mean that the offence is the purchase or the preparation of madak from shops other than those of the licensed vendor?—Yes; it can only be used if purchased from a licensed vendor. Under the Act the manufacture of any preparation of opium is punishable.

27,412. These were cases where somebody, who was not a licensed vendor, manufactured madak and sold it?—Yes.

27,413. There is no restriction, I suppose, in the Central Provinces, to a man buying crude opium and manufacturing it into madak for his own consumption?—He cannot make it for his own consumption; the manufacture is illegal, except by a licensed vendor.

27,414. Are you sure of that?—I think so; in the Act the manufacture of opium is punishable.

27,415. I understand that there are still licensed shops open for the sale of madak in the Central Provinces?—Yes.

27,416. That is the only way in which madak can be obtained legally?—Yes.

27,417. Is the law with regard to stopping smoking on licensed premises strictly carried out as far as you know in the Central Provinces?—I cannot answer the question.

27,418. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) You have referred to your experience in the Upper Godavery district; did you there find the belief prevalent that the use of opium was a protection against chills and malarial influences?—Yes.

27,419. Can you give me any explanation of the diffusion of the madak smoking habit in the Seoni district?—I understand that it has existed a long time, but only the low-class Mahomedans adopt it.

27,420. Beyond the fact that you know that it is an old practice, you can suggest no special reason why it should be followed more there than in other districts?—No, except that it is a very old Mahomedan place, and there are a lot of low-class Mahomedans there.

27,421. Has it been your experience that the opium habit is one that is adopted by young men, or more generally by men later in life?—I cannot say from my own personal knowledge; but from what I have heard, men advanced in life take it to gain fresh strength and vigour, and they find it effectual. Young men would take to it, first from medical advice, or perhaps to ease pains, or when suffering from fever or other diseases, such as diarrhoea or dysentery, and so might contract the habit.

27,422. Has it been your experience that the habitual use of opium has very often grown out of the necessity of taking it in connexion with some disease?—I should say that it frequently is so.

27,423. (*Mr. Wilson.*) You speak of any attempt to prevent the consumption of opium as being as irrational as an attempt to prevent the consumption of beer in England. I suppose you are aware that there are very serious proposals made in England by Her Majesty's Government to interfere with the consumption of beer?—I am not aware of it.

27,424. You have not heard of any prohibitive legislation under the system of local option?—Yes, I have heard of it, but I do not know much about it. I have been half of my life out in India.

The witness withdrew.

Brig.-Surg.
Lieut.-Col.
J. B. Gaffney.

19 Feb. 1894.

Surgeon-Major W. A. QUAYLE called in and examined.

*Surg. Major
W. A. Quayle.*
19 Feb. 1894.

27,425. (*Chairman.*) You are civil surgeon at Nimar?—Yes.

27,425a. (*Sir William Roberts.*) Will you kindly tell us what opportunities you have had of making yourself acquainted with the effect of the opium habit on the natives of India?—As a civil surgeon and superintendent of a jail in the Central Provinces during the past eight years I have had opportunities of becoming acquainted with the habits of the civil population with respect to the consumption of opium.

27,426. Does that complete your experience?—Yes. As sanitary and vaccination officer I have had to go through the district every year, and have seen all sorts of people.

27,427. What has been the result of your observation?—In this district, Nimar, opium is given to children from the age of two weeks until that of two years. The poorer classes give it very generally in order to keep their children quiet; the richer classes, as a matter of custom.

27,428. Is it given almost universally?—Yes; it is almost universal among the poorer classes. In every village you will find a few elderly persons who take opium to relieve the pains of neuralgia and chronic rheumatism. Some also indulge in it as a remedy for diarrhoea and dysentery to which they are subject. The valley of the Tapti and the jungles of Nimar generally are very malarious tracts; and nervous and muscular pains, together with diarrhoea and dysentery, are frequent sequences of malarial fevers, and to relieve these opium is the only remedy within the reach of all, and many even cannot afford to purchase it, its price being so prohibitive.

27,429. What opinion have you formed as to the effect of the opium habit?—No evidence has come within my knowledge to induce me to believe that opium in moderate doses exerts baneful effects on the constitution, morally or physically. No case of insanity arising from the use of opium has come under my observation. With regard to the excessive use of the drug, I have seen a few old opium smugglers in jail who have certainly physically deteriorated under its use, but it is only fair to say that these men, as a rule, lead vicious and dissipated lives. Except in the large town of Burhanpur, there are, I am informed, but few opium smokers in the district; I have therefore no personal acquaintance with them. They are said to be among those who indulge excessively and suffer most, their physical deterioration being rapid.

27,430. In what light do people look upon the habit of taking opium?—Natives do not look on the moderate use of opium, even when not taken medicinally, as a degrading habit. Opium smokers and those who consume the drug excessively and neglect their duties are naturally not considered reputable members of society.

27,431. What do you think is the opinion generally held as to measures for the prohibition of the use of opium?—Although it would matter little to the majority of the people whether the growth of opium was prohibited or not, except for medicinal purposes, yet public opinion would be decidedly adverse to such prohibition.

27,432. Do you make that statement because the practice of the use of opium is not very widely spread in your district?—Yes.

27,433. Do you consider it possible to suppress the use of opium?—I do not see how it would be possible to entirely prohibit the growth of the poppy and the production

and sale of opium except for medicinal purposes. In order to be at hand for these latter purposes, opium shops would still be necessary throughout the district, and there could be no efficient check as to whether a person really bought the opium for medical purposes or not. To raise the price of the drug, and thus further limit consumption, would be to take out of the reach of the poorest the only means they have for the relief of much pain and suffering. I do not see how the existing Government system can be modified without raising the price, and thus putting the drug altogether out of the reach of the people. I do not think that the people would be willing to bear such extra taxation as would be involved by the prohibition or further restriction of the sale of opium, seeing that the wish of the public is not in this direction.

27,434. Is your district a malarial one?—It is very malarial.

27,435. Is there a current belief among the people that opium is good for malarial fever?—There is.

27,436. You have referred to neuralgia and rheumatism; is there a belief that opium is good for ague?—It is generally taken after ague.

27,437. Not as a prophylactic?—No, not as a prophylactic.

27,438. But to mitigate the symptoms?—The sequences, diarrhoea, dysentery, neuralgia, and muscular pains.

27,439. As far as you know, is opium really effective as a febrifuge?—I have no experience.

27,440. (*Mr. Pease.*) You say you have seen a few opium smugglers in jail; are they specially addicted to consuming opium?—Yes.

27,441. Have you seen no one in jail deteriorate under its use except smugglers?—Yes, I have. But they were chiefly smugglers.

27,442. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Your district borders on Malwa?—On Indore.

27,443. Is there much smuggling across the frontier?—A good deal.

27,444. Does that account for your seeing opium smugglers in jail?—Yes.

27,445. I suppose you use opium medicinally?—Yes.

27,446. How do you obtain the opium you use medicinally?—From Government.

27,447. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) You are a Government servant?—Yes.

27,448. You are not required to have a license?—No.

27,449. (*Mr. Wilson.*) I do not quite understand whether upon the whole you think the habit of eating opium good or bad?—I do not see any evil in it. It is a stimulant, the same as beer or whisky, or anything of that kind.

27,450. If all your hospital assistants took it you would not mind; you would be indifferent on the subject?—If they took it in very moderate doses I should not mind.

27,451. What do you call a very moderate dose?—From two to eight grains daily.

27,452. You would not be afraid of its leading them further?—No. It does not generally lead further, in my experience.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. HARIDAS CHATTERJI called in and examined.

*Mr. Haridas
Chatterji.*

27,453. (*Chairman.*) You are a pleader living in Khandwa?—Yes.

27,454. You have been 15 years in practice there?—Yes.

27,455. And in your professional avocations you have been brought into contact with people inhabiting the poppy growing districts of Malwa, Indore, Mhow, and one or two Native States within the Central India Agency?—Yes.

27,456. Is Khandwa an important centre of the opium trade?—Not of the opium trade. It is a rising town of commerce.

27,457. It is a centre of trade, is it not?—Yes.

27,458. The Khandwa courts deal, do they not, rather extensively with opium smuggling cases?—They do. They give exemplary sentences.

27,459. In your profession you have had a good deal to do with these cases?—Yes; many cases come to us.

27,460. You are a native of Bengal?—Yes.

27,461. Comparing your observation as to the effect of opium at Khandwa with what you know of Bengal, what is your impression?—My impression is not unfavourable at all as regards the effects of opium. First, only a very small per-centage of people take to it—only those who are advanced in age and feel the effects of it; they take small doses with not very harmful effects; on the contrary, I

have seen instances in which they feel the good effects of small doses.

27,462. What do you say as to the moral aspect of the question?—As regards the moral and, I may add, social aspect of the question, I cannot say that (other exciting causes being absent) moral depravity or social degradation has ever sprung from the use of opium. Rich or poor, high or low, I do not think that any opium eater I have ever known has lost an inch of his position in the scale of social estimation, or that his habitual dose of opium has ever led him to any act of immorality. In one word, I know no distinction, socially or morally, between two individuals, one an abstainer and the other a consumer of opium—of course, *ceteris paribus*. On the physical and moral aspect of the question there are one or two points which deserve notice. The much maligned abuse of opium as an allurement for vice, and for what I may call sexual endurance, is what I had barely heard of, and I have now read a good deal since the sitting of the Commission. The detractors of opium made capital out of this. I confess I have no experience on this point, and I dismiss it with an observation that this is an instance of abuse of opium, and that even in that respect I have reasons to think that the picture has been considerably overdrawn. We have no right to take an instance of abuse and to condemn an otherwise useful necessary for human life.

27,463. Is the opium habit extensively adopted in the district of which you speak?—Not very extensively, though the facilities for using opium are very great. As a matter of fact, in many of the villages in the district, and in the adjoining districts, opium grows abundantly; still I do not find that, compared with Bengal, the per-centage of consumption in Khandwa is appreciably higher.

27,464. Is the administration of opium to children extensively resorted to in your district?—Yes. Since I have come into this part of the country I have found that it is more freely used than in Bengal.

27,465. In small doses without ill effects?—Yes.

27,466. What is the result of your observations as to smoking opium?—I do not claim much experience in regard to the results of smoking opium on the moral and physical man. For the little I have seen I have not a single good word to speak in its favour.

27,467. It is a bad thing?—Yes, it is universally condemned in our district.

27,468. What is the state of public feeling in the district for which you speak with reference to the use of opium otherwise than for the purposes of medicine?—The natives of this country with whom I am familiar think of opium more or less in the light I have expressed. Since the commencement of the present agitation and crusade against opium I have made it a point to study the opium literature published in papers, and to test and to take the sense of the native population here of all ranks with whom I have come in contact, and I have invariably found that public feeling is by no means adverse to the use of opium other than for the purposes of medicine. Its abolition is dreaded by the people with horror, and they consider that any attempt to restrict its consumption to cases certified by medical men would be a cruel instance of tyranny of the majority over the minority.

27,469. What would you say with reference to the smuggling which would be involved in the adoption of a prohibitive policy?—Under the circumstances described in the question, illicit trade in opium, of which I have an extensive experience in this district, will, I apprehend, increase many fold with the entire prohibition of the growth, production, and sale of opium. Opium is a self-prescribed medicine, and the habits of the people in this respect have become so deep-rooted that nature will assert itself and there would not be the least possibility of control. As compared with alcoholic drinks, opium is comparatively cheaper, and with all the stringent law and rules regulating its manufacture, import, export and sale, smuggling thereof, on various scales, is going on more or less throughout the country. By any prohibitive measure you cannot and will not be able to restrict the cultivation and growth of opium in the extensive Native States in Malwa and elsewhere. The decided feeling throughout the Central India Native States, in one of which I had recently been, is in favour of opium cultivation. Both the cultivators and the State profit by it, and this I know would be the unanimous testimony of all the Native Chiefs and Rajas who have been interrogated on the subject. The detractors of opium traffic would do well to remember what would be the necessary and the natural consequence of unrestricted or clandestine growth of opium in one part of the country and a keen hankering for the drug in another. Nature

will revolt against an administrative measure that seeks to divide and keep asunder these powerful attractions.

27,470. You do not recommend that the Government monopoly and advance for the growth and manufacture of opium should be discontinued?—It should be restricted.

27,471. You do not recommend any change with regard to monopoly and purchase?—I think the present system works very well.

27,472. But you do recommend, I understand, that the excise system being retained, some further restrictions should be adopted?—In view of the fact that, whereas a general prohibition of the growth, manufacture, and sale of opium will, while entailing a serious and needless loss of Government revenue, impose an additional burden of expenditure in the shape of an espionage and suppressing establishment all over the country, I would suggest that the whole excise system, and therefore the Government revenue, being retained, some restrictions should be imposed upon the free and unrestricted retail vend of opium to prevent the abuse or the occasional debauch with it, for criminal or suicidal purposes, and that these restrictions should be further extended, almost to the extent of prohibitive measures, against the licensing the manufacture and sale of opium in the form of chandu and madak. These restrictive and prohibitive steps will necessarily entail a slight fall of revenue.

27,473. Would the people be willing to bear the cost of prohibitory measures?—I am afraid not.

27,474. (*Mr. Pease*.) You state that in cross-examining a witness you find it useful and successful to charge him with being an opium smoker. Is that in cases where the quantity he smokes is comparatively small, or only where he smokes to excess?—The more a man is addicted to smoking the more he is unreliable.

27,475. You make this charge of a man being unreliable even when he does not smoke to any extent?—If he smokes chandu or madak he is more or less unreliable.

27,476. Do you always confine this charge to smoking, or are opium eaters sometimes charged in the same way as being "afimchis" or "afimkhors"?—That relates to consumers of large doses. Those in favour of whom I have spoken are those who take small doses to counteract the effects of advancing age.

27,477. I asked you whether the charge of being opium consumers was not sometimes made by pleaders against persons who ate opium, and did not smoke it?—Sometimes.

27,478. With a view to shake their credit?—Yes.

27,479. (*Mr. Mowbray*.) What is the retail price of opium in the bazars in Khandwa?—I am not quite sure; I think from six to eight annas per tola.

27,480. Do you know what it is over the border in Indore?—About four rupees a seer.

27,481. From the papers put in by the Government it appears that the price at which it is issued to licensed vendors in the Central Provinces is 22 rupees per seer?—Yes.

27,482. And you say that the retail selling price is about six or eight annas per tola?—Yes.

27,483. I may take it, then, that there is a very large difference between the retail price in Indore and in Khandwa?—A great difference.

27,484. Do you not think that that is a restriction upon the retail vend of opium in Khandwa?—It is sufficiently restricted as it is; but in order to prevent the occasional abuse of large doses being taken for the purposes of committing suicide, and so forth, we might put a further restriction if possible.

27,485. What have you in your mind when you speak of further restrictions?—I have not considered what the mode of restriction should be.

27,486. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas*.) You say that you have invariably found that public feeling is by no means adverse to the use of opium other than for the purposes of medicine, I suppose you mean opium eating, not opium smoking?—No.

27,487. Would you qualify it by saying the moderate use?—The moderate use I mean.

27,488. Would you say that for a young man in good health to habituate himself to taking a moderate dose is a good habit?—Not for a young man, when there is no necessity for it, I do not think so.

27,489. (*Mr. Fanshawe*.) I understand that when you ask witnesses questions as to their opium eating with a

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view to shake their credit, you only do this if you have reason to believe that they eat opium in excess?—In excess.

27,490. The experience you have had is in the main the experience of eating opium in moderation, as I gather from your evidence?—Yes.

27,491. And the moderate use of opium is the rule and the excessive use is the exception?—Yes.

27,492. Can you tell me from what class of life chandu and madak smokers in the Nimar district are mainly drawn?—They are generally the lower order of Mahomedans in Burhanpur.

27,493. Is the taking of opium, in your experience, at all a common method of committing suicide in Nimar?—Not in that district.

27,494. When you speak of opium being used for criminal purposes, to what purposes are you referring?—Murdering and disabling people.

27,495. Have you any experience of its being used largely by regular poisoners or any class of criminals?—I have very little experience of that in the district. What I have stated has been gathered chiefly from the papers and from stories on the Bengal side, not in Nimar.

27,496. You are a Bengali yourself?—Yes.

27,497. And you have lived in the Nimar district for the last 15 years?—Yes.

27,498. In the discharge of your professional duties?—Yes.

27,499. (Mr. Wilson.) When did you begin to pay special attention to the opium question?—In my professional capacity I used to get large numbers of smuggling cases before me. It was a time when smuggling was going on extensively in Khandwa. The courts were rather lenient at first, at the commencement of my practice, and that leniency tended to smuggling going on very rapidly for some years. Since then I have not studied the opium question in its social aspect, but I think that the demand for opium, and the difference in price in the Native States and the British territories, produced very much smuggling. Eventually it was punished with exemplary sentences, and then it began to fall off. Since the sitting of the Commission I have studied the question to some extent, and I have

made inquiries among the people of all classes in the district.

27,500. In reference to opium smuggling cases, is it your impression that those are *bonâ fide* cases of smuggling or that they are cases of false accusation?—I am afraid that there are some cases of false accusation as well. There have been some cases in which false charges have been made, and the accused have been let off. Ample rewards were given, and probably in some instances that led persons to invent cases.

27,501. Whether rightly or wrongly, is it not a common belief in Khandwa that there is an enormous amount of corruption and false accusation in connexion with opium smuggling?—Three or four or five years ago that impression was abroad, but now it has died out. Even in the earlier days the false cases were not numerous; there were some.

27,502. Can you give me your idea of the proportion of adult males in Khandwa and the district to which you are referring who are in the habit of eating opium?—I am not exactly sure of the proportion.

27,503. Do you think it is 5 or 10 or 20 per cent.?—Hardly five per cent., perhaps just about five.

27,504. The rest of the people manage to live without it?—Yes.

27,505. Without suffering, as far as you can see?—Without any necessity for opium. I am not sure about the per-centage.

27,506. Should you say, upon the whole, that the habit of taking opium by persons in good health is a good or bad habit?—Without necessity it is, of course, a bad habit.

27,507. (Sir James Lyall.) Do you think it is a good habit for young men in good health to smoke tobacco?—It is not a good habit.

27,508. In your experience do the Central Province farmers and licensed vendors who have the monopoly in their circles help the collectors to detect opium smuggling?—They do.

27,509. Do any other people help to detect smuggling?—Besides those there are others who get rewards.

27,510. Informers?—Informers. They generally go up in the trains to Indore, and there they try to find it out.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. W. J.
Gladwin.

Mr. WALLACE J. GLADWIN called in and examined.

27,511. (Chairman.) Will you make the statement that you are prepared to lay before us?—Twenty-two years ago I came to India as a missionary. I have laboured in various parts of India and Ceylon. The opium habit was forced upon my attention the first year, as one of my Indian preachers was suspected by his brother Indian preachers of using it. They insisted that he should be put to the "opium test," i.e., closely watched 24 hours. It was stated that a confirmed opium user, when deprived of the drug, would within 24 hours show such nervous depression as would betray the habit. I noticed the absolute condemnation of this vicious habit by all the natives who spoke of it. It was especially affirmed that opium blunted the moral sense, and made people dishonest. Several times I have visited the opium dens of Bombay and elsewhere. Talking freely with the inmates I have heard only unqualified regret at the slavery which bound them. Most remarkable is the despair which all express. Other vices they say can be given up, but opium never. In 1891 I had much correspondence with newspapers in India upon the subject of the opium traffic. I sent circulars of inquiries to many editors of papers, who were Indians, and as far as opinions were expressed they were unanimous in their condemnation, not of the opium habit merely, but of the traffic which so mightily facilitates and promotes the use of that poison. In London three years ago—by way of testing the subject—I attempted to purchase a small quantity of opium. At every place I was refused, except one druggist, who hinted that I might get some clandestinely. Returning to India I tried to see how easily opium was available, and how much could be procured. I saw little children of 10 years of age purchase it at the open stalls in the Crawford Market and Null Bazaar. The quantity was practically unlimited. Though only 10 tolas were allowed to be sold to one person (I have been since informed that it was reduced to two tolas in 1892), yet the opium vendors told me that if I wanted more, to call together some of the bystanders and they would let me have 10 tolas for each one. The

same questions were asked by others, and the vendors freely offered to sell any quantity that might be wished in this manner. Considering how much testimony has recently been given in India in favour of the use of opium not only as to its being innocent and harmless, but actually useful in many ways, it is evident that some great change of public opinion must ensue. If this proposition is believed, then British law is utterly wrong in depriving the people of the United Kingdom of an article so very useful, and which at its worst is only a comforting luxury. In Colombo I was told, when talking with men in the opium dens, that they took up the habit in connexion with diseases brought on by immorality. I have here a statement by John Dudgeon, M.D., surgeon to the Pekin Hospital, which I should like to read.

27,512. This is a statement by another gentleman?—It is an extract from the "Transactions of the Social Science Association at the Liverpool meeting, 1876."

27,513. (Chairman.) Unless we put some limitation upon the reading of extracts from the writings of other persons, and limit the evidence as far as possible to the testimony of witnesses to facts coming under their own observation, an indefinite extension may be given to our labours.

27,514. (Sir William Roberts.) In connexion with what society are you labouring?—I am labouring as an independent missionary under no society.

27,515. By yourself?—Yes.

27,516. Do you take the same attitude with regard to alcohol as you do with regard to opium?—Very much the same; but I believe that opium is, under the circumstances, more of a danger because of its seductive influence upon the people.

27,517. Do you look upon the moderate use of alcohol in Europe as an evil?—Yes, I have long been of that opinion.

27,518. And a thing to be suppressed by law?—I think it would be better if there were some sort of suppression.

27,519. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Do you say that you have seen opium sold at the open stalls in Crawford Market and Null Bazaar in Bombay?—Yes, I have seen opium sold.

27,520. How many of these opium stalls did you see?—I visited a large stall in Null Bazaar and another in Crawford Market. I visited one stall in each market.

27,521. Did you notice whether there was any license board where the opium was being sold?—I think there was, but I am not sure.

27,522. Did you ever think of inquiring?—No. The people were there strolling about and buying opium very largely.

27,523. They would hardly be doing that, I suppose, if it had not been a licensed shop?—I should think not if the opium department were wide awake.

27,524. I thought from your statement that you had seen it in many cases, but you now say that you saw one stall in Crawford Market and one in Null Bazaar?—For public sale. The dens using it is another matter.

27,525. When did you see the opium dens, within the last six months?—Not so recently. It has been during several years observation.

27,526. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Do you know that the amount of opium that can be sold has been lately reduced from 10 tolas to two tolas?—Yes.

27,527. Then your remark would be so far modified?—Yes. I so stated.

27,528. Four friends could buy eight tolas, two tolas each?—Yes.

27,529. Do you think they would do that for you, and give you all that was sold?—They freely offered to let me have it if I could only get the coolies to come for it.

27,530. Did you accept the 10 tolas from each of these four or five persons?—I believe the men meant what they said; they offered it freely.

27,531. But you did not try it practically; you did not get the 10 tolas?—No. I fully believed their statement, but I did not put it to the test.

27,532. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) In what parts of India have you had experience? You mention Ceylon?—In the North-west Provinces, Madras, and Ceylon, and more especially in Bombay.

27,533. Is your missionary work still carried on in Bombay?—Yes.

27,534. You have been here some years?—Yes.

27,535. Eight or ten years?—Yes.

27,536. I understand your evidence to relate more particularly to opium smoking?—Both smoking and chewing it. The first case that I mentioned was that of a man who swallowed opium.

27,537. Chewing is one thing, taking a pill is another. You mean swallowing?—Yes.

27,538. Has it come within your experience that opium is used as a domestic remedy, and also as a restorative by men in older life?—I have known it frequently used to put children to sleep while the mothers are at work, not otherwise.

27,539. Those uses have not come within your experience?—Not as a medicine, except in cases such as I mentioned where persons took it to get relief for diseases brought on by immorality.

27,540. You never heard of its being used to give relief in cases of rheumatism, pains, cold, and so on?—No. I suppose it is sometimes used as such.

27,541. You never heard of its being used as a restorative by men after 35 or 40?—No, I have not.

27,542. (*Sir James Lyall.*) What was the result of the test you applied to the Indian preacher?—He refused to be put to the test, and left the mission.

27,543. Does your church make abstinence from alcohol as well as opium a rule of faith?—I came to India as a missionary of the American Methodists, but I am not under their direction now. I am labouring independently. They try to enforce total abstinence.

27,544. With reference to the answers you say you received at the opium dens, do you not think that if an English gentleman spoke to arrack drinkers they also would say that it was a very bad custom?—Some do, and some do not; some defend it, as our countrymen do.

27,545. It is not the general way in which natives will answer you when you speak to them? They do the thing, and yet do not defend it?—I think not, as a general rule. I felt that they were honest in their remarks.

27,546. Are you quite sure that you correctly remember the facts in the story you told about going to a number of druggist shops in London and trying to purchase opium?—Yes.

27,547. What reason did the druggists give for refusing to sell opium?—In Holborn they simply said they could not do it. The druggist in Camden Road showed me the law, and said I must get a prescription. Almost all asked me if I had got a prescription.

27,548. Are you aware that there is no law requiring a prescription?—I saw the law. They seemed to fear selling it without some medical authority.

27,549. Are you aware that there is no such law as you state, and that there is no such general practice?—I am not aware of it.

27,550. That as a rule druggists supply any man who asks with opium or with laudanum?—I was not aware of that; it is news to me.

27,551. That makes me very much astonished at your story. What did you say? Did you simply ask for so much opium?—I asked if I could purchase some opium.

27,552. How much did you ask for?—I did not ask for any quantity at first. One or two asked me how much I wanted, and I said "a small quantity." It struck me with surprise that druggists themselves seemed to be so much afraid of selling it.

27,553. Are you aware that in some parts of England where opium eating is common the opium is made up in packets and put on the counter on fair days and market days?—I am not aware of it. I have read on what I believe to be good authority that there are opium dens in London where people can get it.

27,554. I think you said that you considered opium more seductive than alcohol?—Yes.

27,555. In the case of alcohol are not taste and the pleasure of drinking in company large items of seduction?—I suppose they are.

27,556. And are not those items entirely absent in the case of opium eating?—They may be so. It seems to be more of a slavery to the habit; it seems to come any way, whether there are friends or not.

27,557. (*Mr. Wilson.*) You have referred to what you learned 22 years ago. You have not told us whether your view is the same still, whether your observation has lasted to the present time?—Only changed to be more decidedly against the habit.

27,558. Has your more recent observation tended to confirm what you then learned?—Yes, indeed I may say more than confirmed what I then learned.

27,559. What would you say as to the general opinion of the people of Bombay at large in reference to the opium habit?—I have heard it always condemned except where people apologise in the way they do sometimes for a bad habit, saying that they must do it, and that they rather like it, but more or less in terms of condemnation.

27,560. With reference to your experience in England, are you aware that if the chemist had consented to sell the opium to you he would have had to label it "poison"?—I so understood. I procured a small pill in Camden Road, and it was labelled "poison."

27,561. Are you also aware that, as a matter of fact, all respectable chemists and druggists exercise a very careful scrutiny over the persons to whom they sell opium?—I understand that as a matter of common repute.

27,562. And are you aware that in some large towns there is an honourable understanding among all respectable chemists and druggists to limit and restrict the sale as far as they possibly can?—I was not aware of that, but I have read in some articles of the Chemists and Druggists' Society that they were bound by law to a very exclusive policy—the members of the Association.

27,563. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Can you tell me how many chemists and druggists there are in India of the same class as the chemists and druggists in England?—I do not know. I should think there were but few, because so much work is in the hands of the official departments, but little independent practice apparently.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. W. J. Gladwin.

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Mr. Kalidas
Chaudhri.

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Mr. KALIDAS CHAUDHRI called in and examined.

27,564. (Mr. Fanshawe.) I believe you are a pleader at Hoshangabad, in the Central Provinces?—Yes.

27,565. Will you tell us what opportunities you have had of learning about the opium habit in that district?—I have been a pleader in active practice in this district for the past 1 years. In my professional business, and in my capacity as a member of the local board, district council and municipality, at different times of my life, I have had innumerable opportunities of coming in contact with various classes of people, and though I never made a special study of the subject of the use and effects of opium, yet I can safely say that I possess a general knowledge of the subject with reference to a large portion of my countrymen.

27,566. What opinion have you formed as to the effects of the opium habit on the moral character of the people to whom you are referring?—I have been led to form no adverse opinion regarding the effects of opium on the moral condition of the people who habitually use it. In fact, I consider the two questions are quite independent of each other. I do not know of a single case where I pleaded that a crime was committed because the offender was under the influence of opium, nor do I remember any of my professional brethren having raised such a plea in any case. I think it would not be irrelevant if I were to say here that an opium eater is quite inoffensive and uninjurious to society, unlike people who are given to the habit of drunkenness. Society is quite indifferent as to whether a man takes opium or not. It condemns and excommunicates a drunkard, but an opium eater or smoker is never noticed even.

27,567. What have you to say as regards the physical effects of the habit?—As regards its effects on the physical condition, I have never taken opium myself in any shape, but I have heard from a great many people who take it moderately and habitually that it acts as a preventive against many diseases, and checks the progress of the effects of age. The common saying is “jis umar men ‘khali usi umar men rahe’” (one remains at the same age at which one begins to eat opium). The undisputable facts are that when moderately taken, opium does no harm to the physical constitution, and that its prophylactic and curative virtues are recognised by all those who take it. The Marwaris, for instance, take opium almost without exception, and habitually, and yet they are the best accountants and men of business. Similarly the Sikhs use it, and yet they are the best soldiers in India. To say the least, opium does not make the user an inefficient and immoral member of society. It does not muddle his head or make him an unfit workman. But this is only when opium is moderately used.

27,568. What is the result of opium taking in excess?—When excessively taken, which is exceptional, it makes him physically weak, and renders him unfit for the performance of his usual work.

27,569. What is the opinion of the natives, with whom you are familiar, with regard to the use of opium?—The general impression is that, whether in eating or smoking, the invariable accompaniment of the use of opium should be good nourishing food. Those who can afford to live well do not at all feel the evil effects of opium on the physique. Such people are, on the contrary, very healthy looking and active in business matters. But without nourishing food opium does harm, especially the using of it by smoking. Without good food, the opium eater and smoker deteriorates both physically and mentally. But this is only an impression which may or may not have a sound reasonable basis.

27,570. In saying that this is only an impression, you mean us to understand that you have no knowledge personally of these effects?—I have not myself taken it. The opium eaters and smokers to an excessive extent, who are a cause of anxiety to the society and to the State, are very few compared with the vast number of people who take it moderately or do not take it at all. Briefly my answer to the question is, that the use of opium has no connexion whatever with the moral condition of the user; that a moderate use does not tell upon the physical constitution; that excessive use renders the user unfit as a member of society, both physically and mentally, but happily the number of such users is very limited; that the use of opium by smoking is more injurious than its use by eating.

27,571. I suppose you mean that the use of opium in moderation has no connexion with the moral condition of the user?—Yes.

27,572. What is the opinion of the natives of the Hoshangabad district on the subject of opium consumption generally?—I am familiar with the natives of this district, and I am not aware that they hold an adverse opinion regarding the use of opium. The use of madak is more resorted to by the lower classes of the society, and this is a reason, I believe, why opium smoking is now and then found to be condemned, for in a country where the caste system has taken a firm root, anything that is done by the people of the lower order is condemned, not because the thing itself is bad, but because the lower classes do it. As opium is used by the high and the low in most cases moderately, and in very exceptional cases excessively, without any condemnation from society, there is no strong public opinion adverse to its use.

27,573. We have been told by a number of persons that the term “afimi” is used as a term of reproach; in your experience, would it mean an opium consumer in excess or an opium consumer in moderation as well?—The expression is used in regard to those who take it excessively.

27,574. Do you think it would be possible to entirely prohibit the growth of poppy or the sale of opium except for medical purposes?—I do not think it is possible to entirely prohibit the growth of the poppy and the production and sale of opium, except for medical purposes, in this part of India, or, for the matter of that, anywhere in India. Opium is considered to be a necessity in many localities, especially in malarious localities, and even if it were possible to prohibit the growth of poppy and sale of opium in India by means of a legislative measure and treaties with the Native States, the prohibition would produce such an immense dissatisfaction (not amounting to political danger) and discomfort amongst the people, that such a measure would not last for a day even, but Government will be compelled to restore matters to their original state immediately. If such a measure were adopted there is every likelihood of the people taking to cheap alcohol which is more injurious than opium.

27,575. You have spoken of the use of opium in malarious localities, am I to understand that the prevalence of a belief to that effect is within your personal knowledge?—It is not within my personal knowledge; I have simply heard of it.

27,576. Do you think that any further restrictions or modifications of the present system are desirable?—The Chief Commissioner's Circular No. 4, of 1890, has introduced very useful changes in the system regulating the sale and manufacture of opium. It has prohibited the conversion of opium shops into dens for opium smoking, and has further directed, as an ordinary rule, to grant madak licenses only at large centres of population where there is a considerable demand for its preparation. This has placed a healthy check on the consumption of madak which is undoubtedly more injurious than the eating of opium. This will, of course, reduce the consumption of opium generally. I think this check is quite sufficient for the present, as the spread of education and civilisation is also working towards its reduction to a minimum.

27,577. Is the practice of smoking madak at all common in the Hoshangabad district?—I cannot say that it is common.

27,578. Can you tell us the classes by which the practice is followed?—By the lower classes of sweepers and Mahomedans.

27,579. Do you believe that the people would be willing to bear any extra taxation?—I do not think that the people would be willing to bear any extra taxation, if prohibition or further restriction were to be decided on, resulting in the loss of revenue to Government. There is no scope for further taxation.

27,580. Are you a Bengali?—Yes.

27,581. Have you been settled for some years in the Hoshangabad district?—Yes, for the past 22 years I have been connected with the Hoshangabad district.

27,582. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) You say that the use of madak is more resorted to by the lower classes of society, and this is the reason why opium smoking is now and then found to be condemned; you also say that opium smoking is more injurious than opium eating. Would you not modify your statement and say that the opium habit is condemned, not merely because it is used by the lower classes, but also because it is a bad habit?—No madak smoker has ever been excommunicated or condemned in society.

27,583. Do you consider that the use of opium in moderate doses for a young man in good health is a good thing?—Never in my experience have I known it to be a bad thing.

27,584. Do you take opium?—I do not take it, but I would not hesitate if I were advised.

27,585. Advised by the doctors?—Yes.

27,586. Then if advised by the doctors it is a good thing, and if not it is a bad thing; is that what you mean?—No, I do not mean that. I would not consider it at all necessary to take the opinion of a doctor before taking opium. In my own case I might do so, but I do not think it is absolutely necessary to take the opinion of a doctor before beginning to take a moderate dose of opium.

27,587. Then is it one rule for other people and another rule for yourself?—No. It entirely depends upon the person to take it or not to take it. It is not necessary that he should always go to a doctor for advice.

27,588. (Mr. Mowbray.) The closing of the smoking shops in the Central Provinces was carried out some time ago?—In 1890.

27,589. Do you know whether that has practically put a stop to smoking shops, or do they still exist under

another name?—The practice has decreased to a considerable extent as is shown by statistics. There were 151 shops, and the last report shows that there are now only 130.

27,590. What figures are you quoting from?—From the Government reports. They show that there has been a perceptible decrease in the number of madak shops in the Central Provinces by reason of the circular No. 4 of 1890.

27,591. What I asked was, whether smoking on premises where madak is sold has been put a stop to, or whether it still takes place in clubs under another name?—Not that I know of. In the headquarters of the district I find that it has decreased to a great extent.

27,592. (Mr. Pease.) What is your opinion with regard to the Sikhs?—It is only hearsay, but with regard to Marwaris I have personal knowledge.

27,593. Would you be surprised to hear that more than one colonel of a Sikh regiment told us that there are only eight or nine men in their regiment who take opium? (No answer.)

27,594. If conscientious Hindus and Mahomedans were unable to obtain opium they could not resort to alcohol?—Orthodoxy has been very much slackened now-a-days. Necessity might drive them to take cheap alcohol.

The witness withdrew.

RAI BAHADUR RAGHOB MAHADIK called in and examined (through an interpreter).

27,595. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You are an honorary magistrate of the Raipur district, I understand?—Yes.

27,596. Will you kindly tell us what your position is; are you a landowner?—I am a zemindar in the Raipur district.

27,597. Will you tell us your experience as regards the habit of consuming opium?—I have often had special opportunities to deal with the people and localities in general whereby I have become acquainted with the use and effects of opium. In my opinion of those who habitually use opium, the habits of the opium eaters are not bad, but the smokers, and specially those who cannot afford to have nutritious food, generally take to bad habits. Opium does no physical harm to the eaters, but it does so to the smokers. As far as my experience goes, the effects of eating and smoking opium are quite different. People generally eat opium when they grow old with a view to keep up their health and comfort, and they are really benefited by it. Opium eating does away to some extent with several diseases, which usually accompany old age, and keeps up physical strength in its original state. It has been generally seen that people who do not take opium on attaining old age, and who complain of certain diseases, are advised by opium eaters as well as by those who do not use it to eat a little opium every day, and that opium in such cases does produce some good. Had opium not been beneficial in its effects, small children of our country would not have been given opium to eat which they are daily given till they grow two or three years old. People fall into the habit of smoking opium in the very prime of their youth, and oftentimes even before that, on account of bad company or immoral pursuits, and it has been generally seen that those who are greatly addicted to opium smoking, and specially those who cannot provide for nourishing diet, &c., are deprived of their physical strength which declines more and more as their age advances. Often the people do not remain even strong enough to follow the pursuits for which they commenced to smoke opium. Opium smoking makes a man contemptible in the eyes of his fellow brethren, his face becomes blackish, his very appearance indicates that he is a "opium smoker." Several persons addicted to this habit commit petty thefts, when they fall in want of money for purchasing opium. Well-to-do persons, however, are not driven to this extreme, because opium smokers like sweatmeats and nourishing diet, and these to some extent avoid the bad consequences of opium smoking which usually fall to the lot of the poor. Still those who are very much addicted to this habit become physically and morally weak and incapable of attaining their object with which they commenced smoking opium. Their name is also stained. The public opinion is that madak should be stopped altogether, because of its bad effects, which I have already described, but that opium eating should not be prohibited. In my opinion

smuggling of opium is quite possible, but the measures nowadays taken for minimising the growth and sale of opium should be kept as hitherto done. Vend and use of madak should be entirely prohibited in order to save the people from its bad consequences, which I have already mentioned in my reply. It is worth while to note here that it will be almost impossible to stop the manufacture of madak altogether when the production and sale of opium are not prohibited, for madak will then be manufactured secretly at home. But when the Government will try to put a stop to it, people will get but few opportunities to do so when its sale will be prohibited. The police should be required to keep a strict watch on the opium smokers. Proper punishment should be awarded, and the informers rewarded when a case of opium smoking be clearly proved by evidence. In this way, it is hoped, use of madak, specially by those who have not yet commenced it, will gradually disappear altogether. I am not well acquainted with the present system in these provinces regulating the sale and manufacture of opium. In my opinion sale and manufacture of opium should not be prohibited. I do not therefore think it advisable for me to touch on the question of modifying the existence, or of introducing new rules on the subject. For the sake of a very small proportion of the population who use opium, I do not think it justifiable to compel the people in general, the greater portion of whom do not use opium at all, to bear any extra taxation which will be necessary to compensate the loss resulting from its prohibition. I do not think that people will be willing to bear such taxation. In my opinion madak should at first be totally prohibited and then for a year or two the excise income from sale and manufacture of opium should be compared with that of previous year's. If there be any significant loss by the prohibition of madak, the duties on the manufacture and sale of opium should be proportionately raised so as to compensate the loss. In this way, i.e., by selling opium dearer, only those persons who use it will have to bear the additional charge, while those who do not use it will have no ground to complain of.

27,598. Do you know if there are many people who smoke opium in the Raipur district?—The number is less than those who eat dry opium.

27,599. Can you tell us among what classes the practice of madak smoking is most common?—All classes.

27,600. (Mr. Pease.) What per-centage of the adult males in your district take opium in any form?—After the age of 50 most people take opium, because they think that opium benefits them.

27,601. What do you mean when you speak of the very small proportion of the population who use opium?—Yes, a small proportion of the population take opium.

27,602. But you have just told us that nearly everybody takes it after 50 years of age?—Not all; only a small proportion. Some do not take it.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. Kalidas Chandri.

19 Feb. 1894.

Rai Bahadur Raghoba Mahadik.

Lala Nand
Kishore.

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LALA NAND KISHORE called in and examined.

27,603. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) Will you kindly tell us what your position is in Saugor?—I am a banker, zemindar, merchant, honorary secretary of the municipal committee, and honorary magistrate.

27,604. Is the honorary secretary to the municipal committee of Saugor elected or nominated by Government?—Elective.

27,605. Have you had many opportunities of acquainting yourself with the people of the Saugor district who use opium?—Yes.

27,606. What opinion have you been able to form regarding the effects of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people?—Moderate eating of opium is morally and physically beneficial. Smoking and excessive eating of opium are most undesirable, both morally and physically. Opium can be eaten without anybody's knowledge and without forming a society, while smokers of opium have to devote much of their time in using the drug, which does not prove of sufficient relish without society, and such society necessarily cannot be of good classes of people.

27,607. What is the general opinion, so far as you are aware, as regards opium smoking?—Smoking is generally looked down among people of the middle and richer classes. The opinion of the public is very much against the smoking of the drug only, the excessive use of which has ruined the constitution of all consumers, who generally belong to the poor class of people and who cannot afford to get sufficient and rich nourishment as is required.

27,608. Is madak smoking at all common in the Saugor district?—Yes.

27,609. Fairly common?—Yes.

27,610. Would the prohibition of the use of opium except for medical purposes be practicable?—I consider entire prohibition of sale, except for medical purposes, impracticable. Consumption of opium for purposes of eating should not be checked. Smoking should be put a stop to totally. The prohibition of smoking will not in my opinion affect the present revenue, as smokers will as an alternative take to eating.

27,611. Do you consider that the policy of prohibition would be regarded with discontent by the people of Saugor?—Only smoking; not eating.

27,612. Do you think the prohibition of eating would be regarded with discontent?—Yes.

27,613. Have you personally come across many cases of opium eating or smoking in excess?—Yes.

27,614. Many cases?—Yes.

27,615. Among what class of people would these excessive cases be?—The smoking would be among the lower classes.

27,616. As regards eating, have you come across many cases of excessive eating?—Both among the poorer classes and the richer classes.

27,617. Have you personally known many such cases?—I know a few.

27,618. A few such cases?—Yes.

27,619. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) You say that the moderate eating of opium is morally and physically beneficial; may I ask you in which way the moderate eating of opium is morally beneficial?—I mean by moral that the opium eaters do not do any harm; they are not injurious to anybody.

27,620. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Have you got many shops in the Saugor district where you can buy madak?—There is only one shop where madak can be sold.

27,621. Is that a shop where you can buy both opium and madak?—Yes.

27,622. Where do people smoke madak in Saugor?—In Saugor the general order is that they must smoke in the big shop. There is only one suddar shop, and the people are only allowed to smoke there.

27,623. Do they smoke in the suddar shop?—The order is to that effect; and those who smoke in their private houses are arrested, because in private houses it is strictly prohibited to prepare and smoke madak. They can buy ready made madak.

27,624. Do you mean that they smoke at the suddar shop where they buy it?—Yes, most of them smoke there.

27,625. (*Mr. Pease.*) If smoking was prohibited you say that the smokers would take to eating; do not you think it would be a good thing for them to take to eating?—Better than smoking.

27,626. You spoke as though you think it would be rather a good thing for the revenue that they should take to eating; would you not prefer that they should give up opium altogether?—It seems to me the people could not do that.

27,627. They could not do it?—No.

27,628. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) With regard to the statement you made about smoking on the licensed premises, are you aware that smoking madak is not allowed in licensed shops. The sale of madak is allowed, but the smoking of madak is not allowed in licensed shops?—I am aware of that; but they cannot smoke anywhere except in the suddar shop where it is sold.

27,629. But smoking is prohibited. The order of the Government is that madak may be sold, but smoking on the premises is prohibited; are you aware of that?—Yes, I am aware. It is only sold in one shop.

27,630. Yes, sold; but not smoked?—Yes, but few smoke there.

27,631. Have you seen that yourself?—Yes.

27,632. Lately?—Yes.

27,633. In the licensed shop?—Yes.

27,634. Actually in the licensed shop you have seen some few people smoking?—Yes.

27,635. And that is what you are referring to?—Yes.

27,636. You are an honorary magistrate, did you take any action to bring this breach of the law to the notice of the authorities?—A few people were arrested lately.

27,637. Owing to your action?—No, not on my action, but the action of the police.

27,638. Are you quite sure you are telling us what you really saw, people smoking in a licensed shop just lately?—Yes.

27,639. And the people were arrested by the police, and you saw it?—Yes.

27,640. You are speaking of what you saw when these people were arrested?—Yes.

27,641. (*Sir James Lyall.*) Do you know what the madak is made of in the Central Provinces?—Babul leaves, and some people make it of betel leaves and opium.

27,642. Liquid opium, I suppose, mixed up with the leaves and fried?—The leaves are fried first, and the opium is melted, and they are then mixed together.

27,643. When the custom of smoking hookas prevailed a good number of people used to smoke opium with tobacco in hookas, did not they?—No.

27,644. Never?—No.

The witness withdrew.

Dr. C. S. DURAND called in and examined.

Dr.
C. S. Durand.

27,645. (*Chairman.*) Will you kindly make any statement you wish to make to us?—I am a medical missionary, a graduate in medicine, having practised two years in America before coming to India. I have been in India four years and three months, most of the time at Harda in the Central Provinces. I began medical work among the natives immediately upon my arrival in the country. I am well known in Harda, having attended a medical dispensary all the time I have lived here and visited the sick in

their homes in every part of the town, making many visits almost daily. The people not only know me but have sufficient confidence in me to speak without fear or reserve in reference to the use of opium, as they might not do to a stranger. I know personally at least 15 confirmed opium users in Harda and adjacent villages. I speak with them frequently and freely in reference to the habit. Everyone I have spoken to on the subject gives testimony to the effect that the use of the drug is injurious but the habit

cannot be stopped. I visited an opium smoking resort at 8 p.m., January 22nd. I found 12 men who said they were smoking madak. I asked them if opium and the common preparations of it were beneficial or harmful. They all replied promptly that they were very harmful. "Why do you use them if they are so harmful?" I asked. "We cannot give up the habit" they answered. "But why did you begin to use the drug in the beginning?" "Because of the force of example. It was offered to us by others and we began to use it out of curiosity, but now the habit has such a hold upon us that we cannot give it up." "Does the use of opium make you stronger so that you can do more work?" "No it makes us weaker. We cannot do as much work as those who do not use it." "Would it be a good thing or a bad thing for the Government to close all the shops and stop the sale of opium?" All promptly and unanimously said "It would be a very good thing." "What would be the benefit?" "Our children would not be ruined. Several boys 10 or 12 years of age in Harda are confirmed opium users!" "How would it affect those who are confirmed in the habit to have the supply stopped?" "They would be troubled more or less with diarrhoea and prostration for a time, but the most of them would recover from that." It is a common practice in this place for parents and nurses to give infants opium to make them sleep. I knew one case of a child being given opium until, at the age of about two-and-a-half years, there was apparently scarcely a tissue left in its body but skin and bones, and it died of marasmus caused in all probability solely by the opium. I recall two more similar cases. The appearance of each child was the same as that of the first. I lost sight of these two cases but I am positive that they could not have lived long after I saw them. The symptoms of chronic opium poisoning are very peculiar and unmistakable. The skin hangs loose on the body, as if the flesh was taken out; and the face looks old and wrinkled and dried up. It is not to be mistaken by one who has had an opportunity of observing it. I was called on January 22nd to see an infant six weeks old, which was suffering from constipation and retention of urine brought on by an overdose of opium. This infant has had opium almost daily since its birth. It is very small, appears not to have grown at all since its birth, and its skin is loose and wrinkled like that of an extremely old person. It has since died. I have seen another case since, which is in a fair way to die also. The child is six months old and has had opium daily. I told the parents it would not live another six months. It is of the same community as the other case I mentioned. I have had some experience with opium users as labourers. A year ago I employed a man to carry two small loads a short distance. After carrying one load he said he could do no more without opium although the whole job would not have occupied more than an hour. As I refused to pay him before the work was finished and he had no money he borrowed two pice and invested it in opium. I saw no more of him that day, but the following day he brought the man from whom he had borrowed the two pice and asked me to pay the pice to him. On January 27th I sent a small load from the bazaar to my house by an opium smoker. My servants know the man well. They say he was once a well-to-do man, son of a jeweller, but since forming the habit of using opium he has spent all his money for it—has sold all his property and all his clothes except a few dirty rags. He now hangs around the bazaar earning a pice or two now and then, which he immediately spends for opium, while for his food he either goes to his parents or begs it. I see the man every time I go to the bazaar.

27,646. (*Maharajah of Darbhanga.*) You refer here more to opium smoking than eating, I suppose?—I am not certain in all cases which they do, whether they eat or smoke it. In the case of the twelve I saw at the smoking dens, they were all smoking; but in the case of the two coolies I have mentioned, I am not certain whether they smoked or ate.

27,647. (*Sir William Roberts.*) Where were you a graduate of, Dr. Durand?—St. Louis, Missouri, U.S. America.

27,648. Did you receive a full medical training?—Yes.

27,649. Is the practice of giving opium to infants very common in the neighbourhood of Harda?—It is. The mother of the child I last spoke of told me, when I told her the child would not live unless she stopped giving it opium, "all our caste give opium."

27,650. We have heard before that 80 or 90 per cent. of the infants would have opium given to them?—Yes, I should think so.

27,651. There must have been something exceptional in these cases that fell under your notice?—Yes, it is only

those into whose houses I go that I see, unless my attention is called to them, I do not see them.

27,652. How do you account for the exceptional condition of these infants you mentioned?—In the case of the use of every drug, opium as well, it has a different and more pronounced effect on some persons than on others.

27,653. Then you think it was an individual idiosyncrasy?—I think you might express it in that way, and that idiosyncrasy might be expressed as a peculiar susceptibility to the opium poison. It is hard to tell what proportion of people have that to such an extent that they would be poisoned by the opium. Some have it and some have not.

27,654. Would you think that there was greater injury done by opium amongst these infants than the occasional opium poisoning that takes place in England and America?—It is more general.

27,655. What makes you think so?—Because more infants get it. It is given to a greater per-centage, 80 or 90 per cent. of the whole number are given opium, whereas in England or America a rather small per cent. get opium.

27,656. That is not quite a conclusive reason. I presume there is a greater tolerance of opium amongst the infants of India than amongst the infants of England or America?—That idea has never struck me.

27,657. If in India 80 or 90 per cent. of the children get opium and yet live to be young men or young women there must be something very exceptional in these cases of opium marasmus?—Yes.

27,658. Did you ascertain whether they had any disease?—It was mentioned they had not.

27,659. Did you make an examination?—Yes.

27,660. You could not detect anything?—I could not detect anything else.

27,661. Did you not find that when you detected a case and told the mother she was giving the child too much opium the child recovered?—Cases that have gone so far, that get the peculiar symptoms of chronic opium poisoning, I have never seen recover.

27,662. Is not that rather a sign that there was some other disease?—I do not think so, because the pure effects of opium on the healthy body are just those.

27,663. It does not produce any deleterious effect apparently: except in these singular exceptions, it does not hurt the infants at all?—It does not, apparently, hurt them so much. I think it does hurt them. I think it injures them physically, at least, if not mentally and morally to some extent; but not to so great an extent as the cases noticed.

27,664. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) Your experience is all Central Provinces experience?—Yes.

27,665. What sort of a place is Harda; is it a district or town?—A town.

27,666. What size town?—A town of between 13,000 and 14,000.

27,667. I see you say you know at least 15 confirmed opium users in Harda and adjacent villages; I suppose you mean 15 people who consume it in excess?—Yes, in excess; people who are fit for nothing, who barely work long enough to get a pice or two for opium, and then go and take a smoke; and who then go and get another pice to buy opium to smoke again.

27,668. Thirteen or fourteen out of 15,000 is not a very large number?—These are very excessive users.

27,669. Smokers or eaters?—I am not certain.

27,670. Was the smoking resort you went to in Harda?—Yes.

27,671. Have you given any attention to the law about these smoking places?—Somewhat.

27,672. Was it a licensed shop where you found these people smoking?—It was not in a shop. It was under a tree on the other side of a narrow street.

27,673. On one side of the street there was a shop; had the shop a license board up?—I do not recollect a board; I am sure it is a licensed shop.

27,674. Licensed for the sale, I suppose, both of madak and opium?—They have both there at least.

27,675. And you found these people smoking on the other side?—Under a tree.

27,676. Not in a house at all?—No. There is one little shed made of bamboo matting in which they smoke; and there is a tree under which they congregate and smoke.

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27,677. Then you would not suggest there was anything illegal in that?—I do not see how you could make an illegal point of it.

27,678. (Mr. Haridas Vekaridas.) Have you a dispensary as well as a hospital?—I have no hospital. I am building one now. I have a dispensary.

27,679. You have no place to keep patients in?—Not yet.

27,680. Do you think that those people who told you opium smoking was a bad thing, and if they were able to give it up it would be a good thing, were serious?—I have no reason to doubt what they said. I did not extort anything from them at all. They were very glad to speak about it. They said, "We will come to the dispensary to get some medicine to leave off the habit."

27,681. Perhaps, knowing you did not like the habit, they said that to please you?—They would have denied even smoking it if they had any such idea in their minds.

27,682. Do you try to induce them to go to your place and remain under treatment to get rid of the habit?—I told them all, as I told a man yesterday, that if they would stop opium, and any disease, diarrhoea, or anything occurred, then they could come to me, and I would give them what assistance I could.

27,683. Did they avail themselves of your offer?—Four of them offered to come without my saying anything about it; but they did not come.

27,684. And so far they were not serious?—They did not carry out their intentions.

27,685. (Mr. Fanshawe.) To what missionary society do you belong?—The Foreign Christian Missionary Society.

27,686. Is that an American society?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. J. P.
Marzban.

Mr. J. P. MARZBAN called in and examined.

27,695. (Chairman.) You are editor of the *Jame-Jamshed*, and proprietor of the *Advocate of India*?—I am.

27,696. Will you give us your opinion as regards the consumption of opium in the different districts with which you are acquainted?—The population of Bombay may be practically divided into three classes, the aristocracy, the middle class, and the labouring class. To the best of my belief the first do not use opium at all. Of the middle classes a very small per-centage consume opium. The third class are the largest consumers. From inquiries I have been able to ascertain that of the licensed opium shops, the Musalmans are the largest buyers, the Hindus come next, and the rest of the population, consisting of various castes and nationalities, form a very small per-centage of the opium-consuming class. I have seen opium eaters dozing in a helpless state for about an hour after they have swallowed their accustomed quantity; but I have also seen Kathiawari Kharvas or Lascars, and other labouring classes all the better for their dose. The former, as a rule, eat opium. The Nowganis, or the bandar coolies, who are remarkable for their strength, generally use opium, but I cannot say I have seen them any the worse for it. Of course I cannot say that opium is a blessing. Far from it. If its consumption could be stopped without involving very serious consequences, I should be the first to advocate such a step. But to my mind such a preventive step should be taken first, if at all, in case of spirit drinking, as I know that excessive use of strong drinks has ruined more men and families in a twelvemonth than opium could possibly be expected to do within half a century. I have never in my experience come across a case in which a family was rendered destitute owing to the master of the house or the principal wage-earning man having been an opium eater. But I am in a position to say that I have come across a number of families who have been utterly ruined by the drinking propensity of the master of the house. I have voluntarily undertaken the work of visiting the poor districts with a view to relieve distress amongst the Parsis. Within the last three years I have visited nearly 700 houses. Amongst these I met with but one instance of a woman using opium. Her statement was that because she took opium she was capable of bearing hunger and fatigue, but I have seen dozens of cases in which the wife and the children were reduced to abject poverty, bordering on starvation, through the vice of drink. As a Parsi I can safely say that the vice of opium eating is almost unknown amongst them. During a recent visit

27,687. With reference to this visit to what you call an opium smoking resort on January 22nd, was that the only occasion on which you discussed the matter with opium smokers?—No. I have discussed it with them before and since; but not at their place.

27,688. Not while they were actually smoking?—Not at the place of their smoking while they were actually smoking.

27,689. During your four years' experience, has it come within your knowledge that opium is used in Harda as what may be called a household remedy by the people?—Yes, it is used a great deal, and especially given to children. I saw a case before I had been there a week.

27,690. I am referring more to its use for rheumatic pains, colds, and so on?—I do not think it is used much. It may be.

27,691-92. Has it come within your experience that opium is taken as a restorative rather commonly among older men after the age of 35 or 40?—The 12 men I saw were all men under that age, and most of them had been smoking for a number of years. Their ages would not average over 30, and they had been smoking on an average of about 10 years.

27,693. Has it come within your experience that the habit of eating is common among older men as a restorative?—I cannot say as to that, because most of the opium users I know, with the exception of about four, are men in middle life, and they have been using it for a long time already.

27,694. With regard to the instances of the two labourers, I understand that they were men who came in to do odd jobs, and happened to be men who had been excessive opium consumers?—They live in the town, and simply hang round to do odd jobs that they can do in a few minutes to earn a pice or two.

I paid to an opium den I ascertained by careful inquiry that of the 800 chandul smokers there was only one who was a Parsi, and he was an irregular visitor. During this visit I examined about a dozen people as to the effects of opium on their health, and in every case their answer was that opium was essential to their health and comfort, and if by any mischance the sale of opium was stopped, they would have to resort to large quantities of spirituous liquors to supply the want. In almost every case I found the smoker cheerful, contented, and apparently healthy. In up-country towns I always made a point to frequent licensed liquor shops, and I was shocked to find that the inferior class of artisans, such as shoemakers, tailors, carpenters, builders, and labourers, spent at an average three annas per head per diem in liquor, at the close of the day. Their average wage I found to be about eight annas. In most cases after the liquor was consumed they tottered to their homes in a semi-drunken state and slept off the effects of drink without any food. On the other hand, my frequent visits to the opium shops showed me that the opium eaters spent about, at an average, one anna per head, and were plump and unmistakably well-fed. Amongst the Musalmans spirit drinking is a prohibition, and those addicted to vice declared that if they were to be forced to give up opium they would be driven to drink. I think that the sale of opium under strict police regulations is conducive to peace in the town. I have been assured by experienced police officers that in case of serious crimes they have to look for the suspected criminals in the liquor shops rather than in the recognised opium dens. Numerous cases have been brought before the law courts where high misdemeanors have been traced to drunkards, but there have been very few cases indeed where murders or fatal assaults have been traced as direct results of opium eating. In Kathiawar, I found that men of influence and position, as a rule, take opium, and the prevalent belief there is that the use of the drug is a sure preventive of malarious fevers and other diseases.

27,697. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?—I think I have already stated my views that the opium smoker is generally a peace-loving subject. He does not care for violence or fuss—all he wants is that he should be allowed to pass his time undisturbed. In case of a drunkard the case is otherwise. He generally creates a disturbance and is a nuisance to the neighbourhood. A person who takes small quantities of opium does not show

any physical falling off as in the case of a drunkard, who is invariably emaciated.

27,698. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes?—Opium is considered as a luxury by some and a necessity by others. Absolute prevention of sale of the drug will be considered a great hardship as it does harm to nobody except perhaps the smoker himself. The per-centage of opium smokers in Bombay is so very small that it is hardly worth while to keep up expensive departments to check the sale. The compulsory prevention of opium eating and smoking must necessarily lead to drinking and the inevitable result will be disorganisation and strife. The general opinion of the natives appear to be that this movement of the anti-opiumists is purely sentimental. That instead of coming to this country to disturb a peaceful state of things which does nobody harm, they ought, first, to strive and do away with the drinking hells of England which ruin a number of people. That if any reformation were needed it should begin nearer home where the vice of drinking does greater mischief than opium in India.

27,699. Do you think the people would be willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?—The people of India will never consent to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures. They are groaning under the heavy load of taxation, and any addition to the existing burden in shape of taxation to make up the deficiency created by loss of opium revenue will be the signal for general discontent. I have serious doubts as to the efficacy of measures proposed by the anti-opiumists. To think that if India would cease to supply China with opium the Chinese would stop smoking the drug is absurd and farfetched. The vice, if so we call it, is so ingrained in their system that they will find the drug from other markets over which the British would have no control, and the net result would be that India would lose a good slice of her revenue which is crippled as it is. To reduce the statement to a narrow circle I might say that a very little imaginary good can be effected at a tremendously ruinous cost and at great risk of public peace and safety of the administration.

The witness withdrew.

Dr. F. B. SEERVAI called in and examined.

27,711. (Chairman.) I believe you have a statement to make with reference to what is known as the Bombay petition?—Yes. In connexion with the anti-opium petition to Parliament I will note here the way in which the signature was attempted to be obtained from me. While I was engaged with some patients, about two years or more ago, a man was announced as wishing to speak to me. I saw him, and he handed me one sheet of paper from a number of similar ones with a few names on each and asked me to sign it. On asking what it meant, he imploringly told me that it was for a very laudable object, a petition to the Parliament against the evils of opium habit in India. I asked him to show me the petition, which he said he would send me afterwards, but I refused to sign without seeing it, and the man never returned.

(Chairman.) The Commission will take note of this statement.

27,712. (Mr. Fanshawe.) Had you any reason to know that the person who brought the petition had been sent on behalf of the Anti-Opium Society?—He said so.

27,713. Was he a peon, or messenger?—That I cannot exactly say. The matter was at that time so very unimportant. I never thought it would require so much attention, and I hurriedly went back to my patient.

27,714. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Was that a Parsi?—I cannot exactly say, it is such a long time. These are the impressions left upon me.

27,715. You do not know whether it was a Mussalman, Parsi, or Hindu?—I only recollect he was trying to get my signature on a blank sheet of paper, with some names on it. That is the only thing I recollect. It happened so long ago, and I attached at the time so little importance to the matter that I never thought of it again.

27,716. Was he a respectable man—a gentleman?—That I cannot say.

27,717. Had you known he was a respectable man from his appearance, would you have called him in and given him a seat?—Not at all.

27,700. It may be concluded from what you have already stated that in your opinion the sale of opium in British India should not be prohibited?—That is my opinion.

27,701. (Mr. Pease.) You say, "If its consumption could be stopped without involving very serious consequences I should be the first to advocate such a step"; would you personally be in favour of prohibiting the use of opium if you were not afraid that such a step would be in advance of public opinion?—Quite so.

27,702. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) You say the habit of drinking spirits is very injurious, would you not thank people who came here to suppress it?—Yes, I would.

27,703. We have been told that if the use of opium were prohibited there would be an extended use of alcohol; is that your opinion?—Yes, that is my opinion.

27,704. (Sir James Lyall.) What do you mean by saying that you would be the first to advocate such a step as the stopping the consumption of opium?—I would be amongst those who were foremost in advocating such a step.

27,705. Do you mean that you are opposed to all kinds of stimulants and narcotics?—Used in any excessive degree.

27,706. To prohibit the use of opium would involve making it a sort of crime, punishable by law, would not it?—Yes, if you come to that.

27,707. Do you think that would be found satisfactory?—It would be carrying the matter too far.

27,708. Where was this opium den to which you paid a visit and where you found 800 chandul smokers?—Bhendi Bazaar, Bombay.

27,709. We have been told by some missionary gentlemen who visited these so-called opium dens that the habitués of these dens always cry out that they are slaves to the opium habit, that they are being ruined by the opium, and that they hope Government will do away with the shops; in your visits have you ever seen anything of that kind?—Never, I have heard quite the contrary.

27,710. How many men were there in the chandul shop when you went there?—I went to about six or seven. The number varied between 50 or 60—80 sometimes.

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27,718. (Mr. Pease.) Is that (showing document) the paper which was handed to you?—No.

27,719. Was there any printing on the paper handed to you?—No, a few names only.

27,720. (Sir William Roberts.) I believe you are a medical practitioner in Bombay?—Yes.

27,721. And a graduate of the Grant Medical College?—Yes.

27,722. What opportunities have you had of studying the habit of using opium in Bombay?—My observations as regards the consumption of opium extend to a period of 33 years of medical practice in the city of Bombay, among almost all classes and races of the population. Also my observations extend to parts of Gujarat, Kathiawar, and the Deccan. I have no statistics of the consumption of opium, but it is used apparently by larger numbers of the Gujaratis and Kathiawaris than of the Deccanis. In Bombay city it is more commonly used among Hindus and native Musalmans than among other communities, and I am convinced that a moderate habitual use of opium becomes a necessity to a large class of the opium eating population to mitigate the pain and suffering from chronic or incurable diseases, to lessen the effect of fatigue, of mental worry, and to a certain extent that of privation. It is largely used as a household drug in almost every case in which it may be expected to relieve pain; and to put restriction upon or to prohibit the use of this the most useful and pain relieving drug would be in my opinion both inhuman and impolitic.

27,723. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Have you had anything to do with an opium trading firm?—Yes.

27,724. How many years ago?—I used to purchase opium for merchants who shipped it to China, and I tested it in the Chinese way. I had some Chinamen under me to do the work, because it was very laborious and tedious. Before commencing the work they used to smoke chandu. Then they began work and assayed about two to three hundredweight of samples. They had to boil, to

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filter, and to concentrate the extracts, and put them into different capsules, and weigh them, and find out the percentage. All that was done during the night by two Chinamen. At the same time they had to manage about a dozen and a half of vials. The smoking did not seem to make them any worse, but more fit for laborious work.

27,725. While smoking opium so excessively were they efficient in the performance of their duty?—If they had not smoked I do not think they could have worked as efficiently as they did.

27,726. Were they smoking often?—No, they only smoked once before beginning their work. They did not

The witness withdrew.

Mr. Abdulla
M. Dharamsi.

Mr. ABDULLA M. DHARAMSI called in and examined.

27,729. (*Sir James Lyall.*) You are a solicitor, are you not, in Bombay?—Yes.

27,730. What is your experience as to the consumption of opium?—The use of opium is not confined to any particular race of people but is found more or less in almost all classes and communities of the native population in the districts with which I am acquainted. Generally speaking its use is moderate and its abuse an exception. It is chiefly used by persons who have to undergo great physical exertion and by persons over 45 years of age, and is taken as a dietetic stimulant. The districts with which I am acquainted are Bombay and parts of Gujarat, Kathiawar, and Cutch.

27,731. What do you think are the effects of consumption?—Having known several persons who consume opium, I am of opinion that its moderate consumption does not produce any evil effects on the moral and physical condition of the people. I have known opium eaters varying in age from 45 to 80 years, and in the great majority of cases found them to be healthy both in body and in mind. No case has come under my notice in which the moral condition of the opium eaters has suffered from the moderate use of the drug.

27,732. What do you think the people of India think generally in regard to the prohibition of the use of opium for non-medical purposes?—In my opinion the people of India are well disposed towards the moderate use of opium for non-medical purposes, and I think there are various reasons for such disposition. Some of them are as follows:—Opium does not intoxicate, and the quantity taken does not generally increase with the habit. It does not lead to violence or crime. It does not undermine the constitution and bring on the sorrows and sufferings resulting from the excessive use of alcohol. To several classes of the community spirituous drinks being forbidden by religion, opium is the only stimulant to which they can resort.

27,733. What is their disposition towards bearing, in whole or in part, the cost of prohibitive measures?—I am of opinion that the people of India are not willing to bear any part of the cost of prohibitive measures. As matters now stand the country is already heavily taxed, and is not able to bear further taxation. The loss of revenue which would result from suppressing the cultivation of opium would be felt heavily by the country, and it would be very difficult to make it up.

27,734. I gather from your opinion that the sale of opium, except for medical purposes, should not be prohibited?—In my opinion it would not be advisable to prohibit the sale of opium for non-medical purposes. Such prohibition will cause great discontent and lead to the substitution of alcohol for opium, a result much to be deplored.

27,735. Do you think if prohibition was enforced in British India it could be extended to Native States?—I think it would be difficult to extend such prohibition to Native States.

27,736. You have been to China, have you not?—Yes, recently.

The witness withdrew.

Captain HAROLD SEWALLIS BLACKBURNE called in and examined.

Capt. H. S.
Blackburne.

27,753. (*Chairman.*) Will you make your statement to us, please?—I am commander of the P. & O. s.s. "Gwalior." I began sea life a little more than 24 years ago, and have been trading generally to the East between England, India, and China during that time. About a

smoke during the night; and at six o'clock next morning they were again on duty, and weighed the extract and found out the per-centage by their own method.

27,727. Was it correct according to your test?—Correct within one or two per cent. I did not try all the samples, but took some at random, and verified them, and they were within one or two per cent. That does not make any difference in assaying for smokable opium extract.

27,728. (*Mr. Pease.*) Do you think they could have done their work if they had not smoked?—I never tried that; but they did their work well within their smoking.

27,737. Where did you stop in China?—For the most part I stopped in Hong Kong. I was for a short time at Canton and Makow.

27,738. Can you tell us anything you observed in reference to the opium smoking habit at those places?—I observed that people generally smoked opium, and I made some inquiries of people with whom I came in contact, chiefly merchants dealing in silks. I asked them if the export of opium from India was stopped whether the Chinese would give up the habit of smoking, and they said that they would never give up the habit, and if they did not get opium from India they would get it from other places. I saw opium being smoked in two or three Chinese houses. There was a gathering or party there, and I saw people from about 40 to 70 years of age who smoked opium. I asked them and they said they had had the habit for a long time. Some of them indulged in it once or twice a week, and some daily. I found them healthy and robust people. They were well-to-do people, merchants, respectable members of society dealing with foreign merchants.

27,739. Are there many merchants or other people of the Mahomedan faith in Hong Kong?—Yes, there are Mahomedan merchants at Hong Kong.

27,740. Did you see many?—There are not many.

27,741. You saw some?—I saw some.

27,742. Do you know whether the habit of smoking opium prevails at all among them, or whether they avoid it altogether?—No, not amongst them. When I said I saw people smoking opium I meant the Chinese.

27,743. Does it prevail amongst the Mahomedans?—So far as I know it does not prevail amongst them.

27,744. I believe you are of the Khoja caste, are you not?—Yes.

27,745. Is the habit of giving what they call bala golis to children common among your community?—Yes, it is.

27,746. Is it generally supposed to be beneficial?—That is the belief. It is given to the children as a tonic, and also to keep them quiet.

27,747. The Khojas are a wealthy community, are they not, in Bombay?—Yes, fairly wealthy.

27,748. What sort of professions do they follow?—Generally merchants.

27,749. And some like yourself have taken to other professions?—Very few have taken to professions yet.

27,750. (*Mr. Pease.*) Did you see anything of the effect of opium smoking in China among the poorer classes?—No, not amongst the poorer classes.

27,751. Do you yourself believe in the practice of giving children bala golis?—It is commonly given amongst the middle class people that I know. In our community it is largely used.

27,752. I thought by the way you answered the question you had not much faith in it yourself?—I have not tried it on my children so I do not know.

year ago I visited some of the opium dens and shops in Bombay, in company with a missionary friend, and the majority of those whom we spoke to seemed to realise what a terrible curse the opium was to them, and several of them asked us why the Government did not close these

places up; and on being asked if they wished it, said Yes. To the best of my recollection they were under the impression that the Queen had issued an order for these places to be shut up. I feel very strongly about the opium question, and as a lover of my country I feel sad about it, as in my opinion our treatment of China in regard to it is the most disgraceful blot in our history; and believing as I do that God deals with nations as with individuals I see looming in the future some terrible retribution to our country. I am not sure that it has not already begun, as I have often heard of terrible cases in our own country of gentlemen and ladies of good birth even, and sometimes doctors themselves, who have got so under the power of morphia taking that they have lost all power of will. Although I have not lived much on shore during my years of sea service, I have come a good deal in contact with the natives of India and China, as members of my crew, and also as passengers while at sea, and as labourers when in port. Until I read about the state of things in India, and began to investigate for myself, I had no idea that the natives of India were in any way addicted to opium smoking. Up to a year ago, as far as my own personal observation is concerned, I do not recollect ever seeing a native of India smoking opium on board ship. In China, however, I fear that the habit of opium smoking has a far greater hold on the people, and many of my friends in China have told me that it is greatly on the increase. Many a time have I seen some terrible specimens of humanity among our passengers, men who hardly ever move from one lying position on the deck, and seem to smoke nearly all day long, looking not unlike the photograph specimens displayed in some of the anti-opium papers. In China I think that opium smoking is universally looked on as a vice, and Europeans certainly do not, as a rule, care to have a servant who is an opium smoker. Chinamen, as a rule, do not like to own to being opium smokers, but out of a number of deck passengers I have always found a good percentage of opium smokers who cannot restrain themselves, and are yet unable to smoke in secret. Knowing as I do intimately some of the oldest missionaries in China, men and women who have lived among the Chinese in their homes, I have not been taken in by the evidence of the numerous witnesses who have been telling us lately of the general beneficial effects of opium on the people of India. It seems strange that the same drug should affect the people of China so differently. Many a rich Chinaman has been brought by opium to a miserable beggar and thief as I have been informed by those who have known them personally in both stages of existence; and suicide by opium, especially among women, is of common occurrence. We have done China a gross and irreparable wrong by forcing the opium trade upon her, and I should like to see all opium prohibited except for medical purposes. It is not in my province to suggest how we are to make up for the loss of revenue, but of this I am fully convinced that God's blessing will not rest upon us if we continue this wrong for the sake of any gain. Since writing out this evidence I have felt so exercised about my own responsibility in the matter that I have felt led to resign the P. & O. service, as the P. & O. are and have been for many years the principal carrier of the drug to China from Bombay.

27,754. (*Sir James Lyall*.) You say you have often seen terrible specimens of humanity among your passengers, men who hardly ever moved from one lying position on the deck, and seemed to smoke nearly all day long, looking not unlike the photograph specimens displayed in some of the anti-opium papers. The evidence we have got from China points to the fact that there is a belief in China that people suffering from consumption and diseases of the lungs get advantage from opium smoking; did you ever inquire from those people whether they suffered from diseases of that kind?—No, I did not.

27,755. You presumed then that what you saw—the emaciated appearance—was entirely due to opium?—Yes, because they were smoking continually.

27,756. Is it not possible that if you had gone into the case like some doctors would have done you would have found that these emaciated people were also suffering from illness, and that, in fact, they were smoking because of the state of their constitution?—It is possible, but I do not think it is very probable.

27,757. You say we have done China a gross and irreparable wrong by forcing the opium upon her; it is not the fact that the opium imported into China has always been taken off the ship by the Chinese themselves—that is, our ships have taken it to the Chinese coasts, but it is the Chinese themselves who have always smuggled the opium on shore?—That may be; but it is against the wish of the

Government. At one time, as you know, thousands of chests were destroyed.

27,758. When you say “we have done China,” you mean the Chinese Government?—I mean the Chinese nation, because the Government of the country made every effort to keep it out of their country 50 or 60 years ago, and there was hardly any opium in the country. They do not want any more opium wars.

27,759. I mean to say, the Chinese people are equally responsible with our sea captains and merchants who export the opium to the Chinese coast, are they not?—I do not think so, because they are the weaker nation.

27,760. You are talking of the Government; I am talking of the Chinese nation as distinct from the Government?—Our responsibility is greater, because we are a Christian nation, and these are heathens; that is where I feel our responsibility.

27,761. Do you think we ought to have made a law prohibiting our ships from carrying anything that the Chinese made contraband to the coast of China?—I think we should have helped the Chinese Government to keep it out of the country when it was against their wish.

27,762. Do we do that with regard to the trade of any other country?—I do not know what we would have thought of the nation putting such a scourge upon us, especially if they were professing to be above us altogether in moral qualities.

27,763. You mean that our ships of war ought to have overhauled these opium clippers and taken the opium out of them?—I daresay you know more about the history of the matter than I do. I do not profess to have gone very thoroughly into the matter. I rely more upon the authority of learned men, and men that have lived in the country.

27,764. Do not you think that without having studied very carefully the history of things that happened nearly 50 years ago it is rather rash to say “we have done China a gross and irreparable wrong”?—I do not think it rather rash; other people may think so.

27,765. I mean without studying the history carefully? I do not think it is rash, because I have it on the authority of those who have given their lives for higher purposes, and I know they are truthful.

27,766. You cannot tell whether they are writing from full information or not, or whether they are writing from the emotional point of view, can you?—I know they would be truthful.

27,767. You mean the missionaries?—Yes, missionaries and others. Principally missionaries, my friends in China.

27,768. (*Mr. Fanshawe*.) You are aware that the form in which opium is consumed in India is chiefly eating and drinking, whereas it is generally smoked in China?—I am not very much acquainted with how it is done in India. I went into some of the opium dens about a year ago, and saw some people smoking and some eating.

27,769. Then your actual experience of opium consumption in India is simply such as you have seen in the dens?—I have had very little experience in India.

27,770. But you ventured to compare the two, and you have also stated that you have not been taken in by the evidence which has been given before this Commission, which seems to suggest that you are of opinion that the evidence cannot be accepted as true?—I do think it is not all true.

27,771. At the same time you say your experience of the opium habit in India is very limited indeed?—Until a year ago. I have seen more of it since. I do not think that the natives of India smoke or use opium to anything like the same extent they do in China. I have had ample opportunities of studying the Chinese. There are perhaps 300 or 400 on deck, and we go the rounds amongst them, and they cannot get out of sight. I take it, as a rule, when a man gets in that state he is in some back shop where the public do not see him. You do not find those sort of men working in the streets or shops. They are out of sight.

27,772. Do you think you were justified in suggesting that the evidence given from all parts of India was not true, when your own experience of the practice of the opium habit was so infinitesimal?—I do not say they are not true; but they are so conflicting, and so very different to the effects I have seen and heard of opium on the Chinese, that I cannot help doubting the statements of a good many of the people,

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27,773. (Mr. Pease.) What has been your position with the P. & O. Company?—From fourth officer to commander.

27,774. In conscientiously giving up your appointment with the P. & O. Company is it a personal loss to yourself?—I have nothing at all at present from a worldly point of view—nothing.

27,775. (Sir William Roberts.) You say you fear that some terrible retribution is coming to our country in consequence of its doings with regard to opium in China, and you go on to state that you are not sure that the retribution has not already come on account of the terrible cases in our own country of gentlemen and ladies of good birth seeming to have got into the habit of taking morphia; have you any evidence that the morphia habit is more common in England than elsewhere?—No; but it is very much on the increase I am told by doctors. I believe that opium taking will be very much on the increase soon after all that has been said about the beneficial effects.

27,776. That is a prophecy, and they say you should not prophesy unless you know; it may comfort you to know, according to the statements that I have seen, that England is rather behind hand in the morphia habit, and that other nations in Europe are rather more afflicted with that habit than England?—Yes.

27,777. Is the Chinese nation degenerating?—I think so.

27,778. What reason have you to think so?—The evidence of most of my friends in China, who have lived among them for many years.

27,779. Is there any evidence that you know of showing that the Chinese as a nation are losing their vigour?—Yes,

The witness withdrew.

Mr. JOHN FRITCHLEY called in and examined.

Mr.
J. Fritchley.

27,785. (Chairman.) You were formerly jailor of the Midnapore, Patna, and Bancoora Jails, and also served in the Decca and Bengal Police, that is so, is it not?—Yes.

27,786. And you are now supported by your sons?—Yes.

27,787. I believe you have had 50 years' experience among the Chinese, Mahomedans, and Hindus, and certain low classes of India; and you have had experience in jails and in the police, and as ship chandler and merchant in China?—Yes.

27,788. With these experiences what have you to say to us about the opium question?—The opium habit is very prevalent among the lower classes in China and all over Indian. When in China I saw the Chinese in a most deplorable state from opium eating. I also saw the Chinese lying about, with cadaverous faces, smoking their opium pipes. Several of them died within two or three months of my having observed them. That was my experience among the Mandarins and poorer classes. I saw a great many of them die. I also visited the opium dens with the Rev. Mr. Morrison.

27,789. Was that in the year 1844?—Yes; I visited the dens with Mr. Morrison, the missionary. I believe he was the first missionary that went to Hong Kong. He took me to several of these dens, and showed me how the people smoked. They make a small ball, which they put in their pipe, and light it until the ball bursts. Then the man takes a good pull at the opium and draws in the smoke, and then lies down on his pillow. He does not get up for six or seven hours afterwards. Mr. Morrison personally showed me these things to convince me what the opium effects were like in China. While I came out to India I had a great dislike for opium; and when I was in the police I had experience of lots of people being killed through opium. Opium is used as a suicidal drug. A pill of opium with a little oil over it kills them in about two or three hours. Many children were brought to the police drugged with opium which had been given them by their parents to keep them quiet. They had been given an overdose and died. Some women were also brought in dead, their husbands having dosed them with opium in the opium dens.

27,790. You observed these incidents when you were in the police?—Yes.

27,791. What action did you take?—We took their names down, and sent them to the doctor, or to the magistrate. Those that had been purposely drugged were

morally I believe they are, and physically too. They are waking a great deal to western notions, and they have been going in for trade much more largely than they used to—doing their own trade in the way of steamers, railways, and so on. They are getting more ascendancy in that way if that is what you mean.

27,780. That is rather a sign of progress, is not it?—Well, I do not know whether it is so much progress.

27,781. Is it possible you can have national success without moral soundness?—For a time.

27,782. Have you not drawn a distinction between habits as they affect individuals and as they affect nations?—Individuals compose the nation, and there is a very large per-centage of Chinese who are utterly ruined by opium.

27,783. Is it not possible that a habit, like our own habit of taking alcohol, although injurious, as we know, to a large number of individuals, yet may be beneficial to a still larger number, and that upon the balance you may get a habit injurious to individuals, but beneficial to the community?—I recognise that both opium and liquor do a vast amount more harm than good. It is a very questionable thing whether either of them do any good. Opium is no doubt sometimes a very useful medicine, and it is quite possible liquors and wines may be, but that is a question doctors have not thrashed out yet.

27,784. You would not even entertain it as a speculation that any estimate of the good and evil of the opium habit or of the alcohol habit was valueless until you balanced the good and evil?—I do not think they can be balanced at all.

sent to the magistrate, and those who had committed suicide were reported, and the doctor made a post-mortem examination, when he found the opium and the oil mixed in their stomach had caused their death.

27,792. When did you retire from the police?—I was transferred from the police to the jail in 1864.

27,793. Have you any more recent experiences?—I was in the Patna jail too.

27,794. What did you see there?—The prisoners that came into jail. Patna, I believe, is the greatest place for opium growing and opium eating.

27,795. The prisoners in the Patna jail are not allowed to take opium, are they?—Not allowed to bring it into jails; but these people came in craving for opium, and I insisted that they should not get any until they were cured. I saw in the evidence of Dr. Mouat, who was Inspector-General of jails when I was jailor, that he said opium eaters or smokers were the healthiest people. When I saw this I wrote to the *Guardian* and told them to read my letter, and refer to the Inspector-General's Jail Circular prohibiting opium in every jail. If opium was such a nice thing as to make people robust and healthy and strong I do not see why such a restriction should be imposed.

27,796. It might have been prohibited because it was a luxury and an indulgence which ought to be denied to prisoners from punitive motives?—Then there was a man brought into prison sentenced for one month. This man had a craving for opium and would not eat his food.

27,797. When did this occur?—About 1865.

27,798. You are sure of your facts, I suppose—it was a long time ago?—Yes. This man was brought into jail for a month. He weighed about 32 Bengal seers. He escaped from the jail for want of opium. The magistrate sentenced him again for six months. When he came into prison he craved so for opium that the doctor said he would die if he did not get it. But I prevented him getting opium. I told him to go on eating his food and he would soon get over it. In five days he had no craving for opium. When he was released, seven months afterwards, I weighed him again, and he weighed 1 maund 39 seers. He looked as robust, healthy, and hearty as ever. This was particularly reported by Mr. Cunliffe, the magistrate, to the Inspector-General of jails, and the latter sent a circular round to all the jails prohibiting as much as possible any opium entering the jails. This man got over the opium smoking in five days, and became a very robust man; and this circular was sent round to all the prisons prohibiting the prisoners from using opium in any form whatever.

27,799. Was not there any order before prohibiting the use of opium in the jail?—Yes, there were orders in 1857 by the Inspector-General of jails.

27,800. Have you any other evidence to give?—No, nothing particular.

27,801. When did you leave the jail service?—In 1871.

27,802. How long were you a merchant in China?—Three years.

27,803. What kind of merchant were you?—Ship's chandler; bartering and selling tea and other goods.

27,804. Were you born in India?—I was born at sea, near the Isle of Wight. My father belonged to the 89th Regiment.

27,805. Did you go to China from England?—From Madras. I was in Bombay in 1839.

27,806. And you were brought up in India?—Yes.

27,807. And went from India to China?—Yes.

27,808. I think you said you went to China in 1844?—About the end of 1843.

27,809. When did you enter the police?—In 1859.

27,810. What did you do between ceasing to be a merchant in China and entering the police?—I was book-keeper to Wise and Glass, the great indigo planters of Dacca.

27,811. Where have you been living since you left the service in 1871?—I have been about taking contracts in

different places. I got into the Public Works Department at Jubbulpore. I have been taking contracts here and there on the railways.

27,812. Were you an overseer in the Public Works Department?—Overseer.

27,813. That was after you left the jail service?—Yes.

27,814. (*Mr. Pease.*) I suppose it was when you were in the Public Works Department that you were engaged in railway construction?—No. I was engaged in the Public Works Department getting the barracks built at Jubbulpore.

27,815. When were you engaged in railway construction?—Here in Bombay in 1882.

27,816. In what capacity?—Making bricks and tiles and culverts and bridges.

27,817. As a contractor?—No; petty piece-work.

27,818. Under a contractor?—Yes; and I used to get pay from the concern as a manager.

27,819. At that time you had the engaging of persons, both men and women, had not you?—Yes.

27,820. How many had you in your employ at any one time?—On the Portuguese railway I had 500 employed.

27,821. When you were engaging them you never engaged anyone that you knew ate or smoked opium?—No.

The witness withdrew.

The Rev. H. F. LAFLAMME called in and examined.

27,822. (*Chairman.*) You live, I believe, at Yellamallili, Vizagapatam?—Yes.

27,823. To what mission do you belong?—I represent the conference of the two Canadian Baptist Telugu Missions, with a membership of 43 missionaries, who occupy 14 mission stations, extending from the Kistna River on the south to the extreme northern limit of the Telugu country halfway through the Ganjam district on the north, and inland from the sea from 30 to 50 miles, but not including the hill tracts or agencies in either the Kistna, Godavari, Vizagapatam, or Ganjam districts. The native Christian community of these missions numbers about 3,055 adult church members, and perhaps twice as many children and dependents.

27,824. What classes of natives have you had experience amongst?—The members of the body here represented have had experience amongst all classes of the Telugu people, and amongst all castes. Converts from the highest castes have enabled them to learn particulars of their private practices, and the low and outcastes they have no trouble in studying at first hand. The work of the men in preaching takes them so constantly into the villages that they spend the greater part of their time amongst the people. Whereas the school and medical work and house-to-house visitations of the lady missionaries bring them into the family life of the high as well as the low castes. The oldest missionaries' experience dates back 20 years, others 16, a third 11, and the majority about five years. The missionaries superintend all of their own building work, thus dispensing with contractors, and come into daily and intimate contact with a host of masons, carpenters, coolies, and cartmen, and in this way observe not only the effect of opium on users as compared with non-users, but on users at later stages as compared with earlier stages in their history. They understand the language of the common people thoroughly, and in conversation with them from time to time learn the evil effects of opium from the users themselves. The single ladies in their medical work, caste girls' schools and house-to-house visitations come into the homes of the high caste as well as the low, and meeting the women of the household have exceptional opportunities of learning that particular phase of the opium habit which is hidden from ordinary observers. As no person addicted to the habitual use of opium is either admitted into church membership, or allowed to remain, if discovered, special inquiry is made regarding all such cases with a view to reform them if possible, and thus a knowledge of the habit is acquired. As the work of the missionary is to all classes, castes, and conditions of people, he visits not only the streets of the wealthy and the respectable, but moves amongst the shepherds, the pariahs, the fishermen, the toddy-drawers, and the fruit-sellers and scavengers, at all seasons of the year and all hours of the day. Generally being accom-

panied by his native preachers, he can immediately learn from them the particulars of any practice or the meaning of any phrase which is new and strange and might otherwise escape him. With one exception all of our missionaries are itinerating missionaries, and spend the greater part of their time in the streets and squares, and sometimes the houses of the people in city, town, and village.

27,825. How far is opium eating or drinking prevalent amongst these classes?—Opium drinking is not practised to our knowledge. As to opium eating there is a great difference of opinion. At the annual meeting of one section of our Christians, who, in and about Cocanada, number some 700, of the 40 delegates from the 12 different native congregations, some 17 were in a position to express an opinion with some confidence. Of these, 12 declared that 75 per cent. of the adult population use it. Other five declared that only half used it. A regimental doctor of wide experience declared to one of our missionaries on one occasion that one-third of the people used it in these districts. In Cocanada and the Godavari others were of the opinion that about 25 per cent. of the people used it. Some of the more educated and most intelligent declared that all men over 40 years of age use it. This is confirmed by a very large number of thoughtful and observant persons from different parts of the territory mentioned in my former reply. At the very lowest estimate which I should personally dare to make, I would say that 10 per cent. of the total population—men, women, and children—are habitual users of opium. This, I am positive, is not an over-estimate, and is based on my own personal knowledge. Should I follow the testimony of others who, by a lifelong experience amongst the people are in a position to speak much more positively, I should be inclined to place the percentage much higher, and possibly nearer the truth by saying that 25 per cent. of the entire population in these parts use it habitually. Medicinally it is used occasionally by almost all of the people. Of the habitual consumers the majority are men, possibly in the proportion of two men to one woman. I cannot speak of definite percentages amongst children, but the universal testimony from all parts of the sea-coast talukas of the Godavari, Vizagapatam, and Ganjam districts in the Telugu country is that from the age of 40 days up to two or three years opium is constantly administered by mothers to the children; many of them give small doses daily to the babies to quiet them, and relieve colic, &c. The dose is usually the size of a mustard seed. Generally amongst habitual users the dose is one-half anna's weight a day.

27,826. Is opium smoking prevalent?—Opium smoking is confined entirely to men. It is considered a great shame for a woman to be seen smoking opium, and of all the dens I have seen I have not yet seen a woman smoking. Though in Cocanada a woman is said to run an illicit

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smoking shebang. In these parts only the principal towns of 5,000 population and over, situated on the main roads, have opium smoking dens. Out of the total population I am quite sure that at least five in 1,000 resort to the opium dens. But there is a great deal of private smoking which cannot be easily detected. I am sure the smokers are much more numerous. In Cocanada there is one licensed smoking den. I was shown three or four other places where smoking is indulged in privately. Some of them were in private houses, so not accessible, and in others, though there was every indication of the practice being carried on there, we failed to catch the habitués in the act, nor could we induce any of them to make a confession. In town populations perhaps two in 100 smoke.

27,827. At what age is the habit generally acquired?—Between the ages of 25 and 40. The taste is doubtless acquired in many instances in early childhood, from the vicious practice of mothers indiscriminately treating all infantile complaints of a certain character with opium.

27,828. What motives induce people to form the habit?—There is no doubt but that the habit is generally acquired through using the drug as a medicine; and as such for coughs, diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera, fever with chills, and rheumatism. Amongst women, many resort to opium as a relief to pains caused by womb troubles. Occasionally children, who have been sickly, never relinquish the habit, and grow up from childhood confirmed opium eaters. Lecherous persons take opium, believing that by so doing they can indulge more freely and more frequently. It seems to act as a stimulant to the passions. Many learn it by associating with users, much as boys learn to smoke at home.

27,829. Is the habit easily relinquished?—In only very exceptional cases is the habit ever relinquished, and then with the greatest difficulty; leaving it off at once and for ever is the only effective cure. That such is possible, despite the protests to the contrary of the users, is abundantly evidenced by experience with prisoners addicted to the habit. The native hospital assistant at this place* relates the incident of a prisoner who begged for opium so pitiably, that the jail authorities called him, fearing serious results if the man's desire were denied. Instead of administering opium, the hospital assistant gave him a substitute saying there was much opium in it. The man seemed quite content, though really there was not a drop of opium used in the mixture administered. He confirmed this by many other incidents of like character. There was a notable case* in this place: that of a merchant who was an habitual excessive consumer, who fell into jail for some crime. For four months he was deprived of opium. When released, so marked was his physical improvement, that his friends were scarcely able to recognise him. He relapsed into the habit, and with that into leanness of body and soul. An old man who was blind used to find his way to the opium shop in his native village for the usual daily dose. His son moved to another place taking his father with him. He did not know the way to the opium shop in that village, and could get no one to show it him, as they were all opposed to his using so much money uselessly, so he lay all day long for days upon his cot, racked with fearful pain, and crying out that he would die for lack of opium; but he did not die. He got better and lived for years after, a stronger and a healthier man for not using it. One of the native preachers, a very useful man, fell into the opium habit. As he could not continue it and remain a member of the church he determined to leave it off. One of the missionaries took him in hand, and administered very strong coffee whenever the craving for opium recurred. He has never taken opium since, but dares not leave off the coffee. As no opium user is allowed to become a member of our communion, there are occasional cases of even old people leaving off the habit in order to join the church.

27,830. Is there a marked difference between moderate and excessive consumers; if so, what is the percentage of excessive consumers?—The effects are so decidedly different with different persons that the line between moderation and excess is exceedingly crooked. During an attack of dysentery, a native hospital assistant administered from one to three doses of laudanum to me daily, containing between 30 and 40 drops each, followed in an hour by a bolus of ipecacuanha powder. Doubtless, the nausea and vomiting neutralized the effect of the opium. The result was a comfortably dreamy condition. Whereas Mrs. Laflamme, when suffering from a similar attack, on taking only ten drops, came nearly dying of the effects. The action on natives is not nearly so powerful as on Europeans. The dose to which a user

quickly habituates himself, if it had been taken early in the acquisition of the habit, would have been fatal. In our mission work and in receiving candidates for baptism we consider all habitual consumers as excessive consumers. We take the ground that opium, taken in any other way than as a medicine to cure a certain sickness, is an unjustifiable excess. So that any man who uses it for sickness must give it up when the sickness is cured, or should opium fail to help him, must leave it off and try some other drug. Looked at from this point of view, the percentages mentioned above represent the excessive consumers, and the difference between them and those who use the drug legitimately for medicinal purposes only is marked indeed.

27,831. What proportion of their income do habitual consumers spend on opium?—The incomes of the different classes differ so much, and even the day wages of the coolie classes vary to such an extent in the different districts that definiteness in answering this question is quite impossible. Wealthy zamindars and landholders use it. The amount spent on opium by them would be meagre as compared with their income. Though men are able to discover how much is purchased by some of the zamindars for use in their households, the total might not be so small. Old Paikarow, of the Vizagapatam district, was a famous opium user, and latterly so constantly under its influence that a servant sat by him at meals to indicate the different dishes by placing the old man's hands on them as he directed. He has some present day successors scattered through the district who would vie with him in excesses. Our coolie classes, who represent a large part of the population of these districts, and who are most quickly and seriously affected by the opium draft upon their slender incomes, secure day wages at the following rates in the different sections:—

	Men.	Women.
Kistna and Godavari delta.	3 to 4 annas.	2 to 3 annas.
Vizagapatam	- 2 annas.	1 anna, 2 pies.
Ganjam	- 1 anna, 6 pies.	1 anna.

The price of opium varies. In the Bhimavaram taluk of the Kistna it sells for 3 tolas a rupee. In Sarvasiddhi taluk, Vizagapatam, it sells at 2½ tolas to a rupee, whereas in Cocanada, where day wages are quite frequently eight annas, especially amongst the longshoremen, who are notorious opium eaters, the increased demand for opium is so great that the license for the 20 and odd retail shops in that taluk sells for 12 or 15 thousand rupees. There one rupee will buy only 2½ tolas of opium. It is a well-known fact all the world over that where day wages increase the consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs increases, and where they diminish, the intoxicants are not so extensively used. Speaking generally, not definitely, and of the coolie classes and day labourers, such as masons, carpenters, fishermen, and such, from one-sixth to one-fourth of their income goes for opium. This is a very serious inroad on an income which, if all of it were used on nourishing food and necessary shelter and clothing, would not then save the people from the ragged and painful edge of poverty. The average income per head in Madras is only Rs. 25½. One rich man in the Godavari lost his property through the stupor and mental weakness induced by the opium habit, and when dying and unable to swallow had it rubbed on his lips, and died with the smell of it in his nostrils. One coolie in Turrie never came home till he had spent his entire day's wage of 3 annas on opium. He lived on his wife's and children's earnings and on charity. A sweeper in Yellamanchili spent all his monthly wage of 3 rupees on opium, and begged his clothes and food from door to door. A preacher named Jagayya spent one-half of his monthly wage of 6 rupees on opium, and compelled his wife and old father to support him out of their hard-earned daily wage.

27,832. Is there a general tendency to increase the dose?—The striking peculiarity of opium is that a large majority of those who use it, presumably as a medicine at first, become so enslaved to it that the most violent pains in the arms and legs, and sometimes the whole body, occur immediately on their being deprived of it. The will, which has in the meantime weakened under the influence of the drug, is unable to withstand the temptation to relieve the sufferings when the old remedy is so easily procurable. And though they know that they are being weakened in body, mind, and morals, they yield and continue the habit. The dose may not be increased till some serious sickness occurs which does not yield to the former dose. Then the dose is doubled, and as even this increased dose is found ineffectual in allaying the old pains, it is slowly enlarged. The amount which some can take in a day and live is astonishing. A fisherman in the South Godavari took

* i.e., Yellaman, Chilli.

$\frac{1}{2}$ a tola a day. He died of cholera. I have known cases in which the shopkeeper gave small pills to young men, purporting that they would cure sickness. When the habit had become so strong in their victims that they felt they could not live without it, then the shopkeeper stopped giving and made them buy. One such said he spent all the money he could get on opium, and begged his meals. He could live without food, or with very little; he felt that he could not do without opium. His bleared eyes, shrunk chest, wasted limbs, and shuffling hesitating movements indicated that he would not live long, even with opium. Although he had been using it only one year, he takes $\frac{1}{2}$ of a tola a day.

27,833. What are the results of the habit physically, mentally, and morally?—A noted religious mendicant says that “alcoholic drinks deprive a man of self-control. “Ganja (hemp) deprives him of his sense. But opium “takes his life-blood.” I have heard that opium and alcohol taken together make a man very ugly indeed. This testimony is confirmed at the mouths of thousands of witnesses. Men commonly give up tobacco and alcoholic drinks, but the reformations amongst opium eaters are so rare that it is said, “The man who takes opium habitually takes it to his death.” (a.) Physically.—The vicious practice followed by mothers of giving it to soothe restless babes has resulted in the death of many of the little ones. Opium in very minute doses will prove fatal to children, so sensitive are they to it. To tabulate the numbers is difficult. But on asking a mixed company of some 200 people in the Kistna, where the habit is not extensive, how many children they had known to die from over-doses, they mentioned seven cases. In my own experience I have known native nurses to administer opium to four different European children in their charge with almost fatal results. The parents in two of these cases, never suspecting the cause, were completely puzzled as to how the children should be treated. In two of the cases the symptoms of opium poisoning were so decided that instant measures were taken for their relief and the children barely escaped. An overseer in the Public Works Department, a man of a great deal of intelligence, in a public meeting convened to secure evidence on the opium question, rose and told how he hated opium because a dear little lad of his had come near being killed by an accidental dose of the poison, and of another child which had been killed by its own mother giving it opium to lull it to sleep. He said a great many deaths occur in this way amongst children, because the poison is so easily secured and the mothers are so ignorant as to its proper use. For these reasons he would strongly urge the necessity of placing opium in the hands of medical men to be sold by them only as a medicine. They would then ask the people why the opium was needed, and could properly advise them as to its uses, or suggest and prescribe a substitute. (b.) The mortality from opium amongst adults is sufficiently alarming to demand a more careful provision for the sale of the drug under medical supervision, so that those who use it medicinally may be properly advised as to the size and frequency of the dose. In Cocanada during a sudden cholera scare, opium was taken as a preventive medicine by several in such large quantities as to result in their death. Habitual users take such large quantities that what seems a small quantity to them when taken by a non-user is sufficient to kill them; so that the advice of opium eaters is practically worthless. Out of a group of ten men five said they had known of ten fatal cases. (c.) Many cases of suicide, especially amongst women, are the result of opium. So well known are the dangerous and powerfully poisonous properties of opium mixed with gingly oil that a common threat amongst the women when angry is that they will take the mixture and thus end their miserable lives. An old wholesale opium vendor, who has been an habitual consumer of the drug for some 20 years, until now his abnormal appetite demands one quarter of a tola a day to satisfy its imperious cravings, thus describes the results:—“The people waste away and “become lean in their flesh. Their property vanishes. “When this is all gone, they beg and even steal to secure “the wherewithal to satisfy the demon gnawing at their “vitals. It is very bad, very bad. They lose all will “power, and when the weakened will struggles to escape “the thralldom, the fearful pains in the body which immediately follow any attempt to leave it off overcome all “better desires, and the man falls back a confirmed, a “hopeless, and a helpless slave.” A young man who had been cook to a noted opium eater in Binnipatam describes him as follows:—“My master was stout. He ate well. “He was weak. He ate sweet things, but could not take “much solid food. He took opium six years in large “quantities. I weighed it out for him. If there was a “delay of an hour he could not endure it. He would

“become violently angry and beat me. He died from the “effects of it.” The lad himself was an opium sot, and he looked it. From my own personal knowledge, and I have heard many a poor fellow’s confession, the effects seem as follows:—The appetite goes, there is a bitter taste in the mouth, in three months the will is so weakened that the eater becomes a slave, perhaps an unwilling one, to the habit. His strength slowly ebbs away, he loses flesh, fearful pains rack his limbs and body if he leave it off for only a few hours. His eyes become bleared, his conscience (never very active) gets blunt, and when his property wastes away because the habit has destroyed his ability to retain it, he will beg and steal to get opium. He will even threaten his wife and children with murder if they do not provide him with the money which he has become unable to earn to purchase the black pill. If he is a peon or a household servant in a family he sleeps over his work and becomes so dull, stupid, and weak that even the most indulgent of masters loses all patience with him. Amongst my masons, and I employed 20 of them for over one year, several were opium users. They were good for nothing that required intelligence and strength. They were adepts at putting in small stones and much mortar. But were a constant trial to my patience, and I bore with them only because masons were scarce, and poor as they were, no one better could be secured. The opium users amongst the coolies could be easily recognised by the characteristics common to the class, and were retained in many cases only because dismissal meant untold hardship to their suffering wives and little ones. In many cases the day’s wage was paid the wife instead of the opium eating husband to ensure its being used for food. Two of my household servants were opium eaters. Stupidity, utter lack of conscience, incapacity, and shameless negligence rendered them so utterly useless that we were compelled to dismiss them. Men addicted to drink were good servants compared with them. Opium consumers have such a pernicious influence morally that none are knowingly admitted to church membership in our missions, and if discovered are excluded. I believe this is almost the universal practice in connexion with missions working in China. They do not admit opium users to their church membership.

27,834. In what proportion of cases is the habit injurious?—Any drug used as a medicine, which when taken so enslaves the user as to make it impossible for him to give it up even after the sickness for which it was taken has passed away, must be injurious. Better the original sickness than the opium habit. In all the cases which I have known well the habit has been injurious.

27,835. Is opium generally believed to be protective against fever?—There is a great diversity of opinion amongst the natives. It is generally believed to be good for a fever with chill. Men not addicted to opium laugh at those who use it as a protective against fever, and declare that those who do so have more fever than others, and say they take it for fever to give an excuse for an otherwise unjustifiably bad habit.

27,836. Is it especially useful in malarious districts, or believed to be so?—It is believed to be so.

27,837. Is it necessary, or believed to be necessary, to enable working people to get through their daily toil?—By the stupidity it induces men are not sensible of fatigue. But it does not and cannot strengthen men. And the use of it destroys the appetite for wholesome food. Men who do not use it are more hardy and stronger than those who do. In selecting coolies or bearers I should invariably take men who do not use opium.

27,838. Is the habit of taking opium looked upon as disgraceful?—Yes, by all classes of the people. There is a proverb used by all classes on occasions when anyone has been inexcusably stupid, which is to the effect “that the “man acts like an opium eater.” The man at whom the proverb is pointed invariably resents it with anger. This sentiment is so widespread amongst the people as to promise easy enforcement of a good-strict prohibitory law.

27,839. Does the existing system of granting licenses for the sale of opium tend to the spread of the habit or its restriction?—A licensed vendor secures his license at the highest up-bid prices. In order to remunerate himself he uses his utmost endeavour to extend consumption and sale. Every retail vendor and every proprietor of an opium smoking den is loud mouthed in commending the numerous medicinal uses of the drug and in urging the people to try it. They give away a good deal to young men not addicted to the habit to induce them to adopt it, and when they are once enslaved make them pay for it.

27,840. Has the closing of shops for consumption on the premises been carried out in your district?—Opium

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smoking shops are still in existence in Cocanada, Yellamanchili and, as far as I could learn, in all other places in these parts where they have hitherto existed. The authorities are cognizant of their existence.

27,841. Have the results of this measure been beneficial?—They should be so. The closing of the shops would scatter and weaken the opium smoking fellowship. Union is strength to the extent that the congregating in opium smoking dens is broken and the curse weakened.

27,842. Are any further measures required to give effect to the policy of discountenancing opium smoking?—By driving the opium smoker to indulge in private he is thrown under the powerful restraint of the abuse of the women and non-smokers of his household, who seeing the bad effects in him oppose the habit vigorously.

27,843. Is it desirable to prohibit the sale of opium except for medical purposes?—Yes, by all means yes. The medical purposes for which the drug may be used are too well known to be denied. But those purposes can be safely accomplished only by the advice of a qualified medical practitioner. In this way, and this way only, can the drug be restricted to its legitimate uses and be prevented from ministering to the lusts of, and creating vice amongst, the people.

27,844. Would public opinion favour the adoption of the measure?—The sentiment of all classes of the people and of even a large number of opium victims would be altogether in favour of such a restriction. I have in my hand four petitions to this effect, one from the 43 missionaries of our two Canadian Baptist Missions, labouring amongst some 3,000,000 of the people, two others from the native Christian community connected with one of our missions and numbering about 3,000 adult communicant church members, and a third from a public meeting of some 30 men who represent the highest intelligence and best social element of my own town of Yellamanchili. They are Hindus, men of education and of high position. They regret the havoc wrought by the opium habit amongst their fellows, and in the simple and brief resolution passed by them represent the attitude of all thinking people amongst their fellow countrymen. Good Hindus, good Mahomedans and good Christians all over these districts would unite in desiring Government to restrict the sale to that for medical purposes only.

27,845. What class of persons do you think could be entrusted with the medical use?—Medical men, hospital assistants, &c.

27,846. (*Sir James Lyall.*) It is in Vizagapatam and Ganjam that the opium habit is most common, is it not?—In Godavari as well.

27,847. It is exceedingly common in the whole country, is it not?—I do not know; we are only on the sea coast.

27,848. It is a very old practice in that part of the world, is it not?—I am informed so.

27,849. Is it not a curious fact that the Madras Government seem to have been ignorant of the extent to which opium is used in those districts up to the year 1880?—I do not know. I did not come to India myself until 1887, so I am not familiar with it.

27,850. I suppose your views in respect to the prohibition of alcohol would be the same as they are in respect to the prohibition of opium?—I should like to say a word or two on that. I have been rather surprised at the evidence given in favour of opium, and in that connexion I should just like to say this: the only way I can account for the remarkable evidence given by many witnesses to the effect that opium is largely harmless and to many very helpful is that they recognise that a report by this Commission which may result in the prohibition of the opium traffic in India will make the liquor traffic in England utterly indefensible. The opium and the liquor traffics are in the same box. Those who are enemies to the one are enemies to the other. Anyone in a position to compare the evils wrought by alcohol in England with those wrought by opium in India would not for a moment hesitate to affirm that the former is a much more serious vice; so that it becomes apparent that the Parliament which undertakes to grapple with and overcome the lesser evil in a distant land must not, and cannot, long delay an attack on the greater evil at its very doors.

27,851. But when we come to the point of trying to stop the use of alcohol or the use of opium we find that the only way of stopping it is to make it a crime punishable with fine or imprisonment?—That is the way we do in America and Canada.

27,852. You think that is really a good thing?—I think it is an essential thing.

27,853. Is it not very doubtful whether you have succeeded in Canada in repressing drinking by that system?—We have not as yet had a fair trial. We have had local option in Canada, the Scott Act, but we found that these Local Option Acts were really not effective, and the people became so disgusted with the failure of the Acts to meet the case that they have reversed their decision at the polls, and thrown the Local Option Acts out of provinces entirely. Recently a commission was appointed by the Dominion Parliament to examine into the question of the alcohol traffic in all parts of the Dominion. They visited the Eastern and Western States, and have been at work for some time. In the meantime a plebescite has been declared in some of the provinces, Manitoba, Ontario, Prince Edward's Island, in which this one single issue was put to the vote of the people, and the people have declared in favour of the prohibition of the liquor traffic, by an overwhelming majority.

27,854. In these three?—Manitoba, Ontario, and Prince Edward's Island.

27,855. I think I heard last year, when I was in Toronto, that in Ontario it was going quite the other way?—That is what they thought, I think. Professor Goldwin Smith and Professor Clarke were very much surprised at the results. It was voted on the 1st January last. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick they are practically prohibitionists. New Brunswick passed Prohibition Acts as early as 1867. Their legislators were rather in advance of the sentiment of the people, and they found it was impracticable, but now the people are in favour of it, and we have had prohibition in the north-west territories for a long time until recently. British Columbia and Quebec are the only provinces that are not strictly prohibitory.

27,856. Do not you think that stronger things can be done safely in a democratic, self-governing country in that way than in a country like India, where Government is carried on by a small group of foreigners?—I was before the Hemp Drugs Commission, and they were asking the same question in connexion with the prohibition of hemp drugs, and I told them there that such a law was utterly useless, unless it was backed up by a strong public sentiment. But in this country, if the Government of the country were determined to suppress these traffics, the officials under them, the deputy collector, the tassildars, and such like, who are very anxious indeed to curry favour, would heartily second their efforts. In the districts, as a rule, the people are very obsequious and timid, and I think any determined effort on the part of the Government to suppress the traffic would be successful. I am sure that in our districts it would not raise any trouble whatever. When I first came to Yellamanchili there was a proclamation against the growth of hemp drugs. The hemp plants were torn up all over the place; nobody grew them at all.

27,857. They stopped the cultivation of the hemp drugs?—It is not illegal, I think. They learned that afterwards, and they have taken to growing it again. They simply got that impression from the action taken by the police.

27,858. You were asked what was your own opinion about the effect of opium as a prophylactic against fever, and you gave an answer; but is it not a fact that among the people in the districts of Vizagapatam and Ganjam the general idea is that the opium habit is a very strong resistant to fever?—In Vizagapatam and Godavari I think people believe in it. They take it largely for that reason; but in the Kistna district they do not take it, except for fever with chills. The medical man there, the hospital assistant at Yellamanchili, says that quinine is very much more effective, and he thinks that the measures taken by Government to place quinine in all the post offices and police stations for sale at a mere nominal sum will do away with the necessity of opium.

27,859. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) I understand that you do not think that opium stands on any different ground to other stimulants?—No; I do not think so. I think it is a much more difficult habit to detect, and I think it is a much more difficult habit to give up.

27,860. I mean that with regard to prohibition you do not think it stands on any different ground to other stimulants?—We take the same stand against alcohol as against opium.

27,861. Have you any statistics as to the number of suicides to show that opium is largely used as a means of suicide in the part of the country to which you refer?—No, not amongst the women. I may mention here that if a woman has a quarrel with her husband she threatens to

take opium mixed with oil, and says that that will be the last meal she will cook for him.

27,862. You are probably aware that in other parts of India people commit suicide in wells, or hang themselves with their clothes, and so on?—They do in our part too.

27,863. (Mr. Haridas Vekaridas.) Do you consider the effects of alcohol are more injurious than those of opium?—I think they are both very bad.

27,864. No doubt, but opium would stupify a person while alcohol would make him violent?—I have said in connexion with that, in comparing the drugs, that ganja takes away a man's sense, alcohol deprives him of his self-control, and opium takes his life blood.

27,865. But perhaps you will admit that opium will not make a man so mischievous to society as alcohol will?—I think that alcohol in America and England is a much more serious evil than opium in India. In our district, I think, alcohol is a more serious evil than opium.

27,866. If that is the case, would you not rather see alcohol suppressed before opium?—We tackle them both together.

27,867. (Mr. Mowbray.) Are your districts in Madras districts where the coolies go across to Burma from?—Yes, a number go from there.

27,868. Do they go to and fro to see the same people again?—Yes.

27,869. We have had a good deal of evidence about their opium eating and their hard work while in Burma?—A great many of our coolies learn their bad practice in Burma; they contract the habit there. I know of some cases where a man has contracted the habit of eating ganja there.

27,870. (Mr. Pease.) Are you quite sure about ganja in Burma?—I have known cases where they have taken ganja in Rangoon, men who contracted the habit there. All the coolies do not use opium by any means. I have employed a large number of coolies, and all of them did not; they could not afford it. Those who did use it were very much less capable than the others as day labourers.

27,871. (Mr. Mowbray.) Your experience is about six and a half or seven years?—Yes.

27,872. (Sir William Roberts.) Does the description you give of the effects of opium, where you say, "The appetite goes, there is a bitter taste in the mouth," and so on, apply to moderate or excessive consumption?—It applies to all. The first part of the description represents the moderate users, and then the immoderate user, while the latter part represents the sot.

27,873. (Mr. Mowbray.) You gave us some figures about the amount of income in Madras, and I think you put the average income at 25½ rupees a year?—Yes.

27,874. Where did you get those figures; it is rather a small amount, is not it?—Yes, it is small. I noticed the figures given in "National Righteousness."

27,875. It is Rs. 2 a month?—Yes, for man, woman, and child. This description seemed to tally exactly with my own experience amongst the people that I adopted it as true. I think the figures are Sir David Barbour's figures—the average income for each province according to Sir David Barbour, taking in all sorts of income. It is a comparative table for different Presidencies.

27,876. (Chairman.) Dividing the total income by the number of people, all sexes and ages?—Yes. In connexion with the financial view, I think that our mission would be opposed to the principle of compensation. Sweeping

changes in the fiscal policy of a country necessitated by the exigencies of party government have frequently resulted in the closing of useful branches of industry and manufacture. Yet such a government never dreams of compensating the ruined manufacturer. By compensating the opium grower and manufacturer in India we would be guilty of the grave inconsistency of treating the progenitors of a means of national vice with more leniency than fair and honourable tradesmen. Where the Government of India is under necessity of narrowing production they never compensate the farmers thus thrown out of opium production. I do not think compensation would be fair.

27,877. (Mr. Fanshawe.) What about compensation to cultivators in the Native States?—I do not see why they should receive it if the other cultivators do not. Then in connexion with the Madras Act—I have it here.—I have made a study of it during the last few months. I have been surprised at a great deal of the evidence given in favour of opium, speaking of it as a very beneficial thing, a very good thing; whereas in the wording of the Act right throughout it is treated as a very dangerous drug indeed. In connexion with the prohibition of the traffic we were only asking that the opium traffic may be so prohibited that opium will be used for medicinal purposes only. Some have said that if this occurred there would be a great deal of trouble among the people, that the people would not endure it; but we find that previous to this Act—one of 1878—opium sold at eight tolas to the rupee. When this Act was introduced and the new regulations came in force the price of opium rose to 2½ tolas a rupee, and there was no disturbance. So that I think if a still further prohibitory enactment is made according to the 6th Rule of the Madras Opium Act, all that we asked for would be accomplished, and I do not think any trouble would result. The 6th Regulation of the Madras Act says: "The collector may grant to any person residing within his district a license as a medical practitioner in such form as may from time to time be prescribed by the board with the previous sanction of the Governor of Fort St. George in council, for the possession and retail of opium, intoxicating drugs, and poppy heads for medical purposes only; provided that such medical practitioner shall not have in his possession at one time more than one seer of opium, one seer of intoxicating drugs, and ten seers of poppy heads, or such larger quantities as the board may in special cases authorise." We ask for that restriction to medical purposes only. Then in connexion with this Act I find on page 182, paragraph 10, in the grant of the license to the vendor of opium, that he shall "close his shop if situated on or adjacent to the line of march whilst a regiment or detachment of European or native soldiers is passing or encamped in the vicinity, should the collector so direct." I think the tendency to crime is evidenced in the regulations by the Madras Governor. He says in the fifth clause of the license for the vend of opium under Rule 31, "He shall not receive any wearing apparel or other goods in barter for opium; that he shall not open his shop or make sales therein before sunrise; that he shall not keep it open or make sales therein after 8 p.m.; that he shall not harbour any suspicious person therein; and that he shall not at any time allow the smoking or consumption of opium or its preparations in any form on the premises of such shop,"—"that he shall not permit persons of notoriously bad character to resort to his shop; that he shall prevent gaming and disorderly conduct therein; and that he shall give information to the nearest magistrate or police officer of any suspicious person who may resort to his shop." So that the various tendencies of the use of the drug are evidenced by the wording of the regulations themselves.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. R. M. RAMACHENDRAM called in and examined.

27,878. (Chairman.) You are secretary, I believe, of the Mahajana Sabha, Conjeevaram?—Yes.

27,879. Will you give us your views on the opium question?—From the statistics gathered from the shops licensed for the sale of opium it would appear that the quantity consumed in this town is comparatively very little. Men of high social status do not appear to take to opium eating. A few poor people and some pensioned sepoys are the only customers of the shops, who take it that they may not feel hunger. It is more used here for medicinal purposes than for consumption, as it is. Nations supposed to be affected by our trade in it appear to manufacture the same more or less in their own countries, and

they may themselves be left to look after them. Our trade in it is a chief source of income to this country. The populace of this town, therefore, are of opinion that its distribution in this country may be confined to medicinal purposes alone, the manufacture of the same here and its export to other countries being left unmolested. The following resolutions were passed by my society:—"The amount of opium consumed during the official year of 1891 to 1892 is about 1,500 tolas. The amount consumed from 1892 to 1893 comes to about 1,957 tolas. From April 1893 to March 1894 it will come to nearly 1,200 tolas. Yearly about 300 tolas are used for medicinal purposes, and 200 tolas for the manufacture of

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"nadat. Deducting those from the whole, about 1,000 tolas per year is consumed in the genuine state. The maximum amount allowed for each buyer is only three tolas. Even if it should be presumed that $1\frac{1}{2}$ tola is consumed by each man, we have only about 60 opium eaters, against a population of about 40,000. Of these 60 opium eaters 40 are habitual eaters. Most of these are pensioned sepoys of low condition in life. They say that opium satisfies hunger. It is a sort of febrifuge to them. Opium is used in the manufacture of certain medicines called poonady, madanakameswary legyam, and so forth. These are things that increase the lust of a man, as their very names express. Opium does not do any harm to a man of good nourishment. Excess in opium eating only causes unconsciousness to the eater, and does not prove deadly as is the case with alcoholic liquors. An opium eater does not do any harm to society. He does not rave or throw stones at others as a drunkard. But men of high social status do not at all have any recourse to any of these intoxicants. By the manufacture of opium, the Indian Government and the Indian agriculturists are profited much. To deprive the Government of this legitimate source of income is not desirable. If it is the intention of the British Parliament to suppress the traffic in opium, in

"the interest of its Indian subjects, the Government may be directed to prohibit the sale of opium in India for other than medical purposes. We are not for a thorough prohibition of the manufacture of opium. India should be free to export her opium to any country. It is not the duty of this Government to prohibit the importation of opium into countries like China, &c.; for those Governments will themselves take care of their subjects where necessary. By prohibiting the manufacture of opium India alone may be made to lose an immense income, and the supposed evil will continue to remain the same in those places, for it is clearly known that opium is manufactured even in those countries, in the interest of whose people the suppression of the manufacture is being considered."

27,880. (Chairman.) They are resolutions passed at a meeting, are they not?—Yes.

27,881. (Mr. Fanshawe.) I understand that this was a meeting of the Mahajana Sabha, is that so?—Yes.

27,882. How many persons belong to that association?—About 60.

27,883. How many were present at the meeting when these resolutions were passed?—Nearly 45.

The witness withdrew.

Rao Sanib
Rambilas.

RAO SAHIB RAMBILAS called in and examined (through an interpreter).

27,884. (Chairman.) You are, I believe, a banker, of Amraoti, Hyderabad?—Yes.

27,885. What have you to say with regard to opium?—Opium eating is neither morally nor physically in any way harmful. It is actually beneficial to those that are given to it. He who is an habitual user of opium cannot do without it. If he does not get opium in time his strength fails, and he is quite knocked down; nay, he becomes insensible. Those addicted to this habit are industrious and diligent. I am not aware of any moral evils resulting from opium eating. As to opium smoking it is much looked down upon. There would scarcely be any person (excepting those that are addicted to opium smoking) who would say anything in favour of opium smoking. It has a deleterious effect upon the nervous system, and it results in decay of the faculties. But in Berar, amongst users of opium, there could be found only 10 per cent. who smoke opium, and again opium smokers could be found, for the most part, among the lower classes (i.e., Kunbi, Dheds, &c.). From a medical point of view opium is absolutely necessary to the people of Berar, and the effect of consumption of opium (excepting smoking) is undoubtedly beneficial. Opium is administered in many medicines that relieve people from diseases. There are very few persons in Berar who use opium as a luxury. My conclusion is that the use of opium is not deleterious to the population, and, therefore, my opinion is that its supply should not be curtailed either wholly or partially, nor could it be so curtailed, as such curtailment would tend to tell upon the Government revenue and the health of people devoted to the use of opium. If it be assumed that Government could possibly curtail the supply of opium, my belief is that an entire curtailment would never be received by classes given to opium, though a partial one might be received with great difficulty and reluctance; and the result of such an entire curtailment will be that many an opium user shall have to fall a victim at the altar of this curtailment. I having made inquiries, and referred

to popular opinion, am of opinion that opium cannot with advantage be replaced by any other drug.

27,886. (Sir James Lyall.) When you talk about opium smoking in Berar, do you mean chandu smoking or madak smoking?—Madak; there is no chandu in Berar.

27,887. Is it an ancient custom?—I have seen it going on for 50 years, and it existed before that.

27,888. Are you sure that about 10 per cent. of the total users of opium are smokers?—Yes. People of lower castes smoke madak, but the better class people do not.

27,889. When you say that madak smoking results in the decay of the faculties is that a general statement, or have you noticed it?—The liver is destroyed by madak smoking.

27,890. Have you seen instances?—I have been told that it produces these effects internally, but I have not seen it myself.

27,891. You say there are very few persons in Berar who use opium as a luxury. Do not you consider madak smoking a luxury?—Yes, it is a luxury.

27,892. (Mr. Fanshawe.) What is your position at Amraoti?—I am a banker there. My firm has been established there for over 100 years.

27,893. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Do you take opium yourself?—No.

27,894. Do you say it is actually beneficial to those who use it; if you took it would it benefit you?—I think I would be benefited by it.

27,895. Even without any necessity for taking it?—If there should be any failure in my strength, and I should feel the necessity for opium, I should take it.

27,896. Then people should take it only for the sake of health?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned till to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

At the Town Hall, Bombay.

SEVENTY-SIXTH DAY.

Tuesday, 20th February, 1894.

PRESENT:

RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B. (CHAIRMAN, PRESIDING).

Sir JAMES B. LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.
 Sir WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.
 Mr. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P.

Mr. A. U. FANSHAWE.
 Mr. ARTHUR PEASE.
 Mr. HARIDAS VECHARIDAS.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT-HEWETT, C.I.E., *Secretary*.

Mr. A. J. DUNLOP recalled and further examined.

27,897. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are the senior member of the Board of Revenue of the Hyderabad State?—Yes.

27,898. You have put in a valuable memorandum on the question that has been referred to this Commission so far as it relates to Hyderabad?—Yes. I have also filed a letter* written by the Prime Minister of Hyderabad to Mr. Plowden, the Resident, which he is anxious should be before the Commission, as showing the views of His Highness the Nizam's Government. Since my memorandum was written I have also obtained further evidence which I should like to put in.

(*Chairman.*) Your memorandum† will receive the most careful attention of the Commission; and we shall be happy to receive anything you wish to put in.

27,899. (*Sir James Lyall.*) How long have you been in service in the Hyderabad State?—I have been ten years in Hyderabad. Altogether my service amounts to nearly 25 years. I held the appointment of Deputy Commissioner in Berar; and in foreign service I am senior member of the Board of Revenue in Hyderabad.

27,900. You say in your memorandum, "Opium imported, either from beyond the frontier or from the districts, into the city of Hyderabad, and also opium exported beyond the frontiers, were subjected to a uniform customs duty of Re. 1 per seer"; apart from the city of Hyderabad, opium passing to and fro in the district of Hyderabad did not pay any duty I suppose?—Up to 1880 it paid no duty, except the Re. 1 import duty whether imported into the city or into the district.

27,901. I suppose opium was very cheap at that time in the Hyderabad districts?—Yes; it was very much cheaper than it is now. Sometimes the price is made the cause of complaint by certain people. One still hears of people complaining of the high price of opium. The policy of the Government has been to raise the price.

27,902. I suppose the Nizam's Government agreed to the proposals of the Government of India because they were convinced, after examination, that they would get a much larger revenue from opium in that way than they had before?—I do not think so. I happened to know something of that question at the time, because while some of these negotiations were going on I was second Assistant Resident in Hyderabad, and acting at that time, and I do not think His Highness the Nizam's Government realised that they would receive such an increase in revenue as they have actually got. They simply did it because they were induced to do so by the Government of India to save their revenue. They did not anticipate any loss, but I do not think they anticipated such an increase as they have obtained. I also think that it was not anticipated that there would be such an increase in Berar as there has been. We are very much in the same position in Hyderabad as the Government of the assigned districts are.

27,903. I see it is provided in the agreement that either of the parties shall be at liberty to withdraw after giving to the other party 12 months' notice. As it was so profitable a measure there is no chance of the Hyderabad Government wishing to withdraw; but if the Government

of India went in for prohibition in British India the Haidarabad Government would withdraw and change its policy?—I am instructed to say that if this agreement is cancelled, and if opium is prohibited, His Highness the Nizam's Government will claim the right of allowing opium to be cultivated again, which will be a very inconvenient arrangement for the neighbouring provinces of the British Government. Under this agreement they have the right to do so; and the Prime Minister himself has said so in his own letter.

27,904. You say "muddutkhanas and chandul shops known in Hyderabad as bambookhanas, because the chandul is smoked through a bamboo pipe, are prohibited by law, and the police have instructions to prevent the opening of any such places." When was that law introduced?—I cannot give the actual year. It has been in force some time. I am sorry to say it is not always observed. There are a large number of muddutkhanas still in the Hyderabad city. One reason of that is because in the city itself there are so many jurisdictions of independent jagirdars, and the police have not succeeded in closing all the shops. The rule, however, is that they should be closed.

27,905. Do you know what the reasons were which induced the Hyderabad Government to pass the order?—The order was passed in the time of the first Sir Salar Jung. I have not seen the order myself, and I do not know what reason was given for it; but it is not supposed to be respectable to have muddutkhanas. I suppose the Mahomedan Government wish to see them closed.

27,906. Is there any prohibition against liquor shops?—None whatever, except that they must be licensed; and the number, of course, is kept within certain bounds.

27,907. I see you say, "These figures" (referring to revenue) "give an average of nearly Rs. 18 per seer, or Rs. 7-13 per seer less than the amount realised in Berar"; is it the sale of the Government farms in Berar which fetches a higher figure, or what is the reason?—Certainly the sale of Government farms realises more in Berar than it does with us. I fancy also that there is more smuggling in the Hyderabad State than there is in Berar, which, of course, affects the sale of farms.

27,908. In giving your opinion upon the effects of opium, comparing them with those of liquor, you say, "For my own part I can only say that, while I see much drunkenness among the lower classes of the native population caused by excessive indulgence in country spirits, and while the consumption of European liquor is seriously increasing, I cannot recall a single instance in which I have seen a person the worse for opium smoking or eating"; is liquor very cheap in Hyderabad?—Native liquor is not so very cheap. Compared with Bombay prices it is a little cheaper perhaps, but not very much. The serious question is the enormous consumption of European liquor which is on the increase. The people of Hyderabad, especially the rising generations, are taking to drinking European liquor to a very serious extent. Those of us who meet the people cannot help observing it. The use of European liquor is a very growing evil in Hyderabad, not on account of its cheapness, but, I suppose, because the people prefer it. By the people I mean the rather better class. This is really one of the serious questions in Hyderabad.

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* See Appendix XXV. to this Volume.

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27,909. You know that the Government of India levies a customs duty on European liquors, calculated to be equal to the excise duty upon native liquors?—Yes.

27,910. Does the liquor which reaches Bombay bound for Hyderabad pay customs duty, or is it sent through in bond?—It pays customs duty in Bombay, and it pays customs duty in Hyderabad; so that it is considerably more expensive than liquor in Bombay.

27,911. There is no arrangement by which the Nizam can claim to get it through without paying customs duty?—That is raising rather a difficult question. There is an old treaty by which the old port of Masulapatam is supposed to be a free port to the Nizam. But the question is an old one, and I am not justified in saying that. As a matter of fact all the liquor goes to Bombay, and is all assessed. The ordinary customs duty is assessed in Bombay, and it again pays duty in Hyderabad.

27,912. You say "Sikhs, of whom there are 4,600 according to the last census, are also regular consumers of opium." I suppose those 4,600 Sikhs are mostly Deccani Sikhs?—Yes.

27,913. What professions do the Deccani Sikhs generally follow?—They are in the regular troops; some of them are now employed in the police. They form a portion of the Nizam's regular troops and Jagirdar's troops.

27,914. Are they men of different castes; do you know what their caste is, being a Sikh of course it is a matter of religion?—I do not think so. I think they are just the same as the Sikhs as originally came from up-country. They have become Deccanis now. Some of them have not married. I always make a distinction between pure Sikhs and Deccani Sikhs. I do not think they are people who have changed their religion.

27,915. Further on you say, "There are no druggists' shops or medical practitioners in the Hyderabad districts to whom the duty of selling opium could be entrusted"; I suppose there are what are called Attar shops?—We have Yunani doctors in parts of the districts, but not everywhere. There is a great scarcity of them. In our districts it would be practically impossible to say that opium should only be sold through medical practitioners because they do not exist except in the larger towns.

27,916. I gather from your memorandum that you think that not only the ministers of His Highness the Nizam, but the people of Hyderabad generally, would regard with great presentiment any attempt to force a policy of prohibition upon them?—Most certainly. The feeling is very strong indeed; in fact it is so strong that in a city like Hyderabad, which has a population, including the suburbs, of something like 400,000 it would be practically impossible to do it. On this point, if I may be permitted, I should like to give some evidence which has come into my hands since I wrote my memorandum a few weeks ago. The supply of opium was stopped in a town containing about 20,000 inhabitants for two or three days owing to a dispute between the contractors; and with your permission I will read what the Talukdar, who is in the position of the collector of a district, or deputy commissioner of a district, reported to me as a member of the Board of Revenue, showing what happened when the opium supply was stopped. This is a translation of Rubkar No. 517, dated 27 Isfandar 1303 Fasli, from the First Talukdar, Warangal district, to the Subadar.

Eastern division. "In forwarding copy of a petition from Nomal Ramchandram, opium contractor of this district, I have the honour to state that the opium contractor had sent for about eight thousand rupees worth of opium for the Warangal district, but the opium has been detained at Hyderabad in the excise office. At the request of the contractor the matter was reported to the excise office, the Abkari Commissioner, and the Revenue Board, with a request that permission may be granted to the contractor to bring in his opium, as the people have become clamorous owing to opium not being procurable in Warangal. A telegram also was sent yesterday, but up to this time no reply has been received from anywhere. In consequence of opium not being available the lives of the opium eaters are at stake. On my way to office I saw a crowd near the hospital in a curious state. Some men were gasping as if they were going to die, and the contractor was surrounded by all of them. With great difficulty I rescued the contractor from their hands and pacified them by telling them that I was endeavouring to get them opium which I hoped would arrive in a short space of time. Another crowd came to my office and stated that about 50 men were in a very sad plight, and in fact the wretched state in which I found the men forming

"part of this crowd cannot be described. This then is the state of affairs. If permission is granted the opium chests in Warangal which are under attachment since two years will be made over to the contractor on his furnishing a reliable security, and afterwards when the contractor's opium is received two boxes of the same quantity and weight will be replaced in lieu thereof. It is also possible to recover the price of the opium from the contractor. I have made this suggestion owing to the extreme urgency of the case, as in the event of any delay taking place, I am afraid to conjecture what will happen to the opium eaters this night. Irrespective of the present request I beg that a representation may be made to higher authorities with a view to prompt orders being issued regarding the contractor's opium."

"(Signed) SHOUKATH HUSAIN,
"Officiating First Talukdar."

This is the translation of an Urdu letter. It came to me in my official capacity; and I was obliged to telegraph down to release certain opium from attachment, which under ordinary circumstances would not have been released. If this happened in a small town like Warangal with 20,000 inhabitants it can be imagined what would happen in Haidarabad.

27,917. I gather from the rules attached to your memorandum that all the opium imported into the Hyderabad State has to come through the authorities and certain depôts?—All of it is carefully weighed. The rules are exactly the same as the opium rules for Berar. A pass is issued; it goes to the Godown and it is weighed and dispatched.

27,918. From these depôts it is sent to the licensed vendors?—Yes.

27,919. So that the State authorities have complete control, and can issue the opium at whatever price they think fit to the licensed vendors?—We have nothing to do with the price.

27,920. You might?—No, we sell the farms at auction; the opium farm for each district is sold.

27,921. I am not talking about the price to the public; I am talking about the price to the vendor?—We have nothing to do with that. The vendor buys the opium himself at Indore and Malwa and he brings it in. He makes his own arrangements for buying it. He has to come to the Nizam's Government to ask for a pass, and through the Resident the pass is given. He makes his own arrangement. He brings it into Hyderabad; he puts it into the Godown, where it is checked, weighed, and issued. We have nothing to do with the price. We take our Rs. 10 duty, and the amount of the farm revenue, which raises the price.

27,922. The Government has complete control, and might easily raise the price if it liked?—We sell by auction; we have no minimum price. As I have shown our price is still too cheap. We are anxious to make it dearer. We suffer from the great drawback that Jagirdars have independent jurisdiction (there are very large Jagirdars in Hyderabad having independent States), and then there is competition between Government and the Talukhas, which also lowers the price.

27,923. If you got over the difficulty of the Jagirdars' jurisdiction it would be very easy for the Nizam's Government to tax the opium to any extent it liked over and above the Rs. 10 per seer import duty, as it must come, as it were, into their hands at the Godown?—We could not put more on at the Godown; we could with the sanction of the Government of India, but we could not put on any kind of customs duty without the sanction of the Government of India.

27,924. Under this agreement?—Yes, under this agreement; and also under an old treaty regarding all our customs duties. We do not impose any customs duty without the sanction of the Government of India, and the Rs. 10 duty sanctioned by the Government of India is the maximum arranged for. Of course it could be arranged with the Government of India, and in that way we could raise the price to anything we liked.

27,925. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) You state that the Nizam's Government would claim the right to grow poppy?—We reserve the right of claiming it.

27,926. The Minister's letter says that you maintain the right to claim; you are not claiming now?—We maintain our right to claim. It was a right which we enjoyed before this arrangement was made.

27,927. If one party withdrew from the agreement the other party would withdraw?—Certainly.

27,928. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) I think you have told us that when this arrangement was made with His Highness' Government, His Highness' Government did not anticipate any loss, and that, as a matter of fact, there has been a considerable gain?—Yes, a very great gain.

27,929. And, therefore, in this case no question of compensation arose so far as the State revenue was concerned?—No.

27,930. I should like to ask you whether any question of compensation arose with regard to the cultivators who had been in the habit of growing poppy, and who were prohibited under this agreement from continuing to grow it?—They have made considerable claims, especially the Jagirdars—the large proprietors; but so far their claims have not been settled.

27,931. Is the land revenue in Hyderabad settled in the same way as it is in British India?—The land revenue in Hyderabad, so far as the district is concerned, is settled in exactly the same way as the land revenue in the Bombay Presidency. I have been Settlement Commissioner in the Nizam's Government for some years, and I can say that we have lost heavily from that point of view—from opium ceasing to be grown. Opium land used to pay Rs. 30 per bigha, and now we are assessing the same land at about Rs. 5; but we have gained on the other side.

27,932. Looking at it from the other side, the cultivator who has been prohibited from growing poppy has in fact received compensation by the reduction of the land revenue which he has to pay?—He has now since the settlement was introduced. For some years the cultivators did not receive it and there were great complaints, so much so that land was thrown out of cultivation. The cultivators, however, would still be very glad to go back to opium. It was a very favourite crop with them.

27,933. They would prefer to grow opium with a higher rate of land revenue than grow other crops with a lower rate of land revenue?—They would.

27,934. With regard to the shops for the sale of madak and chandu, I understand that there are no shops in which smoking is allowed. Are there any shops in Hyderabad, or in the Nizam's dominions, in which madak and chandu can be bought in its prepared state?—Yes, there are many shops where it can be bought; but they do not allow smoking in the shops.

27,935. There is no rule against smoking 'itself'?—No, none whatever.

27,936. You say that there is more smuggling in Hyderabad than there is in Berar; what form does the smuggling take?—I say so because I have had a great deal of experience of smuggling in Berar, having been the magistrate at the emporium where opium is received. We used to detect many cases in Hyderabad, and though now we detect very few cases I am quite convinced myself that there is a good deal of smuggling. I think it is brought in by the passengers who arrive by the mail trains. One has only to look at the crowds of natives travelling, each one with a large bundle. It would be almost practically impossible to check smuggling. We have had cases in which they have actually put opium into the spokes of the wheels. They have hollowed out the spokes of the wheels and packed opium inside. I have no hesitation in saying that our system for checking smuggling is at the present time in a very unsatisfactory state.

27,937. I suppose it would be very difficult to make it satisfactory?—It would be extremely difficult. We are doing all we can, but it is very difficult.

27,937a. I suppose the opium which is brought in in this way is all Malwa opium?—I fancy so.

27,938. It would hardly pay to smuggle Bengal opium, would it?—Bengal opium, I believe, is the cheaper of the two, but Malwa being nearer I should think the probability is that the smuggled opium is all Malwa opium. Any opium which saves our Rs. 10 duty would give a sufficient profit to a man to induce him to smuggle.

27,939. Even if he got opium which paid the pass duty?—Yes; the pass duty is Rs. 10 a seer, that is what I was thinking of.

27,940. I was thinking of the Rs. 600 a chest?—Rs. 700 a chest is what we take, which is Rs. 10 a seer. Rs. 600 is the minimum.

27,941. I do not quite understand the letter you have read to us, how long had the opium been detained?—The letter was not written with the object of its being placed before the Commission in any way; it was merely a report made to the Subadar of the Eastern Division, and it was sent to me. The contractor had imported some six chests

of opium which he was not allowed to take possession of, owing to a dispute with another contractor. It is unnecessary to enter upon the details here, but for certain reasons this opium was attached and the supply of opium fell short in this town of 20,000 inhabitants. My only object in putting this letter forward is to show what happened for two or three days when there was no opium. I was obliged to telegraph down to give them some opium there.

27,942. The want of opium made itself felt in three days?—Yes.

27,943. (*Mr. Pease.*) You have stated that certain claims of the ryots are still unsettled; is that under the agreement of October 1883?—The claims arise out of the change of system introduced by the agreement of 1883. The system was introduced in 1880, and the agreement was executed formally in 1883.

27,944. The cultivation of the poppy ceased in 1880?—Yes, the formal agreement with the Government of India being executed in 1883.

27,945. How can claims remain unsettled in 1894 that arose in 1880?—I do not suppose that the claims will ever be admitted. The claims have been made but they have not been satisfied.

27,946. In plain English, the Government have declined to recognise the claims?—Practically that is so. The ryots felt that they had a grievance, but whether they have formulated a claim or not I do not know; but the Jagirdars did so.

27,947. The fact remains that they were prohibited from growing poppy and there was no revision of the rates for some years after?—The revision of the rates was made as soon as the settlement operations came into these districts. There was no revision of the rates pending the regular settlement operations.

27,948. What is the date of the letter you have read?—January the 30th, 1894.

27,949. (*Chairman.*) In the interesting statement you have put in there is one point which seems to me to call for particular notice. Referring to the general question of the prohibition of the use of opium except for medical purposes you tell us very clearly that your view is "that such an extreme course could only be justifiable if it were proved beyond all doubt that the use of opium is carried to such an extent, and so abused, that it is undermining the health, strength, and moral character of the population, or any large class of the population." What is your view of the exact state of facts from that point of view?—I cannot recall in all my service ever having seen any case in which a man was the worse for opium consumption. I have seen many drunkards but I have seen no evidence in my daily life in Hyderabad of anybody being the worse for opium. On the other hand, since we have been especially inquiring into the subject I have heard an immense amount of evidence on the other side. If I had known when I wrote my memorandum all that I know now I would have stated the case much more emphatically than I have done. The view which I have expressed here I still maintain most fully, that there is not a tittle of evidence to show from anything found in the Hyderabad State that the use of opium is abused or is injuring people in any degree whatsoever. It is practically impossible to stop the use of the drug; and I should be very sorry to be at Hyderabad if any measure were introduced to stop it because it would lead to most serious consequences in the city. Hyderabad is a town we cannot trifle with; it is full of armed men.

27,949a. With regard to compensation to His Highness' Government and to the Jagirdars, what do you consider the total sum would be which might be demanded?—I have said in my memorandum that if opium were to be stopped we should claim 5 or 5½ lakhs a year, which is what we now receive. His Highness' Government sees no reason why opium should be stopped, and therefore it is not disposed to sacrifice any revenue. If the measure were forced upon His Highness' Government the sum I have mentioned would be claimed. But this is what the Prime Minister has said: "I feel so strongly the practical impossibility of prohibiting the consumption of opium as proposed, that it seems almost unnecessary to refer to the question of compensation." We throw that quite into the background because it is such an impracticable question.

27,950. Do you desire to say that even if this large sum which you have named as the annual amount to be paid by us as compensation were paid, there would still be dissatisfaction and discontent?—I say most earnestly that if you were to give us 20 lakhs a year we would rather continue

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opium. It would be impossible to carry on the Nizam's Government if opium were entirely prohibited. It is not used to any great extent as I have shown. The consumption in the city and the suburbs is one-third of a grain per head per day, which is not high, by any means. Still, it is used in moderation by so many people that to stop it would lead to such a state of things that His Highness'

Government would rather forfeit any revenue than have it stopped.

27,951. I suppose the amount used is not in excess of what you would call medical use?—These is no evidence to show that the amount used is excessive in any way; it may be in some cases, but we have no evidence of it.

The witness withdrew.

Col. K. J. L.
Mackenzie.

Colonel K. J. L. MACKENZIE, C.I.E., called in and examined.

27,952. (Chairman.) I believe you are commissioner having charge of the Hyderabad assigned districts?—Yes.

27,953. I believe you wish to put in a memorandum* on opium and its use in the Hyderabad assigned districts, commonly called Berar?—Yes.

27,954. As I understand previous to the 31st of March 1878 the control and check upon the consumption of opium was extremely lax?—Yes.

27,955. And there are no records previous to that date upon which you are prepared to place reliance?—None whatever. Up to 1877 the cultivation was entirely free. Import was also free.

27,956. What was the date when the existing rules were founded?—The existing rules came into force on the 1st of April 1879. Our revenue year goes from the 1st of April to the 31st of March.

27,957. Tell us shortly what has been the effect of the rules of 1880 with regard to the vendors of opium?—It has enabled us to watch the movements of opium inside the province, and it has enabled us to control and check it as far as we could.

27,958. Under the rules of 1880 the vendors of opium, wholesale or retail, are obliged to keep up regular accounts showing the date of sale, the name of the purchaser, the quantity of opium purchased, the total quantity sold to consumers, and the quantity of opium used in preparing madak?—Yes.

27,959. You have a perfect means of checking the amount of consumption?—I should be sorry to say that. Some opium may be smuggled, though I do not think it would be so very much.

27,960. But so far as it comes within the ken of the authorities you have a good check now?—Yes.

27,961. What is the duty?—Rs. 10 a seer.

27,962. Or Rs. 700 per chest of 140 lbs. ?—Yes.

27,963. That is a very heavy duty is it not?—It has brought opium up from about Rs. 8 a seer to Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 a seer.

27,964. So far as the action of Government is concerned it has put a very serious check upon the consumption of opium?—Yes. The immediate effect was to check cultivation, it fell considerably.

27,965. The consumption per head is exceedingly small, is it not?—Yes. The highest it has ever gone to is 3 of a seer.

27,966. What is the lowest amount?—5.

27,967. Keeping in view the medicinal use, you think it cannot be asserted that in Berar the use of opium except in a few rare cases is hurtful?—No, certainly not.

27,968. What was the price of opium before this taxation was imposed, and what is the present price?—It varied from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 a seer when cultivation was free, and before any of these rules were brought in. As I have shown in my memorandum the licensee sells to the taluk farmers, who purchase the right to vend at Rs. 20 per seer. These in turn sell opium to their sub-contractors at a fixed price of Rs. 22 per seer. These sub-contractors or the retail vendors in their turn realise quite Rs. 40 a seer for opium sold for consumption, and Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 a seer for opium used for madak.

27,969. Have you anything to say as to the use of opium by the different races?—No reliable information is to be obtained as to the exact numbers of the different sections of the population mainly addicted to the use of opium. Its use is very general and fairly evenly distributed between all castes and peoples except Europeans and Parsis. Hindus (high and low caste) and Mahomedans, males, females, and children (between birth and up to three and four years of age) all consume opium. Amongst smokers of opium Mahomedans mainly predominate.

* See Appendix XXVIII. to this Volume.

27,970. It is considerably given to children, is it not?—I believe so.

27,971. Is it believed by the people generally that such use does no harm?—So I am told.

27,972. Looking at the native races amongst whom you have lived, would you say that the finest specimens are to be found among the people who use opium?—Certainly.

27,973. What is your own view as to the policy of prohibition?—I think it is impossible.

27,974. Do you think it is undesirable?—I think it is most undesirable.

27,975. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You say, "If the information obtained from the vendors is to be trusted, it would appear that in Berar most of the opium which is sold is bought for use medicinally." Do I understand you to mean by that that it is used on medical advice or used by the people themselves as a household medicine?—As a household medicine. We have very few native practitioners indeed. The people use it for all sorts of pains and ills, and they go and buy it for that purpose.

27,976. Then the class of information to which you refer would be statements by the sellers, who told you that opium was bought by native purchasers for pains and complaints, and so on?—That is what I mean.

27,977. (Mr. Mowbray.) So far as the revenue of the assigned districts has gone, the prohibition of the growth of poppy, taken with the new arrangements, has resulted in an increase of revenue to the Government?—Yes, that is shown.

27,978. Have there been any complaints on the part of the cultivators who formerly cultivated poppy?—The only complaint recorded by Mr. Jones, who was then the commissioner of the day, was that he found that they were obliged to sell their opium to the farmers. They did not complain of the stoppage of the cultivation.

27,979. When the cultivation was allowed the cultivators were compelled to sell to the licensed vendors?—Yes.

27,980. And that they complained of?—Yes, they wanted to sell it to anybody they liked.

27,981. But when the cultivation was prohibited altogether, did they make any complaint or claim for compensation for having been deprived of a profitable crop?—No.

27,982. When were the land rates in Berar settled?—We commenced about 30 years ago in the western portion of Berar; we took taluk by taluk.

27,983. Are you now commencing to revise the rates?—Yes.

27,984. Do you know in the revision which is now beginning whether any calculation is made in consequence of opium being prohibited?—It does not come into our calculation at all. Opium was only grown on what they called garden cultivation. At the time when it was stopped the area of cultivation fell to about 2,462 acres. That was the year the order came out stopping it. But it was falling before that; because the price of cotton was rising so high, and garden cultivation did not pay. Since then garden cultivation has fallen out in Berar very much. The wells are useless. The people rely very much upon cotton and oil seeds, linseed, and so on.

27,985. So that practically at the time when the cultivation of poppy was prohibited in Berar it was a dying industry?—It was. I do not mean to say that it would have died out for it was always a valuable crop. Even a little helped if everything else failed.

27,986. But it was not a matter of serious importance to the agriculturalists?—No.

27,987. You say "the licensee sells to the taluk farmers, who purchase the right to vend, at Rs. 20 per seer." The licensee is the man who holds the wholesale vend license, is he not?—Yes, he pays Rs. 16, and he gets the right to bring the opium in from Indore.

27,988. The Rs. 20, I suppose, is fixed between the licensee and the taluk farmer?—Yes.

27,989. Then you say that these taluk farmers in turn sell opium to their sub-contractors at a fixed price of Rs 22 per seer; is that fixed by Government?—No, it is arranged by themselves.

27,990. You only mean that it is fixed in the sense that it is always the same?—Yes.

27,991. And not fixed by law?—No.

27,992. With regard to the number of shops, see that in the last year for which you have given us figures, 1892-93, there has been a very large reduction induced in the number of shops as compared with 1891-92?—Yes, in 1891-92 the number was 585, and in 1892-93 it was 478.

27,993. Is there any special reason for that?—There were complaints that they overlapped, and there were parts of the country that did not require them. It was to prevent ruinous competition that we reduced the number.

27,994. These are the number of shops and not licenses?—The number of shops.

27,995. The number of shops to be opened for each license is settled I suppose?—Yes.

27,996. Who by?—By the deputy commissioner, sanctioned by the commissioner.

27,997. The number of shops is settled before the license is put up to auction?—Yes.

27,998. The revenue shown in column No. 4 of your first table is not for opium alone but includes also revenue obtained from other drugs?—Yes, we have separated them this year.

27,999. But the main portion you say comes from opium?—Yes.

28,000. Have you separate shops for the sale of chandu and madak?—Chandu is unknown in Berar. I believe madak is the only thing they prepare.

28,001. Have you shops for the sale of madak?—Not separately.

28,002. Is every opium shop able to sell madak, or is a separate license required?—No, they have not a separate license, they can prepare and sell it.

28,003. So that every opium shop may also be a madak shop, if it is wished?—Yes.

28,004. I suppose the resolution of the Government of India against smoking on licensed premises applies to Berar?—Yes.

28,005. Have you done your best to carry it into effect there?—Yes, we have.

The witness withdrew.

RAO SAHEB DEORAO VINAYAK called in and examined,

28,014. (*Sir James Lyall*.) Are you a Government officer?—I am a pleader.

28,015. Are you a native of Bombay Presidency?—I am a native of Bombay Presidency, but I have spent 40 years of my life in Berar.

28,016. Will you kindly give us your opinion with regard to the habit of opium eating and opium smoking?—I make distinction between opium eating and opium smoking. In opium eating again I make two divisions, (1) using opium medicinally, and (2) using the same non-medicinally. In medical use I include opium prescribed by medical men and also opium given to children and opium taken by old and infirm persons in old age only. Non-medical use: In Berar and among Beraris, Rajputs, and a few other Hindus and a few Mahomedans take it for its own sake. Marwaris born in Berar or elsewhere are more or less used to opium. But with a few exceptions these people are well fed, and opium does not do any harm to them. Morally, they are in no way inferior to non-eaters, and physically they do not fare badly. Opium requires solid nourishment, and this they can afford to have. Opium smoking is bad and produces very undesirable results. In Berar opium smoking prevails generally among lower classes, and they are, as a rule, poor. Smokers are physically weak and morally low. My belief is based on personal inquiries and personal observations. Rajputs, Sikhs, and Rathors are extensively opium eaters, and yet are fine, stout, and healthy. Morally, they are not inferior to non-eaters similarly situated. Marwaris are notoriously opium eaters, and I have not been able to find more business-like, more frugal,

28,006. Have you found much difficulty in doing it?—No. I think the people are very law abiding. I do not know that they would always obey the law unless someone was present to look after them.

28,007. As far as your experience goes, has the closing of licensed shops for smoking led to the opening of unlicensed places?—I am afraid it has, from what respectable native gentlemen tell me. Personally, I cannot give you any evidence of value upon that point, but they tell me it has done harm in that way.

28,008. Do the people who complain to you think that it is better or worse that smoking should go on in unlicensed shops?—They think it would be better to have the smoking in licensed shops where everything is open.

28,009. Do you care to express an opinion upon it yourself?—I should say, let it be done openly. It is looked upon as a matter of disgrace and you would probably check opium smoking. The tendency at present is either to drive the people to smoke opium in secret or to take to something else, so I am told by respectable natives. I would have licensed shops, where the people would have to go in public to smoke. The disgrace of the thing would prevent a number of people from taking to it.

28,009a. (*Mr Pease*.) Do you not think that in the statistics you have given with regard to Amraoti you have placed under medical use opium that is taken as a stimulant and can hardly be considered as medical use?—Probably so. This is only a return from the man himself, to give a rough idea of how he sold it. The people generally tell him that it is for medicinal use and he puts it down in his book.

28,010. After deducting what is for medical use and what is for smoking, about half a pound is left out of seventeen pounds and a half, and as we know that opium in various forms is used for outward application, it seems to me very little for non-medical use?—I should not attach very great importance to these figures myself. I only gave them from what the man told me; it is only to give a kind of idea to what happens.

28,011. (*Sir James Lyall*.) Did you happen to be working in an opium growing district when the cultivation of the poppy was stopped?—I was in Ellichpur.

28,012. You heard no complaints by the cultivators at all?—No, I heard no complaints.

28,013. You said that one reason for that was because cotton cultivation was taking its place; another reason, I fancy, was because the wholesale vendors so bullied the cultivators by forcing down the price that the cultivation was not a popular one?—It was not a popular one certainly, because of the complaints that were made to the commissioner at the time. The cultivation of opium fell because of that reason.

and more accurate sort of people than they. Smokers, however, I have seen hundreds of the description I have mentioned, viz., physically weak and morally low.

28,017. Can you give us any figures?—I have no figures to cite, but can assert that in 90 out of 100 cases my remarks will hold good. Medically, opium can never be deleterious; nor is it so non-medicinally if used in moderate quantity. It is looked upon as a relief in certain cases; opium eating ought not therefore to be stopped.

28,018. What is your opinion about opium smoking?—Opium smoking is no doubt desirable to stop, but more desirable will it be to stop the use of alcohol which has been doing immense mischief to the country. Opium in its worst form would allow a person at least to stand on his legs and behave as an ordinary human being, whereas a drunkard is sometimes a beast, and is found lying his full length. If at all philanthropists insist on Government to remove vices from the population, I think the ways adopted must be directed towards the stoppage of vices in the order of the mischief they create. The first efforts, therefore, ought to be directed to the stoppage of alcohol drinks, and then, and then only, the question I think would arise as to whether opium smoking should also be stopped or not, and not till then.

28,019. With reference to what you say about intoxication from alcohol, people often talk of intoxication from opium, do you think that is a proper word to use with regard to opium?—No.

28,020. Have you ever seen a man who was at all out of his senses from the use of opium?—No.

Col. K. J. L.
Mackenzie.

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Rao Sahab
Deorao
Vinayak.

Rao Sahab
Deorao
Vinayak.

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28,021. Have you ever seen a man in a state of insensibility or stupor from the use of opium?—No. I have seen many people using a moderate quantity of opium, and they were the best men of business.

28,022. Among what classes does the opium smoking habit prevail?—Opium smoking is a vice, but in Berar generally it is confined to the lower classes. Alcohol, on the other hand, covers higher as well as lower classes, including the classes more or less influenced by some strange liquor ideas—such as concentration of mind in philosophical studies, buoyancy of animal spirit, &c., &c. These, no doubt, are not the ideas of higher classes, but are such as could be cited as an excuse by some of our newly educated violent people to hide their weakness. Whatever may be the truth in these excuses, liquor to my mind is a curse, and immense times greater curse than opium smoking in its worst form.

28,023. Can you suggest any means for stopping opium smoking?—I cannot at present suggest any practical means to stop opium smoking. Stoppage means three things—(1) lingering death, (2) going to liquor or any other worse thing such as bhang or ganja, (3) smuggling. Smuggling means a remedy worse than the disease itself. Between the two other things, the smoker, I am inclined to believe, will naturally prefer vice to death.

28,024. Is it desirable to raise the price?—It is not desirable to raise the price.

28,025. What is the public opinion in the matter of the use of opium?—Public opinion is not against opium eating but it is against opium smoking. But short supply of the article will not be received by the general population as an unmixed blessing since it has the tendency of turning the smoker to worse things.

28,026. What is the popular belief about the effects of opium eating?—Popular belief is that opium eating is beneficial to health when taken in moderate quantity. It is bad if extravagantly taken, but not one-tenth so bad as the liquor is. Popular belief in giving opium to children is that it keeps them quiet and gives them sound sleep. It is also believed that it is a preventive in several ailments to which children are liable. Popular belief regarding the use of opium by old and infirm persons is that it keeps them in spirit and enables them to attend to their daily occupations. Old persons are many times obliged under certain circumstances to live on one meal, and opium has the capacity to avoid pangs of hunger.

28,027. Do you agree yourself in that view as regards the use of opium by old and infirm persons—do you think it is a right view?—There is a popular belief about it. I am personally inclined to think that old people take opium simply to keep them in comfort. The poorer classes use opium in old age because they have to work in the hot sun and at night, and opium keeps them in spirits.

28,028. What is your opinion on the whole about stopping the use of opium?—I consider, on the whole, that

The witness withdrew.

Nawab
Muhammad
Salam-Ullah
Khan.

NAWAB MUHAMMAD SALAM-ULLAH KHAN called in and examined.

28,043. (Sir James Lyall.) You are a Jagirdar and Special Magistrate in the Buldana district?—Yes.

28,044. In what part of Berar is the Buldana district?—There are six districts in Berar, and Buldana is one of them. It is on the boundary of the Nizam's State and the commencement of Berar.

28,045. What family do you belong to?—I belong to the Bhutan family. My grandfather was in office, a Talukdar, at the time of the battle of Assaye in 1803. He rendered service to the British Government in that war, and therefore he got a Jagir, and we have settled there from that time.

28,046. What is your view with regard to the effects of the consumption of opium upon the people?—My belief is that the effect of the consumption of opium on the people of Berar is not bad or injurious at all, and the result of the consumption is not in any way injurious either to the consumers or to the public in general. The effect of the consumption of opium does not necessarily affect the morals of the consumer. Physically the effect of eating of opium does not result in bad consequences, if opium is eaten in moderation.

28,047. Among what classes of people is the habit prevalent?—There is no particular class of people who could be said to be abnormally affected by opium, and as a whole the consumption of opium is equal in all classes and

it would be impolitic to stop the use of opium in India indiscriminately.

28,029. What do you mean by "indiscriminately"?—I have said that it is desirable to stop opium smoking, but because it is not practicable I say it need not be stopped; therefore I used the word "indiscriminately."

28,030. Your general conclusion is that nothing can be done at the present time?—To my idea nothing can be done at present.

28,031. Have you interested yourself in any way in social or political matters?—I am the vice-chairman of the Akola Municipality, and also vice-chairman of the Berar Sarvajanik Sabha.

28,032. Is that association a political association?—Yes.

28,033. Has it any alliance with the Congress?—The Congress is for the whole country. The Berar Sabha looks after the interests of the Berar province only.

28,034. You are also interested in the Congress, are you not?—Yes.

28,035. Have you attended as a deputy?—Yes, I have been to the Congress every year since 1888. I am a delegate from Berar.

28,036. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Do you consider the habit of taking opium by a young man in good health a good habit?—Opium is generally taken for some remedy or to relieve pain; it is not taken as a mere luxury.

28,037. Would you consider it a good habit when it is not taken on account of health?—My opinion is that it is not so much opium that is to be condemned as objectionable; it is only on account of want of nourishment that people suffer when they suffer at all from opium.

28,038. Do you think that if a man who was in the habit of taking opium did not take it at the regular time he would suffer?—Yes.

28,039. Would you consider it advisable to take it as a habit and not for the benefit of the health?—In Berar the people, even when they are young, take opium for some reason, but there are people, for instance the Marwaris and others, who take opium for its own sake—for pleasure.

28,040. You would not consider it advisable to take opium under those circumstances?—No, but it has become a habit with them, and I do not think they can give it up.

28,041. Would you advise your son who is young and in good health to take opium as a habit?—No, I would not, but if he required it on account of his health I would not object.

28,042. (Sir James Lyall.) Would you advise your son if he is young and in good health to take tobacco?—Parents will not advise their children to take tobacco or opium, but if they do take it they will not object.

sections of the people. If there should be called a section of people who are habitual eaters of opium, but not abnormally affected by eating opium, I should take these sections to be old women and infants. As to view the opium eaters medicinally and non-medicinally, I think, it would not be wrong to view that all the opium taken is taken medicinally, because opium has not a pleasant taste or any pleasant effect, and those who take it take it for the benefit derived from its effect. Some people take opium as a cure for some disease, some take it for relief from pain, some for exhaustion, or as a stimulant to the general system of the body in old age and under similar circumstances.

28,048. Is opium used as a domestic medicine?—Yes. The opium is the cheapest and the best available medicine within the reach of the poor people, and a better one they cannot obtain.

28,049. What effect does the habit have upon the morals?—I have seen people enjoying very high position in the native society addicted to the habit of eating opium, and I have found that it had not any bad effect on their morals, as they were found to be men of very good morals all round. I am not of opinion that the use of opium is deleterious, and, as I have said before, the use of opium is wholly medicinal, and in my opinion it is not advisable to curtail its supply wholly or partially.

28,050. Opium is much dearer than it used to be, is it not?—Yes, it is much dearer. Every attempt has been made to make it as dear as possible.

28,051. Do you think that the making of it so much dearer has materially reduced the consumption?—Yes, because the people cannot take so much. They have reduced their doses. A poor man cannot afford to take too much. If he took two mashes before he would only be able to take one masha now.

28,051a. Do you think the present system is good, or would you propose any alteration?—I do not think any system can be better than the present one. The present system of the Government is, in my humble opinion, a quite sufficient curtailment of the supply of opium, and any steps beyond the present system would be dangerous. Any curtailment of the supply of opium would be received in a most serious light by the people, and would be very dangerous, as many soldiers in the army of the Government, and many of the fighting races, such as Sikhs and Rajputs, are addicted to the habit of eating opium, and it would be most dangerous if a discontent is created amongst them.

28,052. Have you any experience of the cultivation of opium?—Not much.

28,053. Do you think it is a profitable one?—Yes, it is a very profitable one. I have not cultivated it myself, but I am a landholder, and they used to cultivate it in my own villages.

28,054. When the cultivation was stopped by order was there any complaint made about it?—My people suffered very much.

28,055. Do you know whether they complained to the authorities?—No, they did not make any complaint. They thought it would be useless to complain. It is very profitable. The only two good crops are sugar cane and poppy. The cultivation of sugar cane involves a great deal of expense. First of all there is the seed. The seed

of sugar cane will cost 50 or 60 rupees. The cultivation of poppy takes only three months, whereas sugar cane takes 12 months. Sugar cane has to be watered the whole year, and at the time of making molasses it costs a great deal because about 25 persons are engaged and they have to be paid. Opium grows in three months, and 20 labourers only can do the work in three days. They are paid 1 anna in the morning. They have only to work two hours, and I have known the average produce of a bigha to be about 7 seers of opium.

28,056. One witness told us that about the time when opium was prohibited in Berar the price of cotton was going up very much, and therefore the cultivators took to cotton instead of opium, and did not mind very much?—I cannot speak about that because it is a very long time ago. I was not old enough to judge as to that. It was prohibited nearly 20 years ago and I did not take any interest in it. I was learning at school at that time.

28,057. Where did you go to college?—I was at Akola High School, and I was a short time at Bombay.

28,058. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Did your father or grandfather get the title of Nawab from the British Government?—I got it.

28,059. You say that "some people take opium as a cure for some disease, some take it for relief from pain, some for exhaustion, or as a stimulant to the general system of the body in old age." In the case of old age of course it is used as a stimulant?—Yes.

28,060. Is it good for a young man in good health?—It would be folly to take it in that case. If a young man suffers from sickness of course he would take it.

28,061. You mean he would take it for the benefit of his health?—Yes. If I am in good health I do not want it and why should I take it. If I am sick or have some complaint I should take it.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. G. S. KHAPARDE called in and examined.

28,062. (Chairman.) What is your position?—I am a High Court pleader of Bombay, and also a High Court pleader of my province. I was for four years a first-class magistrate, and after resigning my place I have been practising. I am vice-chairman of the Municipality of Amraoti.

28,063. Are you the elected chairman?—Yes, the elected vice-chairman of the Municipality, and the elected chairman of the District Board, and I am a member of the District Congress Committee and also a member of the International Congress.

28,064. We shall be glad to hear anything you have to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—Opium is given to nearly all the children in Amraoti up to three or four years of age. It is not given after that unless they have some ailment or the doctor prescribes it. My own idea is that it produces no injurious effects. It has produced no bad effects on me, on my father, or on my children. We give our children opium until they reach the age of three years. During my experience as a magistrate I did not come across a very bad character, a person who had committed crime, through taking opium. I have known people quarrel because of taking liquor, but I have not known any quarrel through taking opium. I condemn opium smoking, and I say it is very injurious. I have seen people who were very well fed and very well looked after, but yet when they took to opium smoking they ruined their health. They get sunken cheeks and protruding eyes, and all sorts of ailments. So far as I can see it produces no special effect upon the morals of a person. If anything, an opium-eater is what we call an easy going person. He takes everything more or less easy. The greatest fault I can attribute to opium is that a man who takes opium is not disposed to mind anything which is going on about him. He does not take to bad habits, and he is not necessarily a liar or a person addicted to any other kind of evil-doing.

28,065. That tendency to let things pass is exhibited, I suppose, in the case of those who take opium in what may be called excess?—I think even in small quantities it has that effect on a man. It makes him more or less disposed to let things alone. That is one of the reasons why it is given to children. The ladies in the house and the people want to work, and the child gives too much trouble when it is wide-awake. They give it a small dose of opium and it keeps the child quiet. Otherwise it does not do harm to

children. My three sons have been brought up on opium, and none of them are in bad health, and they can compare favourably with any boys of their age.

28,066. Do you desire to recommend any modifications in the present regulations, either as regards licensing or the rules affecting the sale or cultivation of opium?—I am familiar only with the regulations in my province.

28,067. What do you say about them?—I think they are quite sufficient so far as they go.

28,068. What is your opinion as to the general feeling of the people with reference to any changes that have been proposed to this Commission?—The people more or less desire the present arrangement to remain *statu quo*. The cultivators naturally wish for permission to cultivate poppy and so get more money by it, but otherwise there is no desire to change the law.

28,069. As regards the general body of opium consumers, do you say they would not wish that the sale should be restricted to medical use upon a doctor's certificate?—Consumers naturally want to get it as cheap as they can; they would like to have it made cheaper if possible, but otherwise the general body of the public are quite satisfied with the regulations as they now stand.

28,070. Would they object to any change?—Change in the direction of making it harder to get would be objected to, I think, either in the way of making it harder to get or by raising the price.

28,071. What would you say would be the feeling of the people as to increased taxation to make up for the loss of revenue?—They would object very strongly to increased taxation.

28,072. (Sir William Roberts.) Is the practice of giving opium to infants very common in your district?—Yes.

28,073. Is it given to them every day?—Yes, generally every day, in the evening.

28,074. Only once a day?—Yes.

28,075. It is ordinarily given once a day in the evening?—Yes.

28,076. But if it is given to keep the children quiet, as you say, while the mothers are at work, I suppose it must be given in the morning?—No, because one dose keeps them quiet for 24 hours.

Nawab
Muhammad
Salam-Ullah
Khan.

20 Feb. 1994.

Mr. G. S.
Khaparde.

Mr. G. S.
Khaparde.

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28,077. (Sir James Lyall.) You say you have seen some people extremely thin or emaciated from opium smoking?—Yes.

28,078. May not a man be very emaciated and more or less weak, and yet able to do his work?—These people whom I have come across, these opium smokers, turn out very worthless men. They could not do any work. They spend most of their time in sleeping and lying idle.

28,079. Are you speaking of Amraoti?—No, of Ellichpur.

28,080. That was from madak smoking, I suppose?—Yes, I have seen it. I noticed in my province that the people do not generally stop at madak smoking. When they commence madak smoking they generally take to other kinds of intoxicants along with it, such as bhang or ganja. The madak smoker is really an objectionable character.

28,081. He is almost always a man of low position, is he not?—No; I met one man of a very good family who has taken to it, but he is looked down upon; nobody associates with him if they can help it.

28,082. As a rule, I suppose, it is confined to the towns, is it not?—Usually, but occasionally I come across an opium smoker in a village—very occasionally.

28,083. As it is so much looked down upon and thought so vicious, naturally only rather shameless people take to it, I suppose—people who have no reputation to lose—as a rule?—As a rule people of exactly the class you state take to it, but in some cases I have even found rich men and men of position take to it. I met four or five of them once.

28,084. I suppose they were vicious young men, were they not?—More or less almost all of them were of the same character. Only one of them has risen to a position since.

28,085. If you stopped madak smoking would not these same rather shameless vicious sort of people take to liquor?—I think they would.

28,086. (Mr. Fanshawe.) You have spoken of the use of opium among children; is it your experience in the districts in which you have been employed that opium is taken by older men as a restorative?—Yes, some old men take it as a restorative.

28,087. Is opium used, as far as you know, as a household remedy among the people of the districts against rheumatism, colds, and complaints of that kind?—Yes, they often make a paste out of it, and if they have a pain in the stomach they put some of the paste on the stomach and occasionally they put it on the forehead, and so on.

The witness withdrew.

Mr.
R. M. Dane.

Mr. R. M. DANE called in and examined.

28,101. (Chairman.) I believe you have a statement to make to us?

(Witness.) I would request that the abstracts of evidence of the following witnesses from the Hyderabad State, who were prepared to appear before the Commission at Hyderabad, but who have been unable to attend at Bombay, may be printed in the Appendices to the Report:—Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Lawrie, Residency Surgeon, Hyderabad; Mr. Dorabji, Commissioner of Customs of H. H. the Nizam's Government; Nawab Imad Nawaz Jung Bahadur, Abkari Commissioner; Sheo Lall Moti Lall, banker; and Seth Bhagwandas, banker. The abstracts of their evidence have been submitted.

(Chairman.) The abstracts shall be inserted in the Appendices* as you request.

(Witness.) As regards the Central Provinces, I very much regret to say that the memorandum on the excise administration of opium in the Central Provinces, which was intended to supplement the information contained in the note regarding those provinces which was put in by Mr. Finlay on opium produced and consumed in India, has not been prepared in time.

28,102. It will be put before us for the preparation of the Commissioners' Report?—Certainly. I have received a note in manuscript this morning; it is possible that some alterations in it may be necessary, and there has been no time to have it printed. The note is by Mr. Drake Brockman, the Officiating Commissioner of Excise. He is here

28,088. That would be external application, but I am speaking of taking it in the shape of pills for rheumatism and colds in the head—nusia, as it is called—and so on?—That has not come within my experience.

28,089. (Mr. Haridas Veharidas.) Do you consider the habit of taking alcohol is more injurious than opium?—Yes.

28,090. Would you like to see some steps taken to restrict the sale or use of alcohol?—Yes. I do not wish to say that opium is a blessing and should be recommended to everybody, but I say it is the lesser evil of the two.

28,091. Would you like to see the use of alcohol restricted or suppressed first?—Yes.

28,092. (Mr. Moubray.) Are you a member of the National Congress?—Yes.

28,093. Were you at Lahore a short time ago?—I was.

28,094. There was no session at all with regard to the opium question at the Congress?—There was no discussion brought up specially. There was a private conversation among the members, and the feeling appeared to be that, as there was a Royal Commission sitting and evidence being recorded, it would not be proper for a non-official body like the Congress to pronounce an opinion upon it.

28,095. (Mr. Pease.) Do you think that some young men who are respectable begin to smoke and through the association of smoking become disreputable characters?—I have not come across a person who started well in life—I mean one who went to school or to college—who afterwards took to smoking opium. I have not seen a young man of that kind yet.

28,096. Still there are many respectable young men in a very humble position in life; do these respectable young men sometimes commence the habit of opium smoking?—In my experience I only know of one instance of that kind.

28,097. You think they become bad characters before they begin to smoke?—Yes.

28,098. (Sir William Roberts.) Have you noticed many fatal accidents from this practice of giving opium to children, or have you heard of any?—I know of none.

28,099. The people are so skilled in the use of opium?—The mothers generally understand the dose. They give so little of it. It is a very small pill.

28,100. Fatal cases do not even happen accidentally?—So far as my experience goes I have not heard of anything of that kind.

if the Commissioners desire to examine him. If not, the note will be printed and put in.

28,103. I have no doubt he will make a full and careful statement of all the matters he wishes to bring under our notice in his paper, and it will be before us as evidence in that form for the preparation of the Report?—Certainly. Mr. Drake Brockman is prepared to answer any questions that may be asked. If I may be allowed to make a suggestion I would suggest that the Commissioners should ask him questions on any points on which they feel doubt as to the excise system, and the note* may be put in subsequently in a complete form containing full information on all points. I should like to point out that paragraph 43 of Mr. Finlay's note on opium produced and consumed in India appears to me to contain sufficient information upon the matter which I understood was in doubt yesterday, viz., whether consumption of opium in any form is allowed on the premises. I should like to state further that three witnesses from the Central Provinces, the Rev. Israel Jacob, Rai Bahadur C. Narainswami, and Rao Sahib Balwant-Rao Bhuskatey have been prevented from attending before the Commission by ill-health, as I have been informed by telegram from the Revenue Secretary to the Chief Commissioner at Nagpur. I would ask that their abstracts† of evidence may also be printed in the Appendices.

(Chairman.) They can be put in.

* See Appendix XXVII. to this Volume.

* See Appendix XXXIX. to this Volume.
† See Appendix XXX. to this Volume.

The witness withdrew.

The Honourable GANGADHAR RAO CHITNAVIS called in and examined.

28,104. (*Chairman.*) You are a malguzar and honorary magistrate of Nagpur?—I am.

28,105. Have you any observations to make to us with reference to the consumption of opium?—I have not had many opportunities of informing myself on the subject of the use and effects of opium. The few opportunities I had were only at Nagpur, in the persons of some who had suffered from opium or madak smoking, and had then gone a begging, and some who came before me as criminals in my court. In these districts persons who are generally addicted to opium smoking belong to the Mahomedan class. Very few Hindus take to it. But the number of opium eating Hindus is, I believe, much larger than opium eating Mahomedans. I may here say that in these districts opium is not smoked by itself, but is smoked in the shape of madak.

28,106. You have spoken of opium smoking; may I take it from you that this opium or madak smoking is much more injurious to health than opium eating?—Yes, I think so.

28,107. With regard to opium eating, would you say it does not conduce to any very bad effects?—My experience has been limited to well-to-do classes of persons who have taken to opium eating, generally persons who have taken to it with a motive, to do them good or to prevent them from having malarial fever.

28,108. For medicinal purposes?—Yes.

28,109. With regard to madak smoking, is that a habit which is looked down upon by the people?—Yes, people do look down upon it.

28,110. Persons who eat opium are not regarded in that light?—No.

28,111. You say some of them are very respectable members of society?—There are only a few in my part of the country. The people do not take opium there much, because the climate is not malarial in most parts of the province.

28,112. Do you consider it possible to entirely prohibit the use of opium?—I do not think so.

28,113. Do you think that if such a prohibition of the use of opium were attempted it would lead to a great increase of smuggling?—Yes, to increase of smuggling and dissatisfaction as well, as opium is mostly taken for medicinal purposes.

The witness withdrew.

RAO BAHADUR RAO YADO RAO PANDE called in and examined (through an interpreter).

28,122. (*Chairman.*) What is your position as a landholder?—I am a malguzar of 35 villages, and also a jagirdar and mahajan (money-lender).

28,123. In what district do you reside?—Bhandara.

28,124. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—I have had numerous opportunities in the course of my daily avocations of observing the habits of persons who use opium. Opium eaters do not join together and eat opium. They take it in their respective houses at appointed hours. Even respectable and well-to-do men use opium. The Marwaris who have settled down here from two or three generations, and are generally in good circumstances, are addicted to this habit. Some of my acquaintances use opium while others do not. I have no personal experience either of eating or smoking opium. The use of opium is not injurious. As a rule natives administer it as medicine in small doses to young children till they are nearly three or four years old, the reason being that it acts as a preventive of cold and other minor complaints. It keeps up the strength of old persons if taken by them. But it is decidedly injurious in the case of young persons. Still, if the use of opium is accompanied by that of milk, ghee, and sugar it does not cause any injury. There may be 10 or 15 per cent. of persons who use opium. The effect of opium smoking in the case of aged persons is physically very injurious. It makes a man weak and dries his blood. The liver and brain are both affected. In my opinion smoking should be put a stop to. I have got a number of acquaintances among natives who eat opium. They are in favour of its use. It is my opinion, as well as the opinion of other people, that it may be used for purposes other than medical. The growth of poppy and the production and sale of opium should not be stopped. There should be no prohibition against its use for those who only

28,114. What do you believe to be the opinions of the people with reference to the contingency of having to bear any further taxation?—I can gather from the opinions of the people that they would be most unwilling to bear any further taxation imposed upon them to cover loss of revenue from opium. They would object to any such change. It would be most inadvisable to tax the whole population, many of whom may be living very moderate lives, to correct the vices of a few persons. I would never advocate any such change when, in addition to the reason above mentioned, people themselves do not find that opium eating with good nourishment is as injurious as it has been represented to be, and that in some cases it is really a blessing.

28,115. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) You have spoken of the use of opium for medicinal purposes. I gather that you have also had experience of its use in the case of people going on journeys, and when special exhaustion has to be undergone?—Yes, in malarial climates when people go on long journeys, or have to undergo exhaustion.

28,116. When you say that it is really a blessing in some cases, you refer to cases of the medicinal use of opium and to the other cases you have described?—Yes, and to the case of infants too.

28,117. Has it come within your experience that opium is used by older men as a restorative after the age of 35 or 40?—Yes, those who take opium after that age, and who have good nourishment, generally live long—that is my experience.

28,118. How do you regard the taking of opium in moderation as a whole?—I think it conduces to good health.

28,119. The excessive cases you think ought to be reprobated, but, taken as a whole, the moderate use of opium is not open to objection?—No.

28,120. (*Mr. Haridas Veharidas.*) Would you consider it a good thing for a young man in good health to take opium as a habit?—If he takes it for medicinal purposes I would not look down upon the habit, but if he takes it, as in the case of madak smoking, for immoral purposes I would look down upon it.

28,121. You would say the same with regard to opium eating, I suppose?—Yes.

eat it. But some punishment should be prescribed for those who buy under the pretext of eating but use it for smoking purposes. There is no prohibition for the sale of opium, but there is a prohibition for its manufacture. The consumption of opium will diminish in case its sale for purposes other than medical is stopped. The system in this province is that licenses are issued for the sale of opium. The system is good. As far as my opinion goes, I see no harm in making opium pay for the loss which may be sustained by stopping the use of madak. Most probably the people will not be willing to bear the extra taxation. I believe that they will greatly dislike it.

28,125. (*Mr. Pease.*) Do you think that young persons can smoke opium without injury to their health?—No, they cannot, it causes great injury whether they are young or old.

28,126. (*Sir James Lyall.*) Is Bhandara one of the districts in which they used to cultivate poppy?—No.

28,127. When used the Bhandara opium to come from?—I do not know.

28,128. Was opium 20 years ago much cheaper than it is now, or has there been any change?—It is much dearer now.

28,129. Do you know why?—One reason of the increased cost is that opium is now taxed, and another reason is that people have begun to smoke more madak than before, and as madak is made out of opium the price of opium has, therefore, been increased. Formerly people did not smoke madak so much; they used to eat opium in the solid form.

28,130. Do you really think there has been a great increase in madak smoking?—Yes, the number of madak smokers has increased, and the people smoke more than they did before.

The Hon.
Gangadhar
Rao
Chitnavis.

20 Feb. 1894.

Rao Bahadur
Rao Yado Rao
Pande.

Rao Bahadur
Rao Yado Rao
Pande.

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28,131. (*Mr. Pease.*) Do you advise that madak smoking should be prohibited, and the price of opium for eating increased?—I am in favour of the prohibition of madak smoking, and I see no particular objection to increasing

the price of opium, because the number of opium eaters is not large, and those who eat it generally eat it as a restorative in old age or for some disease.

The witness withdrew.

Rao Sahib
Bihari Lal.

RAO SAHIB BIHARI LAL called in and examined (through an interpreter).

28,132. (*Chairman.*) What is your position?—I am a malguzar of 35 villages. I have the title of Rao Sahib, and I am also a banker.

28,133. Where do you reside?—In the district of Jubbulpore. I am also Government Treasurer of the Seoni district.

28,134. What have you to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—I frequently come across those in Jubbulpore who take opium in my dealings with them, which has made me acquainted with the use and effects of opium. In my opinion the opium eaters are frequently steady workers and keep good health. Madak smokers who are poor are generally lean in body and suffer from poverty of blood. Madak costs them much more than those who take opium, as the latter can satisfy themselves by taking opium of one or two pice, while opium smokers must spend two annas or so to intoxicate them to their satisfaction. The natives of India consider that opium has several medicinal properties and is frequently useful, and it is taken on account of its beneficial effect in some diseases. Opium taking has never been observed to be the cause of any crime as alcohol. A drunkard may become senseless, which is not the case with an opium eater. In my opinion it is not advisable, with reference to

the possibility of smuggling, to put a stop to the cultivation of poppy and the production and sale of opium. I am acquainted with the present arrangement for the sale of opium, and I cannot suggest any reform, but about madak, which is injurious to health, it would be beneficial if greater restrictions be imposed upon madak smokers with a view to discourage the habit. They can take opium instead. If the use of opium be prohibited, the Government will be obliged to recoup the loss of revenue by fresh taxation, to the great discontent of the people in general, who are unable to bear extra taxation with the present income tax, salt tax, and other taxes which are already too heavy for them to bear.

28,135. (*Mr. Pease.*) What further restrictions would you place upon madak smokers?—I consider that the existing arrangement as regards opium is satisfactory, that the price is dear, and that there is no necessity for further restriction. As regards madak smokers, the number is not large, but still it is an injurious habit, and I think some restriction should be imposed which would prevent people who do not smoke from commencing the habit.

28,136. What restrictions do you recommend?—I am in favour of some further restriction, but I am not prepared to state what the restriction should be.

The witness withdrew.

Surg.-Maj.
C. Henderson.

Surgeon-Major C. HENDERSON called in and examined.

28,137. (*Chairman.*) You are civil surgeon at Hoshangabad?—I am.

28,138. How long have you been in India?—Since 1880.

28,139. In what districts have you served?—In Madras, Burma, Port Blair, and the Central Provinces.

28,140. (*Sir William Roberts.*) In what capacities have you served?—In connexion with my professional duties, and also with reference to the prisoners of the Hoshangabad Jail during the past nine years, and the police force of the Hoshangabad district during the same period, I have had considerable opportunity of informing myself with respect to the use and effects of opium.

28,141. What opinion have you come to as to the effect of the habit on the users?—My opinion as to the effects of opium on the people who habitually use it is that only in the case of a comparatively small number who eat it in large quantities, and in the case of those who smoke it habitually, does it do any harm. In these, according to my experience, not very frequent cases, it does undoubtedly do harm by causing more or less permanent muscular inactivity and waste, reducing the individual in course of time to a state of helpless inactivity and bad health. In the very large number of those, however, who eat the drug habitually in moderate quantities—five to 30 grains a day—I am quite convinced that it is an inestimable boon, having no appreciable effect other than beneficial. It has the effect of checking chronic painful affections, of bracing up the system before undergoing heavy or unusual fatigue. Its action in checking and preventing such chronic affections as chronic bronchitis, asthma, rheumatism, and dysentery I think is undisputed, and in my opinion there is a strong probability of its possessing the property commonly attributed to it, viz., of acting as a prophylactic in certain diseases such as malaria. The effect physically on moderate eaters is nil; they are just as well nourished, strong, and healthy as other people. I cannot recall a single case in which I have had to invalid a man when his incapacity for further service was attributed to the opium habit. I believe the use of opium has no moral effect whatever upon those who consume it. No bad moral effects from the consumption of the drug have ever come to my notice among the general population, nor have I noticed any connexion between the crimes committed by the prisoners in the jail and their opium consuming habits; and such a thing must be rare, otherwise instances would have come before me during the many years in which I have been in charge of the jail. The large majority of opium consumers are quiet, well-conducted, orderly people.

28,142. What is your experience as to opium smoking?—Smoking opium in the forms of chandu and madak is much less resorted to than eating, and chiefly among the poorer classes. It is in my opinion far more injurious than eating, probably from its gaining access to the system through the lungs instead of through the stomach. Its effects are much more quickly realized and somewhat more intense than those following eating. Whether it is necessary to increase the amount of opium entirely depends upon the reason for which it is taken. In the case of those who are the victims of chronic complaints the amount of opium they take depends upon the amount of relief obtained, and has often to be increased; on the other hand, those who take it in moderate doses for pleasure need only to increase the amount slightly during a period of years.

28,143. What have you to tell us with regard to the practice of giving opium to infants?—As regards the practice of giving children opium to keep them quiet, I am of opinion that it is harmful and injurious and ought to be stopped, although I am aware that many hold an entirely different opinion.

28,144. May I ask you on what ground you have come to the conclusion that it is injurious?—Because I think that as a rule it is not given for medicinal purposes, but simply to keep children quiet when they cry.

28,145. Have you any cases which have come within your actual personal experience of evil effects connected with this habit?—No, I cannot say that any cases have.

28,146. Your objections are based merely on theoretical grounds?—Yes.

28,147. What is the public opinion with regard to the habit of using opium?—Native public opinion is not adverse to the habit of eating, especially in the case of those who are driven to it from chronic intractable complaints, but opium smoking is regarded by many as a disgrace, there being a pretty unanimous and strong public opinion that it should be put a stop to.

28,148. Is it possible, in your opinion, to prohibit the sale and production of opium except for medical purposes?—In my opinion it would be impossible to prohibit the sale and production of opium except for medical purposes, because (1) of the ease with which smuggling could and would be carried on; (2) medical purposes are often closely and intimately connected with others; (3) anyone requiring opium could always say that they wanted it for medical purposes; (4) if the medical agents through whom the drug could only be procured were to consist of the

civil surgeon and hospital assistants the number of these would be so infinitesimally small as compared with the large number requiring the drug that it would amount to a great and public scandal that the people could only procure the drug through such agency; (5) if such a system were resorted to the existing medical authorities (putting aside native hakims as being altogether unreliable and out of the question) would have to be enormously augmented, or the system would prove impracticable.

28,149. Would you approve of any modification of the existing Government system to check the use of opium?—As to consumption being checked by modification of the existing Government system, in my opinion no such step should be taken. I would advocate, on the contrary, that every village, with the exception perhaps of the very small ones, should be provided with a supply of opium, so that the people may be able to procure the drug when ill much easier than they can at present. Under the existing system it can only be procured in a few villages, and people living in the large number of remaining ones have to send long distances or go without it. I have upon several occasions, while on tour in the district, seen examples of this hardship, and no doubt it very frequently occurs. As regards chandu and madak, however, I am of opinion that the use of these forms of opium should be abolished as far as possible. In making this suggestion I do not of course suppose that it would be possible for Government to stop the custom of smoking opium completely so long as the drug can be purchased, but I think that Government would do wisely to discourage the habit of opium smoking as far as possible. There is no necessity for its continuance. The practice is looked upon by many as a disgrace; native opinion generally is against it, and it is injurious to the system. Moreover, if stopped, there will be no resulting hardship to the people who use it, as they will simply resort to the harmless habit of eating opium instead of smoking it.

28,150. Have you had much experience of madak smoking or madak smokers?—I have been brought into contact with them during my service in this country.

28,151. There has been some little confusion as to why madak smoking is looked upon with disapproval. We are not quite sure whether it is a form of the opium habit that is resorted to by persons of abandoned character, and that it is disreputable on that account, and not because it is more injurious than the eating of opium, what is your view?—As far as my experience goes I am inclined to think that madak smoking is much more injurious than opium eating on account of its being inhaled into the lungs; the fumes of madak are not simply taken into the mouth.

28,152. May I take it that your opinion of the more injurious character of madak smoking is based upon that theoretical supposition?—Partly upon theory, and partly upon what I have seen of those who actually smoke madak.

28,153. (*Mr. Pease.*) Do you think the effect of burning opium in the process of smoking alters its character and effect upon the human system?—It might be so.

28,154. (*Mr. Mowbray.*) You referred to madak shops. Are there many places where people can buy madak now?—I believe there are comparatively few places now. There are something like 57 shops where you can buy opium for eating, but there are not so many where you can buy madak.

The witness withdrew.

The Rev. W. E. ROBBINS, M.A., called in and examined.

28,167. (*Chairman.*) I believe you have been a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church in India since 1872, and that you were one of the bearers of an anti-opium memorial from 17,000 Christians in India and Great Britain to the Chinese Government four years ago?—Yes.

28,168. We shall be glad to hear anything you have to tell us with regard to the question before this Commission?—I have from time to time visited numbers of places in India, as well as in other countries, which were reeking with the fumes of the opium smoked therein, there being often as many as a hundred in, and some instances several hundreds of men, women, and children in each at a time, in all stages of exhilaration and intoxication. Of the numbers of frequenters of these places questioned—in Marathi, Hindustani, and English—with reference to the good or bad effects of the habit of eating or smoking the drug, there has been a remarkable consensus of opinion in

28,155. You said, "I think that Government would do wisely to discourage the habit of opium smoking as far as possible"; how do you think Government can discourage it?—By prohibiting the public sale of it.

28,156. You cannot say exactly how many places sell it at present? You think it is sold now at a small number of places, and you wish the sale to be prohibited altogether?—Yes.

28,157. I suppose there would not be much difficulty then in people buying opium and converting it into madak?—No, they could do so.

28,158. (*Mr. Fanshawe.*) As regards your proposal to make opium more easily procurable, is it not the case that in many villages opium would be found in some few houses as being kept there in small quantities as a household remedy?—Among the well-to-do people perhaps that would be so, but I do not think it is the case among the poor people.

28,159. Not among the cultivating classes?—No. That is my experience.

28,160. You say, "Native public opinion is not adverse to the habit of eating, especially in the case of those who are driven to it from chronic intractable complaints"; do you not think also that native public opinion is not adverse to the habit when opium is used as a restorative in old age? You have only spoken of chronic and intractable complaints?—I did not mean it in that sense, I meant generally speaking, but especially in the case of those who are driven to it from chronic intractable complaints. I do not think they are adverse to the habit of eating opium either in the case of old age or in the case of the young.

28,161. I understand you to mean that they are not adverse to the habit of eating opium whether by old or young people, and that there is a less feeling against it when people are driven to it by some complaint?—That is what I mean.

28,162. (*Sir James Lyall.*) Are you aware that certain Chinese witnesses have said that in China opium smoking is believed to be a very effective remedy for consumption and pulmonary affections, or at any rate a habit which stops the progress of these affections?—I have heard it stated.

28,163. Do you think it is possible?—I think it is possible in moderation. It is the excessive smoking which is injurious.

28,164. You said that your idea of the results of madak smoking is not obtained from mere theory, but that you have noticed its effects in cases; do you mean by that that you have noticed the appearance of madak smokers, or do you mean that you have medically attended many madak smokers?—I mean both. I have attended them as prisoners in jail, and I have also noticed the emaciated appearance of madak smokers.

28,165. These people are generally supposed to be debauched characters. Is it not very difficult, therefore, to say whether their physical condition is due merely to the madak smoking habit, or whether it may not be due to debauchery of other kinds?—In many cases I think it is very difficult to say whether their emaciation is due to disease or whether it is due to the smoking habit.

28,166. A witness who gave evidence to-day said that in many cases these madak smokers also took bang and other drugs; would not that add to the difficulty of the diagnosis?—It would complicate things very much.

*Surg.-Maj.
C. Henderson.*

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*The Rev. W. E.
Robbins, M.A.*

condemnation of it as evil and only evil; and certainly the looks of the speakers did not belie their words. Indeed I may say that this condemnation of the practice has been unanimous—the only exception that I recall being a vendor at one of the stalls. Only recently a man, unsolicited, told me in good English that it was doing him harm and he was quite ready to give it up, but could not, and that has been the sad wail of multitudes in this land and others. My observation is to the effect that not only do the habitués of opium loathe the practice and themselves for having become enslaved by it, but that they are held in disrepute among the people generally who do not use it. Wherever I have gone amongst Christian missions and churches of all denominations I have found that those addicted to the use of opium are rigidly excluded from membership until they have abandoned it; and in order to treat them for it, medical missionaries have their patients locked up in rooms

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where they can have no access to the drug for a number of days, and even after they seemed cured they are very liable to relapse. As fascinating as the habit may be to the Chinese, I am of opinion that if it be not prohibited except as a medicine it may prove just as fascinating and seductive to the people of India, who certainly have not more robust constitutions for resisting its evil effects. I have met at least one Hindu merchant who had been reduced from wealth and respectability to penury to gratify his craving for the drug. But he was only an example of the many of all classes and creeds.

28,169. I notice that you speak of having seen on certain occasions several hundreds of men, women, and children at one time smoking opium—where and when did you see these large gatherings?—About five years ago I had my attention first directed to this subject in the city of Bombay. I visited several different places where there were very nearly a hundred persons smoking. I think, perhaps, I have not seen more than a hundred at one place in Bombay. In China, at Shanghai, I saw as many as a thousand in one place at a time.

28,170. When you spoke of these large numbers you referred to your experiences in China?—Yes.

28,171. Do you know that under recent regulations licenses are no longer granted in this country for opium smoking?—I believe that is so, but I see them at the stalls in great numbers, three men at one stall, serving out opium as fast as they can to passers by of all ages, sexes, and creeds.

28,172. You have not stated specifically what is your recommendation as a remedy for the evils of which you have spoken about—what do you recommend to be done?—The best recommendation I can make is to prohibit the growth of opium in India, the export of it from India, and the import of it into India except for medical purposes. That seems to me to be the only effectual remedy.

28,173. Being in favour of a prohibitory policy in relation to opium, would you desire to include in the same restrictions the sale of alcohol?—I would be quite ready to advocate that as well. I think one of the strongest points that has been made with reference to the evil effects of opium is that you cannot find anything better to compare it with than alcohol.

28,174. In this country, which do you consider is the greater cause of evil—alcohol or opium?—It would be difficult to tell, perhaps, without a greater knowledge of the whole country. It was a long time before I would agree that opium was really worse in its effects than alcohol, knowing, as I do, the evil effects of alcohol; but there are two or three reasons why it seems to me that it is really worse. One reason is that it is more seductive, fascinating, and insidious, and people get into the habit before they are aware of it, even more so than in the case of alcohol. Another reason is that it seems to be more difficult to break off even than alcohol. I have been told by our medical missionaries in the opium refuges where they have a great many of these smokers that they had a large number whom they sent out as cured, and the universal testimony of these medical missionaries was that a very large proportion of these men went back again to the habit. One medical missionary said that as many as 90 per cent. went back to the habit, and another missionary told me that the per-centage was even more than that.

28,175. (Mr. Fanshawe.) I understand that your experience of the opium-eating habit in India is limited? You speak more particularly as regards opium smoking?—Yes.

28,176. With regard to the views you have expressed as to habits of opium loathing the practise and themselves for having become enslaved by it, and being held in disrepute among the people generally, do you wish those remarks to apply more particularly to the smoking habit?—Yes, to the opium smoking habit more particularly. I think they would apply to the opium eating habit as well, but these places which I have visited were places where opium was smoked principally.

28,177. I understand that the time when you visited these opium smoking places was five years ago?—It would be about five years ago when I first visited them.

28,178. As regards your experience of opium smoking on licensed premises in Bombay, did you see any children smoking opium on any occasion at those places?—I have seen young people. I could not say how old they were. They were not small children.

28,179. You say that you have seen hundreds of men, women, and children smoking opium. I wish to know whether you have seen children smoking opium in Bombay?

—I do not say that I have seen so many children smoking opium in Bombay as in China.

28,180. Did you see any? In your recollection, have you seen any children in licensed shops in Bombay actually smoking opium?—I would not say that I saw any under 12 or 15 years of age.

28,181. Did you see many children over that age smoking opium?—Not very many, the proportion was small.

28,182. Did you see any large number of women smoking opium in these licensed shops in Bombay?—I do not recall just now whether I saw any women at the time I visited these places in Bombay. I certainly saw a great number in China.

28,183. (Mr. Haridas Voharidas.) Do you consider at the present time that the alcohol habit is increasing or decreasing?—I think it is increasing.

28,184. Do you think the opium habit is increasing or decreasing?—I think they both go together. From my observations in Singapore I saw that there were opium shops about every 10 yards with liquor shops between them.

28,185. I am speaking of India?—I have not seen so many opium shops in India.

28,186. How would you compare the opium habit of 20 years ago with the opium habit of to-day, do you think it is increasing?—I think the opium habit has increased during the last 20 years.

28,187. Do you think the opium habit is more injurious than the alcohol habit?—I think it is more injurious in the respects that I have mentioned.

28,188. In other respects do you think alcohol is the more injurious?—It is six of one and half-a-dozen of the other. I do not know which to condemn the more.

28,189. If opium is stopped do you think the people would take to alcohol?—I believe, from the characteristics and temperament of the people of India, that they are more liable to take to opium, and that it is likely to do more harm than alcohol to which they have not been generally addicted.

28,190. If opium is stopped in the way you propose, would they not take to alcohol?—I am not prepared to say. To some extent they would, no doubt.

28,191. Would it not be more injurious in point of religion and precept? Perhaps you know that alcohol causes a person to be violent?—The very effect of its causing them to be violent prevents many from taking it who otherwise would. The opium is so seductive and insidious that they are under its influence before they are aware of it.

28,192. Would not you like to see alcohol dealt with first?—I would like to see either habit done away with. If you do away with alcohol to-day and opium to-morrow it would be all right.

28,193. (Mr. Mowbray.) In what parts of India has your work been?—I have been about nine years in Bombay city.

28,194. Is that recently?—I was here for my first five years, and I have been here for four years from 1888 to 1892.

28,195. Have you been in any other part?—This merchant that I speak of was at Dongargarh, in the Central Provinces.

28,196. You have been 22 years in India, and you have accounted for nine years; where have you spent the rest of the time?—I was six years at Poona, two years in Igatpuri, one year in Lucknow, and two years on furlough.

28,197. Did you see much of the opium dens at Lucknow?—I did not. My attention was not called to it at the time I was there, which was nine or 10 years ago.

28,198. How long were you in China when you went with this petition?—I was in China about four or five months altogether.

28,199. How long were you in the Straits Settlements?—I spent 15 or 16 days in the Straits Settlements, Singapore, and Penang. I was at Hong Kong one week, Canton one week, Shanghai about six or seven weeks, Tientsin a week or more, and three weeks at Peking.

28,200. Are you working at Bombay now?—I am working at Igatpuri, about 85 miles on the north-east on the G.I.P. Railway.

28,201. (Mr. Pease.) When you were at Tientsin did you have an interview with Li Hung Chang, the Chinese Minister?—Yes; I had an interview with the Prime Minister, the Metropolitan Viceroy.

28,202. Did he receive your memorials and promise to forward them to the Imperial authorities?—Yes, he received them and promised to forward them to the Central Government with his recommendation.

28,203. Is this a correct representation of what took place:—“He spoke in strong and emphatic terms of the moral and material evils of opium smoking. He said the Central Government were most sincere in their antagonism to the opium traffic, and if the foreign import were prohibited they would at once turn their efforts to effectually put down the home growth. But, he asked, would not the demand for a prohibition treaty with Great Britain bring on a third opium war?”—Those are the words he used.

28,204. Have you anything further you would like to add with regard to that interview?—When asked that the Chinese Government should demand a prohibition treaty from Great Britain (which was the purport of the memorials), he nearly repeated the words uttered by the Marquis Tseng a few days before he died, viz., “China is not free; she cannot take the first step.” He said China would be most glad, and would take measures if there were a prohibition treaty between Great Britain and China; they would take measures which they thought would be successful in putting it down, like the home growth.

28,205. (*Sir James Lyall*.) Who was the Chinese Minister you had this interview with?—*Li Hung Chang*. We also had an interview with Prince Ching, the father of the reigning Emperor—a communication from his physician.

28,206. What was *Li Hung Chang*’s position?—He is Grand Secretary to the Chinese Government, corresponding to the Prime Minister, and he is also the Viceroy of the Metropolitan Province of Chihli.

28,207. Did he give you a reply?—Not a written reply.

28,208. Who interpreted?—A Chinese gentleman named *Lo Fung Lo*.

28,209. You said just now that you had known one rich man who was ruined by the opium habit. I suppose you have known a good many who were ruined by liquor, have you not?—Yes; I have nothing good to say of the liquor habit.

28,210. Are you prepared to say in what way you would prohibit the use of opium except as a medicine?—The only effectual way is legal prohibition.

28,211. To make it a criminal offence?—Yes.

28,212. What do you mean by medical use, do you mean medical prescription?—I would say precisely as it is done in England.

28,213. Are you aware that the English system does not prevent its use for other than medical purposes?—I am not aware of that. I would say under a doctor’s prescription.

28,214. The English system does not prevent its sale except so far that the word “Poison” must be put on the bottle—would you be satisfied if the words “Poison Shop” were put up above an opium shop?—That would help some perhaps, but I am not sure that the people do not know already that it is poison—a great many of them.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. DRAKE-BROCKMAN called in and examined.

28,227. (*Sir James Lyall*.) What is the title of your office?—I am officiating Commissioner of Excise in the Central Provinces.

28,228. How many years’ service have you had?—A little over seven years.

28,229. Your experience has been entirely in the Central Provinces?—Entirely.

28,230. How long have you acted as officiating Excise Commissioner?—Nearly two years. I hold several other offices besides, Inspector General of Registration, Superintendent of Stamps, and Commissioner of Miscellaneous Revenue.

28,231. I believe you have prepared, on behalf of the Central Provinces,* a note on the administration of the excise revenue from opium?—Yes, the note shown to me is based on one of mine, the original has been modified.

28,232. Who modified it?—The Revenue Secretariat.

28,233. Do you put in this note now?—I did not put it in. It was sent by post from the Secretariat.

* The memorandum on the administration of the excise revenue from opium in the Central Provinces will be found in its complete form in Appendix XXIX. to this Volume.

28,215. You do not mean that it should only be procurable on a medical order?—Yes, that is what I meant to say. I was not quite aware how it was done in England.

28,216. I think you have had experience of places like the Central Provinces? In Bombay there are a great number of reliable doctors of all kinds, but in the Central Provinces you may go a great many miles without finding a doctor, except perhaps a village Vaid, is not that the case?—That is true, certainly, in many places. I think it would be easy enough to regulate that. I have not thought just how it should be done in cases of that sort, but I have no doubt it could be done. Some officer could be authorised to do it.

28,217. You would have some medical officer appointed for the purpose all over the country?—I would not have them specially appointed for the purpose. I think there would be little difficulty in that. We cannot go very far, excepting away out on the frontiers, without finding a medical officer of some kind.

28,218. But in the Central Provinces you will admit that you may go a great number of miles, 50 or 60 or 70 miles without finding a medical officer?—Yes, that is so, but I do not think they would suffer very much if they did not get it.

28,219. Some witnesses have told us in reference to what you say that opium is the great and almost the only medicine which is used as a domestic medicine in India, and which everybody knows how to apply?—That is not my experience, it is something quite new to me. I have not heard of its being used as a general remedy at all until the last few weeks.

28,220. You spoke of having seen the opium shops crowded with customers, is it not a fact that if you only allow one shop in an area of 50 to 100 square miles for an article which is in considerable demand that shop is likely to be more crowded than most shops?—Yes, that would be so in a large place.

28,221. Do you say that opium eating is more seductive and fascinating than alcohol drinking?—Yes, it comes on so insidiously.

28,222. Is it not the fact that a great part of the seductiveness of alcohol consists in the pleasure of its taste and the pleasure of drinking in company?—It may be so, I do not know why people drink it at all.

28,223. Is it not general knowledge that in all countries people like the taste of liquor, and the pleasure of drinking it in company, and that that is one of the seductions of the habit?—I have heard that.

28,224. Do you think there is the same seductiveness in swallowing a bitter pill?—They soon get a very powerful craving for it.

28,225. (*Mr. Mowbray*.) With regard to the China petition you have mentioned, I suppose the proceedings were reported at the time?—Yes, it was published in several papers in England.

28,226. Can you give me the date?—21st April 1892.

28,234. You were told it was part of your duty to put it in?—Not exactly so. I was told to forward a memorandum to the Secretariat. It was there modified, and sent on by post.

28,235. I understand that up to 1873-74 throughout the whole Central Provinces, except Sambalpoore, the cultivation of the poppy was allowed, and the licensed vendors drew their supply of opium from those cultivators?—They got it from where they pleased. They either imported it from outside the province or obtained it from the local growers.

28,236. Were they allowed to import it from the Native States?—They could make their own arrangements.

28,237. Was the import from Native States allowed?—Yes, I think so, certainly.

28,238. Import was allowed freely from Native States?—Yes, certainly.

28,239. Without any pass?—There was a small duty I believe. I have the rules here, if I may be allowed to refer to them. The rule was as follows: Opium, the growth of

The Rev. W.E. Robbins, M.A.

20 Feb. 1894.

Mr. Drake-Brockman.

Mr.
Drake-
Brockman.

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"foreign territory, may be imported for sale in the districts of the Central Provinces, or for transit elsewhere, except as described in the preceding rule, covered by a pass form No. 5, which shall be granted by the officer in charge of the district or by the Tehseeldar of the sub-division into which it is proposed to import, on a written application showing the weight, number of packages, and destination of the consignment. Such pass must be countersigned by the officer in charge of the district or sub-division of each district through which the consignment may pass, as in Rule 10."

28,240. Is this the present system?—No, under the present rules import is not allowed except on account of Government. The rule just quoted was issued in 1866, and remained in force till October 1872, when others to much the same effect were issued.

28,241. I understand that in 1873-74 the Bengal system, which had prevailed in Sumbalpoore, began to be extended to the other districts?—Yes, that is so.

28,242. You quoted some figures, and you say in consequence of this change the revenue rose from 38,979 to 107,273?—Yes; but the latter figure represents gross revenue, and to make the comparison just the net revenue, Rs. 78,216, should be taken.

28,243. Are you talking of the revenue of the whole Central Provinces or of those three districts?—The revenue from the Chattisgarh division.

28,244. I suppose that great increase was due to the substitution of licit for illicit opium?—Yes, I should say so certainly, and particularly to the fact that the price of the opium came to Government.

28,245. You say that the result of the introduction of the Bengal system has been to raise the price of opium to the purchasers from 4 to 6 tolas to the rupee, the old village price, to 2 or 2½ tolas to the rupee?—That is so.

28,246. The old village price was from 4 to 6 tolas the rupee, and it has been raised to 2 or 2½ tolas the rupee?—Yes.

28,247. That is, the price has been doubled to the consumer?—Yes.

28,248. You say, "The policy of the administration has been only to license shops where an actual and steady demand existed, or where facilities for illicit traffic were great." Do you mean by the last words that in such places, even when the demand is small, you sometimes allow shops?—Yes; where there are special facilities for illicit introduction of the drug, shops are licensed more freely than they otherwise would be.

28,249. The new system was completely introduced from 1879-80?—Cultivation was stopped towards the end of 1878, and all districts were under the new system from the 1st April 1879.

28,250. Since then there has been no reduction in the number of shops, but a small increase?—The figures have varied from time to time.

28,251. The consumption of opium would remain about the same?—It has slightly increased. Looking to a long series of years, the average annual consumption has been 625 maunds, and in no year have the total issues varied greatly from that amount.

28,252. I see it is stated that the number of madak shops has been reduced from 285 in 1890-91 to 128 in 1893-94?—That is so; including temporary shops the reduction has been from 298 to 131.

28,253. What has been the cause of that large reduction?—The main reason has been that the practice of madak smoking is generally recognised by the native community to be very harmful, and in 1890 proposals were submitted to the Chief Commissioner to make its manufacture illegal; but it was not thought desirable to go so far at that time, and the orders issued were simply to the effect that licenses should be granted only at large centres of population where there is a considerable and permanent demand for the preparation.

28,254. You say that poppy cultivation was absolutely closed in all districts by 1878?—That is so.

28,255. I believe you were not there at the time, but have you any information as to whether it led to great complaint or not?—No. So far as my perusal of official records goes I should say it did not; but I have no information worth imparting on the subject.

28,256. You say that "smuggling had been stopped from the Madras side and from the Bengal side?"

there could hardly have been smuggling from the Madras side?—Before the Opium Act came into force there was some smuggling of what is called "biscuit" opium. It came through from Rajmundri into the Chattisgarh division.

28,257. You say that smuggling is still going on in those districts which adjoin Native States, and that the measures to stop it met with very slight success in spite of special supervisors and paid detectives, &c.?—That is so.

28,258. Are the powers of the feudatory States under the Central Provinces distinctly defined?—They have sunnuds, which will be found in Aitchison's Treaties. With regard to opium, they are under special restrictions, which are described in the note on opium arrangements in the Central Provinces.

28,259. You do not know how those restrictions are imposed?—I understand they are in their sunnuds; executive orders embodying them issued, in the first instance, from the Local Secretariat.

28,260. (Mr. Pease.) Does the number of shops, of which we have a record, give us the complete number, or are there, as there used to be in the Central Provinces, special licenses given for shops on bazaar days?—There are temporary shops in the Central Provinces.

28,261. Those are not recorded in the list of shops which are given to us?—Under the standing orders they should for the most part be classed as permanent shops. In some districts I have reason to believe that these orders have not been observed, and I am now engaged in bringing them to the notice of the Deputy Commissioners.

28,262. Some years ago it appears that they were in the habit also of granting occasional licenses for bazaar days; I was asking whether these shops licensed specially on bazaar days are included in the total number of shops now returned?—The figures on page 10 of the Government of India's "Note on opium produced and consumed in India" were checked by my office, and I believe they are correct.

28,263. Then with regard to the permanent shops?—All the shops,* including the temporary shops, are included in the Government of India's return, so far as their existence is known to me.

28,264. Those shops are not opened all the year round?—In many cases a shop which is intended to be permanent is not worked whether it is called temporary or not.

28,265. I want to know whether that is the number of shops that are licensed for the year, and whether there are additional shops occasionally licensed for special occasions?—The number returned by the Government of India* includes all the temporary shops, so far as their existence is known to my office.

28,266. Smoking on licensed premises was forbidden many years ago I believe?—The prohibition came into force on the 1st April 1891.

28,267. Do you think that there is smoking upon licensed premises now?—Occasionally. I have had complaints. Only the other day the Deputy Commissioner of Seoni caught a number of persons smoking on the shop premises. The licensee was punished. If cases do occur, and are brought to the notice of the authorities, the men to blame are punished.

28,268. What effect do you think the closing of the licensed premises for the purpose of smoking since 1891 had had upon the practice of opium smoking?—My personal opinion, already expressed in an official report to Government, is that it is likely to do good, as indicating the opinion that Government has of the practice. It is a deleterious practice, and one that should be discouraged. I may also add, however, that many officers do not agree with me in thinking that the measure can have any effect on consumption of madak.

28,269. I suppose you would be of the opinion that a person who is an opium smoker would be sure to smoke on private premises if he could not smoke on public premises?—I think so; but there would be fewer recruits for the practice.

28,270. Is it not your opinion that the fact that there is no licensed shop would, to use your own term, tend to lessen the number of recruits for smoking opium?—I am inclined to think so. That is my personal opinion.

* The witness subsequently corrected this: see page 374. The figures in the Government of India return do not include temporary shops.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT-HEWETT, Secretary to the Commission, called in.

(Chairman.) I believe you have a statement to make to us?

(Witness.) I received yesterday a petition from certain opium smokers in Bombay to the following effect:—

“To the President and Members of the Royal Commission on Opium. Honoured Sirs,—We, the undersigned opium consumers of Bombay, beg to inform you that opium has done us no harm. If the use of it is prohibited, it will be a great hardship on us. As the Commission is appointed for us, we must be heard and not the Padris. We request you to go round our private clubs and get us examined by doctors. If you do not do this, and your report is unfavourable to us, we shall protest against it.—We remain, Sirs, your obedient servants.”

The petition is signed by a number of opium smokers. They were induced to leave the room under the solicitations of Mr. Haridas. I have next to read a letter addressed to your lordship by Mr. Prautch, which is as follows:—

“Bombay, 16th February 1894. Lord Brassey, Chairman, Royal Opium Commission. My Lord,—I think it right to inform your lordship that it has come to my knowledge that recently a Resolution was issued by the Bombay Government to restrict the giving of information and evidence by Government servants on the opium question. I venture to think that your lordship ought to call for a copy of this Resolution. I wish to further mention that a few weeks ago W. Almon, Esq., Assistant Commissioner of Customs, wrote a letter from Bombay Customs House Office to a legal gentleman in Poona, asking him to arrange an interview for himself with an important anti-opium witness. This attempt having failed, Mr. Almon himself called on the witness who declined to see him. This affords another illustration of the action of the authorities in this opium inquiry. If my statement is denied, I can produce the original letter.—I have the honour to remain, faithfully, A. W. PRAUTCH.”

Your lordship has asked for the communications from the Bombay Government, referred to by Mr. Prautch in his letter of the 16th instant. They are as follows:—

Revenue Department,
Bombay Castle, 25th November 1893.

Letter from the Commissioner of Customs, salt, opium, and abkari, No. 5834, dated 8th November 1893:—

“I have the honour to submit, for the information of Government, a circular which, I understand, has been sent to various executive officers under this Government by Mr. Ernest Hart on the question of the use and abuse of opium. It was submitted to me by Mr. Lamb, acting collector of Kolaba, with a request that I should instruct him as to the reply he should send. I forward also copy of my reply to Mr. Lamb and of the circular which I addressed to all collectors. It seems probable that Mr. Hart's circular has been sent to others than collectors, and possibly Government might wish to issue instructions regarding it in the general and political departments.”

Circular letter from the Commissioner of Customs, salt, opium, and abkari to all collectors in the Presidency (except the collector of Kolaba), and the collectors and deputy-commissioners in Sind, No. 5642, dated 27th October 1893:—

“A collector has forwarded to this office for instructions a circular from Mr. Ernest Hart, Chairman of the British Medical Association, asking for certain information about the use and abuse of opium amongst the natives of India. To reply to such applications might prove embarrassing, and as the Opium Commission, which has been appointed by Parliament, is shortly about to visit India, all the information which Mr. Hart desires to obtain will be elicited by the properly constituted authorities. I have therefore to inform you that if you have received a similar letter it is desirable, for the reasons given above, that you should not reply to it.”

Resolution.—Government approve of the circular issued by the commissioner of customs, salt, opium, and abkari to the collectors and deputy commissioners, copies of which should be forwarded to all other heads of offices for information.

W. L. HARVEY,
Under Secretary to Government.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to Thursday next.

At the Council Hall, Secretariat, Bombay.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH DAY.

Thursday, 22nd February 1894.

PRESENT:

RIGHT HON. LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B. (CHAIRMAN, PRESIDING).

Sir JAMES LYALL, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I.
The Hon. Sir LACHHMESWAR SING, Bahadur,
Maharaja of Darbhanga, K.C.I.E.
Sir WILLIAM ROBERTS, M.D., F.R.S.

Mr. R. G. C. MOWBRAY, M.P.
Mr. A. U. FANSHAWE,
Mr. ARTHUR PEASE.
Mr. HARIDAS VECHARIDAS.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT-HEWETT, C.I.E., Secretary.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT-HEWETT called in.

(Chairman.) I believe you have some communications to make to us?

(Witness.) I have received the following letter from Mr. Dane, “On behalf of the Government of Bombay I request that a note may be made in the proceedings to the effect that Mr. Lee Warner, C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of Bombay in the Political Department, and Mr. Fazalbai Vishram, who are now members of His Excellency the Viceroy's Legislative Council, were not examined owing to their absence in Calcutta, and that

“the abstracts* of their evidence may be printed in the “Appendices.”

(Chairman.) Very well.

(Witness.) I have also received the following letter from Mr. Drake-Brockman, dated 21st February:—“I was mistaken yesterday in informing Mr. Pease that the “number of shops for retail vend of opium as given on

Mr.
J. P. Hewett.
20 Feb. 1894.

Mr.
J. P. Hewett,
22 Feb. 1894.

* See Appendix XXIII. to this Volume.

Mr.
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"page 10 of the Government of India's Note included 'temporary' shops. Statistics of these shops will now be added to the Central Province Note, so that there may be no further mistake on the point. A temporary shop is always sold with the nearest permanent one, and a single license covers sale of both; the Government of India figures correctly represent the number of licenses issued. I shall be glad if the error can be corrected before the shorthand notes are sent to press." Mr. Drake-Brockman wishes his answer to be corrected, the question is whether it is to be done by correcting the answer on the minutes, or affixing a note.

(Chairman.) I think the answer* may be corrected.

(Witness.) I have also received the following letter from Mr. Campbell:—

"To the Secretary, The Royal Opium Commission,
Bombay.

SIR, 21st February, 1894.

"IN connexion with the letter published in to-day's paper, which, at the last meeting of the Royal Opium Commission the Rev. Mr. Prautch laid before the Chairman, I have the honour to request that the following statement may be placed on record.

"Mr. Prautch writes that Mr. Almon, the assistant commissioner and collector, wrote from the Customs House to a legal gentleman in Poona asking him to arrange an interview with an important anti-opiumist witness in Poona. The letter to which Mr. Prautch presumably refers was addressed by Mr. Almon to a friend who is a pleader in Poona, and is also a leading member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in that city. The letter is in the following terms:—My Dear —, In a paper called the 'Woman's Anti-Opium Prayer Sheet for August 1892,' published in England, there is a report of an address by Miss Soonderbai Powar on the opium question. Some of the statements said to have been made by Miss Powar are strange to those having a knowledge of these things here. Are you acquainted with Miss Powar? If you are, and can do so, could you arrange with Miss Powar that I could see her with a view of asking her about these particular statements in the way of explanation. If Miss Powar will see me, I would like yourself and some other non-official gentleman to be present at the interview.

"With regard to Mr. Prautch's statement that the suggestion of an interview had reference to an important anti-opiumist witness, it is to be noted that when Mr. Almon's letter was written we were not aware that Miss Soonderbai Powar was intended to be called as a witness. The circumstances under which that letter was written are briefly as follows:—In January last my attention was drawn to a paper published in England in August 1892 under the title 'Soonderbai Powar's Message,' which I had

not before seen and which contained, among others, the following statements:—That thousands of high caste women die of starvation in their dark zenana rooms because their husbands ruin themselves by smoking in licensed opium dens; that young men are led to smoke opium through the wiles of the opium farmer who sets his servants at the street corners furnished with opium pipes to tempt the youths to smoke; that they (apparently either the opium officials or the opium farmer) quietly mix opium with our tea in refreshment rooms and in hotels, so that a craving for opium arises and before we know what we are doing we shall become slaves of opium. As the alleged writer, Miss Soonderbai Powar, was born in or near Poona, and has spent almost her whole life in Poona or in Bombay, it follows that these statements referred either to Poona or to Bombay. As each of these statements involved serious charges against the management of the opium revenue in Bombay my duty required me to examine into their truth. Inquiries made through the commissioner of police and the health officer of the municipality failed to reveal any foundation for them, except that, in respect to the third statement, it appeared that there had been a rumour, some two years ago, that certain Irani, that is, Persian Parsi, tea-house keepers, put poppy heads in their tea to darken its colour. As Mr. Almon, the assistant collector of abkari, could procure me independent information, and also as he is responsible for hotel and refreshment room licenses, and under the Abkari Act has power to deal with infringements of the Opium Act, I asked him to make inquiry into the truth of the rumour that poppy heads were sometimes put in tea. The result of these inquiries was that Mr. Almon failed to find that the rumour had any foundation in fact. Mr. Almon suggested to me that, as is usual in such cases, he might obtain from Miss Soonderbai in Poona the individual who made the statement, information regarding the practice which he had failed to obtain in Bombay. The letter given above was written with that object and with my knowledge. In reply, Mr. Almon was informed that his friend could not arrange a visit, but that a reference might be made to the Rev. A. W. Prautch, of Thana, to whom his friend was forwarding Mr. Almon's letter, and who his friend wrote would probably know Miss Soonderbai and might arrange an interview. On hearing of Mr. Prautch's connexion with the matter I decided to make no further inquiry. Mr. Prautch's statement in the letter to the Chairman, that after the receipt of his friend's communication Mr. Almon called on the witness who declined to see him is, I am informed, without foundation.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
J. M. CAMPBELL,
Collector of Opium.

The witness withdrew.

ADDENDUM.

NOTE.—The following evidence was taken at Delhi on the 23rd of January 1894, but the transcript of the notes having been mislaid, the depositions were not printed in their proper place, which is on page 251 of Vol. III., between Questions 18,863 and 18,864.

RAI BAHADUR RAGHUNATH SINGH called in and examined (through an interpreter):

(Chairman.) I believe you are a Jat and honorary magistrate of Najafgarh?—A. Yes.

Q. We shall be glad to hear anything you have to tell us with reference to the subject which has been referred to this Commission for inquiry?—A. Opium is generally used medicinally, old people in particular resorting to it as a preventive against catarrh, &c. People of advanced age use it also as a digestive and look upon it as a means of sustaining life. The people would not care to see restrictions placed on the use of opium, and they would pray Government not to do so as it is considered a medicine for certain diseases and is a means of enabling the old to digest their food. The natives of India have been accustomed to it for ages past. Opium is not produced in the Delhi district where I now live; but in the Bharatpur State where I resided before, the poppy is cultivated; and I know therefore that there is no other crop as valuable as that, seeing that it repays by hundreds of rupees on a single bigha. The people of this district are anxious to be permitted

to cultivate the poppy, and would hail such permission with delight. The people would, in my opinion, object to prohibitive measures being adopted as to the use of opium, and they would not like to be burdened with fresh taxation in lieu of that already imposed.

(Mr. Funshawe.) Will you kindly tell us whether you are honorary magistrate in Delhi itself or in Najafgarh?—A. Only in Najafgarh—a sub-division of the Delhi district.

(Mr. Wilson.) Will you tell me whether you consider that opium for men in perfect health is a good thing or a bad thing?—A. It is not good; it is bad for persons in health.

Q. Do you really mean to say that the profit on opium can be counted by hundreds of rupees on a single bigha?—A. I mean one bigha—one pakka bigha, which is three bighas kachha—that fetches more than hundreds of rupees.

(Sir William Roberts.) You have said that the habit of using opium in healthy persons is a bad habit;

* See note on page 372.

would you also say that the use of alcohol by healthy persons was an equally bad habit?—*A.* Worse than that.

(*Mr. Fanshawe.*) In saying that opium is a bad habit for persons in good health, do you apply that to the old people who you say use opium as a digestive?—*A.* I mean digestive only in those cases where old people become

degenerated or weak. It is bad for young men in good health.

Q. In speaking of the profits of opium you speak of the profits in the Bharatpur State?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Bharatpur being a Native State in Rajputana?—*A.* Yes.

The witness withdrew.

RAI BAHADUR RAMKISHAN DAS called in and examined (through an interpreter).

(*Mr. Fanshawe.*) I believe you are an honorary magistrate of Delhi?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Are you a regular resident of Delhi?—*A.* Yes.

Q. Will you tell us what you know about the use of opium by the people of this place?—*A.* Large numbers, especially those among the labouring classes, are in the habit of taking opium, which they consider to be more essential than either food or raiment. After having taken opium they can work more hard than they otherwise would do.

Q. For what reasons do these classes take opium?—*A.* To avoid catching cold, and in order to enable them to work hard.

Q. How is the habit of opium eating regarded by the people of Delhi?—*A.* The popular view in Delhi and its neighbourhood in regard to the consumption of opium is rather indifferent, viz., they look at it neither as a virtue nor as a vice. Persons addicted to other drugs are looked down upon, while opium consumers never attempt to conceal the habit, as they are considered a harmless lot of people.

Q. Are you referring to people who take opium in moderate quantities?—*A.* Yes, to persons who take it in moderate quantities.

Q. What would be the feeling in Delhi if the use of opium were prohibited except for medical purposes?—*A.* They would take it to be very hard if the Government attempted an interference.

Q. If the use of opium were prohibited except for medical purposes would the people be prepared to pay any fresh taxation that might be necessary?—*A.* No, by no means. The people would never be prepared to submit to any fresh taxation whatever to compensate for any loss in the opium revenue. They would not like it at all. At present the tax falls only on consumers; then it would become general and people will not like it. Fresh taxation would fall on the whole of the residents.

Q. As regards the present arrangements for the supply of opium on the part of the Government, have you any opinion to express?—*A.* I consider the present arrangements the best, as people can get opium very easily.

Q. I believe that you are a Marwari?—*A.* A Khatri.

(*Mr. Wilson.*) Is it your opinion that opium is more necessary to the labouring classes than either food or clothing?—*A.* Those who have become habituated to its use.

The witness withdrew.

Rai Bahadur
Raghunath
Singh.

Rai Bahadur
Ramkishan
Das.

VOL. IV.
APPENDIX I.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS ON OPIUM BY SURGEON LIEUTENANT-COLONEL HENDLEY, C.I.E.

(*Handed in by Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel Hendley, C.I.E., see Question 20,262.*)

As I was interested in obtaining a correct knowledge of the conditions under which opium was taken in the Jeypore State, and was also desirous of ascertaining what native opinion, both professional and lay, was on the subject as regards the habitual use of the drug, I prepared in August 1892 a series of questions, which were based in part upon an inquiry conducted by Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Crombie of Calcutta as well as on my own experience, and forwarded it to medical officers and hospital assistants, who were serving under me, and also to a large number of representative persons in Jeypore, with a request that they would be good enough to answer them from their personal knowledge. I received 55 replies.

Appended is a list of persons from whom I received replies, a summary of the replies received, and a letter received by me from the Rao Raja of Sikar on the subject.

I.—LIST OF PERSONS who have sent REPLIES TO
QUESTIONS.

1. Babu Jadunath De, M.B., Assistant Superintendent of Dispensaries at Jeypore, 21 years a practitioner, mostly at Jeypore.
2. Assistant Surgeon Jalaluddin, a Punjabi, formerly a Musalman, now a Roman Catholic Christian, L.M.S., Lahore. Since 1884 in Medical Department, Jeypore.
3. Second Class Hospital Assistant Myan Singh, a Sikh with 14 years' medical service, chiefly in the District Gaol, Jeypore, since he entered Jeypore service.
4. Third Class Hospital Assistant Ram Gopal, a Brahman with seven years' service, Sikar Dispensary.
5. Third Class Hospital Assistant Ram Sanchi, a Brahman, with one year's service, Chatsu Dispensary.
6. Third Class Hospital Assistant Mookund Ram, with two years' service, five years' previously in private practice, a Brahman, Sambhar Dispensary.
7. Third Class Hospital Assistant Hurdeo Prasad, Poorly qualified. Brahman, with 15 years' service, Cherama Dispensary.
8. Native Doctor Narsing Lall, Brahman, with 20 years' service, Mohwa Dispensary. Poorly qualified.
9. Second Class Hospital Assistant Broma Nuud, Brahman, with 16 years' service, Madhopur Dispensary.
10. Second Class Hospital Assistant Devi Lall, Brahman, Bandikui Dispensary.
11. Native Doctor Nund Kishore Singh, Rajput, of 21 years' service, Gaol Dispensary.
12. Hospital Assistant Gordhun Das, a Bania, over five years' service, Chomu Dispensary.
13. Local Class Native Doctor Prosono Kumar Das, a Bengali, 35 years' service, Khetri Dispensary.
14. Native Doctor Ganesh Lall, a Jain, with 24 years' service, Mayho Hospital, Jeypore.
15. Female Hospital Assistant Barji Bai, a Bania widow, three years' service, Mayo Hospital, Jeypore.
16. Female Hospital Assistant Janki Bai, a Khandelwal Brahman widow, three years' service, Mayo Hospital, Jeypore.
17. Native Doctor Kasim Ali, a Mohamedan, of 26 years' service, Sanganir Dispensary. Indifferent qualifications.
18. Native Doctor Azimulla, a Mohamedan of 25 years' service, Uniara Dispensary. Indifferent qualifications.
19. First Class Hospital Assistant Abdul Rahim, a Mohamedan of 22 years' service, Malpura Dispensary.
20. Third Class Hospital Assistant Abdulla Khan, a Mohamedan of six years' service, Jhunjhnoo Dispensary. Indifferent qualifications.

21. Third Class Hospital Assistant Mohamed Zahurul-Huk, a Mohamedan of five years' service, Hindown Dispensary.

22. First Class Hospital Assistant Syad Nur Khan, a Mohamedan of 25 years' service, Jeypore Central Gaol; has the order of merit for bravery.

23. Hospital Assistant Basat Ali, a Mohamedan of 15 years' service, Nim-Ka-Thana Dispensary.

24. First Class Hospital Assistant Mahbub Khan, a Mohamedan of 30 years' service, now pensioned, Sri Madhopur Dispensary.

25. Native Doctor Surfarajudin, a strict Mohamedan of 26 years' service, Sawai Madhopur Dispensary.

26. Hakim Mahomed Salim Khan, a Mohamedan and the Chief Yunani physician in Jeypore. Experienced.

27. Hakim Mahomed Azeezudin, a Mohamedan Yunani physician in Jeypore. Experienced.

28. Hakim Mohamed Yusaf Hussain Khan, a Mahomedan physician. Experienced.

NON-PROFESSIONAL STATEMENTS.

29. The Reverend G. Macalister, United Presbyterian Mission, Jeypore. About 20 years' experience here.

30. The Reverend J. Traill, United Presbyterian Mission, Jeypore. He has lived about 24 years in Jeypore.

31. Rao Bahadur Govind Singh Bahadur, Thakur of Chomu. He is the premier Rajput noble of Jeypore, and is a member of the Jeypore Council. He has received titles from both the British and Jeypore Governments, and is a leading member of the Walter Kirit Sabha, or Marriage Reform Association of Rajputana.

32. Thakur Fatteh Singh, Thakur of Naila, a Rahr-tore Rajput, formerly the Vice-President of the Council and Minister of Jeypore and a man of great experience.

33. Haji Mahomed Ali Khan, a Mohamedan and member of the Jeypore Council.

34. Thakur Hari Singh, a Rajput, and who takes great interest in all social questions relating to the Hindus.

35. Pundit Braj Balabh, a Brahman and head clerk, Jeypore Museum.

36. Lala Samander Karan, an Oswal or Saraogi, second clerk, Jeypore Museum.

37. Darogah Chimun Lall, a leader amongst the Jains and head of the Imarat or Public Works Department, Jeypore.

38. Durga Pershad, a Loda Rajput and first Meteorological Observer.

39. Nathu Narain, a Kayasth, a member of the Kayasth Congress, and second observer.

Inexperienced. 40. Shoo Pratap, a Kayasth, and third observer.

41. Luchmi Narain, a Kayasth and treasurer, Medical Department.

42. Babu Jogindra Nath Sen, many years president of the Jeypore municipality.

43. Hospital Assistant Shib Lall, reserve list, a Brahman.

44. Hospital Assistant Abdul Halim, a Mohamedan of four years' service. Purana-Basti Dispensary. Short service.

45. Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee, C.I.E., Chief Member of Council, Jeypore, Brahman.

46. Mr. Williams, Superintendent of Goals, Jeypore, for more than 25 years.

47. Third Class Hospital Assistant Alimullah, a Mohamedan and a reserve hospital assistant. Intelligent but very short service.

48. Rajah of Khetri Bahadur. He holds a separate estate from the British Government.

49. Babu Mohendra Nath Sen, Member of Council, Jeypore.

50. Rao Rajah of Sikar, a very large landholder and great noble in Shekhawati.

51. Bhatt Sri Krishen Ram Vaid, a Hindu physician in Jeypore.

52. Vaid Anandi Lall, a Hindu physician in Jeypore.

53. Swami Ram Narain, a Dadu-Panthi Vaid.

54. Gokul Das Attar, a dealer in perfumes and apothecary.

55. Pandit Chimun Lall.

II.—SUMMARY OF REPLIES TO QUESTIONS.

[Quotations are given to indicate the line of native thought on the subject, and especially the position taken up by practitioners of the indigenous system of medicine.]

1. To what extent does the habitual use of opium prevail amongst the Hindus, Mahomedans, and Jains of Jeypore; and what do you think is the proportion of opium-eaters in each community in your district?

Almost all agree that the orthodox Hindus use most, then Mahomedans, and last of all Jains.

The last named take bhang instead. The estimates vary from that of Thakur Hari Singh, a very experienced resident of Shekhawati, viz., that 10 per cent. of the young take opium, and after 60 years only 10 per cent. do not use it; and the opinion of Assistant Surgeon Jalaluddin that in Jeypore 90 per cent. take it, down to 10 and even 5 per cent., according to Hospital Assistant Basat Ali and native doctor Ganesh Lall.

The majority give about 25 per cent.

In the Chomu district 75 per cent., according to Hospital Assistant Goverdhun Dass, use opium or poppy-heads. All agree that Marwaris use most.

In Sawai Madhopur, a fatally malarious district, almost everyone is said to use opium. Hakim Mohamed Azizuddin writes that 75 per cent. of the Jeypore people take opium, and 40 per cent. of the inhabitants of Delhi.

The Rev. G. Macalister, U. P. Missionary, a 20 years' resident of Jeypore, is informed that as a rule Hindus and Jains take a little opium when they are over 40 years of age. The premier noble of Jeypore states that all castes use it more or less. Chimun Lall, a leader amongst the Jains, believes that 35 per cent. of Jeypore people take it.

Nathu Narain, a member of the Kayasth Congress, gives the proportion at 25 per cent.

The Rao Rajah of Sikar gives one-tenth.

The Rajah of Khetri 8 per cent.

Babu Mohendra Nath Sen one-tenth.

Three Vaidas state that Rajputs use it most.

2. Does such use, in your opinion, lead to any evil results, as, for example, deterioration of health, neglect of business, poverty, gambling, domestic unhappiness, or sensuality?

Eight reply "yes," without giving any details; several others add, "only if the opium-eater is badly fed, and especially if milk cannot be obtained"; others, again, write, "only in young persons"; the most experienced observe that bad results only follow its use in excess.

The Rev. J. Macalister and Assistant Surgeon Jadu Nath De do not think it leads to any of the results mentioned.

The Rev. J. Traill says, "not the use, the abuse might." Haji Mohamed Ali Khan, Member of Council, considers the moderate use beneficial; Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee, C.I.E., chief Member of Council, writes, "to deterioration of health when used in excess. In moderation sickly men generally improve in health, as I have experienced. Poverty cannot be the result of opium, as the drug costs very little in Jeypore; nor is there any connexion with gambling. Nor can domestic unhappiness result, as it does not make people troublesome as with intoxicants, nor is sensuality a result." Hospital Assistant Devi Lall thinks domestic unhappiness might ensue from want of opium. Hospital Assistant Syed Nur Khan says, "no, unless in the case of sensualists who in time may become impotent." Thakur Fateh Singh thinks it leads to waste of time, poverty, and

useless expenditure, but not to gambling, family quarrels, or sensuality. He also says medicines are of no use to the opium-eater. Thakur Hari Singh believes it leads to most of the results mentioned and to a little petty theft. Rao Bahadur Gobind Singh agrees with him, except that gambling and domestic unhappiness are not traceable to it. The Hakims think it may lead to idleness and poverty if the regular dose is not taken; and, according to the Chief Hakim Salim Khan, if milk and certain condiments are not used with it. He writes that "India is hot and the people phlegmatic, but opium is cool, hence it does not hurt them, as it would the inhabitants of cold countries. By itself it does not lead to ill results. Chandu and madak may do so, because taken in bad company in shops." Lala Samandar Karan says, "it leads to some neglect of business, but promotes perseverance in work. It causes obstinacy and readiness to be provoked." Mr. Williams, Superintendent of the Gaols, says, "Many parts of the plant are useful, it is valuable as a preventive of disease and against the effects of overwork." The Rajas of Khetri and Sikar think it is hurtful to some extent, but the former says "it does not lead to poverty or gambling." Babu Mohendra Nath Sen believes that only excessive use is injurious. The Vaidas generally think it valuable in disease.

3. Does the moderate use of opium lead in any considerable number of instances to excessive use? Is the tendency to increase greater or less than the same tendency in moderate spirit-drinkers?

Only two think the tendency is greater than in the case of wine, viz., Babu Jadu Nath De and native doctor Nursing Lall, but the latter adds, "wine drinkers become insane or violent." Two of the Hakims say, "wise men do not exceed," and also note that if the regular doses are not taken of opium, increase takes place.

The chief man says, "it does not increase, because opium is not a food, but the use of wine increases, because it is a food."

The Rev. G. Macalister can only recollect two instances of men so seriously addicted to opium as to be unfit for work. Thakur Fateh Singh thinks it a matter of personal character, and that only thoughtless persons exceed.

Haji Mohamed Ali Khan is much of the same opinion. Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee thinks the craving for drink becomes irresistible, and is much more difficult to fight against than that of opium.

Others consider that all intoxicants lead to excess when taken in company. Native Doctor Kassim Ali says he once saw a sepoy who took an ounce of opium, but a man who takes two or three ounces of spirit may afterwards take two or three bottles.

4.—(a.) Do you think the prohibition of opium, except for purely medicinal purposes, would lead to an extended use of alcoholic drinks or of bhang or of other drugs or stimulants? (b.) Would you regard such substitution of alcohol for opium (apart from the religious aspect of the question) as against public or private morality or as a disaster to the community?

The reply of Babu Jadu Nath De perhaps best summarises the general opinion: "No; liquor cannot replace opium, because the latter is taken by all without prejudice. Bhang, charas, ganja, or stimulants or drugs would not serve the purposes of opium. The use of liquor is disastrous to the community and against public morality. In some classes, which have no religious prejudice against alcohol, opium might be superseded by it."

Female Hospital Assistant Barji Bai writes, "Spirit-drinking would be injurious, because it leads to poverty, irreligion (breach of worship), and disagreement amongst caste fellows." Others think bhang would be taken. One man says, "wine is better." Hospital Assistant Basat Ali says, "Wine would cost 4 annas, but opium costs only a pie, hence the man who eats the latter would suffer."

Some think arsenic or strychnine would be taken. The Hakims think bhang and spirit would be used. One is of opinion that moderate use of wine makes a man fatter and more ruddy, whereas the opium-eater becomes feeble and pallid. Some think nothing could take the place of opium. Thakur Hari Singh says, "Spirit would be taken, which, even apart from religion, would be a great disaster for Hindus." Darogah Chimun Lal writes, "One habituated to wine becomes insolent as the number of doses increases more than opium." Two or three men think it might be prohibited without danger, but add that alcohol is most harmful.

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Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee says that most certainly other things would be used. Each class would take those which are not against their religion; thus Rajputs, Menas, Jats, Gujars, &c. would not take spirit.

The poor would drink country wine; the rich English spirit; Brahmins, Jains, and Musulmans would take bhang.

The former offer bhang to Mahadeva as prasad or consecrated food, which they eat, because Mahadeva or Shiva is very fond of it. It is offered daily or on special occasions. "Alcohol would be disastrous to all."

The Raja of Khetri says, "more harm and less profit from alcohol." The Rao Rajah of Sikar, "Of course other drugs would be used, and alcohol would be a disastrous exchange." The Vaidas all say wine would not be a substitute, and its use would be disgraceful. Pandit Chiman Lal, Jain, thinks it would not be hurtful to the Jains. Gokul Das, apothecary, thinks alcohol disgraceful, "because men would treat their mothers and sisters like their wives."

Mr. Williams believes prohibition would be a cruel hardship to the poor. Babu Mahendra Nath Sen would not like to see alcohol used instead.

5. Do you think the excessive use of opium is increasing or diminishing? If increasing would it be wise or useful for the State to interfere and stop the growth of the poppy and use of opium except for medical purposes.

On the whole, the opinion is that it is increasing. Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee writes: "It would not under present circumstances be wise to interfere or to bring it down to the limit of medical uses. A check would only be necessary if it were used inordinately." Several think it should only be sold in licensed shops, others think only gradual interference would be right as other drugs would be used which are worse, and opium-eaters would suffer very much. Babu Jadu Nath De deprecates interference as no evil results follow moderate use. One writer would check sale of opium, but allow the poppy to be used. Another, in giving the same opinion, adds "without the poppy the poor are like the dead." All the Hakims think it is increasing, but should not be stopped without a substitute.

The chief one says "opium prevents bad air getting into the body and as many natives live in a small space. "Opium prevents the otherwise bad effects of bad air getting from the body of one man into that of another."

Thakur Hari Singh thinks everything should be stopped. One or two think the tax might be increased.

Mr. Williams is of opinion that it has "not diminished since the agitation began regarding opium."

The Raja of Khetri thinks gradual interference might be useful. The Rao Raja of Sikar believes it would be neither wise nor useful.

Babu Mohendra Nath Sen says, "it is not necessary." Bhatt Sri Krishun Vaid says "to stop it would be oppression."

Anandi Lal says that it would be disastrous. Pandit Chiman Lal that nothing could replace it. Swami Ram Narain that opium-eaters would suffer from many diseases, and Gokul Das "not for diseases, though useful for those who take it for other reasons."

6. Does excessive use of opium cause more or less degradation and depravity in your experience than immoderate drinking as regards (1) Deterioration of bodily health; (2) Mental or moral degradation; (3) Domestic misery; (4) Public decency; or (5) the frequency and kind of crime it leads to?

Babu Jadu Nath De says "excessive use leads to the above results as in the case of the moderate use of wine, but less crimes are committed." Assistant Surgeon Jalaluddin writes, "not more; opium-eaters are generally innocent and commit no crimes, but become poor, humble, and talkative."

Devi Lal thinks it leads to those results, except unhappiness when the usual dose cannot be had. One female Hospital Assistant thinks it worse than wine, the other that opium makes men obstinate if used in excess. A Musalman thinks liquor drinkers are not thought bad men, whereas opium-eaters are.

One says, "wine leads to breach of etiquette." Hakim Mahomed Salim Khan thinks it not so bad as wine, because the latter is taken in public shops and so is disgraceful; it is moreover expensive, even in moderation and leads to boldness, and so to crime. The other Hakims say "opium does not lead to crime." The Reverend G. Macalister, the Reverend J. Traill, and Thakur Gobind Singh, all think excessive use of

spirit much worse. Thakur Hari Singh says opium is taken to prevent the use of spirit rather than the contrary. Chiman Lal says, "the opium-eater never commits such crimes as dead drunk tipplers." Luchmi Narain says, "opium-eaters are looked down upon by those who do not use the drug, they remain strong if they take butter and milk." Hospital Assistant Abdul Halim says, "less in all ways, because spirit drinkers are more liable to brain and liver diseases and disorders of the digestive system, whereas opium-eaters only suffer from constipation." Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee writes thus: "opium never produces the least degradation or depravity. It may make a man indolent or injure health, but not give rise to the sort of degradation experienced by immoderate drinkers, nor does it cause crime."

The general opinion is that excess is not as bad as immoderate drinking.

Mr. Williams says, "in moderation adds to health, causes reflection and caution, a quiet home life, and does not lead to crime."

Babu Mohendra Nath Sen writes, "the abuse is less harmful than the abuse of alcohol. It does no harm to the mental faculties."

Swami Ram Narain says, "those who find fault with opium are quite incorrect. It preserves the health and protects against insanity."

7. What effect in your opium (a) does the opium habit have in the children of an opium-eater? (b) It is well known that the children of spirit drinkers have congenital tendency to drink, is any similar tendency noted amongst the children of opium-eaters?

Replies almost uniformly in the negative to both questions. Several think a few children may be weakened, and three or four that it has some effect in making them like the drug. The Rev. G. Macalister says, "no desire for it in after years though very commonly given it when young."

Hakim Mahomed Salim Khan says, "opium does not nourish the body, hence the liking for it cannot be transmitted. Three Vaidas think that the children may have a congenital tendency if the parents take opium at the time of conception."

9. What is the quantity used in a month on an average?

This question was imperfectly understood.

Some replying for the quantities used in their district by the whole population, others for the individual.

Thakur Gobind Singh says 32 grains a day are taken by moderate eaters. Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee writes, "they begin with a grain and may go to 8 grains, rarely to a tolah or 180 grains a day." He himself takes 1½ grains each morning and evening. He began it 15 years ago for chronic diarrhoea and has not increased the dose. He has lost the diarrhoea. He is now 59 and is equal to his duties. He has been so benefited that he would recommend it to his friends under similar circumstances. At 44 he was so disabled that if he had not used opium, he would not have been able to carry on his business, if life had not been cut short altogether. He is, he adds, "a living instance of the benefit of opium in moderation to a man who is not physically strong."

10. Does the quantity taken always or often increase? On the whole the answers are in favour of increase. A few do not know. The Rev. G. Macalister believes opium-eaters in India are very temperate in the use of it and excess is the exception. The Rev. J. Traill has known men useless until they gave it up altogether. Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee says, "it increases if sufficient guard is not taken."

Several reply that it is increased in the cold season; and others, after a long period. Swami Ram Narain says, "wise men do not increase it."

11. At what age is the habit generally formed? Replies generally in favour of middle age, about 40 years. A few say ignorant persons begin in youth for pleasure. One says "it varies with temperament." The President of the Jeypore Municipality says, "young men begin it for society, not for bad purposes." Others say in old age; and one that some parents do not give it up when their children grow up. One or two say young men begin it for sexual purposes. Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee says, "between 30 and 40 as health and strength are then at a standstill or are on the decline." Pandit Chiman Lal says, "the old are in great need of opium."

12. What are the reasons which usually induce people to begin to take opium?

For chronic diseases, for example :—

Diseases of the lungs.—Catarrh, bronchitis, asthma, phthisis. In cold and cough to dry up the secretions. Diseases of the digestive tract.—Dyspepsia, diarrhoea, dysentery, piles, colic, fistula in ano, flatulence.

Other affections.—Palpitation of heart; insomnia, paralysis.

Diseases of the eye, such as staphyloma, iritis, nyctalopia, and epiphora; earache; neuralgia, mental derangement, diabetes. In poverty to “induce labour,” weariness of old age. Villagers take it when tired and sick, chronic pain of all kinds, grief, cold, exhaustion, to prevent worry. Debility; rheumatism, phlegmatic diseases of all kinds. Stricture, gleet.

Spermatorrhoea and gonorrhoea. Young men take it for sexual purposes, and rich men to delay emission.

Hakim Mohamed Salim Khan says, “to prevent ‘emission and when the semen is thin.” This is the meaning attached to its use for sexual purposes.

It is taken for luxury, that is, because others do it at feasts, especially amongst the Rajputs; also as a stimulant as beer and wine are taken in Europe. Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee writes, “when a ‘man feels decline of health. There are cases in ‘which it is taken, but very rare ones, merely as an ‘intoxicant. Taken especially for dyspepsia, diarrhoea, ‘disorders of the stomach and bowels, affections of the ‘lungs and neuralgia.”

Babu Mohendra, Nath Sen, in addition to the above, says, “it is used by the old to enable them to take rich ‘food.” Swami Ram Narain says, “also in some ‘cases of diarrhoea which cannot be cured without it.”

13. Do women use opium as much as men, or at all, for the same purposes?

Replies generally to the effect that much less is used and generally for diseases, old age, troubles, and sorrow. Thakur Fattah Singh says it is thought improper in the upper classes. One or two men think it is used by a few bad characters for sexual purposes.

14. Do Mohamedans, Hindus, and Jains consider it disgraceful to take opium habitually in moderate quantities? Is it contrary to their religion? If so, why?

Most of the Muslims and less experienced Hindus say it is prohibited for the former because an intoxicant. Only one or two consider that it is prohibited to Hindus and Jains, but some especially note that the prohibition is not so strict as in the case of wine. Moderation is enjoined. One man says it is less disgraceful than tobacco. Another that, though contrary to religion, “Precepts are not practice,” and opium can be eaten privately. The Rev. J. Traill says, “I think not; I have ‘met references such as this, ‘opium banishes care, so ‘the name of God ought to ease the soul in trouble.” The general idea is that, though prohibited to Muslims, and, to some degree, on this account, disgraceful, its use is tolerated, and in disease is allowable.

Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee says, “nor ‘at all ashamed, nor disgraceful, nor contrary to ‘religion.”

The Rao Rajah of Sikar says that even Mahomedans in his district do not consider it disgraceful though contrary to their religion. The Vaidas say “it concerns ‘the Mahomedans.”

15. Do persons who take opium habitually live longer or shorter lives than others?

Thirteen say “shorter.” Thakur Fattah Singh says, “weakens, but does not shorten life.”

The Rev. G. Macalister has known old men habitually using opium. The Rev. J. Traill is informed that they “live to full age if well fed.”

Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee says, “those who take it in moderation are likely to live ‘longer.”

Babu Jadunath De the same, Assistant Surgeon Jalaluddin the same, also Hospital Assistant Ganesh Lall, who quotes a case in the Mayo Hospital of a woman aged 100. Hospital Assistant Mahub Khan says, “No, because it does not lead to sexual appetite, which ‘shortens life.” Thakur Hari Singh says, “longer if ‘moderate in use.”

Rao Bahadur Thakur Gobind Singh says, no. Luchmi Narain writes, “live longer, my grandfather took ‘half an ounce a day and lived to 85. My father was ‘not in such good health, did not take opium, and ‘died at 69.”

The Raja of Khetri says the people in his estate think it the cause of long life, so does Babu Mohendra Nath Sen.

16. Are they as liable to diseases as others or more so?

A few say “more,” without comment. Babu Jadunath De says, “they keep better health and do not suffer ‘from diseases as others do.” Hospital Assistant Devi Lall observes “less liable, but do not recover from ‘disease as easily as others.” Hospital Assistant Syed Noor Khan and Rao Bahadur Thakuran Gobind Singh say the same. Also Thakur Hari Singh. Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee writes, “in moderate ‘quantities protects less liable.” Hospital Assistant Abdul Halim observes, “less liable except to constipation,” and Hospital Assistant Shib Lall, “more liable, ‘because they are constipated,” and Bagbhat says, “no man can be attacked by any disease unless he has ‘constipation.”

Lala Samander Karan says, “less, but bear cold ‘with difficulty.” Hakim Mahomed Salim Khan writes, in our medical book “Quarabini-Kabir,” it is noted that “in modern times, when used in a ‘proper ‘way, opium protects from many diseases and saves ‘the health when failing.” Hospital Assistant Mahabab Khan, “less, because opium is hot and dry, ‘and diseases prevail from humidity.” Hospital Assistant Mya Singh says, “they escape malarial fevers ‘sometimes.”

17. Do you think the use of opium protects against any diseases or the effects of exposure to cold? If so, what diseases?

2. Do the men who use opium habitually suffer more or less than other people when they go from the plains to the hills in India or to Europe during the cold weather?

Only six think it does not protect from cold. Only one, a young man, from neither cold nor disease.

Question 12 has much the same meaning, hence most repeat their answers here.

In most cases it is said to protect against chest disorders, rheumatism, and diseases of the digestive tract.

The Hakims all agree in this; one says, “of course” it protects. “I saw a traveller quite senseless from cold, ‘I gave him opium, and he got right at once.” The Rev. G. Macalister says, “it protects against fever.” The Rev. J. Traill, “fever and cholera.” Thakurs Gobind Singh, Fattah Singh, and Hari Singh, Haji Mohamed Ali, Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee all agree that it protects from cold, but some say the dose must be increased. The Vaidas say it protects against cold, diseases, and against corpulency. In short against disease of the phlegmonous humour.

18. Does the use of opium ever cause insanity?

Replies nearly all in the negative. Two or three say it may increase. The native doctor says, “the want of it ‘leads to foolishness.” Hakim Mahomed Salim Khan says, “no.” Sheikh Buali Sena (Avicenna) and Hakim Ali say that some kinds of mania are quite cured by opium. The Hakim Azizuddin says, “no,” but makes people strong. Hakim Yusuf Khan says, “no, protects ‘against it.” Darogah Chimun Lall writes, “never ‘become insane, though by excesses their morality is a ‘little muddled.”

19. Is opium frequently abused so as to cause death or shorten life?

Nine reply in the affirmative without any proof. Others say, “only when abused.”

Native doctor Surfaraj writes, “men addicted to it ‘never die.” Hakim Azizuddin writes, “it is the ‘antidote to death.” The Rev. G. Macalister, “very seldom.” The Rev. J. Traill “often does so as a poison, ‘but not so often as other things.”

Haji Mahomed Ali says, “it cannot shorten life.” Darogah Chimun Lall “produces a mortiferous effect, ‘causing an ultimate death if taken abruptly in excess.” Durga Prasad writes, “if abused, danger of death ‘when on the house top or beside a well.”

20. Do Hindus, Mohamedans, or Jains ever use opium in the belief that it increases sexual appetite, or for the sake of restoring it when it is failing? Do they use other drugs for that purpose?

Babu Jadunath De writes, “all classes believe it ‘invigorates it and steadies the power when failing. ‘They use other drugs and adopt many other practices ‘for this purpose. Assistant Surgeon Jalaluddin ‘writes to the same effect, but points out that it is not ‘to restore it; many other drugs are used for that ‘purpose. Several say ‘yes, but impotency ensues.’ ‘Those who know say, ‘to prolong or retard emission, ‘keep up the power, not used for appetite.” All

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the Hakims say this. Durga Prashad says, "it keeps "it moderate and even preserves it if milk and rich "food are taken." Pundit Brij Balabh says, "this is "the general belief."

Nearly all dwell upon the fact that other drugs are used for appetite. Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee writes, "it is the general impression that "excess impairs the sexual power." It has never been "known to increase the appetite or restore the power "when failing. As it improves the health, it may act "indirectly in strengthening the power." The Vaidis think it is a matter for Mahomedans only.

21. Does the opium-eater become indecent?

Replies nearly all in the negative. Some say men may become filthy in their persons, or ridiculous as they nod in company. Chimun Lall says, "not beyond "humanity like a drunkard."

22. Would the habitual use of alcohol or ganja, instead of opium, be against public decency?

All agree that alcohol and ganja are worse. One says, "these would not be allowed before guardians or "superiors." Others note that, while all intoxicants lead to evil, the use of spirit is disgraceful, and a cause of public shame and indecency.

23. What per-centages of persons are locked up or brought before a magistrate on account of alcohol, ganja, and opium respectively.

Replies generally to the effect that very few, if any, are locked up for opium. A few commit petty thefts. Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerji says, "hundreds "of cases for alcohol almost daily in large cities."

"Ganja makes men irritable, and so a man who takes it may be very quarrelsome, and offend his neighbours, and so come before the magistrate, but not so frequently as for alcohol. Instances are rarely known of such cases in which opium-eaters are brought before the magistrate on criminal grounds committed as caused by opium."

Mr. Williams, Superintendent of the Gaols, says, "none from opium." The Rajah of Khetri writes, "opium-eaters are not brought before the magistrates. "Ganja-smokers and spirit-drinkers are." The Raja of Khetri and the Rao Raja of Sikar say, "not opium, "but hundreds of spirit-drinkers." Mr. Williams has not met a case in 25 years. Babu Mohendra Nath Sen hardly remembers a case.

24. Is much crime traceable to the habitual use of opium? If so, what kind of crime? Crimes of violence? Of assault? Robbery? Theft? House Trespass, &c.?

Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerjee writes, "no "crime is traceable to the habitual use of opium as "the effect of opium-eating. No opium-eater was ever "so charged. An opium-eater may rob as in the "ordinary world, but not because he takes opium."

Rao Bahadur Govind Singh and the Raja of Khetri say, "they do not commit crimes."

Nearly all say only a little petty theft or sell their clothes to get opium. Mr. Williams does not recollect a single case here in 25 years of gaol work.

Gokul Das, the apothecary, says, "opium-eaters can "do all sorts of crimes." No one else holds this opinion. He is clearly a pessimist all round.

25. Does the person who habitually uses opium become less useful in business, less powerful in body, less active, or more stupid than before?

Replies on the whole are that they do not if they use the drug moderately, and take the dose regularly. The Rev. G. Macalister knows many men "who use opium "regularly, and they are certainly hard-working men."

Rev. J. Traill says, "the abuse of opium, as of anything, may lead to them."

Lala Samander Karan says, "they are less powerful "and but get steadiness at work, not less stupid or useful "up to 60 years." Others say "no, if they get good food," others that they are a little weary, or "Pinak" after the effect is over. Durga Prasad also dwells on their perseverance. Hakim Mahomed Salim Khan writes, "improper use of bread is even dangerous. Opium-eaters are less active, &c. if they do not take milk."

The Rao Raja of Sikar says, "those who use opium before 30 years of age may become so."

Swami Ram Narain writes, "not all men are wise, "nor are all fools."

27. Are children given opium in your district, and, if so, for what purposes, and for how long?

Babu Jadu Nath De says, "by the rich to ward off "diseases, such as rheumatism, catarrh, fevers, diarrhoea; and by the poor, in addition, to keep the

"children asleep and quiet, and so relieve their mothers "Given in all Rajputana, cases of death from overdose "on record. Baneful custom, as it causes atrophy, "constipation, fever, &c. The principal cause of "infantile mortality here."

The opinions of all are much the same.

It is given from the third or fourth month to the second, third, or fourth year. Haji Mahomed Ali Khan says, "it is given to make them suck, as those who use opium like milk."

Darogah Chimun Lall says, "it saves them from the "effects of the atmosphere, and imparts a general "warmth; and a steady growth."

It is given for bowel complaints and teething. Hakim Mahomed Salim Khan says, "it keeps them from "the bad air of the world."

28. What are the practices and rules in your own caste or community as regards opium, ganja, alcohol, &c.?

Babu Jadunath De says, "opium is used for disease; "bhang as a luxury by the rich, alcohol, for 30 years "past, previously unknown, has committed havoc "equally amongst all classes and ranks."

Assistant-Surgeon Jalaluddin says, "it is not prohibited to Musulmans, whereas if alcohol falls on a "cloth the piece should be cut out and burned."

The Rajputs use it at festivals. Prosono Kumar says, "he who uses alcohol is outcasted, but they take opium "and ganja."

Opium, according to others, is not like spirit as it may be used publicly. The Rev. G. Macalister believes that opium-eaters are very temperate in India; excess is the exception. The Rajputs all say it is not prohibited. Darogah Chimun Lall says, "it is a matter of personal opinion." Babu Jogendra Nath says, "wine only is prohibited." Rao Bahadur Kantee Chunder Mookerji says, "opium is not prohibited in his caste. "Ganja is looked upon as sacred, as Shiva is in favour "of it."

Alcohol is prohibited except to worshippers of Sakti or Kali, who use it on certain occasions, but if this religious purpose leads to excess, as at times it may do, it becomes discreditable; almost all Brahmans before going to a feast sharpen their appetites by taking bhang in solution with almonds, pepper, and sugar. The Vaidis say alcohol is forbidden, but opium is used by all.

Pandit Chimun Lall says, "intoxicants are prohibited "amongst Jains."

III. Letter from RAO RAJA MADHO SINGH, Bahadur of Sikar, to the RESIDENCY SURGEON, Jeypure.

Dated Sikar, the 15th December 1893.

I was glad to receive your letter of the 7th August last, in addition to a number of question papers anent the advantages and disadvantages, &c. of the use of opium, with a request to let you know my personal experience thereon, as well as those of a certain number of prominent Seths and Sahukars residing within my territory.

In the first instance I must apologise for the long delay that has occurred, as I had to refer the questions from capable persons throughout my State, and I am sure you will agree with me, what a difficult task it is to deal with a prejudiced community, whose suspicion is susceptible to be easily roused on questions affecting their everyday life business, and how much more difficult it is then to elicit true and correct answers from its members separately and individually.

As regards my personal self, I have to say that I have never tasted opium in whatsoever shape during my life, and I feel it, therefore, to be a great disadvantage to speak with any weight on the use and abuse of opium consumption.

However, on the whole, I can say so far that the moderate use of opium is extended to a great extent in Rajputana, without deteriorating in the majority of cases either the physical or mental capacities of consumers. Among the Rajput community opium-eating (moderately) is not considered either a disgrace or reproach, but is rather enjoyed openly in festivals, and visitors are welcomed often with a request to partake therein. This custom is not so prevalent in Shekhawati, as it is in Western Rajputana and Bikanir.

A habitual moderate consumer is very seldom liable to the commission of a crime for the reason of his being addicted to opium, or, in other words, there must be

some other provocative causes for the man when he commits a wrongful act, to which his dose of opium may be attributed to have been a supplement, but the latter itself single-handed can rarely be seen to be the cause (*i.e.*, the primary cause) of such actions, as is often the case with alcohol or strong liquors. It is not the supply of opium that renders a consumer a danger to the public. Even his successive failure to obtain the article at the appointed hour, hardly leaves him sufficient vigour and energy to cause the breach of public peace, although such failures when prolonged have been observed to be deleterious to him physically.

It would consequently be a severe—nay, even unbearable—hardship to the great majority of consumers belonging to the present generation of limited means and incomes, either to prohibit the use wholesale among

them or render the commodity more difficult to their approach. As it is yet doubtful and not easy to say what wholesome and beneficial results will such outward interference bring to them, it is still harder to premise its effect on the world at large; now buried on the womb of futurity.

It is invidious to make a comparison, but, however, it can be said that opium-eating is less injurious than strong spirit in all its bearings, and an opium-eater will hardly choose any other intoxicant.

An immoderate use of almost all intoxicants has been generally found to be notoriously mischievous, and opium cannot be said with fairness to be an exception to the rule.

I have now the pleasure to enclose papers in answer to the list of questions sent to me.

APP. I.
Jeypur.

APPENDIX II.

APP. II.
Jeypur.

ANALYSIS (handed in by Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel HENDLEY, C.I.E.) of the CASES of 4,409 opium eaters in Jeypore, showing the causes which led to their use of the drug in 1893.

Taken in 1893 by Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel HENDLEY, C.I.E.		SEX.		Number.	Per-centage.
GENERAL DISEASES.		Males	Females		
Class A.—Cholera	6	-	-	4,174	94·66
Dysentery	92	-	-	235	5·34
Malarial fevers	480	-	-		
Syphilis and gonorrhœa	92	-	-		
	670				
„ C.—Debility, fatigue	-				
Relief of pain and old age	-				
	927				
„ D.—Rheumatic affections	213				
All other general diseases	8				
	221				
Total general diseases	1,818			4,409	100·00
41·23 per cent.					
LOCAL DISEASES.		DAILY QUANTITY taken.			
Diseases of nervous system	82	Grains.	Number.	Per-centage.	
„ the eye	72	Under 5	938	21·27	
„ ear, nose, and circulation	19	6 to 10	765	17·36	
		11 to 20	1,285	29·15	
		21 to 40	822	18·64	
		41 to 90	361	8·19	
		91 to 180	65	1·47	
		181 to 2,000	35	0·69	
		Unknown	138	3·13	
		Total	4,409	100·00	
DISEASES of the RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.		AGE at which the OPIUM was first taken.			
Asthma	451	Age in Years.	Number.	Percentage.	
Catarrh and bronchitis	239	Under 19	414	9·39	
All others	38	20 to 29	1,073	24·34	
	728	30 to 39	1,237	28·06	
		40 to 49	951	21·57	
		50 to 59	524	11·89	
		60 to 69	158	3·58	
		70 to 79	36	0·82	
		80 to 89	5	0·11	
		Unknown	11	0·24	
		Total	4,409	100·00	
DISEASES of DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.		Average number of years during which opium has been consumed 14·461.			
Diarrhœa	139	Number of children of 4,409 opium-eaters.			
Dyspepsia	128	Number.	Total Number of Children.	Average to each Person.	
Piles	120	Having children	2,798	8,123	2·9
All others	62	Having no children	1,591	None.	None.
	449	Unknown	20	—	—
Diseases of the urinary system	11	Total	4,409	8,123	1·8
„ generative system	53				
„ organs of locomotion	121				
Connective tissue, skin, and injuries	-				
Total local diseases	1,535				
	34·81 per cent.				
UNCLASSIFIED.					
Taken as a slight exhilarant following the example of friends.	878				
Substitution for other drugs	51				
Total unclassified	929				
	21·07 per cent.				
For sexual purposes	116				
Unknown	11				
	0·24				
Grand total	4,409				

APP. II.
Jeypur.

STATE of HEALTH at the TIME of the INQUIRY.

State.	Taken for Disease.		Taken as an Exhilarant.		Taken for Sexual Purposes.		Total.	
	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.	Number.	Per-centage.
Good	1,744	58.39	681	52.59	37	32.75	2,462	56.02
Fair	691	23.13	326	25.17	41	36.28	1,058	24.07
Weak	457	15.30	236	18.23	28	24.78	721	16.41
Bad	95	3.18	52	4.01	7	6.19	154	3.50
Total	2,987	100.00	1,295	100.00	113	100.00	4,395	100.00

T. H. HENDLEY, Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel,
Residency Surgeon, and Superintendent of
Dispensaries in Jeypore.

APP. III.
Jeypore.

APPENDIX III.

NOTE on the ADMINISTRATION of OPIUM to CHILDREN.

(Received from Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel Hendley, C.I.E., subsequently to the date of his examination as a witness.)

In order to ascertain the number of children to whom opium is given by their parents, and the conditions under which it is used, I made a list of all the infants who were vaccinated in Jeypore, and inspected by me from March 20th to 31st, and asked certain questions regarding them, with the following results. After seeing 100 cases I stopped the inquiry. No cases are omitted in the list. There would be no difficulty in extending the number to several thousand cases. The custom is universal in the Jeypore State.

Seventy-eight per cent. were given opium. Twenty-two had not been given opium. In nearly every case where opium had not been given, the parents stated that there had as yet been no necessity for administering it, but if the children were suffering, or proved troublesome, or cried, so as to prevent the mother from working or both parents from sleeping, opium would be given. The above were the reasons alleged by all for giving the drug. In some

cases the opium had been first used because the child had become fretful after vaccination. A piece of crude opium, about the size of a Bajra seed (millet), one-sixteenth of a grain, was given usually twice a day. It was, however, carefully graduated to the needs of the particular case, sometimes only being administered once, at others three times.

The average age at which 78 children were first given opium was 44 days; the average age when seen 113 days.

The father only took opium in three cases. All the children were suckled by their own mothers, and all were perfectly healthy. Forty-five of the children were boys, and 55 were girls. All castes were represented. There were 75 Hindus, and 25 Mohamedans.

T. H. HENDLEY,
Surgeon Lieut.-Colonel.
Jeypore, April 10th, 1894.

LIST of CHILDREN examined between March 20th and 31st, 1894, in Jeypore, to ascertain whether Opium was given them or not.

[N.B.—All the Children were seen in consecutive order by Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel T. H. Hendley, and none are omitted.]

Num. ber.	1.	2.	3 and 4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
	Caste.	Sex.	Quantity of Opium given, and Number of times a Day.	Age.	Age when Opium was first given.	Period during which Opium has been taken.	Does the Father take Opium?	Has the Child been ever ill?	Is the Child nursed by the Mother?	Reasons for giving Opium.	Present state of Health.
1	Thakur	Female	Equal to Bajra seed, twice.	3 months	15 days	2½ months	Yes	Fever, when 2 months old.	Yes	To quiet	Healthy.
2	Brahman	"	Millet seed, twice.	2 months	"	1½ months	No	Fever, when of 10 days.	"	"	"
3	Karigar	"	"	4 months	1 month	3 months	"	No	"	Prevent cold.	"
4	Mahom.	"	Poppy seed, twice.	3 months	Since 7 days.	2 months and 23 days.	"	"	"	Keep quiet	"
5	"	"	Bajra, twice	2 months	1 month	1 month	"	"	"	"	"
6	"	Male	None	5 months	No	No	"	"	"	"	"
7	Sunar	Female	Bajra, twice	1½ months	1 month	½ month	"	Fever and cough.	"	None	"
8	Brahman	"	"	1 month	23 days	7 days	"	No	"	Keep quiet	"
9	"	Male	"	"	15 days	15 days	"	"	"	"	"
10	"	"	"	4 months	1 month	3 months	"	"	"	"	"
11	Bania	"	Poppy seed, twice.	2 months	"	1 month	Yes	Fever	"	"	"
12	Mahom.	"	None	"	No	No	No	No	"	None	"
13	Bania	Female	Poppy seed, twice.	"	1 month	1 month	"	"	"	Keep quiet	"
14	Mahom.	Male	Moong (Pulse.), twice.	12 months	15 days	11½ months	"	Bronchitis	"	"	"
15	"	Female	Bajra, twice	3 months	1 month	2 months	"	No	"	"	"
16	"	"	None	2½ months	No	No	"	"	"	None	"
17	Koli	Male	"	4 months	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

Number.	1. Caste.	2. Sex.	3 and 4. Quantity of Opium given, and Number of times a Day.	5. Age.	6. Age when Opium was first given.	7. Period during which Opium has been taken.	8. Does the Father take Opium?	9. Has the Child been ever ill?	10. Is the Child nursed by the Mother?	11. Reasons for giving Opium.	12. Present state of Health.
18	Brahman	Female	Poppy seed, twice.	2 months	10 days	1 month and 20 days.	Yes	No	Yes	Keep quiet	Healthy.
19	Khati	"	Bajra, twice	6 months	2 months	4 months	No	"	"	"	"
20	"	Male	"	8 months	1½ months	6½ months	"	"	"	"	"
21	Mahom.	"	None	2 months	No	No	"	"	"	None	"
22	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
23	Bania	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
24	"	Female	"	3 months	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
25	Teli	Male	Bajra, twice	2 months	1½ months	15 days	"	"	"	Keep quiet	"
26	Bania	Female	Poppy seed, twice.	6 months	2 months	4 months	"	"	"	"	"
27	"	Male	Bajra, twice	2 months	1 month	1 month	"	Ill since birth	"	"	"
28	Saraogi	Female	"	"	15 days	1½ months	"	No	"	"	"
29	Rajput	"	Poppy seed, once	"	Since 3 days.	1 month and 27 days.	"	"	"	"	"
30	Saraogi	"	Bajra, once	2½ months	Since 8 days.	2 months and 7 days.	"	"	"	"	"
31	Bania	"	Poppy seed, twice.	2 months	1 month	1 month	"	"	"	"	"
32	Mahom.	"	Bajra, once	"	4 days	1 month and 26 days.	"	"	"	"	"
33	"	Male	Poppy seed, twice.	7 months	20 days	6 months and 10 days.	"	"	"	"	"
34	"	"	Bajra, twice	"	4 months	3 months	"	"	"	"	"
35	"	Female	Bajra, once	1½ months	2 days	1 month and 13 days.	"	"	"	"	"
36	Mali	Male	Mustard seed, twice.	5 months	2 months	3 months	"	"	"	"	"
37	Silavut	Female	Poppy seed, once	3 months	12 days	2 months and 18 days.	"	"	"	"	"
38	Brahman	"	Poppy seed, twice.	4 months	1 month	3 months	"	"	"	"	"
39	Saraogi	"	Poppy seed, once	2½ months	10 days	2 months and 5 days.	"	"	"	"	"
40	Mahom.	Male	"	1½ months	"	1 month and 5 days.	"	"	"	"	"
41	"	Female	None	2 months	No	No	"	"	"	None	"
42	Khatik	"	"	5 months	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
43	Saraogi	"	Poppy seed, twice.	2 months	1 month	1 month	"	"	"	Crying	"
44	Mahom.	Male	"	5 months	4½ months	15 days	"	"	"	"	"
45	Dhobi	"	"	2 months	Since birth	2 months	"	"	"	"	"
46	Dole.	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
47	Bania	Female	None	1½ months	No	No	"	"	"	None	"
48	Hindu	Male	Mustard seed, once.	5 months	3 months	2 months	"	"	"	Crying	"
49	"	Female	Mustard seed, twice.	1½ months	1 month	15 days	"	"	"	"	"
50	Mahom.	"	"	"	15 days	1 month	"	"	"	"	"
51	Kahar	Male	Bajra, once	3 months	1½ months	1½ months	"	"	"	"	"
52	Khati	Female	Bajra, once	5 months	3 months	2 months	"	Fever	"	"	"
53	"	Male	Poppy seed, once	2½ months	1½ months	1 month	"	"	"	"	"
54	Bania	Female	"	1½ months	1 month	15 days	"	No	"	"	"
55	"	"	"	6 months	2 months	4 months	"	Fever	"	"	"
56	"	"	Bajra, twice	2 months	1 month	1 month	"	"	"	"	"
57	Karigar	Male	Poppy seed, once	3 months	"	2 months	"	No	"	"	"
58	Khati	Female	Bajra, once	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
59	"	"	None	1½ months	No	No	"	"	"	None	"
60	Gujar	Male	Mustard seed, twice.	5 months	3 months	2 months	"	"	"	Crying	"
61	Mahom.	Female	Bajra, once	15 months	14½ months	15 days	"	Fever	"	"	"
62	Brahman	Male	"	10 months	2 months	8 months	"	"	"	"	"
63	Tilwala	Female	Bajra, twice	2½ months	1 month	1½ months	"	Diarrhoea	"	"	"
64	Mali	Male	Bajra, twice	2 months	15 days	"	"	Fever	"	"	"
65	Saraogi	"	Bajra, once	1½ months	1 month	15 days	"	"	"	"	"
66	Koli	Female	None	2 months	No	No	"	No	"	None	"
67	Saraogi	Male	"	1½ months	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
68	"	"	"	2 months	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
69	Koli	"	"	1½ months	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
70	Mahom.	Female	"	3 months	"	"	"	Fever	"	"	"
71	Khati	Male	"	11 months	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
72	Mali	Female	Bajra, once	2 months	1 month	1 month	"	No	"	Crying	"
73	Mahom.	Male	Bajra, once	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
74	Brahman	"	"	4 months	"	3 months	"	"	"	"	"
75	Saraogi	"	"	5 months	3 months	2 months	"	"	"	"	"

APP. III.
Jeypore.

Number.	1. Caste.	2. Sex.	3 and 4. Quantity of Opium given, and Number of times a Day.	5. Ago.	6. Age when Opium was first given.	7. Period during which Opium has been taken.	8. Does the Father take Opium?	9. Has the Child been ever ill?	10. Is the Child nursed by the Mother?	11. Reasons for giving Opium.	12. Present state of Health.
76	Dhobi	Female	Jouear, twice	13 months	1½ months	11 months and 15 days.	No	No	Yes	Crying	Healthy.
77	Saraogi	Male	None	1½ months	No	No	"	Fever	"	None	"
78	"	Female	Jouear, twice	3 months	2 months	1 month	"	No	"	Crying	"
79	Mahom.	"	Poppy seed, once	12 months	15 days	11½ months	"	"	"	"	"
80	"	Male	"	5½ months	4 months	1½ months	"	"	"	"	"
81	Koli	Female	Poppy seed, twice.	2½ months	15 days	2 months	"	"	"	"	"
82	"	Male	"	1½ months	1 month	15 days	"	"	"	"	"
83	"	Female	"	3 months	"	2 months	"	"	"	"	"
84	Sunar	Male	Poppy seed, once	2½ months	15 days	"	"	Fever	"	"	"
85	Mali	"	None	2 months	No	No	"	No	"	None	"
86	Bania	Female	Poppy seed, twice.	6 months	20 days	5 months and 10 days.	"	Fever	"	Crying	"
87	"	"	"	1½ months	15 days	1 month	"	Cough	"	"	"
88	"	Male	Poppy seed, once	5 months	4 months	"	"	No	"	"	"
89	Mahom.	"	Bajra, once	2½ months	1½ months	1 month and 8 days.	"	Fever	"	"	"
90	Brah.	Female	Bajra, twice	5 months	3 months	2 months	"	No	"	"	"
91	Bania	Male	"	3 months	1 month	"	"	"	"	"	"
92	"	Female	"	5 months	2 months	3 months	"	"	"	"	"
93	"	"	None	3 months	No	No	"	"	"	None	"
94	Mahom.	Male	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
95	Meena	Female	Mustard, once	"	1 month	2 months	"	"	"	Crying	"
96	Bohra	"	Mustard, twice	4 months	3 months	1 month	"	"	"	"	"
97	Mahom.	"	Poppy seed, twice.	6 months	4 months	2 months	"	"	"	"	"
98	Brahman	"	"	2 months	1 month	1 month	"	Fever	"	"	"
99	Meena	"	"	3 months	2 months	"	"	"	"	"	"
100	Saraogi	Male	Poppy seed, once	1½ months	25 days	20 days	"	No	"	"	"

Jeypore, April 10, 1894.

T. H. HENDLEY, Surg.-Lieut.-Colonel,
Residency Surgeon, and Superintendent of
Dispensaries and Vaccination, Jeypore.APP. IV.
Rajputana.

APPENDIX IV.

QUESTIONS issued by Lieut.-Colonel ABBOTT to the DURBARS of the NATIVE STATES in RAJPUTANA, with the connected correspondence.

[Presented by Mr. DANE on behalf of the Government of India.]

No. 3732-G. of 1893.

From the AGENT to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL, Rajputana,
to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA,
Foreign Department.

SIR, Dated Abu, the 22nd September 1893.

With reference to your letter, No. 3166-L., dated 9th instant, regarding the inquiry to be made in Rajputana by the Royal Commission appointed to report on certain matters connected with the production and sale of, and trade in, opium in India, I have the honour to enclose, for the information of the Government, copy of a demi-official circular addressed by me to the political officers within this agency.

2. I concur with the view expressed in your paragraph 5 that Ajmere would be a convenient centre at which to examine all witnesses from the Rajputana States. Should any members of the Commission desire to visit any of the States, I feel sure the Durbars would not raise any objection to their doing so, but I see little or no object at present in their making any such visit as I anticipate that all the information they will require can be laid before them at Ajmere.

3. With reference to the remarks in your 6th paragraph, I may state that I shall endeavour to meet the Commission and give evidence before them. For this purpose it would be convenient to me to be informed, as soon as possible, as to the probable date of the Commission's arrival at Ajmere, as I shall have to make arrangements for their reception at that place, and arrange my own tour so that I can meet them. It appears to me sufficient to nominate one officer to lay information before the Commission, and for this duty I should have selected Lieutenant-Colonel Abbott, Resident, Western Rajputana States, who was for many years Superintendent of the Jhalawar State, but he does not return from furlough till the beginning of

November. If your requisition for a brief outline of the evidence which the officer nominated can give admits of no modification it will be necessary for me to select another officer, and in that case I beg to nominate Lieutenant-Colonel Curzon Wylie. But as regards the outline of the evidence to be given, I may state at once that it will embrace information under the heads noted in paragraph 4 of my demi-official circular enclosed; and I may refer to the detailed information given in my long demi-official letter to the Foreign Secretary, dated 25th August 1891. I do not understand if any other outline is required to reach you before the 15th of October next. If the visit of the Opium Commission to Rajputana does not take place before the end of November I see no reason why Lieutenant-Colonel Abbott should not undertake the duty of laying before the Commission information already collected in this office, and that which I have now taken steps to collect through political officers. I do not suppose that a statement of the witnesses to be examined is required to reach Government before the 15th of October.

4. I would suggest that I may be favoured as soon as possible with further instructions regarding the officer to be appointed and the outline of evidence referred to in the preceding paragraph.

I have, &c.

G. H. TREVOR, Colonel,
Agent to the Governor-General.From the AGENT to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL, Rajputana,
to all POLITICAL OFFICERS in Rajputana.

Dated the 22nd September 1893.

You are aware that a Royal Commission has been appointed to report on certain matters connected with the production and sale of, and trade in, opium in India. The Commission will visit Rajputana on a date

Demi-
Official
Circular.

to be hereafter communicated, and will examine witnesses at Ajmere. The branches of the inquiry to be made by it which concern the native States are:—

- (1.) Whether, if the production and use of opium for non-medical purposes are prohibited throughout British India, such prohibition could be extended to the native States;
- (2.) The nature of the existing arrangements with the native States in respect of the transit of opium through British territory, and whether those arrangements could be, with justice, terminated; and
- (3.) To what compensation would the native States be fairly entitled in the event of measures of prohibition being adopted.

2. On these questions the Government of India are most anxious that the interests of the native States should not be overlooked, and that a full expression of their views should be placed before the Commission. They desire, therefore, that the Durbars may be invited to nominate witnesses regarding the matters mentioned in the preceding paragraph and any others to which the Durbars may wish to call attention in connexion with the opium question. Please explain all this personally* to the

* If more convenient the explanation may be given orally to a trustworthy Vakil or agent of the Durbar.

the Commission may lead them to recommend no interference which the Durbar(s) could object to. Our object is to enable the Commission to inform themselves fully on the whole subject, regarding which there is much misapprehension in some quarters.

3. If the Durbar(s) would like any members of the Commission to visit and make inquiries on the spot, please let me know. I am inclined to think that it would be sufficient to send witnesses to give evidence at Ajmere, but if the Commission should wish to visit I suppose the Durbar(s) would not object to invite them. In any case they can hardly have time to visit many States.

4. I should be glad if you could furnish me as soon as possible with full information up to the present date regarding:—

- (1.) The extent of poppy cultivation in
- (2.) The production of opium in
- (3.) The local consumption and export.
- (4.) Revenue derived by the Durbars from opium, either directly or otherwise.
- (5.) The nature of the agreement under which the drug is exported through British territory from
- (6.) Compensation to which the State(s) would, in your opinion, be entitled if the production of opium were stopped or its export prohibited.

A memorandum with statistics under these heads would be useful to the Commission.

No. 3462 I.

From the UNDER SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Foreign Department, to the AGENT TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL in Rajputana.

SIR, Dated Simla, the 5th October 1893.

I AM directed to reply as follows to the several inquiries made in your letter, No. 3732-G., dated the 22nd September 1893, regarding the Royal Commission on opium:—

- (1.) The Commission is not likely to visit Rajputana before the end of November next, and the probable date of their arrival at Ajmere will be communicated to you when the Commission have definitely settled the course of their tour.
- (2.) Colonel Abbott may be nominated to give evidence before the Commission as you propose.
- (3.) The list of subjects enumerated in paragraph 4 of the circular, which forms an enclosure to your letter under reply, is approved.
2. I am to say that it will be convenient if a draft of the evidence to be given by Colonel Abbott can be prepared in advance and forwarded to the Government of India for their information.

I have, &c.

A. WILLIAMS,
Under Secretary to the Government
of India.

EXTRACT from a demi-official letter, dated 11th November 1893, from Colonel H. B. ABBOTT, Resident, Western Rajputana States, to Lieutenant S. F. BAYLEY, First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor-General, Rajputana.

I SUBMIT a list of queries to be sent to Durbars with a note explanatory of them which, I think, embraces all points.

When replies are received may I ask to be furnished with an epitome for all the States in the form Mr. Dhunjishah is now preparing. The note is intended in whole or part for the use of political officers to draw their attention, and through them the attention of Durbars, to the serious importance of the subject. If there be anything in the queries which looks like begging a question, I hope the phraseology will be altered, as it would be well to avoid even the appearance of endeavouring to influence the Durbars in their statement of the case, for we only wish to assist them in understanding the matter and putting it fairly before the Commission.

Colonel Trevor gave me to understand that my duty in connexion with the Commission would be only to place all the information received and produce the witnesses sent before the Commission, and he made no mention of my giving actual evidence myself, but if the Government of India in the Foreign Department think it desirable, I propose introducing myself to the Commission by making the following statement.

NOTE ON OPIUM.

We are called upon to consider—

- (i.) If the production and use of opium for other than medical purposes could be prohibited in Rajputana;
- (ii.) The nature of the existing arrangements with the Rajputana States in respect of the transit of opium through British India, and if these could with justice be terminated;
- (iii.) What compensation would the native States be fairly entitled to in the event of measures of prohibition being adopted.

2. Under the first head we have to ascertain what amount of opium is produced in Rajputana, which means what is the area under poppy growth? What is its yield? The above information has been received from some States, others have yet to supply it; and in the case of all it is necessary for the statistics to be uniform, i.e., to be for the same term of years, and all in British measures and weights (i.e., maunds and seers, acres, &c.) It should also be stated if the areas have been ascertained by survey or appraisement, and if they include alienated lands as well as Khalsa lands. Further, it is necessary that if there be any discrepancy, as compared with figures before furnished, it should be explained. The official or officials who supply this information should appear as witnesses on these points before the Commission. In the case of Jhallawar (and other States which possess such documents), a chart of crops might be produced before the Commission to show at a glance how large a portion of the irrigated area is devoted to the poppy. Next, there is the use of opium, in which must be included all preparations from it and the poppy plant. Cultivating witnesses should be examined as to the various uses the plant is put to, and they, together with members of the more important castes, and a representative to speak on behalf of the remaining population, should be called on to state—

- (a.) The uses they make of opium in its different forms, such as "amal" and "amal pani," "post," and so on;
- (b.) To what extent the above are taken by them;
- (c.) By whom (i.e., men, women, and children);
- (d.) On what occasions, and for what purposes;
- (e.) Their ideas of the effects; and
- (f.) If they could well manage without them.

These persons would afterwards appear as witnesses before the Commission. For Jhallawar I would suggest that some stalwart Soudhia, Mewati, and Rajput lumbers and patels should be among the witnesses selected.

It then remains, under the first head, for the Durbar to state if it be possible to prohibit the production and use of opium except for medical purposes, and, if so, by what means it could best be done.

APP. IV.

Rajputana.

3. There does not seem to be anything to inquire about from Durbars under the second head, which appears to refer to the arrangements by which all opium for export through British India has to pay duty at the scales. The justice of either prohibiting all export or attaining the same end by considerably raising the present duty is a matter for Government to consider. I know that for years past traders have petitioned to have the duty lowered.

4. The third head is a very important one for the Durbars. It will oblige them to most carefully think out the present value of the poppy, and of opium in all its forms, to them and their subjects, and the loss which will be incurred by them and their subjects if the poppy all but disappears as a crop, and opium and its preparations become practically non-existent articles of trade and consumption.

The value of the poppy plant in addition to the opium produced consists of its young leaves used as a vegetable, its seed and heads, and the preparations made from them. The value of opium extends to the preparations made from it.

Loss will be direct and indirect. Among indirect losses should be included those likely to occur from changes in the course of trade and in social habits consequent on deprivation of an article of commerce and general consumption. Pecuniary loss will be felt by (1) the Durbars, (2) jagirdars and all holders of alienated lands where poppy is grown, (3) by cultivators in both Khalsa and alienated lands, and (4) by traders.

For Durbars pecuniary loss will mean—

(a.) Diminution of land revenue, i.e., the difference in demand on lands assessed at poppy rates, and on such lands when poppy crops are replaced by other crops, irrigated or unirrigated.

The proportion, viz., 25 per cent., given by the Jhallawar Durbar as the difference above referred to is believed to be under-estimated, judging by the estimates for the Central India States and by the revenue rates given in the settlement report.

(b.) Loss in customs.

(c.) Loss in excise.

Note.—Where mixed excise contracts are given, care should be taken, in estimating what portion belongs to opium, to include all its preparations.

The estimate of 1,000 out of 7,100 given by Ulwar is believed to be too low, as in the Punjab it is considerably higher. Reference to former receipt books of contractors should aid in arriving at a fair estimate.

The losses touched on above are direct.

Indirectly there may be further loss in the revision of revenue rates and customs dues.

For holders of alienated lands losses may be suffered under any or all of the heads above mentioned.

The pecuniary loss to cultivators will be directly the difference in profit between the poppy crop and whatever

other crop is likely to replace it. By profit is meant the margin over expenses of cultivation.

Indirectly the cultivator will lose his credit; in other words, he will have to supply capital to make good that loss.

Traders.—Their direct loss will be in the traffic in opium and in the stocks which will remain unsaleable.

Indirectly they too will suffer in credit and by the disorganisation of their business. Connected with these traders there are the Manotidars of Jhallawar and the Bohras of other States, the recognised agricultural bankers or supporters of the cultivators, whose business will suffer considerably.

5. When all the losses pointed out above and any others that may occur to the Durbars have been carefully estimated, the Durbars might state what compensation they consider they and their subjects would be entitled to. Their estimates should embrace any expenditure to be incurred in prohibitive measures, in revisions of land revenue or customs, tariff, and such like. The political officers should record their opinion as to the reasonableness of the

Political officers to check Durbar estimates.

Durbar's estimates.

6. Medical testimony is wanted to show the effects of the consumption of opium and its preparations, and it

has been suggested that Surgeon Colonel Hendley should be invited to appear as a witness. The chief medical officer, I believe, has been asked by the Agent to the Governor-General to appear himself, and he might be consulted and asked to invite the evidence of such medical officers, both European and native, as he considers best qualified to give an experienced opinion on the subject.

7. This note goes over old ground in part, and is lengthy, but the great importance of the matter to Rajputana warrants it.

8. Prohibition can only be called for if it is understood that the consumption of opium in Rajputana is excessive, most harmful to the population, physically and morally, and can be put down with ease and at little expense. If, on the other hand, excess be rare, the habit be not

only harmless, but beneficial and if it be ascertained that prohibition would be most difficult and would involve heavy expenditure, it is urgently necessary, in the interest of the Durbars, that undeniable proof of this being the case should be ready to be laid before the Commission when they visit Rajputana. Their visit will most probably take place next January, and it is high time for the Durbars to realise that without careful and prompt preparation they may not be in the best possible position to prove their case by laying full information and sending capable witnesses to give evidence on all points before the Commission.

9. There need not be fresh witnesses for each branch of the subject, as the same witnesses may be conversant with more than one, but intelligent and experienced non-official witnesses are wanted as well as officials.

10. I propose that all witnesses be examined at headquarters by the Durbars with the aid of political officers, and that the written replies of the Durbars to the questions asked of them be based on the information which these witnesses supply. These same witnesses should, of course, be sent to appear before the Commission, and should reach Ajmere a week in advance of it in order that I may become acquainted with all, and see if each one understands on what points he is required to give evidence.

11. A list of all witnesses selected should be sent as soon as possible, giving their names, caste, profession, or office, their standing, whether they know English, and the points on which they are to give evidence.*

(Signed) H. B. ABBOTT,
Lieut.-Colonel.

Abu,

Dated 12th November 1893.

QUESTIONS TO WITNESS.

1. What is the area in acres under poppy in Khalsa and alienated lands taking the average for the past five years?

Revenue officials.

2. How have you arrived at those figures, by survey records or appraisement ("Nazari" or "Andazi")?

Revenue officials.

3. What is the out-turn of opium, in British maunds and seers, of the above area?

Revenue officials.

4. How is your calculation made.

Revenue officials.

Note.—If figures now given do not agree with those furnished before, the difference should be explained.

5. If the cultivation of the poppy in above areas were prohibited what crops would most likely take its place, irrigated or unirrigated?

Revenue officials, lumberdars, patels, one or two large jagirdars or their managers.

6. What would be the diminution in the revenue demand, consequent on the substitution of the above crops for the poppy? Give figures to show on what your calculation is based.

Revenue officials and one or two jagirdars or managers.

7. Would the stopping of poppy cultivation necessitate a revision of revenue rates or at least of irrigated rates?

Revenue officials and one or two jagirdars or managers.

8. In that case what loss in revenue would be entailed, and what expenditure incurred in completing the revision? Give figures.
Revenue officials and one or two jagirdars or managers.

9. If the production and export of opium be prohibited what will be the loss in customs to the Durbar, to jagirdars, and other holders of villages? Give figures to explain your calculation.
Customs officials and one or two great jagirdars.

10. Would the above prohibition require a revision of the customs tariff, and what would be the likely result of such revision, *i.e.*, would it result in recovery in part or in further loss of revenue? In either case how much would be lost or recovered? Give details to explain your reply.
Custom officials.

11. If the consumption of opium and its preparations be prohibited, what would be the loss in excise.
Customs officials.

Where necessary give your reasons for calculating that the specified loss would be incurred in respect of opium out of a mixed contract for all drugs.

12. What is the difference in profit on the cultivation of the poppy and the other crops which will replace it? Give figures to explain your reply.
Revenue officials, patels, and lumberdars.

13. Would there be a loss in credit if poppy cultivation was stopped? If so, in what way could credit be revived?
Revenue officials, patels, and lumberdars.

14. Fully detail what would be your loss as an opium merchant if the production and export of opium were stopped.
Traders.

15. Could you to any extent compensate yourself by other business? If so, how and to what extent?
Traders.

16. What would be your loss if your cultivators were forbidden to grow the poppy? Give details.
Manotidars and bohras.

17. What uses do you make the poppy plant from first to last?
Patels, lumberdars.

18. What employment do you and you family get out of the cultivation of the poppy?
Field labourers.

19. In what form do the members of your caste consume opium?

Consumers. 20. Do men, women, and children alike take it?

Consumers. 21. What proportion of the caste takes it.

22. What proportion, if any, of the persons whom you have mentioned above as taking opium, take it to excess?
Consumers.

23. How often is it taken a day, and how much at a time?
Consumers.

24. What are the special occasions and purposes for which it is taken, and is it considered absolutely necessary to take it at these times?
Consumers.

25. What are its usual effects on those who take it in moderation?
Consumers.

26. What would be the result on the habits and customs and physical condition of your caste if opium could not be procured except as medicine?
Consumers.

GENERAL NOTE.

In all cases present figures should be compared and reconciled with former ones.

QUESTIONS TO WITNESSES.

1. What is the area in acres under poppy in Khalsa and alienated lands, taking the average for the past five years?
Revenue officials.

2. How have you arrived at those figures, by survey, records, or appraisement ("Nazari" or "Andazi")?

3. What is the out-turn of opium, in British maunds and seers, of the above area?

4. How is your calculation made?

5. If the cultivation of the poppy in above areas were prohibited what crops would most likely take its place, irrigated or unirrigated?
Revenue officials, lambardars, patels, one or two large jagirdars or their managers.

6. What would be the diminution in the revenue demand, consequent on the substitution of the above crops for the poppy? Give figures to show on what your calculation is based.
Revenue officials and one or two jagirdars or managers.

7. Would the stopping of poppy cultivation necessitate a revision of revenue rates or at least of irrigated rates?

8. In that case what loss in revenue would be entailed, and what expenditure incurred in completing the revision? Give figures.

9. If the production and export of opium be prohibited what will be the loss in customs to the Durbar, to jagirdars, and other holders of villages? Give figures to explain your calculation.
Customs officials and one or two great jagirdars.

10. Would the above prohibition require a revision of the customs tariff, and what would be the likely result of such revision, *i.e.*, would it result in recovery in part or in further loss of revenue? In either case how much would be lost or recovered? Give details to explain your reply.
Customs officials.

11. If the consumption of opium and its preparations be prohibited what would be the loss in excise?

(Where necessary, give your reasons for calculating that the specified loss would be incurred in respect of opium out of a mixed contract for all drugs.)

12. What is the difference in profit on the cultivation of the poppy and the other crops which will replace it? Give figures to explain your reply.
Revenue officials, patels, and lambardars.

13. Would there be a loss in credit if poppy cultivation was stopped? If so, in what way could credit be revised?

14. Fully detail what would be your loss as an opium merchant if the production and export of opium were stopped.
Traders.

15. Could you to any extent compensate yourself by other business? If so, how and to what extent?
Traders.

16. What would be your loss if your cultivators were forbidden to grow the poppy? Give details.
Manotidars and bohras.

17. What uses do you make of the poppy plant from first to last?
Patels and lambardars.

18. What employment do you and your family get out of the cultivation of the poppy?
Field labourers.

19. In what form do the members of your caste consume opium?
Consumers.

20. Do men, women, and children alike take it?

21. What proportion of the caste take it?

22. What proportion, if any, of the persons whom you have mentioned above as taking opium, take it to excess?

23. How often is it taken a day, and how much at a time?
Consumers.

24. What are the special occasions and purposes for which it is taken, and is it considered absolutely necessary to take it at these times?

25. What are its usual effects on those who take it in moderation?

26. What would be the result on the habits and customs and physical condition of your caste if opium could not be procured except as medicine?

AGENT to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S CAMP, AJMERE,
29th November 1893.

From the FIRST ASSISTANT AGENT to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL, Rajputana, to all POLITICAL OFFICERS in Rajputana.

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my demi-official letter of 28th September 1893, I am

APP. IV.
Rajputana.

requested by the Officiating Agent to the Governor-General to send you copies of a note drawn up by Colonel Abbott, resident, Western Rajputana States, who has been selected to represent the Rajputana Agency before the Royal Commission on Opium for the guidance of Durbars and political officers in collecting the evidence to be given at the Rajputana sittings of the Commission. These sittings will probably take place at Ajmere and Jeypore in the last 10 days of January next, but the plans of the Commission may subsequently undergo alteration. As at present arranged, the Commission will be at Jeypore for part of the 24th January, and at Ajmere from 25th to 29th idem. It is possible that during this time sub-committees may visit Oodeypore and Jodhpore.

Mr. E. M. Dane, C.S., the officer selected by the Government of India to advise local administrations in the matter of preparing for the inquiry to be held by the Opium Commission, has had an opportunity of seeing the previous correspondence on that subject in this office, and has pointed out that the great importance of the inquiry to Rajputana, and the equally great importance of the evidence to be given by native States before the Commission, has apparently not been fully appreciated. He remarks that the present inquiry differs widely from any that have been previously instituted. On its results depend the future of the opium industry in native States as it has to report not only whether the production and sale of opium in British India should be prohibited, but whether such prohibition should be extended to native territory, and on what terms, if any, the existing arrangements with native States in regard to the transit of opium could with justice be terminated. Further, the Commission has to assess the compensation to which, in the event of prohibition being adopted, native States would be fairly entitled. This being the case, it is needless to say that Rajputana is vitally interested in the inquiry, and it is obviously of the first importance, not only to Rajputana but to India as a whole that the true facts regarding the production and consumption of opium in the Rajputana States should be clearly and effectively placed before the Commission. It must be remembered that facts which are notorious to political officers in Rajputana may be totally unknown to some members of the Commission, and no effort should be spared to enlighten such members. The evidence to be given by selected political and medical officers will have to be supplemented by that of natives of rank and influence, whose statements on the consumption-question is bound to carry more weight than that of Europeans. Such witnesses should, as far as possible, represent all interests concerned, and should be selected from the official, cultivating, trading, and consuming classes, and it is hoped that some of the leading nobles in the Rajputana States may be induced to come forward in person.

In order that the question of selecting witnesses may receive the attention it deserves, it is absolutely neces-

sary that Durbars should be fully informed (where this has not been done already) of the real scope of the inquiry which the Commission has been appointed to make, and should be invited to nominate witnesses without delay. Special care is needed in the case of Durbars in opium-producing States, such as Meywar, Kotah, and Jhallawar, in order that the witnesses sent to represent these States before the Commission may be able to adequately show what are the true facts regarding area under cultivation, number and caste of cultivators, out-turn of poppy and opium, local consumption, export, course of trade, extent of mercantile interests involved, connexion of the State (if any) with the opium trade, and the revenue of all kinds connected with opium which is enjoyed by the States and their feudatory jagirdars. The great feudatories and petty chiefs in some of the States need particular consideration in connexion with the inquiry, and there should be no lack of evidence both official and non-official, to prove before the Commission the full extent of their rights and interests in opium. Another point of special importance is that the Commission will require estimates of compensation, which would be due in case of prohibition, to have been drawn up not by political officers but by the Durbars themselves, with the political officers' opinion as to their correctness. Durbars should be induced, therefore, to lose no time in going thoroughly into the subject, and in preparing the estimates required with full details to show how the amounts of compensation estimated are arrived at.

Colonel Prideaux hopes that the foregoing remarks and the suggestions and observations made by Colonel Abbott in his note enclosed will suffice to indicate the urgent need of energetic and early action in preparing for the Opium Commission and the lines on which such action should be taken. He will be glad to hear at an early date what witnesses the Durbars have selected; whether arrangements can be made for their examination locally as suggested by Colonel Abbott, and whether it will be practicable to have them ready in Ajmere about a week in advance of the Commission's arrival there. He will also be glad to receive as soon as possible a record of the statements made by these witnesses at the local examination and the Durbar's own estimate of compensation which would be due to it in the event of prohibition, with your opinion as to its correctness.

I am to request that copies of all correspondence on the above-mentioned subject may be sent direct to Colonel Abbott, as it is important that that officer should receive early intimation of your proceedings, and of the action which the Durbar proposes to take.

I have, &c.

S. F. BAYLEY,
First Assistant Agent to the
Governor-General.

APPENDIX V.

APP. V.
Karauli.

COMMUNICATIONS addressed to the COMMISSION by (a) the MAHARAJA of KARAUULI and (b) the MAHA RAWAL of BANSWARA, RAJPUTANA. (See Questions 20,395, 20,398, and Question 21,544.)

[Handed in by Lieut.-Colonel ABBOTT, Resident in the Western States of Rajputana.]

(a.) KARAUULI.

From BHANWAR PAL, Maharaja of Karauli, to the PRESIDENT, Royal Commission on Opium, Ajmere.

Karauli, the 14th January 1894.

I HAVE much pleasure to inform you that I forward herewith some papers in which you will find all matters connected with the manufacture and traffic in opium in my State. You will also find therein figures showing the losses that would be incurred by this State if the cultivation of poppy and manufacture of opium were prohibited. These losses mainly fall under three heads, Land Revenue, Customs, and Cultivators. The first two are the direct loss to the State, and the third to the cultivators in general. The loss under land revenue would be Rs. 11,200, and the loss under customs Rs. 4,800. Thus the total loss to the State would be Rs. 16,000.

The loss to the cultivators will range from Rs. 28,350 to Rs. 37,800, since the margin of profit left to the cultivators, according to their allegation, is from Rs. 15

to Rs. 20 per bigha of land. The resources of this State being very small, these losses could hardly be recouped from any other sources.

Further, I have the pleasure to inform you that my friend, Colonel Abbott, will furnish you with informations other than those that have been put down in the papers regarding this State, as he has kindly consented to represent the Rajputana States.

Deposition of SHEIKH AMANAT HUSAIN, Revenue Officer, Karauli.

1. Taking the average of last five years, beginning from 1888-89 to 1892-93, the area of cultivation under poppy in Khalsa villages is 558 acres and 11½ biswas, and the area of land under the jaghirdars is 622 acres and 22½ biswas. The total area under cultivation is 1,181 acres and 4 biswas. This area covers the whole of land under poppy cultivation in the State of Karauli. These figures are taken from the annual returns submitted during the last five years.

2. The Khalsa area is taken from the jamabandi book of each village, and the area of land under the jaghirdars is taken from the annual returns submitted by the jaghirdars in each year.

3. The quantity of opium produced in the area, according to English maunds and seers, taking the average of production for the last five years, is the following:—

	Mds.	seers	chks.
Khalsa villages - - -	109	27	9
Jaghirdars villages - - -	100	27	10½
Total production - - -	210	15	3½

This calculation is arrived at from the papers and annual returns which have been submitted during the last five years. There is no difference in calculation in the returns of the present year and those of the past years.

4. Poppy is cultivated on irrigated lands, and there are here two methods followed in its cultivation. First, during the kharif crop the lands, which come under the plough only once a year, are left fallow, and specially set apart for poppy cultivation. Poppy is subsequently cultivated on such lands. If poppy cultivation were discontinued barley and wheat might be cultivated on such lands. But, regarding the collection of rent, owing to the difference in the cultivation of crops, and owing to difference in rates prevailing in different villages for lands under poppy cultivation, the average diminution in income would be Rs. 1-8 per bigha. This diminution in rate would rule so far as barley and wheat are concerned. Second method is this: Cotton and millet are cultivated on such lands which have the strength of producing two crops annually. This is what is called the early crop. The rent of this crop is collected during the kharif season. When it is reaped poppy is then cultivated, of which separate rent is collected from the cultivators. If poppy cultivation is discontinued then such lands would lie absolutely barren during the latter crop, since after the reaping of cotton and millet the season for the cultivation of barley and wheat would be far advanced. A great diminution in revenue would thus take place. The extent of such lands is not recorded in revenue papers, hence no accurate figures as to the extent of loss that would entail upon the State could be put down. But the estimated loss would be as much as the fall in revenue of nearly 800 acres of land, which is equivalent to 1,280 bighas (an acre is 1·6 bighas), and since the scale of rent collected in land under poppy cultivation is different in different villages, therefore an average of Rs. 8 per bigha being taken as an average rent per bigha, the total amount of loss would be Rs. 10,240 in land under cultivation twice a year, and Rs. 960 in land under cultivation once a year. The extent of the latter kind of land is 400 acres, equivalent to 640 bighas. So the total amount of loss that would arise in the revenue of this State is estimated at Rs. 11,200.

5. The settlement work of this State is still going on. The settlement work of some tehsils has been finished, and records-of-rights, such as terij, khatauni, &c. have also been prepared. Hence, if poppy cultivation were discontinued, the papers under settlement work which have already been prepared would surely require revision.

6. The extent of loss that would be incurred would be the expense of revising and again preparing the papers, and this loss would amount to nearly Rs. 5,000. If the papers that have been already prepared be immediately revised, the amount stated above would be the extent of loss. But if the settlement work is allowed to go on, and the papers that have been prepared be revised and prepared again after the lapse of some time, the extent of loss would increase, and would be double the present estimated loss.

7. The loss to the Durbār owing to the fall in customs from opium would be Rs. 4,070-11 annas, and by the poppy seeds, Rs. 489-5 annas, and from poppy shells the estimated loss would be Rs. 240. The total loss, Rs. 4,800. These figures are taken from the income under customs for the year 1892-93. Furthermore, the discontinuance of poppy cultivation would put a stop to the manufacture of oil from the poppy seeds. This would indirectly produce loss to the oilmen. Oil would then sell dearer than now, and thus the loss would be felt by all. The extent of this loss is impossible to calculate. The income under poppy shells is put down

as an estimated income, since in the Customs Office no separate tariff is kept for this article. On the other hand, this article is included in grocers' articles of sale. The jaghirdars would suffer no loss owing to the fall in customs duties, since they do not enjoy the privilege of levying customs duties.

8. The discontinuance of the cultivation of poppy and the manufacture of opium will cause no revision in the customs tariff, for the duties now levied upon different commodities have reached their highest limit. There is no margin left for further increase in other articles of trade, nor can the loss arising from opium be compensated from any other source.

9. In this State, excepting the customs duties which are levied upon opium, this article is not given on contract. Everybody has the privilege of selling and purchasing the article. Nor anything is prepared from opium here, such as madak or chandu. So there is no contract for the preparation of such things. Therefore no loss would occur in the excise revenue.

10. In reply to this question patels and lambardars depose thus:—The difference in their income from the cultivation of opium and that of wheat, subtracting therefrom the expense incurred in cultivating them, will be from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per bigha. Calculating the loss in this way, the whole loss on the entire area mentioned above, taking the average of last five years, will range from Rs. 28,350 to Rs. 37,800. This will be the direct loss of the cultivators.

11. The extent of loss to the jaghirdars has been described in detail in reply to question 6. Bohras (money lenders) would suffer the loss to the extent of interest of money laid out, for if the cultivation of poppy were discontinued, as a matter of course, a great disturbance would arise in the matter of money transaction between the cultivators and the bohras.

Deposition of Patels, Lambardars, and Cultivators.

GHISOLA, son of MOHAN LAL JATH, resident of Makanpur, Age 60 years. Illiterate.

CHUNNI, son of DAJJA, Brahmin. Mehta of Makanpur. Age 50 years. Illiterate.

GANGARAM, son of NANGA MAINA of Palita. Age 50 years. Illiterate.

The substance of the deposition of the three deponents is materially the same.

1. Opium is always cultivated on irrigated land. If the cultivation of poppy were discontinued, barley, wheat, and zira (cummin seed) might be cultivated in its place.

2. If the price of opium remains fixed, then the difference arising from the incomes of opium and wheat is Rs. 15 per bigha, e.g., the average production of opium on a bigha of land in English weight is 8 seers, the price of which is Rs. 30, and poppy seed is produced to the value of Rs. 8. Total value of a bigha is Rs. 38, whereas the production of wheat on the same bigha is 6½ maunds, the value of which is Rs. 18 only. The expense incurred in cultivating a bigha of poppy is Rs. 15. Thus still leaving a margin of Rs. 23, whereas in the case of wheat the expense is Rs. 8, thus leaving a margin of Rs. 10, which is less by Rs. 15 to the income of opium. If the value of opium arises, this margin is increased to Rs. 20.

3. Great difference would arise between the bohras (money lenders) and the cultivators. The bohras lend as much money as the cultivators like to borrow, in anticipation of the poppy crop. Bohras would not advance so much money in other crops. For the cultivators take the money on the hypothecation of the production of opium which is a very safe investment for the bohras. This difference cannot be made up by any other production.

4. The poppy leaves are used as vegetable, and the juice of poppy is used by the opium-eaters and for other medicinal purposes. Its seeds are used in making oil and are also used as medicine. The flowers of such plants from which opium has not been extracted are used as medicines. Opium-eaters use them for purposes of intoxication. The stems of these plants are used as fuels.

5. The wages earned by field labourers on one bigha of poppy under cultivation from the beginning to the harvest time is Rs. 7 or 8.

APP. V.
Karauli.

Deposition of Traders in Opium.

BIKHAM CHAND SETH (Mahesri Bania), son of JAISI RAM.
Age 64 years.

BEHARI LAL, son of MADARI RAM, Agarwala Bania.
Age 50 years.

1. The principal trade we carry on is in opium. We always deal in this article. Even our whole business and position in society lie in this trade. Bikhram Chand says that his annual income from this trade is 10 or 12 thousand rupees, and Behari Lal derives an annual income of one thousand or eleven hundred rupees. If the trade in opium or the cultivation of poppy were at once prohibited we should be put to the loss of the above amount.

2. Our loss could not be compensated from other trades, nor can we deal in other commodities. For opium is such an article of trade that, however long it might be stored up, it cannot be spoilt. On the other hand, its value rises by its becoming old. For this reason, we purchase it in favourable times, and dispose it when the price of opium rises in the market, or else keep it in reserve for more favourable times. Banking business, such as hundis, &c., have been received owing to the money order system. We have never traded in food grains or cotton, nor can these commodities be kept in store for a long time like opium. Their keeping in store is risky, and liable to much loss. Hence a trader in food grains, whether he likes it or not, whether the market is favourable or not, is obliged to dispose of his stock in trade. Owing to this such traders are put to severe loss. But traders in opium enjoy on the other hand the advantages which we have deposed above.

Deposition of another Consumer.

SETH BIKHAM CHAND, son of JAISI RAM, Caste Bania of the Mahesri Class, Resident of Karauli. Age 64 years. Literate. Knows Hindi.

1. My castemen, i.e., mahajans who take opium, take it in the form of globules.

2. Men generally take it. Women too, take it, but their number is comparatively small, and children also take it. After an infant is born, when it is 20 days or a month old, opium is then given to it in small doses. This is continued till it is 2½ or 3 years old. This is given to it, for it promotes health and vigour. Infants are rendered safe from the attacks of cough and cold.

3. Nearly 20 or 25 per cent. of my castemen take opium.

4. Nearly 5 or 6 per cent. of my castemen take it in excess, and they take it to the extent of 2 or 4 mashes per day.

5. Generally people take twice a day, morning and evening, sometimes three times a day, and sometimes even four times a day. But I take it three times a day. Each time I take 3 ratties, i.e., 9 ratties per day.

6. There is no common fixed time for people to take opium. Each consumer has a separate fixed time of his own, and at such times, owing to his settled habit, he is under necessity to take opium.

7. The effect of opium on the health of the moderate consumers is this:—They preserve their health, sense, the business habits, in short everything intact. People generally take opium in order to get relief from the sufferings of many diseases. Moderate consumers have been cured of many diseases. Opium is specially valuable in cases of cough and cold.

8. If people of my castemen who take opium and I, who take it, do not get it excepting as a medicine, then our habit and character would be changed for the worse. We would go mad. We shall lose all power of distinguishing good from bad. Our health would be entirely shattered. We shall be bereft of the power of all work. The social custom that prevails among us of receiving our friends with opium would not only be interfered with, but would be entirely abolished.

Deposition of KALYAN PAL, son of PRATAP PAL, Jadon Rajput. A resident of Khaoda Bapotidar. Age 65 years. Literate. Knows Hindi. A consumer of opium.

1. The people of my community generally take opium in the form of globules or small pieces, and sometimes take it mixed in water which is called amal panee.

2. Men generally take opium. The number of women who consume opium is comparatively small. Children too take opium. On the birth of a child, opium is given to it in very small doses when it is nearly a month or 20 days old. This is continued till it is five years old. We regard opium as a good tonic, producing good digestive powers in infants. It promotes health and vigour of the child. Infants are given opium generally to protect them from cold and other diseases.

3. The proportion of my castemen who take opium is nearly 75 per cent.

4. The proportion of men taking in excess is nearly 25 per cent. Such men generally take 8 or 9 mashes or even a tola per diem.

5. People generally take opium twice a day, morning and evening, and sometimes even three times a day. But I take twice a day, i.e., morning and evening. The quantity I take is 2 mashes in the morning and 2 mashes in the evening.

6. There is no common fixed time for people to take opium. Each consumer has a separate fixed time of his own, and at such a time owing to his settled habit he is under necessity to take opium. Among the Rajputs, specially during the time of betrothal or marriage, the relatives and friends of the parties concerned must needs take opium. That is a prevailing custom among them.

7. The effect of opium on the constitution of the moderate consumer is this:—They preserve their sense and health intact. The consumers generally take it in order to get a relief from many diseases. They are actually cured of those diseases. Opium is specially valuable in cases of cough and cold.

8. If our castemen who are consumers of opium and we who take it do not get opium except for medicinal purposes then we shall lose our character. We would go mad and would lose our sense. We shall fall a victim to bowel complaints. Our life would become a burden to us, even it would be impossible for us to live.

The social custom that obtains among us to welcome a friend with opium in time of friendly meetings would not only be interfered with but would be entirely abolished.

N.B.—The depositions of three consumers of opium, namely, Kalyan Pal, Ballao Sing, son of Lochan Sing of Harnagar, and Thakur Ganpat Sing Chohan of Karauli, are materially the same, excepting the quantity of opium consumed by each. Kalyan Pal takes 4 mashes per day, Ballao Sing 2 mashes every day, and Ganpat Sing 3 mashes every day.

(b.) BANSWARA.

Translation of statement, No. 329, dated 11th January 1894, on the opium question, from the office of the Banswara Durbar, forwarded with kharita, dated Pos Sudi 6 Sambat 1950, from the Maha Rawal of Banswara to the President, Royal Opium Commission.

1. By stopping the cultivation, trade, and use of opium, except as medicine, the State, jaghirdars, mahajans, traders, cultivators, labourers, and the poor will suffer great loss, because all of them are benefited by the income derived from opium. This country being chiefly jungles and hills, the use of opium keeps off the evil effects of the bad atmosphere. It is also given to children to protect them from cold. It gives strength to men and women in old age. Cultivators are enabled through the warmth which it gives to the body to work in the rainy as well as cold weather. Besides it is the custom in this country to take opium on occasions of marriage and other festivals. Hence its prohibition will be impossible.

2. It appears from inquiry that the State would suffer an annual loss of Rs. 1,69,088-8 if the cultivation of opium were prohibited. Even if this amount were paid to the State by Government as compensation, the people at large would not willingly accept it, for as the price of opium rises the profit amounts to 10 times more than it is at present.

3. An acre of land yields about 50 lbs. of opium, the price of which comes to 150 rupees Imperial. The price, moreover, depends upon the bazaar rates.

4. A man can eat opium from 6 masha to 1 tola (1 tola = 180 grains and 1 masha = 15 grains Troy weight) in a day. There is no one in this country who can take more than this on the average. If taken in moderation, it does no harm. But if stopped, it would ruin the health of habitual consumers.

5. Every part of the opium plant is made use of, i.e., when the plant is young, it is used as vegetable,

the poppy-heads are fried and eaten, and the stems of the plant are used as manure.

6. Nine hundred and fifty acres are cultivated with opium in this State. Only land cultivated under the Tehsil and Rāj Thamas was shown in former returns amounting to 816 bighas. 950 acres now shown include all land cultivated by jaghirdars, by holders of land in charity, and by chaukers, &c.

APP. V.
Banswara.

DETAIL OF ANNUAL LOSS.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Loss to the State, as shown below	9,510	0	0
Rent of 408 acres at Rs. 20 per acre, Rs. 8,160; if wheat were to be substituted the income derived will be Rs. 1,224 at Rs. 3 per acre; deducting this the net loss will come to	6,930	0	0
Custom duties on the export and import of opium and opium seeds	2,574	0	0
Total loss to the State	9,510	0	0
Loss to State cultivators, as shown below	53,448	0	0
One acre yields 25 seers of opium worth Rs. 150, therefore the price of opium for 408 acres at Rs. 150 per acre will be Rs. 61,200; if wheat substituted one acre will yield 12 maunds at Rs. 15 per 6 maunds, therefore the price for 408 acres will be Rs. 12,240; deducting this the net loss will be	48,960	0	0
408 acres will yield 816 maunds of opium seeds at 2 maunds per acre, the price therefore for 816 maunds at 4 Rs. per maund would be	3,264	0	0
The income from opium as a vegetable for 408 acres at Rs. 2 per acre would be	816	0	0
The income from the dry leaves for 408 acres at Re. 1 per acre comes to	408	0	0
Total loss to the State cultivators	53,448	0	0
Loss to jaghirdars, as shown below	10,214	0	0
Rent for 542 acres at Rs. 20 per acre comes to Rs. 10,840; if wheat substituted the income will be Rs. 1,626 at Rs. 3 per acre; deducting this the net loss would therefore be	9,214	0	0
Income from Khoont, Perkota, Chowkidari, &c. on opium and opium seeds	1,000	0	0
Total loss to jaghirdars	10,214	0	0
Loss to cultivators of jaghirdars, as shown below	71,002	0	0
Income from opium for 542 acres at Rs. 150 per acre comes to Rs. 81,300 an acre, yielding 25 seers. If wheat substituted the income will be at the rate of Rs. 30 per acre 16,260 deducting the above the net loss will come to	65,040	0	0
Income from opium seeds for 542 acres at 2 maunds per acre at Rs. 4 per maund comes to	4,336	0	0
Income from opium as a vegetable at Rs. 2 per acre	1,084	0	0
Income from the dry leaves at Re. 1 per acre	542	0	0
Total loss to the cultivators of jaghirdars	71,002	0	0
Loss to traders, as shown below	18,382	8	0
950 acres are under opium cultivation in the State. The out-turn, therefore, at 25 seers per acre, comes to 23,750 seers, the traders receive 2 chittacks per seer from cultivators for "koorsoolowari," i.e. (opium that sticks to the hands of the traders when weighing) the total quantity thus received by the traders comes to 29,683½ seers at 2 chittacks per seer, and the price at Rs. 6 per seer comes to	17,812	8	0
Cultivators have to spend an average of Rs. 5 per acre for labourers, seeds, bullocks, &c. The sahookars lend money to cultivators for 950 acres at Rs. 5 per acre which comes to Rs. 4,750 at one rupee per cent. as interest. The interest therefore comes to	570	0	0
Total loss to traders	18,382	8	0
The above is the apparent loss to traders, but besides this traders purchase opium in season and send it on to up-country. They would therefore lose also the profit on the sale of prepared opium.	6,532	0	0
Loss to labourers, as shown below	4,750	0	0
10 labourers are employed in ploughing, weeding, watering, sowing seeds, &c. per acre for nearly two months at Rs. 5 per head, the total labour, therefore, per acre comes to Rs. 50, and so for 950 acres the labour will come to	4,750	0	0
Besides the above, each labourer gets half a chittack of opium and hence for 950 acres (for 10 labourers getting half a chittack each) at 5 chittack per acre. The total quantity of opium comes to 297 seers, and at the rate of Rs. 6 per seer the total price would be	1,782	0	0
Total loss to labourers	6,532	0	0
Besides this the labourers would suffer additional loss in vegetable, poppy-heads, &c.			
Grand total annual loss	1,69,088	8	0

(True translation.)

A. F. PINHEY, Captain,
Assistant Political Agent, Banswara and Pertabgarh.

APPENDIX VI.

STATISTICS regarding OPIUM in the NATIVE STATES of RAJPUTANA.

[Handed in by Lieut.-Colonel ABBOTT, Resident, Western Rajputana States. See Questions 20,393 and 20,397.]

MEYWAR STATISTICS.

THE total area under poppy cultivation, including alienated lands, is 50,000 acres, which yields 16,250 maunds of opium juice.

Of the above amount 9,475 maunds is exported to Bombay for foreign trade, while 40 maunds is taken to Marwar, making a total export of 9,515 maunds, which leaves 6,735 maunds in the State, 300 maunds of this is put down to local consumption, and there remains 3,735 maunds to cover wastage in manufacture and add to the stocks.

With the exception of its roots, every part of the poppy plant is brought into use by cultivators and others; the young leaves of the early weeding are eaten as vegetables; the older leaves are dried and sold for use in the manufacture of opium; the dried stalks are considered good fodder for cattle, partly supplying the place of salt. The raw heads are sold both for consumption and manure; the dried heads from which opium has been extracted are also used for manure, and from the seed oil is extracted which is used for lighting in the manufacture of opium and in preparing oil-cakes, which is nourishing food for cattle.

The value of the poppy crop to cultivators is estimated at Rs. 22,50,000.

Its value to the money-lending classes which support the cultivators, is calculated at Rs. 1,65,000.

The value of poppy cultivation to field labourers and village servants has not been estimated.

The value of opium to the State and holders of alienated lands together is put down at Rs. 6,98,735.

The value of opium to traders is reckoned at Rs. 1,10,000.

Opium is consumed in the following ways: mostly dry, a little with spices, a fair amount is taken mixed with water; smoking is not indulged in.

It is said that 30 per cent. of the Rajputs, 20 per cent. of the cultivating classes, and 10 per cent. of the remaining population, or some 12 per cent. of the whole are consumers. Children up to five years of age are believed to be given it generally, and are not included in the above calculation.

About 3 per cent. of the women are considered consumers.

Of the above consumers some 2 per cent. are looked upon as taking to excess.

As a rule it is taken twice a day, in doses ranging from 1 to 20 grains, or 2 to 20 grains per day; 15 grains is considered a moderate daily allowance for men, five for women, and one grain is usually given to children.

It is taken as a stimulant for the purpose of keeping the constitution robust.

It is considered necessary to consume opium on the following occasions, viz., births, betrothals, marriages, deaths, the Dewali and Holi Festivals, at greetings and reconciliations.

The habit is looked upon as very beneficial, and if it were stopped, the result, it is believed, would be loss of health and strength and consequent inability to withstand exposure, particularly in the case of the cultivating classes; while consumers would look upon prohibition as a cruel and tyrannical act, which would produce general discontent.

The minister considers prohibition possible but very difficult, while the political officer is of opinion that the State could not, unaided, carry out prohibition.

The compensation which it is considered would have to be paid is as follows:—

	Rs.
To the State and holders of alienated lands -	9,22,495
(Including the cost of revision of rates and prohibitive measures.)	
To cultivators -	16,48,002
(Loss of credit not estimated.)	
To the money-lending classes -	1,65,000
(Loss by bad debts and in credit not estimated.)	
To field labourers and village servants (not estimated.)	
To traders -	51,10,000
(Loss by disorganisation of business and in credit not estimated.)	
Total -	78,45,497

Of the above amount Rs. 28,05,497 is an annual loss.

The Resident, Lieut.-Colonel Wyllie, C.I.E., is of opinion that the figures for compensation as detailed above approximately correct and nearer the mark.

DUNGARPORE STATISTICS.

THE total area under poppy cultivation is returned as 2,285 acres, and the yield at 600 maunds of opium juice.

The area of alienated lands is 571 acres.

Of the 600 maunds, 289 maunds are exported to Malwa and Ahmedabad for foreign trade, while 200 maunds are taken to other parts of Rajputana, making a total export of 489 maunds, which leaves a balance of 111 maunds for local consumption, and to cover wastage in manufacture and add to the stocks.

The poppy plant is brought into use much in the same way as in other parts of Rajputana.

The value of the crop to cultivation is estimated as Rs. 40,857, that is to say, the net profit on 2,285 acres at Rs. 17-14 per acre.

Its value to the money-lending classes is calculated at Rs. 9,428 at a profit of Rs. 4-2 per acre.

The value of poppy cultivation to field labourers and village servants is estimated at Rs. 30,392.

The value of opium to the State is made up as follows:—

	Rs.
Land revenue -	20,568
Customs -	19,392
Other taxes -	2,715
Total -	42,675
Its value to the holders of alienated lands is -	6,860
Customs -	232
Total -	7,092

The value of opium to traders is put down at Rs. 78,240.

Opium is consumed mostly dry, a little with spices, a fair amount is taken mixed with water. Smoking is not indulged in except by poor classes. 15 per cent. of the whole population of the State are said to be addicted to the habit. The proportion of those who exceed is not given.

It is taken on the occasions of births, betrothals, marriages, deaths, the Dewali, Holi, Akhatij, and Dasheran festivals, and at greetings and reconciliations.

The Durbar is of opinion that an attempt to prohibit would produce general discontent.

Compensation is estimated as follows :—

To the State.

	Rs.
On account of land revenue - - -	14,729
„ customs - - -	19,392
„ special taxes - - -	2,715
Cost of prohibitive measures - - -	12,000
Total - - -	48,836

To the holders of alienated lands :—

Income from land - - -	4,907
Customs - - -	232
Total - - -	5,139

Compensation to cultivators :—

In Khalsa and alienated lands - - -	27,833
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Compensation for loss of credit to cultivators is not estimated. The compensation for money-lenders is estimated at Rs. 9,428.

Loss by bad debts and in credit not estimated.

The compensation to field labourers and workmen employed in the opium manufacture is made up as follows :—

	Rs.
Loss of wages to labourers - - -	24,797
To persons employed in the manufacture of opium - - -	1,607
Total - - -	26,404

The traders' compensation is estimated as under :—

	Rs.
Loss in annual profit - - -	24,180
Value of unsaleable stock - - -	3,80,165
Total - - -	4,04,345

Grand total - - -

Rs. 5,21,995

Out of the above sum, after deducting Rs. 3,80,165 on account of value of unsaleable stocks, there remains an annual loss of Rs. 1,41,820.

PARTABGARH STATISTICS.

The total area under poppy cultivation is returned as 8,383 acres, and the yield at 2,384 maunds of opium juice.

The area of alienated lands is not given separately.

No information has been supplied as to the amount exported or kept for local consumption.

The poppy is used much in the same way as in Meywar.

The value of the crop to cultivation is estimated as 1,67,660, that is to say, the net profit on 8,383 acres at 20 per acre.

Its value to the money-lending classes is calculated with that of the traders.

The value of poppy cultivation to field labourers and village servants is estimated as follows :—

	Rs.
Wages of field labourers working in Khalsa lands - - -	1,25,836
Value of produce given to village servants working in Khalsa lands - - -	52,393
Total - - -	1,78,229

(The wages of labourers in alienated lands is not included.)

The value of opium to the State is made up as follows :—

	Rs.
Land Revenue - - -	1,69,756
Customs - - -	30,000
Total - - -	1,99,756

	Rs.
Its value to the holders of alienated lands is - - -	67,555
Its value to the holders of customs - - -	1,500
Total - - -	69,055

The value of opium to traders and money-lenders is put down at Rs. 3,20,850 in a complicated account

I 82588.

The consumption of opium takes the same form as in Meywar, but the lower castes are said to smoke it as well.

The extent to which it is consumed is not clearly stated, but 50 per cent. of Rajputs and Charans are said to be addicted to the habit. The proportion of those who exceed is not given, but a witness says an ordinary daily allowance is eight grains. It is taken for the same purposes as in Meywar, and on similar occasions; the habit is regarded as most beneficial when taken in moderation, and its prohibition would have a very bad effect on consumers. The Durbar opinion is that an attempt to prohibit would cause endless trouble, annoyance, and expense. The political officer has not stated his opinion.

Compensation is estimated as follows :—

To the State.

	Rs.
On account of land revenue - - -	1,48,700
„ customs - - -	30,000
Expense of revising land revenue rates - - -	52,637

Cost of prohibitive measures (not estimated) - - -

Rs. 2,31,337

To the holders of alienated lands :—

Income from land - - -	88,118
Income from customs - - -	1,500
Expense of revising land revenue rates - - -	31,192

Total - - -

Rs. 1,20,810

Compensation to cultivators :—

In Khalsa lands - - -	1,32,908
In alienated lands - - -	78,760

Total - - -

Rs. 2,11,668

Within the above are included the wages of cultivators in Khalsa lands, the price of cattle no longer required, and the value of the plant as a vegetable.

Compensation for loss of credit to cultivators is not estimated.

The compensation for money-lenders is included in that for traders.

The compensation to field labourers and village servants is made up as below :—

	Rs.
Loss of wages to labourers in Kalsa lands - - -	79,449
Loss of wages in alienated lands - - -	47,080
Value of perquisites received by village servants from the poppy crops - - -	26,197
Total - - -	1,52,726

The traders' compensation, in which is included that of money-lenders, is :—

	Rs.
(1.) Loss in annual profit - - -	3,20,854
(2.) Value of unsaleable stocks - - -	6,00,000
Total - - -	9,20,854
Grand total - - -	16,37,395

Out of the above sum, after deducting 83,829 for revision of rates and 6,00,000 for stocks, there remains an annual loss of Rs. 9,53,566.

The Political Officer, Captain Pinhey, Assistant Resident, Meywar, is of opinion that the loss as estimated for wages of labourers is rather complicated, and does not seem to be clearly expressed.

TONK STATISTICS.

The total area under poppy cultivation, including alienated lands, is 14,010 acres, which yields 2,548 maunds of opium juice. The amount exported is 2,542 maunds, all of which, except a small quantity which goes to Marwar and Sirohi, is sent to Bombay. This leaves but six maunds for local consumption, which is estimated at 174 maunds. It is explained that the difference is made up by imports.

The poppy is used much in the same way as in Meywar. The value of the crop to cultivators has not been estimated.

APP. VI.
Rajputana.

Its value to the money-lending classes which support the cultivators is calculated at Rs. 39,000. The value of poppy cultivation to field labourers and village servants has not been estimated.

The value of opium to the State and holders of alienated lands together is put down at Rs. 3,78,916.

The value of opium to traders is reckoned at Rs. 94,600.

Opium is generally consumed in eating dry, smoking as chandu, and madak, and in drinking as golwa. It is also given to animals as medicine and applied as ointment. Poppy-heads steeped in water are used by poor people as narcotic.

About 16 per cent. of the population generally in the Tonk district is said to be addicted to the habit. About 40 per cent. of the Rajputs in the State and some 8 per cent. of the whole are consumers. The proportion of those who exceed is not given. It is taken for the same purposes as in Meywar, and on similar occasions, and is regarded as most conducive to health. The Durbar opinion is that the prohibition will entail serious loss to State and all classes, and great hardship to consumers. The Durbar further considers that the prohibition of cultivation ought not to be thought of. The British Government has always allowed free cultivation and trade in opium.

The Political Officer is of opinion that the prohibition looked upon as a direct intervention in internal administration, and would be viewed with distrust and as a breach of treaty stipulations.

The compensation which it is considered would have to be paid is as follows :—

To the State and holders of alienated lands—	Rs.	Rs.
Land revenue	1,32,900	
Customs	59,919	
Revision of rates	19,700	
		212,156
Cost of prohibitive measures to (not estimated).		
To Cultivators—		
(Loss of credit not estimated)	3,46,958	3,46,958
To the money-lending classes	1,04,030	1,04,030
(Loss by bad debts and in credit not estimated.)		
Loss of capital of bohras	3,000,000	3,000,000
To field labourers and village servants (not estimated).		
To traders	94,600	94,600
(Loss by disorganisation of business and in credit not estimated.)		
Grand total		3,758,104

Of the amount Rs. 7,38,404 is an annual loss.

The Political Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Thornton, Political Agent, Haraoti and Tonk, is of opinion that the estimate of compensation is made with great care and is reasonable, and is as accurate as can at present be ascertained. The claims for losses to cultivators and traders are, however, stated to be exaggerated.

JHALLAWAR STATISTICS.

The total area under poppy cultivation, inclusive of alienated lands, is 28,625 acres, the yield from which amounts to 6,818 maunds of opium juice.

The exports all go to Bombay, and amount to 5,350 maunds. It is calculated that 1,224 maunds are consumed in the State, leaving 244 maunds for wastage and stocks.

The poppy is used in many ways.

The value of the poppy crop to cultivators is estimated at Rs. 3,87,252 (after paying the revenue payable to the State). Its value to the money-lending classes which support the cultivators is calculated at Rs. 1,46,553 on 4,441 maunds at the profit of Rs. 33 per maund. The value of poppy cultivation to field labourers and village servants has been estimated at Rs. 6,97,511.

The value of opium to the State and holders of alienated lands together is put down at Rs. 5,11,679. The value of opium to traders is reckoned at Rs. 2,59,200.

The consumption of opium takes the same form as in Meywar. The dose of opium dry varies from one grain to nine grains at a time. 80 per cent. of the population is said to be consumers to the extent of four grains per head per diem.

It is taken for the same purposes as in Meywar, and on many religious festivals and joyous occasions. The habit is regarded as doing no harm to the intellect or general health. The Durbar is of opinion that it is impossible to remain healthy in this part of the country without taking opium, and that if prohibition is carried out it would cause general discontent.

The Political Officer, G. R. Irwin Esq., considers that it would be difficult to over-estimate the injury to Jhallawar which would cause from the dislocation of trade, the agricultural destitution, and last but not least, the certainly enormous increase in the death-roll among an opium-consuming population, which would inevitably follow upon the heels of opium prohibition.

Compensation is estimated as follows :—

1. To the State and holders of alienated lands, including, the cost of revision of land revenue rates	Rs.	2,94,214
Cost of prohibitive measures not estimated.		
2. To Cultivators	Rs.	4,28,306
(Loss of credit not estimated.)		
3. To the money-lending classes	Rs.	1,46,553
(Loss by bad debts and in credit not estimated.)		
4. To field labourers and village servants	Rs.	6,39,911
5. Workmen employed in manufacture of opium	Rs.	57,600
		6,97,511
6. To traders	Rs.	2,59,200
(Loss by disorganisation of business and in credit not estimated.)		
Value of unserviceable stocks	Rs.	22,62,000
Extra expense of living on account of great rise in price of opium	Rs.	4,89,873
Grand total	Rs.	45,77,657

Of the above amount after deducting the following sums :—

(1.) Revision of rates	Rs.	20,000
(2.) Value of unsaleable stocks	Rs.	22,62,000
		22,82,000
Net annual loss	Rs.	22,95,657

KOTAH STATISTICS.

The area of all poppy lands in Kotah is 22,765 acres, which gives a yield of 6,260 maunds of opium juice.

The total export is put down at 3,493 maunds. As Kotah supplies opium to the States of Bikanir, Marwar, Jesalmir, and Sirohi, I have taken the exports of those, viz., 1,893 maunds as exported from Kotah, this leaves 1,600 maunds for foreign export.

No figures have been received to show what becomes of the 2,767 maunds left over after export. The poppy is used much in the same way as in Meywar. The value of the crop to cultivators is estimated at 12,50,000. Its value to field labourers and village servants is estimated at Rs. 3,75,000. The value of opium to the State and holders of alienated lands together is put down at Rs. 3,68,064. The value of opium to traders is reckoned at Rs. 1,79,600.

The consumption of opium takes the same form as in Meywar. It is said that 80 per cent. of the Rajputs, 70 per cent. of the Minas, 70 per cent. of the Kayestha, and 70 or 80 per cent. of the remaining population are consumers. It is taken for the same purposes in Meywar and on similar occasions. The habit is regarded as most beneficial when taken in moderation, and its prohibition would have a very bad effect on consumers.

The Durbar is of opinion that prohibition is impossible, and that nearly 75 per cent. of male population consumers will die or get infirm if prohibition is carried out, and the use of other intoxicants will increase.

Compensation is estimated as follows:—

To the State and alienated Landholders.

	Rs.	Rs.
On account of land revenue -	1,75,000	
Customs -	1,18,064	
The excise and special taxes -	18,000	
		3,11,064
Expense of revising land revenue and customs rates -	1,87,400	1,87,400
Cost of prohibitive measures (not estimated) -		Total 4,98,464
To cultivators -		12,50,000
(Loss of credit not estimated.)		
To the money-lending classes (no information given under this head).		
Loss by bad debts and in credit (not estimated).		
To field labourers, village servants, and others -	4,12,062	
To traders -	1,89,600	
(Loss by disorganisation of business and loss in credit not estimated.)		
Add—		
Value of unsaleable stocks -	22,50,000	
Grand total -	46,00,126	

. Out of the above sum after deducting Rs. 1,87,400 for revision of rates and Rs. 22,50,000 for stocks, there remains an annual loss of Rs. 21,62,726.

. The Political Officer, Captain Herbert, is of opinion that the immediate and non-recurring loss to States' subjects is perhaps an overgloomy estimate.

BUNDI STATISTICS.

The information from Bundi does not show the Khalsa (fiscal) and alienated areas separately, but the total area in which the poppy is grown is 1,87½ acres, the yield from which amounts to 37½ maunds of opium juice. The export for the foreign trade is 167 maunds, the balance it is presumed is for local consumption.

The poppy is used much in the same way as in Meywar. The value of the crop to cultivators is estimated as Rs. 95,421, that is to say, the net profit on 1,87½ acres is Rs. 51 per acre.

Its value to the money-lending classes is calculated at Rs. 20,926; their yearly profits. The value of poppy cultivation to field labourers is estimated as Rs. 36,847.

The value of opium to the State is made up as follows:—

	Rs.
Land Revenue -	44,224
Customs -	36,404
Total -	80,628

Its value to the holders of alienated lands is not shown separately. The value of opium to traders is put down at Rs. 1,00,000. The amount of trade in opium in the State is estimated at 2,000 maunds, and the traders' profit is calculated at Rs. 50 per maund.

The consumption of opium takes the same form as in Meywar. The extent to which it is consumed is not stated, but 60 per cent. of the Mahajans are said to be addicted to the habit; the proportion of those who exceed is said to be about two in a thousand.

It is taken for the same purposes as in Meywar and on similar occasions. Its prohibition would have a very bad effect on consumers.

The Durbar opinion is that an attempt to prohibit would cause serious loss both to the State and the subjects, and would imperil the present peaceful condition of the country.

Compensation is estimated as follows:—

To the State.

	Rs.	Rs.
On account of land revenue -	34,396	
Customs -	36,404	
Expense of revising land revenue rates -	1,00,000	
Cost of prohibitive measures -	50,000	
		2,20,800
To the holders of alienated lands (not estimated).		
Compensation to cultivators in Khalsa lands -	1,04,176	1,04,176
Do. In alienated lands (not estimated).		
Loss of credit to cultivators (not estimated).		
Compensation to money-lenders (Loss by bad debts and loss of credit not estimated.)	20,926	20,926
Compensation to field labourers and village servants (not estimated).		
The traders' compensation is -	75,000	75,000
The value of unsaleable stocks, loss of disorganisation of business, or loss of credit are not estimated.		
Grand total -		4,20,902

Out of the above sum, after deducting Rs. 1,00,000 for revision of rates, there remains an annual loss Rs. 3,20,902.

The Political Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Thornton, Political Agent, Harauti and Tonk, considers the Durbar's estimate of the loss direct and indirect, both to itself and its subjects, as accurate as it is possible to make them under existing circumstances.

SHAHPURA STATISTICS.

The total area under poppy cultivation is returned at 636 acres, but only 570 acres are used for producing opium. The yield of poppy juice is 129 maunds, the whole of which is exported to Bombay, local consumption being provided for by imports, for foreign trade.

The poppy is used much in the same way as in Marwar. The value of the crop to cultivators is estimated as Rs. 12,116, that is to say:—

	Rs.
(1.) 570 acres yielding opium at a net profit of Rs. 19-3-4 per acre -	10,948
(2.) 66 acres yielding poppy-heads at Rs. 17-11-4 per acre -	1,168
Total -	12,116

Its value to the money-lending classes which support the cultivators is calculated at Rs. 9,250. It is estimated that a capital of Rs. 50,000 is advanced by the bohras to cultivators. The interest drawn by them generally varies from Rs. 12 to 25 per cent. per annum. Taking an average of the two, interest at 18½ per cent. on 50,000 amounts to Rs. 9,250.

The value of poppy cultivation to field labourers is reckoned at Rs. 26,076, being Rs. 41 per acre.

The value of opium to the chiefship and the holders of alienated lands within it is made up as follows:—

	Rs.
(1.) Land revenue on 636 acres now under poppy cultivation at an assessment of Rs. 10-6-8 per acre -	6,625
(2.) Patwari cess at annas 6-0 per acre -	238
(3.) Customs revenue -	4,713
Total -	11,576

The value of opium to the traders is reckoned at Rs. 13,500. Their capital invested in this trade is said to be about Rs. 75,000 which yields interest amounting to Rs. 9,000 at 12 per cent. per annum, and there are other profits—amounting to Rs. 4,500.

The consumption of opium takes the same form as in Meywar. The extent to which it is consumed is not stated, but 65 per cent. of Rajputs and 30 per cent. of

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Rajputana.

Brahmins, are said to be addicted to the habit. The proportion of those who exceed is given at 5 per cent. An ordinary daily allowance is said to be 12 grains. It is taken for the same purposes as in Meywar and on similar occasions. The habit is regarded as most beneficial when taken in moderation, and its prohibition it is considered would have a very bad effect on consumers. The Raja-Dhiraj is of opinion that an attempt to prohibit would cause general discontent in every class of the people, and that it would be impossible to enforce any such prohibition or restriction by any reasonable means within the power of the chiefship.

The Political Officer considers that any direct intervention by the Supreme Government would be viewed with apprehension and distrust, both by the chief and his subject.

The compensation which it is considered would have to be paid is as follows:—

(a.) *To the Chiefship and the Holders of Alienated Lands.*

ON ACCOUNT OF LAND REVENUE.

	Rs.	Rs.
(1.) Diminution in land revenue when poppy is re-placed by wheat and barley -	3,584	
(2.) Loss of revenue owing to decrease in cultivated area for want of capital and credit -	12,500	
(3.) Loss on account of frequent damages to wheat and barley crops at Rs. 2 per acre -	636	
(4.) Loss of revenue owing to retardation of cultivation of waste lands -	4,344	
(5.) Loss of revenue on account of falling of price of food grain on which revenue is taken in kind -	12,000	
(6.) Loss of interest on Rs. 16,000 yearly invested for improvements of land revenue -	1,920	
Total -		34,984
Customs -	Rs. 4,709	Rs.
Loss on account of remission on other articles -	5,000	
Cost of revision of customs tariff -	1,000	
		10,709
Expense of revising land revenue rates (not estimated).		
Cost of prohibitive measures -	3,240	
Total -		48,933

(b.) *To the Cultivators and Field Labourers.*

	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
On account of loss of profit from poppy cultivation.			
(1.) Diminution of the value of produce when poppy is substituted by wheat and barley -	11,292		
(2.) Loss on account of falling of value of food grains -	24,000		
(3.) Difference in personal earnings between poppy and the substitutes -	22,418	57,710	
Loss of credit -		33,000	
Total -			90,710

(Note.—Within the above are included the wages of cultivators.)

(c.) *To the Field Labourers and Village Servants.*

(Not shown separately, but included in the loss of cultivators.)

(d.) *Money-lending Classes.*

	Rs.	Rs.
On account of loss of yearly business -	9,250	
Loss by bad debts -	25,000	
Loss of credit -	5,000	
Total -		39,250

(e.) *To Traders.*

	Rs.	Rs.
On account of loss of trade -	13,500	
Value of unsaleable stocks -	60,000	
Loss by disorganisation of business -	20,000	
Total -		93,500
Loss of credit of traders not estimated.		
Total compensation -		2,72,393

Out of the above sum, after deducting Rs. 1,000 for revision of customs tariff, Rs. 25,000 for loss by bad debts, Rs. 60,000 value of unsaleable stocks, and Rs. 20,000 for traders, and loss by disorganisation of business, there remains an annual loss of Rs. 1,66,393.

The claim for compensation under the various heads put in by the Chiefship has been examined by the Political Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Thornton, Political Agent, Harauti and Tonk, and he considers that so far as it refers to direct losses is in accordance with the best information at present available.

KISHIENGARH STATISTICS.

The area of poppy cultivation is:—

	Acres.
Khalsa (fiscal) -	103
In alienated lands -	70
Total -	173

The yield of the total area is 195 maunds of opium juice; five maunds are exported, and 190 maunds are kept for local consumption.

The poppy is used much in the same way as in Meywar.

The value of the crop to cultivators is estimated as Rs. 36,005, that is to say, the net profit on 173 acres at Rs. 208-2.

Its value to the money-lending classes is not calculated. The value of poppy cultivation to field labourers alone is estimated at Rs. 19-8 per acre, or a total of Rs. 3,373.

The value of opium to the State is made up as follows:—

	Rs.
Land revenue at the rent rate of Rs. 16-8 per acre for 103 acres -	1,699
Customs duties -	14,206
	15,905

Its value to the holders of the alienated lands is:—

	Rs.
Land revenue at the rent rate of Rs. 16-8 per acre for 70 acres -	1,155

The value of traders is put down at Rs. 1,31,200.

The consumption of opium takes the same form as in Meywar. The proportion of consumers to total population is estimated at 20 per cent. The proportion of those who exceed is said to be rare, amounting to 6 per cent. of the consumers, but are said by a witness to exceed 16 per cent. among Rajputs. It is taken for the same purposes as in Meywar, and on similar occasions. It is also made use of at the harvest time. It is given to animals when making forced marches. The habit is regarded as most beneficial when taken in moderation. The Durbar opinion is that an attempt to prohibit would entail great hardship on infants and consumers, and lead to the use of liquor, or poisons like arsenic. The Durbar considers prohibition possible, but very difficult to carry out, and would give rise to great discontent.

The compensation which it is considered would have to be paid is as follows:—

To the State.

	Rs.	Rs.
On account of land revenue -	671	
„ customs -	8,626	
„ excise -	1,800	
„ other taxes -	3,780	
		14,877
Expense of revising land revenue and customs rates -	1,000	
Cost of prohibitive measures -	3,600	
		4,600
Total -		19,477

	Rs.	Rs.
To the holders of alienated lands—		
Income from land - - -	455	455
Compensation to cultivators in Khalsa and in alienated lands -	35,208	35,208
Loss of credit to cultivators (not estimated).		
The compensation to money- lenders is included in that for traders.		
Loss by bad debts is not estimated.		

The compensation to field labourers and others is made up as follows:—

	Rs.	Rs.
Loss of wages to field labourers in Khalsa and alienated lands -	3,163	
Loss to oil pressers - - -	6,000	
		9,163

The traders' compensation, in which is included that of money-lenders, is loss in annual profit.

	Rs.	Rs.
(1.) To internal traders - - -	31,200	
(2.) To export traders - - -	1,00,000	
Value of unsaleable stocks - - -	80,000	
		2,11,200

Add:		
For consumers—extra expenses of living on account of great rise in price of opium - - -	75,600	75,600

Grand total - - - 3,51,103

Out of the above sum, after deducting the following items:—

	Rs.	Rs.
(1.) Cost of revision on rates - - -	1,000	
(2.) Value of unsaleable stocks - - -	80,000	

There remains an annual loss of Rs. 2,70,103.

JEYPORE STATISTICS.

The poppy cultivated is 7,622 acres, including alienated lands, but only 3,000 acres are used for producing opium; poppy-heads only are taken from the rest. The yield of poppy juice is 1,687 maunds, some 14 maunds are exported. It is not stated what becomes of the remainder, but it may be put down to local consumption.

The poppy is used much in the same way as in Meywar, except that the leaves of the plant are not used for vegetables.

The value of the poppy crop to cultivators is estimated at Rs. 3,83,124. Its value to the money-lending classes is calculated at Rs. 40,911.

The value of poppy cultivation to field labourer and village servants has not been estimated.

The value of opium to the State and holders of alienated lands together is estimated at Rs. 1,47,800. The value of opium to traders is not reckoned.

The consumption of opium takes the same form as in the other States already mentioned.

Opium-smoking exists, but is rare. The extent to which it is consumed among the population as a whole is not stated, but 25 per cent. of Rajputs, 5 per cent. of Mahomedans, and 15 per cent. of the remaining population are said to be addicted to the habit. The proportion of those who exceed is said to be 4 per cent. of the consumers. It is taken for the same purposes as elsewhere, and on similar occasions, and at a Akhatij festival. The habit is regarded as most beneficial when taken in moderation. The Jeypore Durbar is of opinion that the result of prohibition will be bitterly complained of by most of the people, and likely to cause general discontent of a very serious nature, and many habitual consumers will consider their lives shortened.

The Political Officer, Colonel Peacock, has not stated his opinion.

Compensation is estimated as follows:—

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To the State.		Rs.	Rs.
On account of land revenue -		25,866	
" " customs - - -		35,135	
			61,001
Expense of revising land revenue rates - - -		20,000	20,000
Cost of prohibitive measures (not estimated).			
Total - - -			81,001

To the Holders of Alienated Lands.

	Rs.	Rs.
Income from land - - -	24,000	
Revision of land revenue rates (Shekhawati) - - -	40,000	
Customs - - -	15,000	
		79,000
Compensation to cultivators on Khalsa land - - -	1,27,725	
In alienated lands - - -	1,89,750	
		3,17,475

The information for money-lenders is not given.

The compensation to field labourers and village servants is not estimated.

Traders.

Loss in annual profit not estimated.		
	Rs.	
Value of unsaleable stocks - - -	25,00,000	25,00,000
Grand total - - -		29,77,476

Of the above amount the sum of Rs. 4,17,476 is an annual loss.

KARAULI STATISTICS.

The average area under poppy cultivation for the past five years shown by the annual records is—

	Acres.
Khalsa (fiscal) - - -	558
In alienated lands - - -	622
Total - - -	1,180

The same papers give the average annual produce as—

	Maunds.
From Khalsa lands - - -	110
From alienated lands - - -	100
Total - - -	210

No mention is made as to the disposal of this produce.

The poppy is used much in the same way as in other parts of Rajputana. The flowers of such plants from which opium has not been extracted are used as medicine.

The value of the crop to cultivators is estimated at Rs. 43,660; that is to say, the net profit on 1,180 acres at 37 per acre.

Its value to the money-lending classes is not calculated. The value of poppy cultivation to field labourers is estimated at Rs. 14,160, at Rs. 12 per acre.

The value of opium to the State is made up as follows:—

	Rs.
Land revenue - - -	11,312
Customs - - -	4,800
Total - - -	16,112

Its value to the holders of alienated lands is not calculated. The value of opium to traders is reckoned at Rs. 13,100.

The consumption of opium takes the same form as in other States. The extent to which it is consumed among the population as a whole is not stated, but 75 per cent. of Rajputs and 25 per cent. of Mahajans are said to be addicted to the habit. The proportion of those who exceed is not given. It is taken for the same purposes as in other States and on similar occasions. The habit is regarded as most beneficial when taken in moderation. Neither the Durbar nor

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the Political Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Martelli, have offered any opinion as to the possibility of prohibition. Compensation is estimated as follows:—

<i>To the State.</i>		Rs.	Rs.
On account of land revenue	-	11,200	
Customs	-	4,800	
For expenses connected with revision of land revenue rates	-	5,000	
			21,000
Cost of prohibitive measures (not estimated).			
To the holders of alienated lands (not estimated).			
Compensation to cultivators	-	33,040	33,040
In Khalsa lands and in alienated lands (not estimated).			
The information for money-lenders is not given.			
		Rs.	
The compensation to field labourers	14,160	14,160	
The traders' loss in annual profit is estimated at -	13,100	13,100	
Loss of credit and value of unsaleable stocks are not calculated.			
Grand total	-	-	81,300

Out of the above sum, after deducting Rs. 5,000 for revision of rates, there remains an annual loss of Rs. 76,300.

Note.—The compensation to cultivators is calculated on the mean difference in profit resulting from the cultivation of the poppy and the crop to be substituted for it, viz., Rs. 28 an acre on 1,180 acres.

Note.—The figures for compensation as stated above do not altogether tally with those in the Kharita of his Highness the Maharaja, but are worked out in detail from the written statements furnished by the State.

DHOLPUR STATISTICS.

The total area of poppy cultivation only is given, and is 268 acres, the produce from which is 72 maunds of opium juice.

All the opium grown in the State is generally bought up by Kerowlee traders, and exported to Malwar for foreign trade. The average consumption in the State is said to be eight maunds.

No information is supplied as to the uses made of the plant. Its value to cultivators, money-lenders, and to field labourers and village servants is not stated. Its value to the State is made up as follows:—

	Rs.
Land revenue from Khalsa and alienated lands, 268 acres at Rs. 18 per acre	- 4,828
Customs and excise revenue (Khalsa and alienated)	- 2,474
Total	- 7,302

Opium is eaten or drunk as a rule, and rarely smoked. It is said that 20 per cent. of Rajputs and some 10 per cent. of adult males of the whole population are consumers. It is taken so as to act as a general stimulant to the brain and the muscles. It is also used on the occasions of birth, betrothals, marriages, deaths, festivals, greetings, &c.

Its use is said to have done no harm whatever to the population of the State, and its prohibition would cause general discontent.

The Durbar is of opinion that an attempt to prohibit would cause endless trouble. The Political Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Martelli, has not stated his opinion.

Compensation is estimated as follows:—

<i>To the State and Landholders.</i>		Rs.
1. On account of land revenue	-	4,828
2. Customs	-	1,294
3. Excise	-	1,180
Total	-	7,302

The cost of prohibitive measures and the expense of revising land revenue rates have not been calculated.

The information for cultivators and money-lenders is not given.

The compensation to field labourers and village servants is not estimated.

The traders' loss is not calculated, as there is no trade in opium in the State.

ULWAR STATISTICS.

This State grows the poppy for the sake of its heads, and not to produce opium.

Opium is consumed mostly dry, and a little mixed with water, smoking is not indulged in.

The extent to which it is consumed among the population generally is not distinctly stated, but 33 per cent. of the cultivating class, 10 per cent. of the Rajputs, and 2 per cent. of Kaisths are said to be consumers. The proportion of those who exceed is put down at 8 per cent. among cultivating, and 1 or 2 per cent. among Rajput consumers. It is taken for the same purposes as elsewhere, and on similar occasions. It is said to be beneficial for cold and cough, and if taken in moderation it serves as a preventive for several diseases. By its prohibition the consumers would be put to great inconvenience. The Durbar opinion is that the consumers who would be deprived of the use of opium would feel this prohibition keenly, and it is quite possible that they might prefer certain claims for the loss which would thereby be occasioned to them.

Consumption is estimated as follows:—

	Rs.
Loss of land revenue	- 5,000
Loss in excise—	
(1.) To the State	- 9,250
(2.) To the contractors	- 1,952
Loss in Octroi duty	- 375
Total	- 16,577

BIKANIR STATISTICS.

Opium is not produce in this State.

The revenue derived by the State from it consists of customs duties, and is calculated on the average imports of the past nine years, and the present rate of duty at 77,490. The holders of alienated lands do not obtain any income from the drug.

The annual profit of traders is estimated at 20,000.

By the more well-to-do classes opium is mostly consumed dry, ordinarily twice a day, and to the daily amount of 12 grains, the poorer classes take it more mixed in water, in the forms known as "amal-pani" or "post."

Twenty-five per cent. of the whole population, it is considered, are consumers, of whom 1 or 2 per cent. take it to excess. Among the castes Rajput consumers are reckoned at 30 per cent., the numerous caste of Jat cultivators at 20 per cent., and the mercantile and Brahmin castes at 12 per cent.

It is taken for the same purposes and generally on the same occasions as elsewhere; it is also given to horses, cattle, and camels, when extra work is expected from them.

The moderate habit is looked upon as of great advantage, and by its means drink can be given up.

The result of prohibition would be to kill half the consumers, and drive the other half to taking arsenic and other poisons or liquor.

The Durbar and Political Officer, C. S. Bayley, Esq., have offered no opinions as to the possibility of prohibition and its consequences.

The compensation is estimated as follows:—

<i>For the State.</i>		Rs.
For prospective loss in customs revenue	-	1,50,000
(Cost of prohibitive measures is not estimated.)		

The alienated landowners deriving no income there is no compensation required under this head, and the cost of prohibitive measures to them is not estimated.

FOR TRADERS.

In Local Trade.

	Rs.
Loss in annual profits	- 20,000
Value of unsaleable stocks	- 1,00,000

In Foreign Trade.

At other centres where they carry on business and retain stocks - - -	Rs. 20,00,000
	<u>21,20,000</u>

(Compensation for disorganisation of business or loss in credit is not estimated.)

The total compensation claimed amounts to Rs. 22,70,000 of which Rs. 1,70,000 is for annual loss.

The Political Officer considers the compensation claimed for the State and on account of internal trade as fair, but that for the foreign trade decidedly under the mark; that the loss altogether would be a very serious one, and unless full compensation was given both the State and its inhabitants would suffer very severely.

JAISALMIR STATISTICS.

The poppy is not grown and therefore opium is not produced.

Opium is taken in five different ways:—

- (1.) Crude, called "Mawa." (Proportion 60 per cent.)
- (2.) Solved and strained through cotton, called "Bhian" - - - (20 per cent.)
- (3.) Solved and strained through cloth, called "Galwan" - - - (10 per cent.)
- (4.) Plain Pills - - - (7 per cent.)
- (5.) Spiced - - - (3 per cent.)

It is said that 65 per cent. of Rajputs and Charans.

It is said that 65 per cent. of Rajputs and Charans, 55 per cent. of Mussulmans, 40 per cent. of lower castes, 25 per cent. of Mahajans, and 20 per cent. of the remaining castes or some 50 per cent. of the male and 10 per cent. of the women are consumers.

Children up to three years of age are believed to be given it generally.

Of the above consumers 15 per cent. of Mussulmans, 10 per cent. of Rajputs and Charans, 5 per cent. of Mahajans, and 2 per cent. of the remaining population are looked upon as taking to excess.

Of the consumers some 5 per cent. take it only once a day, and some 2 per cent. only once a week in small doses.

It is considered necessary to consume opium on the occasions of births, betrothals, marriages, deaths, the Akhatij, and other festivals, the first shaving of a male child's head among Rajputs and Charans, shaving the parting of a beard by Rajputs and Charans, and at greetings and reconciliations. It is said that the moderate use of opium improves the appetite, invigorates the body, gives courage, removes fatigue, and keeps off cold.

If the supply of opium were stopped, the result, it is believed, would be loss of health, and the death of nearly all consumers over 50 years of age.

The Durbar is of opinion that it is quite impossible to prohibit the consumption of opium in the Jaisalmir State. He also anticipates political difficulties to the State in the event of prohibition being decided upon.

The average import of opium for the past 10 years has been about 162 maunds yearly, yielding an income of about R. 32,175, and this would be the real loss of customs to the Durbar.

The loss to traders is estimated at Rs. 16,850 per annum, and of Rs. 53,000, once for all on account of unsaleable stock and unrecoverable debts.

The total annual loss, for which compensation is asked for is estimated at Rs. 49,025 as above.

The Political Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Abbott, considers the estimate for compensation to be reasonable.

MARWAR (JODHPUR) STATISTICS.

Opium is not produced in this State.

The revenue derived by the State from it consists of customs duties, and is calculated on the average imports of the past five years and the present rate of duty at Rs. 2,31,800. Besides this, transit duty on opium for Jaisalmir brings to the Durbar an average annual income of about Rs. 500. The holders of alienated lands obtain an income of Rs. 5,000 from the drug.

It is mostly consumed in the dry crude form called "Kara Amal," but a few take opium pills, dissolved opium and tijara (*i.e.*, poppy-head) infusion.

It is ordinarily taken twice a day, to the daily amount of 8 to 12 grains,

Six per cent. of the whole population, it is considered are consumers, of whom 20 per cent. take it to excess, that is to say, from 12 to 18 grains daily. Men are said to be more generally habitual opium-eaters. Only 2 per cent. of females use it as a habit.

It is mostly used by Rajputs, Charans, Bhats, and criminal and forest tribes. The next greatest consumers are Sindhis and Kaem Khanis, then come Jats and Kulbees.

It is taken for the same purposes and generally on the same occasions as elsewhere.

The use of the drug is held socially respectable, and is the symbol of courtesy and hospitality to all.

The moderate habit is regarded as of great advantage. It helps the consumers to bear the fatigues of their calls and to prolong their existence.

Prohibition will create discontent.

The Durbar is in favour of moderate consumption, and desirous of protecting its revenue.

The compensation is estimated as follows:—

	Rs.
For the State.	
For loss in customs revenue -	2,00,500
(Cost of prohibitive measures is not estimated.)	
For alienated landholders -	5,000
For Traders.	
Loss in annual profit -	42,548
(Value of unsaleable stock, compensation for disorganisation of business or loss in credit not estimated.)	
Total annual compensation -	<u>2,48,048</u>

The Political Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Abbott, is of opinion that the loss in revenue shown by the Durbar is not only reasonable but is, if anything, estimated below what it might actually lose under the circumstances contemplated.

SIROHI STATISTICS.

The poppy is not grown and therefore opium is not produced.

The consumption of opium takes the same form as in the rest of Rajputana. The extent to which it is consumed is not clearly stated, but 6 per cent. of Rajputs, 8 per cent. of Charans, and 6 per cent. of Mahajans, as also Grassias and Rebaris are said to be addicted to the habit. The proportion of those who exceed is given as 12 per cent. of Rajputs, 16 per cent. of Charans, and 25 per cent. of Grassia and Ribery consumers. An ordinary daily allowance is about 9 grains, but those who take it in excess take up to one-fourth of a tola at a time, that is half a tola or 80 grains per day. It is taken for the same purposes as in other parts, and on similar occasions. The general belief is that moderate consumers keep healthy, and that no treat or feast can be considered complete without opium.

The Durbar expresses the opinion that the prohibition of the production, export, and sale of opium, except as a medicine, will be very unfavourably received by all classes in the State (who value it as a stimulant and attach much importance to its use on many occasions), and will be a hardship in particular to the Grassias and other hill tribes, who use it as a safeguard against the malarious climate of those regions. The Durbar considers its use as beneficial.

Though the average import of opium for the past five years has been about 175 maunds, yearly yielding an income of about Rs. 30,625 at the present rate of duty of Rs. 175 per maund, the Durbar reckons 200 maunds in the usual amount of consumption; and, judging by the great increase of duty in the past, it considers duty can be raised up to Rs. 400 a maund without diminishing the import. It thus reckons its prospective loss of customs revenue, should opium cease to be imported, at 200 maunds by 400 per maund Rs. 80,000 a year, the small dues taken by jagidars being included in the above.

The traders' loss is estimated at Rs. 10,000 a year.

Value of traders' stocks not estimated.

The total annual loss for which compensation is asked for, is estimated at Rs. 90,000 as above.

The Political Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Abbott, is of opinion that the Durbar has estimated its loss at quite an outside figure.

APP. VI.
Rajputana.

APPENDIX VII.

STATISTICS regarding the comparative COST and PROFIT of CULTIVATING POPPY and certain other Crops in the MEYWAR STATE, RAJPUTANA.

[Handed in by MEHTA BHOPAL SINGH. See Question 20,461.]

APP. VII.
Rajputana.

I.—STATEMENT showing the extent of POPPY CULTIVATION and the INITIAL VALUE and COST of the produce of an ACRE of POPPY LAND.

Class of Tenure.	Estimated Area under the Cultivation of Poppy in Acres.	Estimated Out-turn per Acre.	Initial Value of the estimated Out-turn per Acre.	Estimated Cost per Acre.	Estimated Profit to the Cultivator per Acre.	
Khalsa - -	20,000	Poppy seed - -	Mds. Seers. 4 0	Rs. a. p. 16 0 0	Ploughing - -	Rs. a. p. 7 0 0
		" juice - -	0 *13	69 9 0	Smoothing - -	1 0 0
		" leaves - -			Manuring - -	8 0 0
		" green - -			Sowing and bedding	2 0 0
		" stem - -			Seed - -	1 0 0
		" heads - -			Watering - -	8 0 0
Jagir and alienated estates.	30,000	" empty - -	† —	7 7 0	Weeding - -	11 0 0
		Garlic - -			Collecting juice - -	14 0 0
		Coriander - -			Trashing and win- nowing poppy.	1 0 0
		Zira - -			Assessment - -	7 0 0
Total - -	50,000			93 0 0		60 0 0
						33 0 0

* 13 seers juice is equal to 10 seers of opium.

† Not possible to ascertain their out-turn within so short a notice.

‡ These articles are often sown with poppy.

II.—STATEMENT showing the extent of MAKKA (MAIZE) CULTIVATION and the INITIAL VALUE and COST of the produce of an ACRE of MAKKA LAND.

Class of Tenure.	Estimated Area under the Cultivation of Makka in Acres.	Estimated Out-turn per Acre.	Initial Value of the estimated Out-turn per Acre.	Estimated Cost per Acre.	Estimated Profit to the Cultivator per Acre.
Khalsa - -	20,000	Makka - -	Mds. Seers. 16 0	Rs. a. p. 24 0 0	Rs. a. p. 1 8 0
Jagir and alienated estates.	30,000	Stalk and leaf (fodder)	—	—	—
				Ploughing, &c. -	3 0 0
				Seed -	3 8 0
				Watering, &c., cutting.	12 0 0
				Assessment -	—
Total - -	50,000		24 0 0		12 0 0

* Not possible to ascertain within so short a notice.

III.—STATEMENT showing the difference of INITIAL PROFIT per Acre in the STATE of MEYWAR if Cultivation of Poppy be stopped, and if the Land at present under POPPY CULTIVATION be brought under the Cultivation of WHEAT and BARLEY, &c.

Class of Tenure.	Estimated Area now under Poppy Cultivation.	How the Area shown in Column 2 is likely to be sown in case the Cultivation of Poppy be stopped.				Estimated Value of the Produce per Acre (Initial).				Estimated Initial Cost of the Produce per Acre.				Initial Profit in respect of each kind of Crop.				
		Wheat.	Barley.	Mixture of Wheat and Barley.	Other Crop like Sugar-cane.	Total.	Wheat.	Barley.	Mixture of Wheat and Barley.	Other Crops like Sugar-cane.	Wheat.	Barley.	Mixture of Wheat and Barley.	Other Crops like Sugar-cane.	Wheat.	Barley.	Mixture of Wheat and Barley.	Other Crops like Sugar-cane.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.
Khalsa - -	20,000	—	—	—	—	—	Grain Rs. 39, Straw Rs. 1	—	*	Rs. —	Ploughing, &c. 5 Manuring - 4 Seed - 5 Watering - 5 Watching and cutting and other labour. 3 Assessment - 10 — 32	Rs. —	Rs. *	Rs. —	Rs. 8	Rs. —	Rs. *	Rs. —
Jagir and alienated estates.	30,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total -	50,000	16,666	—	33,334	—	50,000	40	—	—	—	32	—	—	—	8	—	—	—

(1.) The value of the produce and the initial cost are nearly equal; hence there is no necessity to give detail. (2.) The wheat cannot be produced in the field in which Makka has been produced as the preceding crop.

APPENDIX VIII.

APP. VIII.
Ajmere.

MEMORANDUM on the OPIUM EXCISE in Ajmere-Merwara.

[Handed in by Captain P. J. MELVILL, *see*
Question 21,749.]

MEMORANDUM.

Since 1818, when the districts of Ajmere-Merwara passed into the hands of the British Government, till the present time, the cultivation, possession, and sale of opium have been unrestricted except within the Cantonment limits of Nusseerabad and the municipal limits of Ajmere, Beawar, and Kekri.

In 1835 an attempt to introduce the farming system was made by Mr. Cavendish, Superintendent of Ajmere, but the peculiar position of Ajmere-Merwara compelled him to abandon the scheme altogether.*

When Act XXXI. of 1856 became law, the Government of the North-western Provinces did not see fit to extend its operation to Ajmere-Merwara beyond the limits of the Cantonment of Nusseerabad.* The reason for extending the provisions of the Act to Nusseerabad only was that if extended to the whole of these districts, it would be unworkable, in view of the position of Ajmere-Merwara, which are surrounded by native States, where the possession and sale of opium are practically unrestricted.

The Opium Act, No. XXIII. of 1876, was not brought into force in Ajmere-Merwara, in consequence of the representations contained in letter, No. 322, dated the 17th May 1877, from the Chief Commissioner of Ajmere-Merwara to the Government of India.

Subsequently, Act XXIII. of 1876 was amended by Act I. of 1878, which was brought into force in Ajmere-Merwara on the 2nd August 1879;† but under the rules framed under the Act, and approved by the Government of India,‡ the Chief Commissioner of Ajmere-Merwara was empowered to define the areas within which the possession of opium should be restricted, and the areas defined were the municipal limits of Ajmere, Kekri, and Beawar, and the Cantonment limits of Nusseerabad.§ The Act was extended to those areas only, which include all the towns of any size in the districts, in consequence of the representations made by the Chief Commissioner in his letter, No. 96, dated the 31st January 1879, to the Government of India.

In 1887 the rules mentioned above were amended|| for the reasons that (i.) the cultivation of poppy and manufacture of opium without a license were not prohibited within the restricted areas, and (ii.) wholesale dealers were entitled to sell opium wholesale to consumers, with the consequence that all well-to-do consumers bought in the open market from wholesale dealers, and the Government revenue suffered, in that under the circumstances the farm of opium did not bring in the amounts it should have.

The rules as amended by the Chief Commissioner's notification of the 12th August 1887 have remained in force up to the present time.

In 1891 the Government of India resolved that the consumption of opium on the premises in any form should be prohibited,¶ and the chandu shops in Ajmere-Merwara were accordingly closed.

The amount of land under poppy in the district of Cultivation of Poppy in Ajmere is insignificant, and, Ajmere-Merwara, except to an exceedingly limited extent, poppy grown for the sake of the seed and the poppy-heads only, no opium is extracted. The seed not required by the cultivators is sold by them, and from the poppy-heads an infusion named post is made which is very generally used by Rajputs of the poorer classes and by others. The average amount

of land under poppy in the Ajmeré district is given below :—*

	Acrea.
Khalsa and Jaghir	23
Istimirari estates	125
Total	148

The cultivation of opium in the Ajmere district is, then, almost entirely confined to Istimirari estates, and prohibition or the imposition of special restrictions there would have to be considered in connexion with the question of tenure, all these estates having been granted on fixed quitrents in perpetuity. As it is, special rents, varying from Rs. 4 to Rs. 12 per acre, are paid by cultivators to the Istimirardars for land under poppy, and the cultivation may be said to be restricted by these special rates.

In Merwara there is a much larger area under poppy, the average being 2,205 acres. In that district there are two tehsils—Beawar and Todgarh. In the Beawar tehsil the greater part of the land on which poppy is cultivated is either (1) land which, from its situation, is too moist for maize and other Kharif grain crops, and on which cotton is grown; or (2) land on which cotton is grown at the choice of the cultivator. When cotton is grown no second crop, other than poppy, can be raised, as cotton is not picked till after the time when the Rabi grain crops are sown.

In the Todgarh tehsil poppy is cultivated, partly for the same reasons as in the Beawar tehsil, and partly because the country is very hilly, and the cultivable area comparatively small, and the holdings are for the most part very limited in extent. It is therefore a matter of great importance to the cultivators to raise the most profitable crop possible, and that crop is poppy. Another great advantage of the crop to the cultivator is that he can always obtain advances on it without difficulty, and can sell the opium for cash.

The average out-turn of opium per acre under poppy is 12½ seers on land on which a Kharif crop has not been raised, and 7½ seers on land which is double-cropped.

The expenses per acre of cultivation of poppy and other crops, the gross value of out-turn, and the net profit to the cultivator are given below :—

(a.) POPPY.

Cost of Cultivation.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Cost of seed	0	4	0
„ ploughing	5	0	0
„ manure	17	0	0
Average Government demand	4	0	0
Total	26	4	0

Value of Out-turn.

	Rs.	a.	p.
12½ seers opium at Rs. 4 per seer	50	0	0
3 maunds 30 seers poppy seeds† at Rs. 4 per maund	15	0	0
1½ maunds coriander seeds† at Rs. 8 per maund	12	0	0
Total	77	0	0
Net profit	Rs. 50	12	0

(b.) COTTON FOLLOWED BY POPPY.

Kharif—

Cost of Cultivation.

	Rs.	a.	p.
Cost of seeds	1	0	0
„ ploughing	5	0	0
„ manure	17	0	0
Average Government demand	4	0	0
Total	27	0	0

* Letter, No. 659, dated the 19th May 1877, from the Deputy Commissioner to the Commissioner of Ajmere-Merwara.

† Government of India (Department of Finance and Commerce), No. 1705, dated the 12th July 1879.

‡ Letter, No. 476, dated the 15th May 1879, from the Under Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, to the Chief Commissioner of Ajmere-Merwara.

§ Chief Commissioner's Notifications, No. 360, dated 28th May 1881, and No. 531, dated the 21st July 1883.

|| Chief Commissioner's Notification, No. O. R. 589—I., dated the 12th August 1887.

¶ Resolution by the Government of India, No. 4053, dated the 25th September 1891.

* The average is calculated on the average acreage under poppy in the years 1886-87, 1887-8, 1888-89, 1889-90, and 1892-93; 1890-91 and 1891-92 have been excluded, these being years of extreme scarcity.

† Always grown with poppy.

APP. VIII.

Ajmere.

Value of Out-turn.		Rs. a. p.	
10 maunds cotton at Rs. 5 per maund	- - - -	50	0 0
Net profit	- - - -	23	6 0

Rabi.

Cost of Cultivation.		Rs. a. p.	
Cost of seed	- - - -	0	4 0
„ ploughing	- - - -	5	0 0
Total	- - - -	5	4 0

Value of Out-turn.		Rs. a. p.	
7½ seers opium at Rs. 4 per seer	- - - -	30	0 0
2½ maunds poppy seed at Rs. 4 per maund	- - - -	10	0 0
25 seers coriander seed at Rs. 8 per maund	- - - -	5	0 0
Total	- - - -	45	0 0
Net profit	- - - -	39	12 0
Net profit on the two crops	- - - -	62	12 0

(c.) MAIZE followed by POPPY.

Kharif.

Cost of Cultivation.		Rs. a. p.	
Cost of seed	- - - -	1	0 0
„ ploughing	- - - -	5	0 0
„ manure	- - - -	17	0 0
Average Government demand	- - - -	4	0 0
Miscellaneous	- - - -	1	0 0
Total	- - - -	28	0 0

Value of Out-turn.		Rs. a. p.	
12 maunds of maize at Rs. 1 per maund	- - - -	12	0 0
Net loss	- - - -	16	0 0

Rabi.

Cost of Cultivation.		Rs. a. p.	
Cost of seed	- - - -	0	4 0
„ ploughing	- - - -	5	0 0
Total	- - - -	5	4 0

Value of Out-turn.		Rs. a. p.	
7½ seers opium at Rs. 4 per seer	- - - -	30	0 0
2½ maunds poppy seed at Rs. 4 per maund	- - - -	10	0 0
25 seers coriander seed at Rs. 8 per maund	- - - -	5	0 0
Total	- - - -	45	0 0
Net profit	- - - -	39	12 0
Net profit on the two crops	- - - -	23	12 0

(d.) COTTON.

Cost of Cultivation.		Rs. a. p.	
Cost of seed	- - - -	1	0 0
„ ploughing	- - - -	5	0 0
„ manure	- - - -	17	0 0
Average Government demand	- - - -	4	0 0
Total	- - - -	27	0 0

Value of Out-turn.		Rs. a. p.	
10 maunds cotton at Rs. 5 per maund	- - - -	50	0 6
Net profit	- - - -	23	0 0

(e.) WHEAT.
Cost of Cultivation.

		Rs. a. p.	
Cost of seed	- - - -	3	12 0
„ ploughing	- - - -	5	0 0
„ manure	- - - -	17	0 0
Average Government demand	- - - -	4	0 0
Total	- - - -	29	12 0

Value of Out-turn.		Rs. a. p.	
16 maunds wheat at Rs. 2-8 per maund	- - - -	40	0 0
Straw	- - - -	5	0 0
Total	- - - -	45	0 0
Net profit	- - - -	15	4 0

(f.) MAIZE followed by BARLEY.

Kharif.

Cost of Cultivation.		Rs. a. p.	
Cost of seed	- - - -	1	0 0
„ ploughing	- - - -	5	0 0
„ manure	- - - -	17	0 0
Average Government demand	- - - -	4	0 0
Miscellaneous	- - - -	1	0 0
Total	- - - -	28	0 0

Value of Out-turn.		Rs. a. p.	
12 maunds maize at Re. 1 per maund	- - - -	12	0 0
Net loss	- - - -	16	0 0

Rabi.

Cost of Cultivation.		Rs. a. p.	
Cost of seed	- - - -	2	0 0
„ ploughing	- - - -	5	0 0
Total	- - - -	7	0 0

Value of Out-turn.		Rs. a. p.	
20 maunds barley at Re. 1 per maund	- - - -	20	0 0
Straw	- - - -	5	0 0
Total	- - - -	25	0 0
Net profit	- - - -	18	0 0
Net profit on the two crops	- - - -	2	0 0

The average net profits of (a), (b), and (c) together are Rs. 45-12, while those of (d), (e), and (f) are Rs. 13-7. If then, the cultivation of poppy were prohibited and cereals took its place, the net loss per acre would amount to a little over Rs. 32; and as the average acreage under poppy in Merwara is 2,205 acres, the annual loss to the cultivators would be over Rs. 70,000, or more than half the total land revenue and water revenue payable to Government (Rs. 1,33,302).

The average gross and net values of the opium produced in Merwara are approximately Rs. 81,585 and Rs. 48,510, respectively.

The cost of manure has been given in each case, but as a matter of fact the cultivator seldom pays for it, his cattle providing him with sufficient. The cost of labour has been shown in no case, as poppy is usually cultivated on small patches of land, the owners of which are sufficiently numerous to provide the labour themselves.

If the cultivation of poppy were prohibited, it is clear that the payment of the Government dues would be made with greater difficulty than is at present the case; and prohibition would beyond all doubt create the very greatest discontent among the cultivators of Merwara.

The native States bordering Ajmere-Merwara are

Restrictive measures. Meywar, Marwar, Kishengarh, and Jeypore. In Meywar it appears that no restriction is placed on the cultivation of the poppy, nor on the possession of opium, though a small village transit duty is levied.

APP. VIII.
Ajmere.

In Marwar poppy is not cultivated, and there is no restriction on the possession and sale of opium, but an import duty of Rs. 150 per maund is levied. In Jeypore the rate charged on land under poppy varies from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5-10 per bigha, and an import duty of Rs. 25 to Rs. 35 per maund is levied on manufactured opium. In Kishengarh no special tax or restriction is imposed on the cultivation of the poppy or the possession or sale of opium, while imports are very lightly taxed.

If it were proposed to restrict the cultivation, possession, and sale of opium in Ajmere-Merwara by imposing taxes, these would necessarily have to be not higher than those imposed in the bordering native States, as otherwise smuggling would commence, and, seeing that no village in these districts is more than a day's march from the frontier, preventive measures would necessarily be futile.

In 1893 the Assistant Commissioner of Merwara made an inquiry as to the quantity of opium produced there and locally consumed, and the quantity exported. He estimated that no more than one-fourth of the amount is consumed locally; that one-fourth is exported direct into Merwar; and that the remaining one-

half is sent to Beawar for export.* It is believed that most of the opium sent to Beawar is exported to Marwar and Meywar, but no statistics are available.

The opium which is brought to the Ajmere scales is produced in Malwa and Kherowlee. Practically the whole of it is exported to the Punjab.

Opium is used habitually by the majority of Rajputs and by many others in Ajmere-Merwara, but so far

Prohibition.
as my experience goes, excessive consumption is not common. Owing to the position of these districts, it would be impossible to check the possession of opium, unless its cultivation, possession, and sale were prohibited in the adjoining native States. In my opinion, prohibition would be attended by considerable danger, and would, beyond all doubt, create very great dissatisfaction.

* Letter, No. 1281, dated the 12th April 1893, from the Commissioner to the Chief Commissioner of Ajmere-Merwara.

APPENDIX IX.

APP. IX.
Rajputana.

DATA of a HUNDRED CASES of OPIUM EATING recorded by DR. HUNTLY.

[Handed in by Dr. HUNTLY, see A. 21,298.]

No.	Age.	Amount of Opium in Grains.	Duration of Habit.	Disease for which Patient consulted me.	No.	Age.	Amount of Opium in Grains.	Duration of Habit.	Disease for which Patient consulted me.
			Years.					Years.	
1	25	40	7	Angina Pectoris.	51	60	20	10	Bronchitis.
2	60	40	30	Bronchitis.	52	80	80	25	Burn.
3	60	10	40	Abscess.	53	55	10	15	Bronchitis.
4	40	20	12	Constipation.	54	30	10	8	Phthisis.
5	50	20	10	Ophthalmia.	55	70	20	40	Fever.
6	45	5	?	Dyspepsia.	56	40	40	20	Debility.
7	36	20	10	Scabies.	57	25	10	5	Constipation.
8	55	2	1½	Not on record.	58	70	5	10	Caries of tooth.
9	60	12	20	Arthritis.	59	40	15	15	Fever.
10	40	5	1	Asthma.	60	38	30	10	Constipation.
11	36	2	15	Dyspepsia.	61	30	4	15	Whitlow.
12	60	20	13	Diarrhoea.	62	50	16	20	Debility.
13	55	5	32	Diarrhoea.	63	50	32	20	Hæmorrhoids.
14	35	5	2	Not on record.	64	40	20	16	Not on record.
15	33	10	10	Rheumatism.	65	30	5	1	Fever.
16	50	40	15	Constipation.	66	30	10	3	Phthisis.
17	60	40	20	Debility.	67	45	10	10	Rheumatism.
18	60	10	32	Not on record.	68	50	10	6	Not on record.
19	30	80	5	Constipation.	69	50	5	3	Rheumatism.
20	38	60	8	Dyspepsia.	70	40	10	10	Caries of tooth.
21	52	60	20	Debility.	71	35	3	1	Ascites.
22	30	10	5	Cyst.	72	35	15	5	Headache.
23	30	40	5	Retention of urine.	73	35	48	10	Constipation.
24	60	20	25	Caries of tooth.	74	50	8	20	Cough.
25	30	30	10	Ophthalmia.	75	50	40	25	Abscess.
26	50	10	20	Ringworm.	76	30	3	2	Otalgia.
27	45	80	9	Debility.	77	30	3	1½	Constipation.
28	46	5	3	Asthma.	78	50	7	5	Debility.
29	40	2	10	Asthma.	79	60	40	25	Debility.
30	50	5	9	Asthma.	80	45	20	20	Glaucoma.
31	46	10	20	Constipation.	81	30	8	4	Not on record.
32	50	7	40	Constipation.	82	60	5	8	Stone.
33	50	20	40	Asthma.	83	40	20	7	Hæmorrhoids.
34	44	2	20	Constipation.	84	22	10	1	Debility.
35	40	5	10	Cataract.	85	45	10	1	Debility.
36	50	10	5	Fever.	86	35	20	10	Fever.
37	40	20	10	Constipation.	87	25	10	4	Fever.
38	46	10	5	Rheumatism.	88	45	20	10	Fever.
39	50	10	7	Debility.	89	45	20	20	Fever.
40	60	2	5	Constipation.	90	30	15	5	Debility.
41	60	80	10	Constipation.	91	50	15	25	Debility.
42	40	90	20	Phthisis.	92	30	15	5	Fever.
43	37	20	25	Conjunctivitis.	93	25	10	5	Fever.
44	38	5	13	Dyspepsia.	94	30	40	10	Pains.
45	48	90	32	Debility.	95	60	30	1½	Asthma.
46	26	5	10	Abscess.	96	50	18	16	Asthma.
47	50	30	30	Conjunctivitis.	97	48	20	12	} Not on record.
48	80	10	5	Conjunctivitis.	98	45	30	5	
49	40	40	20	Debility.	99	30	30	12	Asthma.
50	40	10	15	Colic.	100	35	10	5	Guinea worm.

APPENDIX X.

QUESTIONS regarding OPIUM issued by Lieut.-Colonel D. ROBERTSON to the DURBARS of the NATIVE STATES in CENTRAL INDIA.

[Handed in by Lieut.-Colonel ROBERTSON, Superintendent of the Rewa State, see Question 21,868.]

Production.

1. What terms are employed to describe measurements of opium land? If bigas are used, state what the size of one biga is, i.e., 150 feet square, or what?

2. What is the area under opium cultivation, in what manner is this information derived by survey (Nazari or Paimashi), or how?

3. Does the cultivated area under opium vary from year to year, if so, to what extent? How do you account for these variations, taking for this purpose a period of 10 years?

4. What is ordinarily grown in land thrown out of opium cultivation if not allowed to remain fallow?

5. Could any other crop be profitably cultivated in the place of opium, such as Indigo-sugarcane, &c? Give reasons for your answer.

6. In the cultivation of opium what method is employed in sowing, manuring, weeding, watering, and collecting the juice? Describe the process throughout, noticing also the manure used. How many waterings are given—whether well-water is better than tank-water; whether “kyaris” are made or not, and whether in the weeding or thinning anything is derived which supplies the cultivator with food.

7. Who are the people (castes) who cultivate opium, and in what proportion do they stand to the total population of the State? Is any special skill required in its production?

8. In what month is opium sown, when does it ripen, and by what climatic conditions is it affected at the various stages of its growth?

9. What is the average produce of poppy milk per biga in the various classes of land which please specify?

10. How is the land revenue assessed, i.e., for a term of years or at each harvest? If in the former manner are the ordinary rules for assessment observed? In the latter case what portion of the yield does the State take? and is the demand taken in cash or kind?

11. In the case of a regular settlement for a term of years what are the average rates per biga for the various classes of opium land?

12. Are there any privileged classes, for instance, Brahmins, who obtain concessions in assessment? if so, what do these concessions amount to?

13. Is the cultivation of opium extending or contracting? Do the Durbar officials seek to extend it?

14. Is the cultivation popular amongst the people as compared with other crops? Explain your answer, giving, if possible, an estimate of the profit to the cultivator of opium.

15. Is most opium land do-fasli, if so, what crop ordinarily precedes opium? and does it as a rule provide sufficient food for the cultivator, his family, and cattle during the year? Please explain and give some illustrations of your answer.

16. What ordinarily becomes of the poppy milk or chik? Does the cultivator keep it or is it placed as security for the revenue demand anywhere in deposit?

16a. Is the jallap system in force, if so, to what extent? Please describe it.

Manufacture.

17. Describe the process of manufacture, also Rubba, Tikia, Hath-parakh, and hukhlin.

18. Is opium filtered to test its fitness for China, and is any but the best opium sent there? Is adulteration resorted to to any extent? If so, what method is adopted?

19. Where is opium manufactured, and in what months?

20. How many men, and of what castes, are engaged in this manufacture? for how many months are they employed, and what remuneration do they receive? Do they do any other work?

21. What is the cost per chest of opium to the merchant after he has paid the State dues on chik?

Poppy Seed—Dust and Heads.

22. Is the poppy seed disposed of separately by the cultivator; if so, at what rate? Mention if the price fluctuates much, and by what it is regulated.

23. What is the average produce of seed per acre, and is much of it used locally?

24. Where is the seed, which is not used locally, sent to, and in what quantities?

25. Is the dust collected, and sold separately? if so, at what rate?

26. Are the poppy-heads disposed of separately? What price per biga do they fetch?

Consumption.

27. What are the arrangements for vend of opium by retail sale, and what revenue is derived either from farming the monopoly of vend of license fees?

28. What is the retail price of opium now?

29. Can cultivators sell in any quantities, great or small, to whomsoever they please, and can they keep what they want for private consumption?

30. In what form is opium consumed, i.e., eaten, drunk, or smoked?

31. What is the population of the State? how many shops are there? are they situated in towns or in the country? under what rules or restrictions, if any, do they work, and has the farmer the right to open shops where he pleases?

32. Are there any special or general restrictions regarding, or penalties attached to, smoking opium in public or private? Are there any as regards eating?

33. Do any chandoo shops exist in your State?

34. Can any estimate be given of the number of people per 100 of the population who consume opium? distinguishing if possible between those who smoke, and those who merely eat it in moderation?

35. Do agriculturists and others who follow trades involving exposure ordinarily eat opium? If so, can you give any estimate of their daily consumption, distinguishing the use from the abuse of the drug?

36. In the case of those who consume opium, is not its use often attributed to old age, infirmity of some sort, or liability to great exertions? Please give your answer at length.

37. Is the kusumbha practice prevalent, if so, on what occasions, domestic or otherwise? How is the preparation made, and what amount of opium is ordinarily used?

38. Is opium ordinarily given to infants? If so, up to what age and in what doses? Is the drug known to produce any deleterious effects in these cases?

39. Is a child weaned easily from the use of opium, and in what manner does the change affect its health?

40. Is any decoction made from poppy-heads? What is it called? Is its use at all general? What are the

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effects? If used medicinally, for what ailments is the decoction considered beneficial?

41. Is opium given to horses, camels, or bullocks? If so, to what extent and with what object?

42. Does opium allay or stave off the pangs of hunger?

43. Does the moderate opium-eater take more or less food than a non-consumer? Is the former ordinarily thinner? Does he die sooner? Is he more or less susceptible to disease, such as "Fasli" fever? Does he suffer more or less from thirst in the hot weather? Is opium taken more freely at any particular time of the year, such as the hot weather or rains?

44. Is the use of opium ordinarily confined to any particular caste or castes? Do men take it more freely than women?

45. Can you undertake to produce five or six aged or middle aged, habitual, moderate eaters of opium for the inspection of the Royal Commission?

Revenue.

46. Give as nearly as possible the amount of land revenue derived from the cultivation of opium?

47. As regards the taxation of chik or crude opium:—

(1.) At what rate is this tax levied?

(2.) What does it produce yearly in the aggregate?

(3.) When and in what manner is it taken?

(4.) Is it taken from the cultivator as well as the middleman?

(5.) Is it taken on entering manufacturing towns? If so, name these, and state whether the rate varies?

(6.) What rate or rates are taken in the towns in the form of dharwai, tolawatti, &c.? Has the seller as well as the purchaser to pay dharwai, &c.? Are these rates taken at every fresh sale?

48. Is the export of crude opium prohibited (if not), what tax is levied on crude opium exported to another State?

49. What taxes are levied on the manufacture of opium, and what do they produce?

50. What duties are levied on opium moving about, whether in the State or going to another State? What is realised by these taxes?

51. Are any taxes on opium taken extra to those already alluded to? If so, specify and describe them, noting what they bring in to the State Treasury?

52. What revenue does the State realise by way of a tax on speculative bargains in opium?

53. What temples, Panjra Poles, and other charitable institutions are dependent upon offerings made by opium merchants at a certain rate per chest?

Trade Internal.

54. What is the approximate amount of "Rubba" sent to the Punjab? Is this trade a State monopoly? What rates are levied wholesale and retail on this "Rubba?"

55. Is biscuit and inferior opium (hath parakh) not up to China standard exported? If so, where is it sent to? What rates are levied, and how much do they bring in?

China Trade.

56. What profit does a merchant make now per chest of opium in the following cases?—

(a.) The merchant who manufactures and (1) sells locally for export or (2) exports.

(b.) The dealer who buys manufactured opium and exports.

57. What is the amount of opium now in stock, distinguishing between old and new opium? Where are the stocks mostly stored?

58. Is the opium trade a losing one now? If so, explain how it is that merchants adhere to the business, and apparently are able to gain a living therefrom?

59. Is there any trade in poppy khatti (oil cake)?

60. Can you say anything of interest or importance in connexion with Central India, in regard to the opium trade in the city of Bombay?

61. Can you give any figures regarding the trade in poppy leaf-dust, poppy seed, poppy oil, poppy oil-cake and heads?

62. Supposing the productions of opium were to cease or be stopped, on whom would the loss fall, the Durbar, the cultivators, or the traders? If the loss would be shared by the three, in what proportion would it fall upon each of those named?

APPENDIX XI.

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STATISTICS REGARDING OPIUM IN THE NATIVE STATES OF CENTRAL INDIA WITH PREFATORY NOTE by
Lieutenant-Colonel D. ROBERTSON.

[Handed in by Lieutenant-Colonel D. ROBERTSON, *see* Questions 21,867, 22,965.]

NOTE by Colonel D. ROBERTSON.

It is necessary in order to render what follows intelligible that I should explain the circumstances under which I have proceeded in preparing the information submitted to the Royal Commission at Indore.

The statements (Groups A., B., C.) were prepared from information supplied by the States, and in many cases I adopted the figures supplied without alteration;

in some cases, however, there were obvious exaggerations which I was compelled to curtail. These instances are all referred to in this note.

Again, when the States prepared their evidence, in some cases the particulars previously supplied to me were departed from, and higher amounts of production, revenue, &c. were given. These instances are noted for reference. Finally, a few clerical errors arose, which are also pointed out.

GROUP A.

Bhopal.

H. H., the Begum's Yaddasht (memorandum) gives about 12 lakhs as the amount required for compensation. The figures in statement, Group A. are, however, (excluding the totals), those which I recorded myself after personal inquiry from the local officials at Bhopal, and so far as they go (they do not include traders' losses, as these could not, I was told, be estimated) are probably more correct than Her Highness's general estimate. The Minister's (Imtiaz Ali) evidence was prepared after the Begum's Yaddasht, and was probably an attempt to work up to her figures, the accuracy of which I had questioned.

Jaora.

I am afraid the figures are unreliable. In the evidence of the Nawab, regarding loss to cultivators, there is a clerical error, viz., Rs. 4,02,000 for Rs. 4,20,000; the former sum is said to be correct. The total amount of compensation, Rs. 12,38,000, having been supplied at the last moment by the Nawab, the intermediate items, such as area under cultivation, production and revenue, which I had previously recorded, require to be amended; this could only be done by a further reference, which there is now no time to make.

Dhar.

The yearly produce of opium was given by the State officials to me, and, subsequently, by one witness in evidence, as 1,312 chests; but in striking the average for 10 years, the balance in hand at the commencement of that period has been mistakenly included by the State officials in the total. I have corrected this mistake by excluding the opening balance. The yearly total should be 1,075 chests.

Narsingarh.

The loss to cultivators is estimated by Nasir Ali, the State representative, to be Rs. 1,50,000, and to traders Rs. 65,000. I have given in my statement, Group A., the figures which were recorded by the political agent, Bhopal, after personal inquiry from officials of the State.

Rajgarh.

The total opium revenue given by me in Group A. is Rs. 1,22,680, and that now furnished in evidence is Rs. 1,24,248. This may be due to the fact that the amount of the wazn kashi (weight tax) was not given in the statement furnished to me. The loss to the State and cultivators estimated by Rajgarh officials was reduced by me in preparing the statement to the extent of about 25 per cent., as the political agent, Bhopal, thought the figures given by the officials unreliable; they were moreover palpably exaggerated.

Sitamau.

The amount of land revenue derived from opium is given (in Group A.) from information furnished to me as Rs. 91,316; in evidence the amount is said to be Rs. 95,696. No reason has been furnished for the increase.

I should also add that in preparing the statement I reduced the probable loss to the State from Rs. 83,400 to Rs. 74,300, as in all these small States the loss of revenue would be about 75 per cent. of the total revenue derived from opium. No information was supplied to me about loss to cultivators; it has been assumed at a round sum of Rs. 60,000.

Sailana.

The produce estimated by the State is at the rate of about 15 sers (30 lbs.) per bigha; this is considerably above the average in Malwa, and has therefore been reduced by me from 1,203 chests to 401. The land revenue derived from opium has been reduced from Rs. 1,60,475 to Rs. 60,000, as the total revenue of the State is only Rs. 1,50,000. Similarly, I have reduced the losses by about 25 per cent. of Rs. 70,000, which is the total opium revenue given in Group A., together with an allowance of about Rs. 2,000 for taxes realised in kind. The loss to cultivators was given by the State officials as Rs. 1,28,380; this amount I reduced to Rs. 40,000.

Khilchipur.

The statement made by the witness, that the total opium revenue is Rs. 51,000 must be a mistake; the correct figure is Rs. 31,000. The losses to the State, cultivators, and traders were reduced by me from Rs. 39,000 to Rs. 23,000, Rs. 1,05,000 to Rs. 29,000, and Rs. 36,000 to Rs. 16,000 respectively.

Piploda.

The land revenue was stated by the witness to be Rs. 70,000, viz., from the produce of 2,800 bighas of opium cultivation. This was clearly excessive, and I reduced by 25 per cent., viz., to Rs. 53,000. Similarly, the loss to the State was reduced from Rs. 70,000 to Rs. 39,500.

GROUP B.

Jhabua.

Loss to the State estimated at Rs. 43,329; as the total revenue under all headings is only Rs. 17,809, I reduced the estimate to Rs. 14,494.

Multhan.

Losses to cultivators and traders were not given by the State. They were assumed by me.

Bagli.

In Group B. the area under opium before the evidence was prepared was reported to be 1,600 bighas. I therefore reduced the amount of loss estimated to fall upon the State from Rs. 31,232, as given in evidence, to Rs. 26,932.

Pathari.

The loss to the State, as estimated by the officials, was reduced by me from Rs. 4,250 to Rs. 2,319.

Barwani.

The loss to the State was reduced by me from Rs. 5,200 to Rs. 4,065.

GROUP C.

Datia.

Loss to State reduced from Rs. 5,578 to Rs. 5,000. The latter amount was fixed by the political agent in Bundelkhand after personal inquiry from the officials of the State.

In many cases where the interests were small, and especially in those States where revenue was taken in kind which it was impossible to estimate accurately, I allowed the figures as given to stand.

D. ROBERTSON.

February 1894.

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ANNEXURE.—STATES in CENTRAL INDIA grouped in the order of their
GROUP A.—These STATES produce and

No.	Name of State.	Area.	Revenue.	Population in 1881.	Population in 1891.	Production of Opium.		Number of Retail Shops, Eating or Smoking (if any).	Annual Land Revenue derived from Opium Cultivation.
						Area under Cultivation in Acres.	Yearly Produce in Chest of 140½ lbs.		
1	Gwalior - - -	Square Miles. 29,047	Rs. 1,37,79,232	2,993,652	3,378,774	Acres. 113,711	17,834	There are shops, but as they are under no rules or restrictions the number can- not be given.	Rs. 28,03,678
2	Indore - - -	8,400	76,00,000	1,048,842	1,099,990	76,250	7,625	47	15,35,553
3	Bhopal - - -	6,784	27,00,000	954,901	952,486	21,753	1,547	—	3,35,586
4	Jaora - - -	581	9,60,000	108,434	117,650	10,847	1,300	1 (smoking)	5,75,000
5	Rutlam - - -	729	13,00,000	87,314	89,160	9,051	1,125	1 (smoking), 50 (eating). (See below.)	3,06,000
6	Dhar - - - Thakurates, viz.:— Kali Boori, Nim- khera, Bhurudpura, and Chiktiabar.	1,739	8,00,000 27,825 8,27,825	151,877	169,474 10,486 1,79,960	9,377	1,075 4 1,079	1,176. These are not licensed, anyone can sell. Opium is not consumed on the premises.	2,10,264
7	Narsingarh - - -	720	4,00,000	112,427	116,280	11,038	927	—	1,16,550
8	Rajghar - - -	642	3,50,000	117,533	119,489	9,174	840	—	1,00,571
9	Sitamau - - -	350	1,26,000	30,839	33,307	3,076	372	—	91,316
10	Dewas (J. B.) - -	134	3,25,000	68,222	69,684	5,639	672	2	1,38,209
11	Dewas (S. B.) - -	155	3,50,000	78,940	82,389	5,658	667	1	1,03,630
12	Sailana - - -	123	1,50,000	29,723	31,512	3,315	401	—	60,000
13	Khilchipur - - -	204	2,50,000	36,125	36,302	3,104	376	—	27,000
14	Piploda - - -	60	1,10,000	11,643	12,792	1,446	200	—	53,000
15	Tonk - - -	A State in Rajputana, of which two detached portions are in							
	Total - - -	49,668	2,92,28,057	5,825,472	6,319,775	283,439	34,965	1,278	64,56,357

NOTE.—Except for the Indore City eating shops, and the two smoking shops
It is impossible to estimate the

Importance in regard to the PRODUCTION OF OPIUM.
send large quantities of OPIUM to the SCALES.

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Revenue derived from Opium.

Duty on Chick or Raw Opium.	Local Export Duty taken by the State.	Any other Rate levied, such as Wazan Kashi or Town Duty.	Amount realised from Retail Sale or Opium Shops.	Total Revenue under all Headings in the five preced- ing Columns.	Probable Loss to State and others interested in Production of Opium, if Cultivation were prohibited and other Crops substituted.	Remarks.
Rs.	Rs.	Rs. Sutta.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
—	4,85,480	7,684	—	32,96,842	State - - 26,45,777 Cultivators - 34,01,591 Merchants - 9,33,611 69,80,979	
2,03,738	2,07,737	Dhadwai. 45,896	13,017	*20,05,941 Jagir 1,87,500 21,93,441	State - - - 20,78,545 Cultivators - - 18,56,190 Jagir - - - 1,63,500 Merchants & others 8,50,000 49,48,235	* Duty on poppy seed, Rs. 3,902, not included in this.
8,680	15,945	—	—	3,60,211	State - - - 2,52,541 Cultivators - - 1,50,725 Jagir - - - 44,976 4,48,242	Amount of loss to merchants and others not stated.
15,000	60,000	Sutta. 5,000	500	6,55,500	State - - - 7,34,000 Cultivators - - 4,02,000 Traders - - - 1,02,000 12,38,000	Includes jagirs. These figures seem high, but they were veri- fied by telegra- phic inquiry.
8,175	43,795	Sutta. 6,050	No informa- tion.	3,64,020	State - - - 3,13,076 Cultivators - - 1,80,000 Traders - - - 1,50,000 6,43,076	
6,148	15,822	Tollai and Dharwai. 1,737	—	†2,34,971	State - - - 1,58,663 Cultivators - - 83,958 Traders - - - 68,555 3,11,176	† Poppy seed, &c., Rs. 35. not included.
—	12,400	Wazan kashi. 12,000	—	1,40,950	State - - - 96,411 Cultivators - - 1,18,720 Traders - - - 47,500 2,62,631	
7,854	12,069	Rahdari. 2,186 Wazan kashi at at 2 per cent.	—	1,22,680	State - - - 92,680 Cultivators - - 1,10,853 Traders - - - 40,602 2,44,135	
8,000	—	Dharwai, 1½ seers per maund; Tollai, ¼ seer per maund.	—	99,316	State - - - 74,300 Cultivators - - 60,000 1,34,300	
10,492	481	2,946	411	1,52,539	State - - - 1,06,470 Cultivators - - 29,208 Traders - - - 17,222 1,52,900	
11,122	515	Wazan. 2,669	375	1,18,311	State - - - 76,403 Cultivators - - 33,856 Traders - - - 16,014 1,26,273	
10,000	—	Tax taken in kind. Dharwai, 1½ seers per maund; Tollai ¼ seer per maund.	—	70,000	State - - - 2,000 Cultivators - - 40,000 92,000	
—	4,000	—	—	31,000	State - - - 23,000 Cultivators - - 29,000 Traders - - - 16,000 68,000	
Re. 1-10 per maund.	—	Dharwai, ½ seer per maund; Tollai, ¼ seer per maund.	—	58,000	State - - - 39,500 Cultivators - - 50,000 Traders - - - 25,000 1,14,500	
Central India. No information has been supplied.						
2,89,209	8,58,244	87,168	14,303	78,92,781	State - - - 67,43,366 Cultivators - - 65,46,101 Traders - - - 22,66,504 Jagir - - - 2,08,476 1,57,64,447	

in Jaora and Rutlam, there are no licensed establishments.—D. R.
amount of taxes taken in kind.

GROUP B.—In these STATES the PRODUCE is ordinarily in excess of the HOME

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Name of State.	Area.	Revenue.	Population in 1881.	Population in 1891.	Production of Opium.		Number of Retail Shops, Eating or Smoking (if any).
					Area under Cultivation in Acres.	Yearly Pro- duce in Chests of 140½ lbs.	
1. Jhabua - - -	Square Miles. 1,336	Rs. 1,28,000	92,938	119,787	Acres. 471	126	371
2. Multhan - - -	Included in Dhar - -	60,000	—	10,635	1,033	125	—
3. Bagli - - -	Included in Gwalior -	60,000	14,645	14,675	1,124	100	—
4. Raghogarh - -	Ditto - -	25,000	16,920	18,132	1,115	92	—
5. Gurrah - - -	Ditto - -	12,000	—	10,854	855	72	—
6. Dharnanda - -	Ditto - -	9,000	4,196	4,887	818	69	—
7. Suthalia - - -	Included in Rajgarh -	20,000	—	5,081	438	53	—
8. Bagode - - -	Included in Dewas -	—	—	—	203	46	14
9. Maksudangarh -	81	31,000	13,924	14,422	298	30	—
10. Pathrai - - -	22	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Agra Barkhera -	Included in Gwalior -	12,000 7,000	6,393 —	4,816 7,440	265 172	28 21	10 —
12. Karandia - -	Included in other States -	—	—	—	191	17	—
13. Dhabla Dheer -	10	10,000	—	2,001	156	13	10
14. Barkhera - -	Included in Denas - -	—	—	—	157	11	—
15. Manpur (British) -	60	21,000	5,239	5,342	56	9	1
16. Tappa - - -	Included in Gwalior -	3,000	—	847	64	8	5
17. Jabria Bhil - -	2	5,000	—	1,028	46	8	1
18. Patharia - - -	Included in other States -	—	—	—	64	8	—
19. Kaytha - - -	Included in Dewas - -	—	—	—	86	8	—
20. Jamnia - - -	Included in Indore - -	16,000	—	3,302	42	8	—
21. Daria Khere - -	6	7,500	—	473	64	6	1
22. Kamalpur - - -	Included in Gwalior -	10,680	—	756	47	7	1
23. Umeri - - -	Ditto - -	5,000	2,740	3,057	70	5	—
24. Sadan Kheri - -	Included in Jaora - -	3,800	—	3,000	45	5	2
25. Uni - - -	Included in Dewas - -	—	—	—	61	5	—
26. Dhabla Ghose - -	Included in Gwalior -	9,500	—	869	46	4	3
27. Khajuri - - -	Ditto - -	2,400	—	587	40	4	3
28. Men - - -	Included in Indore - -	—	—	—	25	3	—
29. Rajgarh (Bhopawar A)	Included in Dhar - -	5,000	—	922	21	4	—
30. Barwani - - -	1,362	2,00,000	56,445	80,266	21	2	23
31. Puplianagar - -	Included in Gwalior -	2,000	—	638	14	2	7
Total -	2,879	5,64,880	213,440	313,817	8,108	899	452

CONSUMPTION. They send regularly a moderate AMOUNT of OPIUM to the SCALES.

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Annual Revenue derived from Opium.						Probable Loss to State and others interested in Production of Opium if cultivation were prohibited and other Crops substituted.	
Land Revenue derived from Opium Cultivation.	Duty on Chick or Raw Opium.	Local Export Duty taken by the State.	Any other rate levied, such as Wazan Kashi or Town Duty.	Amount realised from Retail Sale or Opium Shops.	Total Revenue under all Headings in the five preceding Columns.		
Rs. 13,480	Rs. —	Rs. 3,079	Rs. 1,250	Rs. —	Rs. 17,809	State -	Rs. 14,494
						Cultivators -	15,521
						Traders -	5,220
							35,235
20,000	—	500	—	—	20,500	State -	8,000
						Cultivators -	5,300
						Traders -	2,500
							15,800
34,432	—	Included in land revenue.			34,432	State -	26,932
						Cultivators -	25,000
						Traders -	20,000
							71,932
3,000	Jhiri 400	—	—	—	R.3,400 Revenue taken in kind excluded.	State -	3,990
						Cultivators -	13,500
						Traders -	1,530
							19,020
2,300	Do. 265	—	—	—	Rs.2,565. As above.	State -	3,280
						Cultivators -	10,350
						Traders -	1,125
							14,755
2,200	Do. 368	—	—	—	Rs.2,568. As above.	State -	2,615
						Cultivators -	9,900
						Traders -	1,200
							13,715
4,664	—	425	200	—	5,289	State -	3,959
						Cultivators -	3,000
						Traders -	204
							7,163
1,464	—	709	66	102	2,341	State -	5,740
2,200	Rs. 2 per maund.	Rs. 5-4 per maund.	Rahdari Rs. 2-8 per maund; Import as. 8 per maund; wazan raw opium as. 8 per cent; export Re. 1 per cent; import as. 8 per cent.	—	2,200	Do. -	1,507
						Cultivators -	2,569
						Traders -	1,080
							5,156
3,831	419	—	—	—	4,250	State -	2,319
1,365	45	9	206	—	1,625	Jagir -	900
						Cultivators -	1,739
							2,639
2,865	—	—	—	—	2,865	State -	3,211
3,626	—	R.11-6-10 per maund	Rs.2 per cent. and 1 tola per seer.	—	Rs.3,626 + duty.	Do. -	3,332
1,870	214	—	—	—	2,084	Do. -	2,084
954	140	3	4	—	1,161	Do. -	684
875	R.2-8 per maund	—	As. 9-9 per maund.	—	875	Do. -	787
875	—	—	Rs.2 per cent., and Rs.12 on the total amount exported.	—	875	Do. -	761
1,185	192	—	46	—	1,423	Do. -	2,033
3,353	—	—	—	—	3,353	Do. -	3,467
1,612	—	R.11-6-10 per maund	Rs. 3 per cent. -	—	Rs.1,612 + duty.	Do. -	1,487
822	—	R.11-6-10 per maund	Rs.2 per cent. and also Rs. 2-13-7 per maund.	—	Rs.822 + duty.	Do. -	905
206	75	75	—	—	356	Do. -	400
977	—	R.11-6-10 per maund	Rs.2 per cent. and 2 tolas per seer.	—	Rs.977 + duty.	Do. -	901
1,128	—	—	—	—	1,128	Do. -	1,128
810	—	R. 11-6-10 per maund	R.2-13-9 per maund	—	810	Do. -	581
785	Rs.11-10-3 per maund.	—	Rs.2 per cent. and 2 tolas per seer.	—	785	Do. -	782
Rs.12 annually for 2 seers of opium levied at 2 chhattacks per well.	2	—	—	10	—	Do. -	800
215	—	—	—	—	—	Do. -	—
280	Rs.13-5-3 per maund.	—	Rs. 2 per cent.	4,065	4,280	Do. -	4,065
					280	Do. -	263
1,11,374	2,118	4,800	1,772	4,227	1,24,291	State -	1,00,507
						Cultivators -	86,879
						Traders -	32,859
						Jagir -	900
						Total	2,21,145

APP. XI.
Central India.

APPENDIX to GROUP C.—These STATES either produce no OPIUM at all or are unable to supply any INFORMATION.—(See Group C.)

Name of State.	Area.	Revenue.	Population in 1881.	Population in 1891.	Production of Opium.		Number of Retail Shops, Existing or Smoking (if any).	Annual Revenue derived from Opium.					Probable Loss to State and others interested in Production of Opium if Cultivation were prohibited and other Crops substituted.
					Area under Cultivation in Acres.	Yearly Produce in Chests of 140½ lbs.		Land Revenue derived from Opium Cultivation.	Duty on Chief or Raw Opium.	Local Export Duty taken by the State.	Any other Rate levied, such as Watan, Kashi or Town Duty.	Amount realised from Retail Sale of Opium in Shops.	
1. Ali Rajpur	836	Rs. 85,000	56,827	70,091									
2. Alraoda		Included in Gwalior and Indore.											
3. Alipura	69	30,000	—	15,280									
4. Beri	28	21,000	4,985	4,525									
5. Bai		Included in Indore.											
6. Balvanti Singh		Included in other States.											
7. Bichraund I.		Included in Gwalior.											
8. Do. II.		Included in Gwalior	1,500	—	866								
9. Bilaunda		Included in Indore and Gwalior.			276								
10. Bardia		13,000	—	657									
11. Biland		6,500	—	600									
12. Bakhtgarh		60,000	—	10,826									
13. Bihat	13	13,000	—	4,439									
14. Bijna	27	8,500	—	2,326									
15. Banka Fahari	4	8,000	—	1,098									
16. Basoda	68	7,000	7,722	6,710									
17. Bhojakeri	—	—	—	—									
18. Bhatkeri	—	25,000	—	2,234									
19. Bhaisola	—	12,000	—	3,039									
20. Bhaisonda	12	11,000	—	4,755									
21. Bharoundha	238	16,000	17,283	18,596									
22. Chota Barkhera	—	5,000	—	2,579									
23. Dabri	—	Included in Gwalior.											
24. Datana	—	Do.											
25. Dhangzon	—	Included in Central Provinces.											
26. Dhaura Ganjora	—	Included in Indore.											
27. Diulatia	—	Included in Gwalior and Indore.											
28. Dharwal	18	11,000	—	1,774									
29. Gaurihar	73	50,000	10,691	10,148									
30. Gagrani	—	Included in Indore.											
31. Garbi	—	3,000	—	824									
32. Garauli	25	25,000	—	5,529									
33. Hirapur	—	11,500	—	1,000									
34. Jobat	—	Included in Indore, Gwalior, and Bhopal											
35. Jawasia	132	17,000	9,387	15,047									
36. Jaso	—	10,000	—	600									
37. Jigni	75	14,000	—	8,880									
38. Jhalera	21	14,000	—	3,902									
39. Kotideh	—	Included in Gwalior and Dewas.											
40. Kurwai	—	Included in Dhar	1,400	432									
41. Kathaun	163	50,000	24,681	21,787									
42. Kaniadana	5	7,000	—	8,000									
	84	22,000	—	14,871									

APPENDIX to GROUP C.—continued.

Name of State.	Area.	Revenue.	Population in 1881.	Population in 1891.	Production of Opium.		Number of Retail Shops, Eating or Smoking (if any).	Annual Revenue derived from Opium.					Probable Loss to State and others interested in Production of Opium if Cultivation were prohibited and other Crops substituted.	
					Area under Cultivation in Acres.	Yearly Produce in Chests of 140½ lbs.		Land Revenue derived from Opium Cultivation.	Duty on Opium.	Local Export Duty taken by the State.	Any other Rate levied, such as WazanKashi or Town Duty.	Amount realised from Retail Sale or Opium Shops.		Total Revenue under all Headings in the five preceding Columns.
43. Kalukhera	Included in Gwalior and Indore.	Rs. 7,000	—	1,078	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
44. Kathiawara	68	4,000	—	3,571	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45. Kachhi Baroda	Under Dhar	30,000	—	4,979	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
46. Kamta Rajaula	4	3,000	—	1,585	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
47. Kotli	90	37,000	—	22,656	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
48. Kharsia	Included in Indore.	Included in Indore.	—	500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
49. Khojankhera	Lapsed to Dhar and Dewas.	6,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50. Larawat	Included in other States.	Included in other States.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
51. Lachman Singh	Included in Indore, Gwalior, and Dewas.	18,000	—	2,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
52. Lalgarh	47	10,000	—	6,948	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
53. Lughasi	400	74,000	17,709	77,546	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
54. Malhar	80	7,000	6,347	4,720	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55. Mahomadgarh	140	4,000	—	2,991	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56. Mathwar	Under Dhar and Gwalior.	25,000	—	5,302	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
57. Mota Barkhera	450	150,000	79,629	84,097	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
58. Negode	Included in Indore	5,300	—	407	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
59. Naulana	Included in Indore, Gwalior, and Dewas.	15,400	—	1,925	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
60. Narwar	—	Included in Gwalior.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
61. Nangaon	10	13,000	4,016	4,150	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
62. Pahara	28	20,000	8,824	9,383	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
63. Paldeo	Included in Indore, Gwalior, and Dewas.	Included in Indore, Gwalior, and Dewas.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
64. Pathari	—	Included in Rajgarh.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65. Rangarh	—	1,500	—	1,212	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
66. Ratannal	16	10,375	—	3,373	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
67. Rebai	35	48,000	5,014	5,622	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
68. Sarila	Included in Central Provinces and Indore.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
69. Singhana	—	40,000	—	5,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
70. Sonkhera	—	Included in Jaora.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
71. Sidri	300	38,000	—	43,853	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
72. Sohawal	800	15,000	—	800	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
73. Shajajota	12	11,000	3,163	3,427	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
74. Sheogarh	Included in Gwalior and Indore.	Included in Gwalior and Indore.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75. Taron	36	22,000	—	9,597	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
76. Tonk	Included in Jaora.	Included in Jaora.	—	1,200	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
77. Tal	Included in Indore, Gwalior, and Dewas.	Included in Indore, Gwalior, and Dewas.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
78. Tori Fatehpur	36	31,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
79. Uparwar	Included in Jaora	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
80. Zalim Singh	Included in other States.	Included in other States.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3,606	12,09,375	256,228	549,563	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	150	150	150

APP. XI.

Central India.

GROUP C.—These States are unimportant in the sense that their Produce is very rarely brought to the Scales, and may be considered either equal to or less than their Local Consumption.

Name of State.	Area, Square Miles.	Revenue.	Population in 1881.	Population in 1891.	Production of Opium.		Number of Retail Shops, Eating or Smoking in Chests (if any).	Annual Revenue derived from Opium.						Probable Loss to State and others interested in Production of Opium if Cultivation were prohibited and other Crops substituted.
					Area under Cultivation in Acres.	Yearly Produce in Chests of 140½ lbs.		Land Revenue derived from Opium Cultivation.	Duty on Chick or Raw Opium.	Local Export Duty taken by the State.	Any other Rate levied, such as Wazan Kashi or Town Duty.	Amount realised from Retail Sale of Opium Shops.	Total Revenue under all Headlines in the five preceding Columns.	
1. Datia -	Miles. 837	Rs. 10,00,000	182,598	186,440	105	16	75	4,573	Rs. 1,278	As. 4 per seer	Rs. 640	Rs. 575	Rs. 7,066	Rs. State - 5,000 Cultivators - 3,000 Traders - 4,000 12,000
2. Rewah -	13,000	28,00,000	13,05,124	15,08,943	116	13	35	1,500	—	—	—	15,500	17,000	State - 16,300
3. Sheopur Baroda	158	50,000	—	20,000	150	14½	60	1,128	As. 1 per seer	As. 3 per seer	—	—	1,128 + duty	Do. - 4,000 Cultivators - 2,000 Traders - 500 6,500
4. Bhadaura -	Included in Gwalior.	7,000	3,365	3,139	17	1	—	50	19	19	—	—	88	State - 88
5. Faron -	Do. -	25,000	7,328	7,984	31	1½	—	179	14	—	31	—	224	Do. - 224
6. Sirsi -	Do. -	4,000	4,026	4,678	11	1	—	30	—	—	—	—	30	Do. - 30
7. Chattarpur -	1,240	3,00,000	1,67,700	1,74,148	4	½	22	—	—	—	—	1,800	1,800	Do. - 2,000 Traders - 500 2,500
8. Ajaigarh -	802	2,25,000	81,454	93,048	3	½	6	—	—	—	—	150	150	State - 150 Cultivators - 100 250
9. Baoni -	117	1,00,000	17,055	18,441	2	5 seers	—	—	—	—	—	125	125	State - 125
10. Dugree -	Included in Gwalior.	1,500	—	240	4	½	—	85	13-5-3 per md.	—	2 per cent.	—	85 + duty	Do. - 86
11. Samphar -	174	4,00,000	38,633	40,541	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,400	5,400	—
12. Panna -	2,568	5,00,000	2,27,306	2,39,333	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	700	700	—
13. Charkhari -	880	6,00,000	1,43,015	1,43,108	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	900	900	—
14. Ureha -	1,933	9,00,000	3,11,514	3,43,020	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Bijawar -	974	2,25,000	1,13,285	1,23,414	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total -	22,683	71,37,500	26,02,403	28,96,468	443	47½ + 5 seers	198	7,545	1,311	19	671	25,150	34,696	Rs. State - 28,300 Cultivators - 5,100 Traders - 5,000 88,103

NOTE.—There are 80 other States, mostly Thakurates, on the border of Malwa, or small Chiefships in Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand, which are given in alphabetical order as an Appendix to Group C. Those either produce no opium at all or are unable to supply any information. If they derive any revenue from the retail sale of opium it is probably inconsiderable.

RETURN showing the QUANTITIES of OPIUM which have passed the SCALES under the MALWA OPIUM Agency the past 15 years, with Total and Average.

Scales.	1878-79.			1879-80.			1880-81.			1881-82.			1882-83.			Remarks.
	EXPORTS.			EXPORTS.			EXPORTS.			EXPORTS.			EXPORTS.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	TOTAL.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	
Indore	Chests. 12,907½	Chests. 297	Chests. 13,205½	Chests. 20,693	Chests. 579*	Chests. 21,272	Chests. 13,837	Chests. 958	Chests. 14,795	Chests. 12,477	Chests. 955 and 83½ lbs.	Chests. 13,432 and 83½ lbs.	Chests. 13,499	Chests. 1,430½	Chests. 14,929½	
Rutlam	2,833	—	2,833	3,557½	28	3,585½	2,139	97½	2,236½	1,905½	84	1,989½	1,018	49	1,067	
Dhar	319	—	319	660	—	660	412	—	412	684	—	684	1,507	5	1,512	
Ujjain	11,336	—	11,336	12,757	14	12,771	11,339	43½	11,382½	9,974	59	10,033	10,296½	59	10,355½	
Oodeypore	4,681	—	4,681	7,067	—	7,067	6,538	18	6,556	4,659	66	4,725	2,809	23	2,832	
Chittore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Jaora	821	—	821	1,470	—	1,470	1,076	—	1,076	1,090	—	1,090	1,101	—	1,101	
Bhopal	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,308	—	1,398	1,220	—	1,220	2,729	—	2,729	
Mandsaur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,100	15	3,115	
TOTAL	32,897½	297½	33,195	40,204½	621*	46,825½	36,649	1,117	37,766	32,009½	1,164 and 83½ lbs.	33,173½ and 83½ lbs.	36,059½	1,581½	37,641	
1883-84.																
Indore	Chests. 11,230½	Chests. 975	Chests. 12,205½	Chests. 12,352½	Chests. 756	Chests. 13,108½	Chests. 10,379	Chests. 803	Chests. 11,182	Chests. 11,960	Chests. 739½	Chests. 12,699½	Chests. 11,169½	Chests. 880	Chests. 12,049½	
Rutlam	1,394½	90	1,484½	2,078½	87½	2,166	1,722½	82½	1,805	1,397½	80	1,977½	1,313	109½	1,422½	
Dhar	1,305½	4½	1,310	1,039	38½	1,077½	683	—	683	1,264½	—	1,264½	671	—	671	
Ujjain	9,228½	387	9,615½	8,798½	585½	9,384	9,166	414	9,580	9,326	348	70,174	7,407½	375	7,782½	
Oodeypore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Chittore	6,137	43½	6,180½	7,199	123½	7,322½	7,000½	188½	7,189	7,225	233	7,448	8,088½	195	8,283½	
Jaora	1,469	2	1,471	1,036	—	1,036	1,241	—	1,241	1,201	—	1,201	1,117½	2	1,119½	
Bhopal	2,481	2	2,483	1,533	3	1,536	1,935	2½	1,937½	1,268½	—	1,268½	1,509½	—	1,509½	
Mandsaur	5,471½	53½	5,525	4,977	61	5,038	6,840	59	6,899	6,196½	69½	6,266	5,522½	101	5,623½	
TOTAL	33,717	1,557½	40,275	39,013½	1,655	40,668½	38,967	1,549½	40,516½	40,839	1,460	42,299	36,799	1,662½	38,461½	

* Out of these three chests were transferred to Madras on 15th May 1880.

APP. XI.
Central India.

Return showing the QUANTITIES of OPIUM which have passed the SCALES under the MALWA OPIUM AGENCY the past 15 years, with Total and Average—continued.

Scales.	1888-89.			1889-90.			1890-91.			1891-92.			1892-93.			Remarks.
	EXPORTS.			EXPORTS.			EXPORTS.			EXPORTS.			EXPORTS.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	
Indore	9,752	941 $\frac{1}{4}$	10,693 $\frac{1}{4}$	10,962 $\frac{1}{2}$	897	11,859 $\frac{1}{2}$	11,218	899	12,117	11,164 $\frac{1}{2}$	904 $\frac{3}{4}$	12,069 $\frac{1}{4}$	10,028 $\frac{1}{2}$	954 $\frac{1}{2}$	10,983	Chests.
Ratlam	1,286	147	1,433	796 $\frac{1}{2}$	98	894 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,592	118 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,710 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,282	83 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,365 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,631 $\frac{1}{2}$	73 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,705	Chests.
Dhar	892	--	892	541	--	541	691	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	692 $\frac{1}{2}$	869 $\frac{1}{2}$	--	869 $\frac{1}{2}$	661 $\frac{1}{2}$	--	661 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chests.
Ujjain	7,949	316 $\frac{1}{2}$	8,265 $\frac{1}{2}$	8,808	332	9,140	7,219	296	7,515	7,817 $\frac{1}{2}$	299	8,116 $\frac{1}{2}$	5,765 $\frac{1}{2}$	313 $\frac{1}{2}$	6,079	Chests.
Oodeypore	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Chests.
Chittore	4,807	168 $\frac{1}{2}$	4,975 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,319 $\frac{1}{2}$	122	3,441 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,463 $\frac{1}{2}$	159 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,623	3,123 $\frac{1}{2}$	402 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,526	3,843	167 $\frac{1}{2}$	4,010 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chests.
Jaora	683 $\frac{1}{2}$	--	683	883 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	884 $\frac{1}{2}$	983	--	983	1,106	--	1,106	1,044 $\frac{1}{2}$	--	1,044 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chests.
Bhopal	1,285	--	1,285	638 $\frac{1}{2}$	--	638 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,625	--	1,625	1,603 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	1,607 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,383 $\frac{1}{2}$	4	1,387 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chests.
Mandseur	3,660 $\frac{1}{2}$	48	3,708 $\frac{1}{2}$	4,614 $\frac{1}{2}$	65	4,679 $\frac{1}{2}$	4,246	105	4,351	5,536 $\frac{1}{2}$	73	5,609 $\frac{1}{2}$	4,298	38	4,331	Chests.
Total	30,315	1,621 $\frac{1}{4}$	31,936 $\frac{1}{4}$	30,564	1,515	32,079	30,037 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,579 $\frac{1}{2}$	31,617	32,503	1,766 $\frac{3}{4}$	34,269 $\frac{1}{2}$	28,601	1,551	30,152	Chests.

RETURN showing the QUANTITIES of OPIUM which have passed the SCALES under the MALWA OPIUM AGENCY the past 15 years, with Total and Average.

APP. XI.
Central India.

Scales.	Total.			Average.		
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Total.
ABSTRACT.						
Indore - - - - -	Chests. 183,630 $\frac{1}{2}$	Chests. 12,967 $\frac{1}{10}$	Chests. 196,598	Chests. 12,242 $\frac{1}{10}$	Chests. 864 $\frac{1}{5}$	Chests. 13,106 $\frac{8}{15}$
Rutlam - - - - -	26,447	1,228 $\frac{1}{5}$	27,675 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,763 $\frac{2}{5}$	81 $\frac{9}{10}$	1,845 $\frac{1}{10}$
Dhar - - - - -	12,200	49 $\frac{1}{5}$	12,249 $\frac{1}{5}$	813 $\frac{1}{5}$	3 $\frac{3}{10}$	816 $\frac{1}{10}$
Ujjain - - - - -	137,688	3,842	141,530	9,179 $\frac{1}{5}$	256 $\frac{3}{15}$	9,435 $\frac{1}{5}$
Oodeypore - - - - -	25,754	107	25,861	1,716 $\frac{1}{5}$	7 $\frac{2}{15}$	1,724 $\frac{1}{15}$
Chittore - - - - -	53,206 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,793 $\frac{1}{2}$	55,000	3,547 $\frac{1}{10}$	119 $\frac{17}{10}$	3,666 $\frac{2}{5}$
Jaora - - - - -	16,323	5	16,328	1,088 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{5}$	1,088 $\frac{8}{15}$
Bhopal - - - - -	20,469 $\frac{1}{2}$	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	20,485	1,364 $\frac{1}{2}$	1	1,365 $\frac{1}{10}$
Mandesur - - - - -	54,458	688	55,146	3,630 $\frac{3}{15}$	45 $\frac{1}{15}$	3,676 $\frac{2}{5}$
Total - - - - -	530,176 $\frac{1}{2}$	20,696 $\frac{1}{2}$	550,873	—	—	—
Average - - - - -	35,345 $\frac{1}{10}$	1,379 $\frac{3}{10}$	36,724 $\frac{1}{2}$	35,345 $\frac{1}{10}$	1,379 $\frac{1}{5}$	36,724 $\frac{1}{5}$

APPENDIX XII.

STATEMENT showing RETAIL PRICES at which OPIUM is sold to CONSUMERS in some of the most important towns in MALWA and other parts of CENTRAL INDIA.

APP. XII.
Central India.

[Received from Lieutenant-Colonel D. ROBERTSON. See Question 22,107a.]

Names of Towns.		Prices per Ser.
		Rs.
Malwa.	Indore - - - - -	12
	Ujjain - - - - -	8
	Mandsaur - - - - -	8
	Jaora - - - - -	8
	Rutlam - - - - -	8
	Dhar - - - - -	7 to 10
	Bhopal - - - - -	10
	Dewas - - - - -	10
	Rajgarh - - - - -	7 or 8
	Khilchipur - - - - -	8
Gwalior (City)		7 and 8
Datia in Bundelkhand		10
Rewah in Baghelkhand		20

APPENDIX XIII.

ABSTRACTS of EVIDENCE of WITNESSES tendered for EXAMINATION from the NATIVE STATES in CENTRAL INDIA, but not examined by the Royal Commission.

APP. XIII.
Central India.

[See Questions 22,379 and 23,306.]

1.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of DURGA SHANKAR JOSHI, of Ujjain in the Gwalior State.

Moderate use of opium does not produce bad effects —nay, many people find it necessary to use opium. It gives them strength of body, especially in old age. People in other countries can use and indulge in liquors, but we Brahmins and Mahajans and others are prohibited to the use of liquor. If anyone drinks liquors he is out-casted. If Government will prohibit opium, people will think that Government wishes us to take to liquors. Liquor produces many evil effects on body and mind; dropsy and gout, liver and other diseases are produced by it, and those who drink usually fight, and sometimes commit murders, as we have seen. Opium produces no such evil effects, but produces good, and is not prohibited by our religion. Such being the case, if Government does not prohibit the use of liquor, but prohibits the use of opium, it will be a great injustice. The consequences of such a measure will, I think, be dangerous. I have seen some of the pamphlets with pictures published by the missionaries in connexion with opium. I think they are invented to deceive the Government. For we have rarely seen any opium consumer in the condition described in the pamphlets. If permitted, we can produce pictures of liquor consumers in a condition thousand times more

deplorable; how these people become wholly slaves to others, and senseless with froth issuing from their mouths and wallowing in the gutters like beasts; or, if they fall out before becoming senseless, how they smash each others heads and even commit murders. We sincerely hope that as the Queen-Empress has sent this Commission with commendable intention, to inquire into the opium question in India, you will kindly inform Her Majesty in our behalf that the prohibition of opium will do us great physical and moral harm, and will ruin us in many other ways.

2.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of THAKUR, DAULAT SINGH, of Barda, Barnagar, in the Gwalior State.

Opium cultivation and consumption cannot in any way be stopped, and if prohibited the State and its subjects will suffer heavily.

Opium is given to children and is used by old men in this province. Now, if it will not be given to both of them, in that case many diseases will be prevalent amongst them, and babies will die and old men will suffer bodily.

As Kashmir produces saffron, Malwa produces opium. If the cultivation of opium be stopped, even one-tenth of the profits of opium will not be derived from the production of any other thing.

APP. XIII.
Central India.

I eat opium daily about 4 annas in weight. It has proved beneficial. Other men have similarly been benefited by its use. Any prohibitive measure will incapacitate the people and many lives will be lost.

Every man is ready to endure many hardships for the nourishment of his children, and if opium had not been beneficial parents would never have given it to their children.

Opium is a sure remedy against many diseases, i.e., purging, cough, asthma, cold, dysentery, rheumatism, &c.

Any prohibitive measure will cause loss, both of life and property, and therefore will be greatly disliked by the people.

There are 80 per cent. opium consumers among Rajputs, and so multitudes will suffer from its prohibition.

3.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of AMBARAM, Numbardar of Bhitaree Ujjain, Ujjain, in the Gwalior State.

I eat opium twice a day about 2 annas in weight. I have been eating opium these 22 years. I am exposed to the open air and cold weather, and hence I began to eat it. I have been eating opium 2 annas in weight these 13 years. I myself cultivate opium, and other cultivators of my village also do it. First-class land yields 2 dharis, second-class 1 dhari, and third-class land yields $3\frac{1}{2}$ seers. The rate of adan land is Rs. 15 per bigha. In certain places it is less. Cultivators get much profit. In addition to it makki is also produced. We have to pay about Rs. 7 or 8 to other labourers, and our own labour is worth about Rs. 7 or 8. Sahukar lends us money on opium only. Wheat cannot be produced, for if rain falls the wheat in irrigated land will suffer and the seed will be small. The soil of Malwa is damp. Sugar cane cultivation costs Rs. 100 per digha, and we cannot get sufficient water for the cultivation of sugar-cane. People do not consider me to be disreputable on account of my eating opium. Children are given doses of opium so long as they are nourished with milk only, i.e., till they come to the age of $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 years. It is given either from the day of their birth or from the 8th or 15th day, in order to enable them to digest milk. I shall die if I do not get opium. If it is prohibited to day I shall feel pain in my belly. My limbs will be benumbed. I shall be attacked by fever. I shall not be able to sit or stand. Drops of water will fall from my eyes and nose. Malwa will be desolate. If opium be prohibited, the progeny will not live long.

4.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of BHAVA VALAD BHAGWANT PATEL, aged 110 years, of mauza Jalwa, Ujjain, in the Gwalior State.

I eat opium since 15 or 20 years. I had been attacked by disease in my leg, and could not get sleep, and hence I took about 1 ratti of opium. Now I eat $1\frac{1}{2}$ masha. It has cured my disease and enabled me to get up and move about. Now if I do not take it I shall not be able to move even a step and I shall be attacked by one or other disease. Opium is cultivated in our villages from the time of our forefathers. I myself have been cultivating it all my life.

5.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of GUNPATRAO WASUDEO, Subha of Mandsaur, in the Gwalior State.

I was Subha of Ujjain for eight years, and am Subha of Mandsaur for the last 10 years. My father, Daji Anunt, was a great farmer of revenue in former times; and I also lived with him at Mandsaur. I have experience of this province from about 40 years.

About 12 annas ($\frac{3}{4}$) of the revenue of this zila, which produces opium most, is derived from opium. No other crop can yield so much revenue.

There are about 30 Istamrardars in this zila. They are Rajputs. The cultivators are also Rajputs. Any measure prohibiting opium will produce dissatisfaction.

Fifty per cent. of the people of all castes consume opium. If these thousands of people will not get opium, diverse diseases will overtake them and will cost them their lives. Among Rajputs kasumbha is necessarily drunk on auspicious occasions, and even abstainers are required to take it a little. They consider opium auspicious and productive of welfare. If these Rajputs were interfered with in their social customs, how far they will be discontented may be imagined.

The use of opium is not baneful; but, on the contrary, conducive to health. I have never seen opium produce any evil effects, and they generally consume opium moderately.

Mandsaur has a very large trade in opium, and sanukars have been established here from generations. If opium export will be prohibited, they will suffer and close their firms. The city will be deserted and labourers and other servants will starve. No investment in any other crop trade yields so large profits. Again, corn is damaged by being stored in the cold and open air, and cannot be stored underground owing to dampness of the soil. In any case, grain cannot be long stored without being damaged.

In short, if opium is stopped, the State and traders will suffer, as also cultivators and labourers, while those who consume opium will be physically ruined.

6.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of BADRIDAS, Munim of Subkarn Pralhaddas, Ujjain, in the Gwalior State.

This firm in Malwa dates from Samvat 1887 (i.e. 1830 A.D.), and deals in opium. I am manager of the firm since about 24 years.

Opium trade is the most important in Malwa, and is carried on from centuries. Our long experience has acquainted us with all the secrets of the trade and the ways of making the greatest profit. In various centres of trade our agencies have been permanently established. If opium be stopped, the loss of the traders and merchants in our Maharaja Sahib's Malwa will be about 10 lakhs of rupees.

There are about thirty (30) opium-trading firms in Ujjain; and many managers and clerks derive their livelihood. Hundreds of labourers are engaged in the manufacture of opium. All these will be thrown out of employment and will have to go abegging. We cannot easily employ ourselves in any other trade, nor can so much capital be invested. Wheat, cotton, &c. require to be disposed of in a short time. If kept long, their value is reduced by being damaged in various ways, and the capital invested is itself in danger.

British Government has always given encouragement to trade. From all countries merchandise of every kind is imported into India, and from here opium, cotton, wheat, and linseed are exported; and among these opium is a principal item. If opium trade is prohibited, the loss to Malwa and India will be very great. Malwa merchants will lose about 30 lakhs per year, while Bombay merchants will lose their commission charges to the amount of about 5 lakhs. The British Government and the States will suffer. The loss of cultivators and labourers will be very great.

7.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of UMRAOSINGH, Munim of a Banker at Ujjain, in the Gwalior State.

I was suffering from dysentery. So in 1830 I began taking opium. I found relief, and also general benefit to my health. I took 2 rattis for 15 years and since five years take 3 rattis.

I am manager of Kibe's firm since 1928, and have always done my duty from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. I can walk 10 miles without feeling warm or feverish. Those who take other intoxicants become incapable of mental work and lose in position, but not so with opium.

My father took opium, and was a strong man. By the favour of God my mother is alive, and is 60 years old, and takes opium with benefit and goes to temples on foot.

By the production and trade of opium thousands of people, rich and poor, gain their livelihood. And crores of rupees are invested in its trade. There is no other equally large and profitable trade.

8.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of GANESHARAM, Munim of a Banker at Mandsaur, in the Gwalior State.

The firm of Tarachand Ghanasham Das is of nearly 70 years' standing. I have been in the firm since eight years. The firm trades in opium only. The loss we will suffer from the prohibition of opium is as follows:—The profit from adat or agency is very considerable. No other trade yields so much profit. The bulk of the thing being very small and its value being very great, it can be stored safely and easily. We can keep no other article of trade for a long time, and if we keep it, we have the fear of its being damaged and the

price being lowered. Those who manufacture and sell opium earn a profit amounting from Rs. 25 to 100 per chest. In addition to this they earn interest. Those who invest their own capital in this trade get Rs. 100 of profit and Rs. 25 of adat and interest per chest, *i.e.*, a capital of Rs. 500 brings Rs. 125 a year, *i.e.*, Rs. 2 a month per chest. Sometimes he earns a lesser amount. Any other article as sugar, wheat, &c. is eaten by rats and may be easily misappropriated by men. Not so opium, except in very small doses.

9.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of SEVARAM PARAKHA, a Banker at Mandsaur, in the Gwalior State.

My firm is of about 100 years' standing at Mandsaur. I trade only in opium. Opium was at first exported to Daman *via* Jawad. Opium is now exported to Bombay since Samvat 1888-89 (*i.e.*, 1832 A.D.) Opium trade is still much more profitable than other trades. Since the day the juice is brought to our firms, it yields us interest, adat, &c., and it increases in value in proportion to the period it is kept stored. It can be kept from five to 10 years. So large a capital cannot be invested in any other trade.

10.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of RAGHUNATH VALAD OMKAR PATEL, of Agar, in the Gwalior State.

I have been eating opium these nearly seven years. I use above 2 rattis in weight and twice a day. From the beginning and till now I eat 2 rattis. I cultivate my own 4 bighas of opium land. One bigha of opium land yields 6½ seers of opium, worth Rs. 31-4 and 4 maunds of opium seed, worth Rs. 6, *i.e.*, Rs. 37-4. Out of this, Rs. 10 are incurred for labour and cattle-grazing expenses and Rs. 10 are paid to the State, *i.e.*, Rs. 20 are expended and the remaining Rs. 17-4 is our net profit. Besides this, we produce with opium garlic, onion, makki, &c. sufficient for our own use. We do not get so much profit from the cultivation of any other thing. We can hardly realise sufficient to cover our expenses and labour.

11.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of RAJAJEE VYAS, Brahmin, of Ujjain, in the Gwalior State.

I am a native physician, and according to our Medical Science opium is useful in many diseases, such as cough, asthma, diabetes, white leprosy, consumption, spleen, worms, and malarial fevers. Greyish opium assists digestion, white-yellow opium counteracts the effects of old age; opium is consumed with benefit by children and by most old men. It is prescribed with good effects in above diseases.

Opium is allowed by our Shastras, but not liquors, the evil effects of which are manifold.

12.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of NARAYENRAO VITHAL, Brahmin, of Agar, in the Gwalior State.

I daily take opium one-fourth of a tola in two doses. I was suffering from fever and purging. It has cured my disease. If I do not get opium I shall not be able even to move.

Opium is not prohibited to us by our religion, but liquors are. I think the prohibition of opium will be a great injustice.

13.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of THAKUR PRALHADSINGH, of Runija, Barnagar, in the Gwalior State.

Many benefits are derived from the use of opium. I myself sometimes use it. It produces no bad effects on the body; on the contrary, it cures many diseases.

Opium consumption is not considered disreputable in our caste. In marriage, betrothal, and other ceremonies and at hospitable tables it is freely served. Nay, the betrothal ceremony is not considered completed unless kasumba is drunk.

If the use of opium will be stopped children cannot be nourished, and thousands of men will die without it.

How much sinful it is to let thousands die of the want of a thing:

The loss we will have to suffer from the prohibition of opium in revenue and the loss of the subjects in general is as follows: In opium cultivation the land pays per bigha Rs. 15 to 20; and if any other thing is produced in it, then it hardly pays Re. 1-10. Again, in opium land no other thing can be produced by irrigation. In adan land, the wheat produce yields very small seed, and it is attacked by red blight. There is not sufficient water for the cultivation of sugar-cane. Cotton and other crops produce less when watered. In our villages there are nearly 300 wells, and if opium cultivation is stopped about 20 or 25 wells will remain in use and the others being unused will fall down; in that case the value of 275 wells, at the rate of Rs. 300 a well, *i.e.*, about Rs. 82,500, is lost capital. The subjects in general will also suffer heavily, as in opium cultivation the cultivator realises about Rs. 15 per bigha; and the labourers also will suffer.

14.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of THAKUR FATTESING, Jagirdar Tajkhedi, Bhaugarh, Mandsaur, in the Gwalior State.

I am the Istamrardar of Tajkhedi. I daily eat opium about one-half of a rupee in weight. I took to it because I had pain in my limbs. I have been consuming it these 12 years. It has cured my disease. It will go very hard with me if I will not get opium. In marriage and other ceremonies it is freely served. The ceremony is not considered to be completed without it. We Sisodia Rajputs do not drink liquor. It is prohibited among us. We will feel very hard if opium consumption is prohibited. A prohibitive measure will be disliked amongst us.

15.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of PARASHRAM, of mauza Nandavada, Mandsaur, in the Gwalior State.

We have been cultivating opium from generations. Our loss will be very great if opium cultivation and trade be prohibited. The land in this district does not yield any other produce with good profit except opium. The land yields about Rs. 50 worth of opium and Rs. 12 worth of opium seed. Out of this about Rs. 35 are paid in revenue and for costs, and the remainder is our profit. No other cultivation brings so much profit.

16.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of LACHMAN PRASAD, Kamdar of Tanoday, Agar, in the Gwalior State.

I take opium for the last 10 years. I was weak before. I am now strong. I can work like a young man. If we do not eat opium we shall be fit for nothing. Opium cultivation is very profitable. If it be stopped cultivators will suffer a great loss.

17.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of RAI BAHADUR NANAK CHAND, of the Indore State.

My name is Nanak Chand. I am jagirdar of two villages in Depalpur district. I have been Deputy Minister since three years. I was Treasury Officer for four years. My age at present is about 34½ years. My service in the State is of seven years and a half. I have got the title of "Mashiruddaula Rai Bahadur."

2. Out of nearly 170,000 irrigated bighas of land, 122,550 bighas are under opium cultivation.

3. In 122,550 bighas of opium there are 110,550 bighas of State land and 12,000 bighas of jagir land.

4. The whole production of crude opium in this State is estimated to be 1,22,550 dharis (or 15,320 maunds).

5. From an average of nine years the export of opium chests from Indore City and other towns in the State is 11,800 a year.

6. Opium revenue realised by the State from all sources is Rs. 20,12,000.

APP. XIII.
Central India.

7. If opium is prohibited pecuniary loss—

	Rs.
(1.) To the Darbar (including Rs. 2,00,000, the estimated cost of prohibitive measures) would be nearly	20,29,000
(2.) To the cultivators	19,48,000
(3.) To the traders	5,50,000
(4.) To the jagirdars	1,46,000
Total	46,73,000

8. No money compensation would be sufficient to meet State loss.

9. It would be impossible to apportion compensation amongst individual agriculturists and traders.

10. Prohibition of opium would cause grave discontent amongst all classes of people.

11. If the Government will determine to prohibit opium and pay compensation, I think the inquiry about accurate amount of loss will result in the increase of figures given above as loss to the Durbar, cultivators, traders, and jagirdars.

(Signed) NANAK CHAND.

24th December 1893.

(True copy.)
G. J. SPARKES MADGE,
Superintendent, Central India Agency.

18.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of NAGO BHIKAJI DAUBE,
of the Indore State.

I am Naib-Dewan Khasgi and one of the special officers appointed by the Durbar for obtaining information for the purpose of the Royal Commission on Opium.

I was assistant collector and collector for several years in different districts, and I have had many opportunities to discuss this subject with rude as well as intelligent people engaged in the cultivation and trade of opium, and I am of opinion that any interference with the rights and privileges of the subjects of native States with regard to the growth of opium will result in great complications and serious danger.

I have given replies to all the 62 questions proposed by the Central India Agency, which I append.

Opium production should not be prohibited.

	Rs.
The State would suffer a pecuniary loss of	21,00,000
„ jagirdars of	1,63,000
„ merchants of	8,50,000
„ agriculturists of	18,56,000
Total	49,69,000

(Signed) NAGO BHIKAJI DAUBE,
Special Officer, Opium Commission, Indore.
Dated 23rd December 1893.

(True copy.)

G. J. SPARKES MADGE,
Superintendent, Central India Agency Office.

19.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of KESHAV GOPAL KAMB,
L. M. and S., Principal Medical Officer, Holkar's Army.

I, Keshav Gopal Kamb, am the principal medical officer in H.H. Maharaja Holkar's Army. I am a servant of 10 years. My experience about the consumption of opium is as follows:—

It is eaten, drunk as well as smoked. Here in the army more than half of the strength will be found addicted to opium-eating. Kasumbha-drinkers and chandu smokers don't exist in the army. From the experience which I have about opium-eating, I can assert that its moderate use is in no way injurious to health. Those that eat opium in the army perform their duties properly. Opium is eaten by men of all

castes. Opium-eaters live to good old age. Opium-eaters, immediately after its consumption, generally drink milk or eat some sort of sweatmeat. Opium does stave off the pangs of hunger. When one becomes habituated to the use of opium one does not suffer from great thirst. Men indulge in the use of opium more freely than women.

The prohibition of opium will certainly cause great discontent in the army.

20.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of KESARI CHAND, of the
State of Indore.

I am Munim of the firm of Padamsee Nainsee and President of the Akra Panch or Chamber of Commerce at Indore.

My master's transactions amount to half crore of rupees or more.

I have been in the opium trade for 16 years.

The banker and trader of Indore will suffer a loss of over 12 lakhs of rupees every year.

There will be grave discontent if opium is prohibited, as, besides the annual profits which the merchants will lose, they will also lose their outstandings of more than three crores. I eat opium daily. I was suffering from an affection of the lungs, which was cured by taking opium. Opium is beneficial. I could not work without opium.

(Signed) KESARI CHAND.

21.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of BALMUKUND GAYADEEN,
General Commanding of the State Army, Indore.

My name is Balmukund Gayadeen. I am a native of Cawnpore. I have served the State for 28 years. I was successively Mankari, Squadron Leader, Adjutant of Cavalry, Superintendent of City Police. Commanding of two cavalries and batteries of Mulki Fouj, Adjutant General of the Regular Army, Major General, and at present full General Commanding of his Highness the Maharaja Holkar's Army including Artillery, Cavalry, and Infantry Brigades. I am also a member of the State Council. My experience in the military line enables me to state as follows:—

Opium is eaten as well as drunk in the army. The per-centage of consumers is in my opinion 50. A moderate use of opium is known not to tell against the physique of soldiers. Opium-eaters are sober, quiet, obedient, enterprising, and attentive to their duties. They can stand hard marches under the influence of the drug, and do not present a worse appearance than non-consumers. If the use of opium is accompanied by the use of milk, sweetmeat, or any substantial food as is usually the case, it is not only harmless but positively beneficial. It staves off hunger, and keeps the user from the effects of exposure to cold or heat. The habit of opium-eating is very difficult to break off and consequently if prohibited would cause serious privation. The stoppage of opium would disable the users for active duty and is sure to cause great discontent in the army under my command, which consists of Sikhs, Rajputs, and other warlike tribes. Opium is also useful to animals and makes them capable of undergoing hard work and long journeys.

The financial aspect of the prohibition of opium is equally fraught with bad results. It is estimated from the State accounts that the loss to the State resulting from prohibition would be more than 20 lakhs annually, and would render unproductive the vast investments made by the State in the extension of irrigation. It would also entail losses upon the cultivators, Jagagirdars, traders, and other classes who depend for their livelihood upon opium in one way or another, amounting to some 35 lakhs annually, and will mean ruin to most of them.

The State's loss will be impossible to be met by reduction in expenditure or extra taxation. The expenditure in regard to the army admits of no reduction; on the contrary, the expenditure has lately increased by the formation of Imperial Service Cavalry.

22.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of DHANRAJ BRIJLAL, aged 45, caste Oswal Mahajan, occupation, Agent on the firm of Rai Bahadur Gokuldas Valabdas, inhabitant of Indore at present.

I eat opium since last five years. I was ill for two years and became very weak, when a native physician advised me to use opium, by which, he said, I would restore my health. I did so, and I am happy to say that I have recruited my health by it. I have continued its practice till now. It enables me to work with double vigour and keeps the intellect clear. It is also preventive against several attacks of minor distempers. I can say from my own experience that opium does not allay hunger, but, on the contrary, it excites. It is a fact that rich sustenance and milk are greatly beneficial to an opium consumer.

23.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of HARKISAN RAMLAL MODI, aged 38, occupation, Ijaradar and cultivation, caste Mali, inhabitant of Oomaria Bujruk pargana Mhow, in the Indore State.

I am a leaseholder of villages as well as a cultivator from three generations. I cultivate both irrigated and dry lands every year. In the irrigated land I grow articles by turns, in consequence of which I have an experience of the produce of each kind in a bigha. From my personal experience I can confidently state that, among all the articles produced by cultivation which fetch any money to a cultivator, opium is the first that gives him good profits. It is produced in less time, less labour, and moderate expenditure. An article which has a demand in foreign markets fetches large money. Cotton at present stands on an equal footing with opium, but they cannot exchange their places; that is, no opium can be produced in cotton soil or vice versa. It will be observed from the above that there is no substitute for opium in opium land, and that no article can be equal to it in enriching its producer. Prohibition or restriction in the growth of opium is in my opinion equally detrimental to the interests of a cultivator, a merchant, and the king. We pray that not any kind of interference should be made in the growth of opium, and that we should be allowed to lead a peaceful and happy life.

9th November 1893.

24.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of Mr. RAOJI JANARDHAN BHIDE.

I am a B.A. of the University of Bombay. I have been in the service of the Indore State these six years. I was Huzur Treasurer for some time, and am Accountant-General at present.

The following is a summary of my evidence:—

1. The Durbar, the cultivators, the traders, and the landed aristocracy in the State are all vitally interested in opium. Their combined income from it is no less than 55 lakhs yearly, not to speak of the vast investments made by the State and the ryots in irrigation works, the accumulated advances of years made to cultivators and the accumulated outstandings of revenue demand against them; all which would come to several crores of rupees, and is staked on opium alone.

2. There is no other irrigated crop that combines in itself so many advantages as opium, and none could be grown in this part of the country half as successfully or profitably as opium. Under present circumstances wheat would be the best substitute for opium. But it cannot bring to ryot or Sirkar one-eighth of what opium brings.

3. Opium as an article of consumption is highly esteemed by the people. It serves manifold uses, is under no sort of religious or social ban, is not only harmless, but positively beneficial when taken in moderation, and is, for these reasons, consumed very generally. Bad effects follow, not from the use, but the abuse, which is altogether exceptional. Moderation is the rule, and in moderation opium is a blessing as compared with liquor and other stimulants.

4. There is no case made out for the suppression of opium for non-medical purposes. The evil sought to be remedied by it does not exist to any appreciable degree, and if artificially checked may give rise to one greater. Lastly, nothing that India may do will operate deterrently upon China.

5. To carry out the plan of prohibition it will be necessary to institute an extensive preventive machinery, which, besides a heavy burden on the finances, will be extremely vexatious to work, and needlessly oppressive to the people.

6. The suppression of opium will necessarily encourage the spread of liquor, which means physical, moral, social, and religious degradation and misery to India such as no nation ever came to.

7. The suppression of opium will be looked upon by the people as an encroachment not only on their pecuniary interests, but also on their long-cherished usages, rights, and sentiments, and is calculated to cause serious and universal discontent accentuated by a ludicrous notion ruling among the illiterate masses that the whole and sole object of the movement is to encourage liquor at the expense of opium, and aggravated by the inquisitorial and vexatious operation of preventive measures.

8. Supposing that, setting aside these considerations, the British Government resolved to do away with opium in British India, they could not either compel or induce the Indore State to do the same. Considering the political relations between this State and the Paramount Power so far as they are known to and believed in by persons not in the political line, compulsion is out of the question in this matter. Nor can the Indore State allow itself to be induced to adopt the prohibition policy, which means the permanent relinquishment of half its entire revenue as well as of its outstandings and invested capital representing crores of rupees.

9. Similarly, no change in the arrangements in respect of the transit of opium from this State through British territory would be justifiable. The State cannot be deprived of its liberty to export opium so long as it pays the duty imposed by the British Government. Even an increase in this duty beyond the reasonable limit would be unconstitutional, much more would it be so to bar all exportation.

10. The idea of awarding compensation is extremely impracticable. To compensate the Dubar alone is not sufficient. The cultivators, traders, and landholders would be equally entitled to compensation. It is inconceivable how it will be possible to compute the loss and distribute the compensation individually in their case. Lastly, no money compensation can really make up the loss of a natural resource vouchsafed by God to man.

(Signed) R. J. BHIDE,
Accountant-General, Indore.

25.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of BALKRISHNA ATMARAM GUPTA, Inspector-General of Police and Member of the Indore State Council.

Education and Experience.

Student of the Grant Medical College for three years; author of a treatise on agriculture; member of the Royal Agricultural Society of England and F.L.S.; nine years' experience of collecting raw materials for exhibitions, and preparing compilations, based on personal knowledge of the Indian artisans, for the Bombay Government "Gazetteer"; as Dr. J. M. Campbell's assistant visited England as official delegate to the Government of Bombay at the Colonial and Indian Exhibitions, 1886.

Substance of Evidence.

Soils producing opium in this State cannot as profitably replace its cultivation by the introduction of the ever-thirsty sugar-cane, the already ruined and deplorably under-sold al and indigo dyes through cheaper and fugitive importations, or the much cheaper and more perishable crops of garlic, onion, wheat, linseed, mustard and turmeric.

Opium cultivation is popular among farmers because it requires less time and yields larger profits than other

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erops, with the unavoidable scanty supply of water in this territory.

As a medical student with special opportunities for studying the habits of Indian artisans, I find that the moderate or gradually increased use of opium does not do any harm, and that, on the contrary, men addicted to its use work more carefully and attentively than others, and can sustain the strain of continuous work much longer. Like the author of a book on phrenology that I read years ago, I would proclaim, "Give me an artisan" or craftsman who eats opium, and I will give him "double the wages," in the place of or rather side by side with his motto, "Give me the man that sings while at work, and I will give him double the wages." A large proportion of the farmers and artisans of this State take opium and give it to their children.

As Inspector-General of Police, commanding a force of about 5,000 men, I find by experience that policemen taking opium are healthy, willing, and reliable watchmen, and are never violent. Among the criminals of the State gaols the proportion of opium-eaters is small compared with others.

As a literary student, and one who has to do hard mental work, I confess that, whenever I feel taxed and over-worked and deprived of sleep, I apply tincture of opium to my head, or, in its absence, opium mixed with water, and positively find great relief.

During old age and infirmity people find opium invaluable.

(Signed) B. A. GUPTA.

23rd December 1893.

26.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of DAYAMBAKSH MAJOR, acting Adjutant-General, His Highness Maharaja Holkar's Army.

Nearly 50 per cent. of the army take opium.

Opium wards off from an opium-eater the effects of cold and wind.

Poppy-heads are used as medicine and are also given to horses, bullocks, &c.

27.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of MUHAMMAD HIDAYAT KHAN, Karpardaz of Khilchipur State.

I am an old inhabitant of the Gwalior State, and hold jagirs in that State as well as in Khilchipur. I have been a Karpardaz of this State for six years. The people of my place eat, cultivate, and trade in opium. These are the sources of my information.

The area under poppy cultivation in the State is 6,000 bighas, rental of which amounts to Rs. 27,000. The total income of the State, including cesses, &c., amounts to Rs. 51,000. There is no other crop as profitable as opium. Sugar-cane cannot be grown with advantage owing to bad land and insufficiency of water; besides, its cultivation is expensive and entails much labour. The method of indigo cultivation is not known here, and is, moreover, considered disreputable. Wheat would only pay Rs. 12,000 per annum and cause a loss of Rs. 39,000 per annum to the State.

2. Opium cultivation is over in a short time. It pays the cultivator about Rs. 22 per bigha.

3. Traders have no fear of loss in this trade, as opium does not deteriorate by lapse of time, but improves in quality, whereas other commodities do deteriorate. Poppy supplies oil, oil cakes; poppy seed is also used as vegetable. In opium fields juar and fodder for cattle are also produced. Opium is not used for the sake of luxury, but medicinally to maintain health. It will be difficult for opium-eaters to forsake it. Liquor cannot compete with opium, as it is costly. Opium-eaters do not commit crime or become turbulent, but drunkards do. People must have some intoxicant. The chiefs would not like abolition of the opium cultivation. If any chief do agree to it, he would object afterwards. The British Government would suffer a loss too.

Opium is useful for diseases produced by cold as well as diarrhoea. It is useful to children too.

I think its cultivation should not be stopped.

28.

EXTRACTS from the ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of PANDIT SURJ BALI BAJPAI, Pensioned Head Pandit, Sehore High School, at present an Octroi Collector, Sehore, in Central India, and deputed to represent the Guaranteed Thakurates in the Bhopal Agency.

I am a servant of Government of 32 years' standing. I was pensioned in 1891 from Government service in its Educational Department. At present I am an Octroi collector in Sehore. I have been in this country from the last 20 years. I have complete experience of the growth, sale, and consumption of opium.

In the Guaranteed States the land under poppy cultivation is 2,789 bighas; the out-turn of opium from the same amounts to 348 maunds; 48 maunds of this is consumed in the said estates and the rest is exported to Sehore, Ujjain, and Indore.

The population of these estates is, according to late census, 35,920; of these 2,068 are poppy cultivators.

The opium is consumed in two different forms: (1) it is eaten, and (2) it is drunk. Madak and chandu is scarcely known here. In one or two jagirs madak is smoked, but chandu is entirely unknown. The average account of opium consumers comes to 20 per cent. Children are also allowed opium up to the age of three to four years. The opium consumption is commenced generally after the age of 25 to 30 years. The opium consumption protects the consumer from asthma, fasli fever, rheumatism, &c., as well as diarrhoea.

The consumer of opium cannot give up the habit if he has continually enjoyed it for a period of five to six years and his daily dose has gone up to one masha. If they were forced to give up the habit they would prefer committing suicide than to bear the pains of being without the consumption. The man who has resolved to destroy his life is prepared to do anything. In these estates there is hardly a man who does not consume opium, and if the consumer does not receive his daily dose in time he suffers pains in body, and is then utterly useless for any work.

If the cultivation of poppy was prohibited the Guaranteed Thakurs would suffer considerably. They shall not only suffer in person, but that their present receipts will be reduced to one-fourth of what it is at present, and the said chiefs shall be unable to manage their affairs as well as they do at present. The present Guaranteed Thakurs are the descendants of those who robbed and looted in Gwalior and Indore States. The Government of India, when the settlement of Malwa was made most wisely brought them under control and settled them, making due arrangements for their and their families' maintenance. Should their receipt be cut down by the prohibition of opium cultivation and trade they are sure to return to their ancestors' habit (which they have been made to give up with considerable amount of labour and pecuniary outlay) and give trouble in the country. Many idle and out-of-work men may join them. There is every probability.

A jagirdar, when conversing on the subject of prohibition, declared that if the prohibition were to be enforced he had better be killed before any steps to that end were taken. This was uttered by him in excitement, and it was not in joke that he uttered the words.

From this it could be seen that the result of prohibition would bring about nothing but rebellion.

29.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE of THAKUR KESARI SINGH, of Piploda, in WESTERN MALWA.

1. The extent of poppy cultivation in the Khalsa is nearly 2,800 bighas, and the amount of opium produced in each bigha is approximately 10 seers.

2. The tax levied on opium is 13 annas per maund; and one anna extra is charged per maund as the khuta tax. On the whole the duty comes to 14 annas on every maund.

3. The amount of revenue realised from the rent of poppy lands is Rs. 70,000, and that of the duties levied on opium is Rs. 500.

4. In my opinion the indulgence in moderate quantities of opium does no injury to the consumer. But it is better to abstain from indulging in it, than to betake oneself to it.

5. Forty per cent. of the population use opium for medicinal purposes. The old and the infants are the only persons included among those who use it as medicine; and there are 60 persons out of 100 who indulge in it as an article of diet.

6. There are a very few people who injure their health by taking opium in excess, I mean only five or six in a company of 100 persons.

7. Among the persons of all the other castes in general and among the Rajputs in particular the practice of taking laudanum has got so much prominence that none of the persons of any community has been saved from indulging in kasumba, and in consequence of this the practice has not been regarded as degrading or bad.

30.

ABSTRACT OF THE EVIDENCE OF RAI BAHADUR BALA PRASAD, Diwan of Sitamau.

1. About 5,981 bighas of land is cultivated in Sitamau State, and that the opium produced amounts to 1,122 maunds.

2. The poppy land is taxed at an average rate of Rs. 16 per bigha.

3. The amount of revenue realised by the Sitamau State, both from rent of poppy lands and by duties levied thereupon, comes to about Rs. 1,03,758, i.e.—

	Rs.
Rent	95,696
Duties	8,062
	<u>1,03,758</u>

4. The undersigned is of opinion that a moderate consumption of opium is not in any way injurious; but, on the contrary, somewhat beneficial in this part of the country, which is malarious indeed.

5. About 187 maunds of opium is used by the people of Sitamau State as medicine and article of diet within a year.

It is used by the people of the State generally, and not by a small portion of the population.

6. There are very few persons in this State who have injured themselves by taking opium in excess, i.e., perhaps one per thousand out of the opium-eaters.

7. The eating of opium in a moderate quantity is not regarded as bad or degrading by the respectable people; but, on the contrary, a person who does not take opium on ceremonial occasions is considered discourteous in this part of the country. The distribution of opium liquid, which is called kasumba, when exchanged amongst friends by their own hands, is considered a mark of great respect at the time of entertainments.

(Signed) BALA PRASAD,
Diwan, Sitamau State.

Sitamau, 11th January 1894.

31.

ABSTRACT OF THE EVIDENCE OF BIAS HARKISAN, Amin of Bori, in Jhabua.

I am Amin of Bori in Jhabua. I have served the State as revenue officer in different capacities for upwards of 30 years. I am acquainted with opium traders, consumers, and cultivators.

The area under opium cultivation is 978 acres, yielding an annual revenue of Rs. 13,480. The annual production is about 250 maunds, the greater part of which is exported. Opium is the most remunerative crop.

The initial expenditure is less than that of other crops, and the soil yields two harvests.

On account of low prices during the past few years, the cultivation of opium has diminished, the least fertile land being put under different crops.

Opium is cultivated by all classes of agriculturists, but most by the best cultivators, such as Sirvees, Koonbis, and Malis. The average yield per bigha is 11 seers. The net profit to a cultivator may be estimated at Rs. 22 per bigha.

The State does not monopolise the sale of opium or in any way interfere with consumption in any form. All classes use opium, but the habitual one is most common with Rajputs and allied clans, and least common with the Bhils, who prefer alcohol. Opium is taken to counteract the infirmity of old age, to remove pains and weakness resulting from asthma, bronchitis, piles, diarrhoea, dysentery, and rheumatism, and as a preventive against fever.

It is given to infants to prevent colds and cough. Occasional drinking of kasumba is one of the common habits of the people; while smoking is comparatively rare.

Opium is also occasionally used as cattle medicine.

Opium is considered generally wholesome, and habitual consumers become healthier and stronger, provided they, at the same time, get nourishing food; without that they sometimes become emaciated and pale.

Opium is an important preventive against malarial fever, and moderate consumption tends to keep down the mortality rate. Abuse is very rare.

The ordinary dose is small, and is not usually increased.

The total loss resulting from prohibition of cultivation would exceed Rs. 60,000, and two-thirds of this loss would fall on the State, thus necessitating fresh taxation. It would be most unpopular with all classes, and even restrictions could not fail to produce loss and widespread discontent. The State could not undertake to interfere with the consumption of opium without serious risk, and the probability is that any restriction which could be successfully introduced would lead to the more extensive use of alcohol or other drugs.

I can, if desired, give full particulars regarding production and consumption. External trade is, as already said, limited to the export of the raw opium to Rutlam. As regards internal trade, almost every shop-keeper sells opium in small quantities and without restriction.

32.

ABSTRACT OF THE EVIDENCE OF LALA LACHMAN PERSHAD, Munsarim, Salt Department, in the Datia State (Bundelkhand).

My name is Lachman Pershad. I am a Motmid of the Datia State. Formerly I was a Boundary Munsarim.

Twelve months ago a new department for the management of salt, saltpetre, and opium was created. I am now munsarim of that department. When any occasion arises I am deputed to make local inquiries. I can inflict fines and other punishments subject to the approval of the Durbar. I have now been deputed to give evidence before the Royal Commission. To the best of my ability I have made inquiries from the cultivators, traders, and eaters of opium, and from the information thus derived, I am prepared to give the following evidence before the Commission:—

1. Datia is a native State near the border of Jhansi, in Gwalior, and the British districts of Jhansi and Jaloun.

2. Last year in about 252 bighas opium was cultivated, the average produce of which amounts to 31 maunds. This year 315 bighas of land has been brought under poppy cultivation.

Kachhis generally cultivate opium. In the pargana of Seondha, Kachhis have grown opium for many generations. In other parganas, in some years, opium is produced in 5 or 10 bighas, and in some years it is not cultivated at all. On inquiry the cultivators of opium state that they pay Rs. 8 per bigha for opium land as well as for other land in which they cannot grow opium, but still cultivate, simply because by opium cultivation they can well maintain themselves

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and their children, and can easily borrow money on the security of opium fields. Moreover, they can grow, in the irrigation channels of opium fields, vegetables and things which their women sell, and thus support the family. They also say that they like their old occupation. It is well known that one can appreciate the occupation he has been following all along. The cultivators estimate their loss about Rs. 3,000 per annum. If opium cultivation, which is their main occupation, be stopped, they would be ruined, because their marriage and other expenses are provided for from opium cultivation.

3. The ryots say that they give opium to their children as a protection against cold and other kindred diseases. Besides, by giving opium, the children sleep quietly, and allow the women to perform their domestic duties. It is used medicinally for sore eyes, hurts, rheumatism, and for various other diseases. If opium is prohibited they would suffer too.

4. Opium-eaters are very anxious at the idea of this, and think that their lives are at stake, as by use of opium alone can they move about.

5. Traders of opium assert that they never expect a loss in this trade. They say that they purchase crude opium at Rs. 4 per seer, manufacture and sell it at Rs. 8 per seer to retail vendors, who derive a profit of about Rs. 2 per seer; that they get a living out of it; and that this trade does not entail hard labour but gives a good profit. They get a profit of about Rs. 32 per chest. Their estimated loss would be about Rs. 4,000. We export and import opium from Gwalior under passes issued by political agent, Bundelkhand.

6. The direct loss of the State, including land revenue, would be Rs. 5,578.

7. Experience shows that opium is advantageous for cold and diseases produced by cold, rheumatic pains, and eye diseases. In old age its use is beneficial. Its use for youths, as well as the use of chandu and madak, are injurious also when taken in excess; it is injurious if good food is not procurable. But an overdose of everything, even medicine, is bad. This is the general opinion, but whatever Government thinks is right.

8. The Durbar says that very little opium is produced in this State. Whatever Government orders, after hearing the representations of other States in which opium is largely produced, will be accepted by this State as well.

32.

ABSTRACT of the EVIDENCE to be given by Mr. Mahomed Baksh of Bagli.

1. It is customary here to take opium at marriages, festivals, &c., and on occasions of conviviality and mourning.

2. Opium is used as a prophylactic against climatic influences and disease. It is consumed by old and infirm people as also by those who are liable to great exertions. It is given to infants and is used as a medicine.

3. Those who take it in moderation are healthy and perform their ordinary work satisfactorily.

4. Two thousand four hundred and twenty-three bighas of land yield revenue to the Thakurate under the head of opium, and bring in Rs. 31,000 on account of rent, and Rs. 3,432 on account of dues, tax, and levies, making a total of Rs. 34,432.

5. One thousand wells have been sunk at a cost of 3 lakhs of rupees for the purpose of irrigation of opium crops. These would fall into disuse if opium cultivation were to cease.

6. If the cultivation of opium were to be stopped, wheat, gram, and such other grain would be sown. The rate of opium land varies from 15 to 20 rupees, while that of corn land from 1½ to 2 rupees, and consequently Rs. 3,200 only would be realised instead of Rs. 34,432. Under such circumstances the loss may be calculated as follows:—

- (1.) A yearly loss of Rs. 31,232 to the estate, including rent and tax, but excluding the cost of wells, which amounts to 3 lakhs.
- (2.) A yearly loss of Rs. 25,000 to the cultivators and the labourers.
- (3.) A yearly loss of Rs. 20,000 to the traders.

7. The Thakurate seeks to improve the cultivation of opium, and it is hoped that improvement will follow. The income of the Thakurate and its people entirely depends on the cultivation of opium. The Thakurate cannot sustain the losses which would result from the prohibition of the culture of poppy. Even if the above-mentioned losses are recompensed, the Thakurate cannot bear the loss to which it will be subjected in case the opium cultivation is stopped.

APPENDIX XIV.

APP. XIV.
Baroda.

STATISTICS regarding PRODUCTION and CONSUMPTION of HOME-GROWN OPIUM in the BARODA STATE, founded on the figures of the Years 1883 to 1892.

[Presented by A. F. MACONOCHE, Esq., Settlement Officer of the Baroda State. See Question 22,629.]

I.—CULTIVATION OF OPIUM, &c.

Area under poppy cultivation	- Acres	5,238
Number of licenses issued	- - -	3,864
Amount of advances	- - - Rs.	64,378
Number of persons to whom advances were made.		2,595
Total yield of juice	- - - lbs.	76,996
Average yield per acre	- - - "	16
Sum paid to cultivators for juice collected		Rs. 2,15,293

II.—PRODUCTION OF OPIUM, EXPORTS AND REALISATIONS, &c.

Amount of opium produced	- lbs.	92,233
Amount of opium issued to licensed vendors	- lbs.	61,101
Value of opium issued to licensed vendors	- Rs.	6,26,303
Revenue from license fees	- "	30,777
Miscellaneous revenue	- "	10,409
Total revenue from sales	- "	6,67,489
Amount of opium exported	- lbs.	33,390
Revenue from opium exported	- Rs.	2,82,442
Total revenue	- "	9,49,932

III.—CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM.

Nausari division	0·34 tolas per head.
Kari	0·59 " " "
Baroda	1·34 " " "
Amreli	2·44 " " "
or for the whole of Baroda territory	about one tola per head.

APPENDIX XV.

STATEMENT showing TRANSACTIONS in BARODA-GROWN OPIUM from 1879 to 1891.
[Handed in by Mr. A. F. MACONCHIE, Settlement Officer of the Baroda State, see Question 22, 631.]

Period.	Area under Poppy Cultivation.	Quantity of Juice in Lbs. purchased by the Baroda Government.			Quantity of Baroda-grown Opium in Lbs.				Quantity of Juice remaining in Hand in Lbs. at Ahmedabad.	Balance of Baroda-grown Opium to be accounted for.	Issued to Licensed Vendors during the Half Year.	Dryage.	Actual Consumption during the Half Year.
		Balance re- maining from previous Half Year.	Purchased during the Half Year.	Total.	Total.		Quantity of T.						
					6	7		8					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Acres.	G.	A.										
31 July 1879	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31 Jan. 1880	5,951	28	11	35,032	23	45,961	15	46,419	25	46,419	25	63	13,866
31 July 1880	5,955	35	3	85,108	3	36,766	18	65,152	21	65,152	21	—	17,392
31 Jan. 1881	22,178	32	3	94,414	6	47,047	22	47,455	13	47,455	13	264	14,235
31 July 1881	22,180	36	15	341,073	8	34,936	10	116,460	2	116,460	2	608	10,201
31 Jan. 1882	17,564	38	10	341,073	8	108,464	28	108,772	26	108,772	26	117	10,330
31 July 1882	17,579	26	2	341,185	37	98,781	26	252,391	2	252,391	2	74	17,097
31 Jan. 1883	17,363	11	11	421,801	0	234,783	11	364,949	29	283,220	4	1,023	17,943
31 July 1883	17,372	33	10	271,559	38	264,368	36	214,099	17	437,446	30	326	22,404
31 Jan. 1884	17,372	33	10	336,657	16	414,698	15	489,791	9	358,023	10	72	25,345
31 July 1884	32	11	5	314,518	0	332,709	8	332,709	38	305,515	36	402	29,320
31 Jan. 1885	334	10	6	314,560	39	275,228	5	261,132	36	433,494	23	230	31,174
31 July 1885	567	10	11	317,917	10	402,627	14	66	17	402,693	31	360	32,216
31 Jan. 1886	564	28	13	7,540	20	369,240	26	4,324	26	373,565	12	42,007	30,658
31 July 1886	6,292	37	0	7,646	21	301,342	7	6,409	33	307,752	0	358	31,066
31 Jan. 1887	6,294	18	7	103,476	37	275,964	35	7	3	275,971	38	7,435	30,940
31 July 1887	2,558	33	0	104,291	7	237,728	15	91,035	36	238,834	11	406	30,378
31 Jan. 1888	2,554	6	5	45,513	13	298,066	37	147	10	217,159	32	295	30,231
31 July 1888	3,665	25	7	45,510	36	186,723	31	28,325	5	215,048	36	4,573	30,346
31 Jan. 1889	3,668	15	8	54,811	4	180,056	29	14	15	180,071	4	29,327	29,745
31 July 1889	3,418	4	1	41,804	1	150,588	17	4	4	150,592	21	1,713	27,119
31 Jan. 1890	3,416	38	3	81,007	32	121,445	36	34,701	16	156,147	12	25,511	27,146
31 July 1890	7,712	10	10	43,010	11	130,473	15	7	8	130,480	23	2,435	28,941
31 Jan. 1891	7,706	16	10	164,910	28	96,373	0	37,861	4	134,234	4	418	33,902
31 July 1891	6,683	30	15	121,997	19	99,971	21	35	0	100,006	21	3,194	30,465

NOTE.—The last column shows actual consumption of both Baroda and Malwa opium. The rest of the columns treat of Baroda opium only; the last column, therefore, does not tally with any of the others.

APPENDIX XVI.

APP. XVI.
Bhaunagar.CORRESPONDENCE regarding the OPIUM QUESTION in the
BHAUNAGAR STATE.[Handed in by LALUBHAI SAMALDAS, *see* Question
22,899.]

No. 137 of 1893.

SIR, Dated 30th December 1893.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters, Nos. 4,145, and 4,489, dated respectively the 31st October and 29th November last regarding the appointment by Her most Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress of a Royal Commission of inquiry into matters connected with the growth, sale, and uses of opium; and with reference thereto to state that should the Commission feel disposed to have any of its sittings at Bhavnagar, it will give me much pleasure to welcome the members as my guests, and to afford them every means within my power of obtaining the information they are in search of.

2. As regards the existing arrangements with my own State, I cannot do better than forward, for the information of the Commission, a copy of my letter, No. 87, of the 25th June 1891, which contains a brief account of the position of the State in the matter of this drug from the earliest time of British supremacy to the present date. Before 1820 this State was as free as it could be in trading in opium and in growing the poppy, while at the present time the growth of poppy, even for medicinal purposes, is prohibited, and the State is supplied by Government on payment of a pass duty of Rs. 650 per chest, a charge previously unknown.

3. From this, it will, I think, be understood that if the production and use of opium for non-medical purposes are prohibited throughout British India, such prohibition cannot, in my opinion, be extended to the native States without the consent of the States, that is, the willingness of the States to adopt a similar measure; or by payment of proper compensation.

4. I attach a list of names of witnesses whom I would produce to the Commission for examination, whose opinions would, I believe, be their own, based on experienced observations, and expressed under a full sense of the responsibility attaching to the same.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TAKHTSINGJI,

The Political Agent, Maharaja of Bhavnagar.
Kathiawar.

No. 34 of 1894.

Kathiawar Political Agent's Office,
Camp Devcharari,
9th January 1894.

Copy with accompaniments forwarded to Government, with compliments, in continuation of this office, No. 18, of the 8th instant, for the favour of communication to the Opium Royal Commission.

(Signed) G. E. HANCOCK, Colonel,
Acting Political Agent.

ACCOMPANIMENT to LETTER, No. 137, dated 30th December 1893, from HIS HIGHNESS the MAHARAJA of Bhavnagar to the POLITICAL AGENT, Kathiawar.

Official.

R. Proctor Sims	-	-	-	State Councillor.
*Lalubhai Samaldas, Esquire	-	-	-	Revenue Commissioner of the State.
*Dr. Shivnath Ramnath	-	-	-	Acting Chief Medical Officer.
Harisingji Jesabhai	-	-	-	Vahivatdar of Kundla and land proprietor.

* These two witnesses were examined.

Non-official.

Non-opium-eaters.

*Bhojkhuman of Bhamodra	-	-	Land proprietor.
*Raoi Shri Harisingji Rupsingj	-	-	Bhayat and land proprietor.
Alladin Deojibhai	-	-	Merchant.
Oosman bin Abdul Hakim, Arab	-	-	"
Thakur Ragu Dahya, Hindu	-	-	"

Opium-eaters.

Patabhai	-	-	-	Mulgirasia of Sanosra.
Harsur Kachar	-	-	-	Mulgirasia of Godhra.

No. 87.

SIR, Dated Bhaunagar, 25th June 1891.

WITH reference to your letter, No. 268, of the 28th February last, on the subject of the traffic in opium, I have the honour to state that the questions put by Government necessitated a search into old records and accounts which were not handy, and my reply has in consequence been delayed.

2. I will take the questions seriatim:—

(1.) Has it been found practicable to enforce the rule as to the minimum retail price?

So far as I am able to ascertain the supervision exercised over the licensed dealers in this State has been of the strictest possible kind, and, with very few exceptions, I have no reason to believe that in enforcing this limitation there has been failure of the terms of the contract, in other words, that the opium obtained at Rs. 10-8 per seer is ever sold at less than Rs. 11-4.

In a letter addressed by me to the Political Agent on the 24th April of last year (No. 40), a copy of which was furnished to your with my letter, No. 55, of the 24th April last, I endeavoured, by taking the normal consumption of one tola per head per annum, to show that it was improbable the Bhaunagar dealers could be possessed of any surplus stock which it would, we might say, be needful for them to dispose of at less than the minimum rate. I have looked well about for some more convincing proofs than this argument affords, but can only fall back on the fact that very few complaints have reached me of the contrary being the case, and these few I will briefly note below:—

(a.) Letter from Major Ferris, No. 1,116, dated 22nd November 1889, intimating that the "Opium sub-inspector of Ahmedabad had reported to the collector that he had personally purchased from the Bhoomli shop four tolas of opium for one rupee, and at each of the shops at Madhda, Vartej, and Trapaj, 8 annas worth at the same rate."

(b.) Endorsement from Mr. Sladen, No. 1,123, of the 4th November 1890, covering correspondence beginning with a petition from the Government vendor of opium at Dhollera complaining that the Bhaunagar licensees in Madhda, Vartej, Gangli, Trapaj, Otaria, and Sandhera were selling opium at less than the minimum rate.

(c.) Letter from Captain Lyde, No. 55, of the 20th April 1891, forwarding an extract from the Dhandhuka magistrate's returns of two cases of smuggling, from "which it appeared that in both cases the opium was smuggled into the Dhandhuka district from the Bhaunagar State."

Every possible inquiry was made into the two first mentioned complaints, with the result that only in reference to Madhda, in the second, could any proofs be found. In the third case I asked for particulars of the evidence alluded to in the magistrate's return, and learn from your letter, No. 809, of the 10th instant, that the accused, who is a British subject himself, said he came from Otaria (a Bhavnagar village), but which he subsequently denied.

On the other hand, as shown in my letter, No. 40, the number of instances in which opium has been smuggled into my State by reason of the large stock in possession

* These two witnesses were examined.

of the Government farmers (as much as six times the normal wants of the Government district) show clearly that the maximum rate is not enforced in the territories surrounding mine.

Briefly, then, I believe the rule is enforced as much as any rule of the nature can be in my own State, but is not enforced in the territory adjacent. Therefore that it is not generally enforced.

3. (2.) If it is found that the rule is generally enforced, has it had any beneficial effect on the opium revenues of the British district or the native State concerned?

My conclusion above that it has not been generally enforced renders any further notice of the question unnecessary; but I contend that it has been enforced in my own State, and in my letter, No. 40, which, as I must refer to very frequently, I attach a copy, I have shown, I think, clearly that this enforcement has resulted in a distinct loss.

4. (3.) Supposing that (1) is answered in the affirmative and (2) in the negative, is the result due to (a.) the minimum retail price having been fixed too high or too low? or (b.) to any peculiarities of the system of opium administration in the British districts or native States concerned? In the latter case, is the defect such as cannot be conveniently remedied?

I can only take this from my own standpoint, and finding (1) in the affirmative and (2) in the negative, proceed to the sub-questions:—

(a.) I do not think the minimum retail price has anything to do with it, unless there is any truth in a report that is in current that Malwa opium can be obtained direct by a Government farmer at Rs. 1-4 less than the same opium is possible to the vendor in a native State. At the same time I do not understand upon what grounds there should be any maximum or minimum price at all, so long as Government can ensure all the opium that is sold in the country being obtainable only from Government stores and treasuries or on Government passes.

(b.) This question, to my mind, touches at the root of the difficulty, and in my letter, No. 40, I have fully entered into the matter. The result is due entirely to the system of farming or sales in the British districts, where the contracts are given to the person who buys the largest quantity of opium irrespective of the possible needs of the district he has contracted to sell in. The farmer must sell the stock within his contract time, and it is, of course, better for him to be satisfied with a low profit than to have a large quantity of the drug on his hands, and what that large quantity is at Gogha I have shown to be six times the normal consumption of the district he supplies.

The remedy to me appears simple. Let sales from treasuries be regulated by the population to be supplied, any excess above this being satisfactorily explained before purchases over and above the normal consumption are permitted. If this plan, which is in strict accordance with paragraph 5 of Major

"The licensed dealer shall not sell opium to anybody not belonging to his district." Ballantyne's notification of September 1820 (Asso Sud 2 of Samvat 1876), was adopted, I believe the sales in my own State would soon rise to the normal estimate of one tola per head.

5. I come now to the last of the questions.

(4.) "If question (1) is answered in the negative, should the status quo ante be restored? or can any other arrangement be suggested?"

The periods which mark the different phases of the trade in opium in Kathiawar are briefly given below:—

Before 1820.—Previous to this year no restrictions whatever existed in the import and export of opium in and out of the province. An open trade with China and other countries was carried on from the different ports of Kathiawar, and poppy was grown wherever it was needed or found to pay.

1820-1828.—In 1820 with a view to prohibit the export of opium, "not for increasing the duty carried thereon," the British Government, by notification of Major Ballantyne, framed rules, subsequently agreed to by the chiefs, in which it was stipulated that the opium required should be obtained only from the Government stores, and the price shall be the aggregate of the original cost of the opium purchased by

Government together with the expense of carrying the same.

1828-1851.—On the 1st October 1828 a yád was issued by Mr. Blane, political agent of Kathiawar, in which, on the chiefs consenting to prohibit opium traffic by foreigners in their territories, the following conditions were prescribed:—

That the opium would be supplied only to the chief or his authorised agent, who should not be a foreigner; that care should be taken for transit and sale, purchases being allowed to the extent of four months' ascertained consumption; that the opium issued should be secured by Government seal; and that one seer of opium in weight, equal to 38 rupees, be issued at the rate of Rs. 5-8 per seer of the first quality and Rs. 4-8 of the second.

1851-1878.—In 1851 Colonel Lang, by notification, increased the price to Rs. 22 per seer in common with the territories administered by Government, but on a representation it was, by the same officer's notification, No. 635, of the 21st October 1857, reduced to Rs. 15, while the rate in the Government districts was retained at Rs. 22. This reduction was nearly proportionate to the then existing amount of pass-fee, viz., Rs. 400 per chest of 140 lbs., but the payment was not reckoned as a pass-fee.

In the interim a notification was issued by Colonel Keatinge in 1863 intimating his fears about smuggling, and requiring strict compliance to existing arrangements. In response to this the Bhavnagar Darbar gave utterance to a grievance generally felt that the opium sold at the stores was Khandesh opium, a much inferior article to good Malwa, and assuring the political agent of strict adherence to the arrangement if an article of good quality was supplied at the settled price.

And in 1870 feeling that the rules were not sufficiently understood, Colonel Anderson issued a notification, No. 7, of the 13th April of that year.

Since 1878.—On the 20th May 1878 (No. 13) the Treasury officer at Rajkot issued a notification that the sale of opium to licensed traders was stopped, but opium would be supplied to those States that will agree to pay the Government pass-fee when Government so desire it. Simultaneously a pass-duty of Rs. 650, hitherto unknown, was imposed.

A few of the minor States agreed, but the others refusing, a memorial was presented to Government protesting against this order as injuriously affecting their right to purchase the drug from Government at cost price. In the meantime the full pass-duty was imposed until Colonel Barton's notification of the 18th February 1882, which ordered a refund of one-third. But this notification placed the relationship of the States with Government on an entirely new footing, for in paragraph 4, while intimating the increase of the rebate to the States on the pass-fee from one-fifth to one-third of the full duty, it also enunciates that—"It must, however, be understood that the right of the British Government to impose the full duty is not affected by this concession."

In November 1882 the pass-duty was increased to Rs. 700 per chest.

To which of these periods, I would ask, am I referred in regard to the first half of the question. In regard to the second half—"Can any other arrangement be suggested?" it is, I assume, any other arrangement than the present one is meant.

6. I recognise most heartily the need of the British Government to hedge around the opium traffic with such safeguards as will bring into the British Treasury the full measure of the income to be derived from this monopoly, and while I have in another place pointed out how the rules now in force trench on my prerogatives of independence guaranteed to me by the Queen-Empress, I approach the question now put in the spirit in which it is put and with a full desire to render to the Paramount Power my hearty co-operation in what is required to be done. I claim, moreover, to have always dealt with the subject in the same manner.

7. Diligent search has been made in my records to arrive at some idea of what the opium revenue in my State has been under the varied conditions through which the traffic has passed, but I regret to say I cannot obtain what I need in any reliable form prior to

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1870. I give below the information I have been able to collect:—

Year.	Total Sale in Lbs.	Amount received from Ijardar.	Amount of Rebate on Pass-fee.	Total Income.	Average Consumption per Head in Tolas.
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1870 - "	—	—	—	Rs. 20,737	—
1871 - "	—	—	—	21,048	—
1872 - "	—	—	—	15,513	—
1873 - "	—	—	—	16,925	—
1874 - "	—	—	—	19,494	—
1875 - "	—	—	—	18,178	—
1876 - "	—	—	—	20,878	—
1877 - "	—	—	—	20,636	—
1878 - "	—	—	—	21,886	—
1879-80 - "	6,390	5,510	7,859	13,369	0.60
1880-81 - "	7,260	15,597	16,086	31,683	0.72
1881-82 - "	6,569	13,024	6,470	19,494	0.65
1882-83 - "	4,737	3,682	7,722	11,304	0.47
1883-84 - "	6,567	18,389	10,500	28,889	0.65
1884-85 - "	714	19,001	18,200	37,201	0.86
1885-86 - "	9,048	12,001	5,833	17,834	0.89
1886-87 - "	8,139	12,001	14,700	26,701	0.80
1887-88 - "	8,038	16,601	13,066	29,667	0.79
1888-89 - "	6,811	16,601	11,200	27,801	0.67
1889-90 - "	7,492	16,601	16,683	33,284	0.74

which gives an average for the nine years up to 1878 of Rs. 19,477 per annum, and for the 11 years since of Rs. 25,262. This is, of course, in favour of the present arrangement, but it shows also that if the Government recognised normal consumption of one tola per head per annum had been possible, my average revenue for the 11 years ought to have been Rs. 35,495; in other words, that the peculiar system of farming opium shops in British districts to men who will take the largest amount of opium from the Government stores, has led to an estimated loss to my State of over one lac and Rs. 13,000 in that short period of time.

That this normal consumption in my State was not possible I unhesitatingly assert is due entirely to the smuggling that takes place from British and other adjoining territory. I know of no other avenue by which my people could be supplied; and it is, of course, patent that the more opium that is legally obtained the greater my revenue.

8. As said above, the remedy appears to me to be simple. Let the recognised wants of each district be fixed, and only sufficient opium for the area to be supplied be sold, any demand beyond this being carefully scrutinised. Next, I would suggest that the position of the licensed vendors in both British districts and native States be fixed by a joint settlement with the officials concerned; isolated villages like Chitra, a few miles from Bhavnagar, belonging to the Ahmedabad Collectorate, and Otaria, a Bhavnagar village surrounded by British villages, being prescribed; that the rates at which these vendors can obtain the opium for retail sale be the same everywhere; and, finally, that every case of smuggling or illicit sales be distinctly proven, native States not being required to accept as sufficient proof the simple assertion of any official of illicit sales having occurred, as was required of me in the Shera from your office, No. 1,116, and dated 22nd November 1889, alluded to above.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TAKHTSINGJI,
Maharaja of Bhaunagar.

COPY of LETTER, No. 40, dated 24th April 1890, to F. S. P. LELY, Esquire, C. S. Political Agent, Kathiawar, from His HIGHNESS TAKHTSINGJI, G.C.S.I., Maharaja of Bhaunagar.

SIR,

WITH reference to your endorsement of the 8th August last, calling on me to adduce any instances of the illicit sale of opium in Bhaunagar territory by the farmer of the Gogha district, I have the honour to forward herewith a statement giving the fresh cases tried in my courts of such illegal sales.*

2. In a recent communication from the Assistant Political Agent, Gohelvad, my attention was invited to the falling off in the sale of opium in the Gohelvad Prant in 1888-89, and Major Ferris remarked that "the hypothesis naturally arises that more illicit opium" has passed into the prant than in previous years. "There can, I am sure, be no other conclusion in the matter; but it is not, I submit, through the Gogha Ijardar alone that this smuggling takes place.

3. Interlaced as the prant is with the villages of of Gogha, Dhandhuka, and Ranpur, forming portions of the Ahmedabad Collectorate on one side and with the villages of the Amreli Mahal, belonging to His Highness the Gaikwar, on the other, the strictest vigilance on the part of my police has not succeeded in putting a complete stop to this contraband. It occurs on all sides.

4. The records of the Political Agency will bear testimony to the many and continuous complaints made by my State regarding the loss my State suffers by the arrangements made by the collector of Ahmedabad for the sale of opium in the contiguous Government districts.

In Goghabarra alone retail shops have been permitted in no less than 16 villages, and in Dhandhuka there are a number close on the borders of my territory too. The farm is let to the man who undertakes to sell the greatest quantity irrespective of what must be well known is the normal consumption of the district. If the farmer fails to take the full quantity he stipulated for, he has to make good the loss to Government by payment of the full value of the chests short. He therefore sells all he can at the recognised rate, and the remainder at what he can get. It is more profitable to him to thus reduce his legitimate gain than to bear the entire cost of the opium he cannot legitimately dispose of, but which is forced upon him, if he is to have any chance of obtaining the farm at all.

5. In March 1885 the Commissioner of Customs intimated that a fine of Rs. 1,000 had been imposed on the opium farmer of the Gogha district for vending at rates lower than those fixed by Government, and that the collector had been requested to close the shops where such sales had been effected, and prosecute the salesmen criminally. In October of

the same year the farmer was again fined Rs. 500, "for," in the words of the deputy collector, "selling opium in large quantities to Bhavnagar people at lower rates than those sanctioned by the license." But it was in April of last year that a full acknowledgment was obtained from a Government official of the accuracy of my many representations on this subject.

6. In March 1889 the Abkari constable of Gogha wrote to the Mamlatdar of Gogha complaining that the Abkari constable of Bhaunagar was hindering the sale of opium at Chitra, an isolated Inam village surrounded by my land, and only a few miles away from my capital, containing a population of about 100; but where the sales averaged 2½ maunds per month. After some correspondence my explanation was forwarded to the collector of Admedabad, and by that officer to the Mamlatdar of Gogha, with instructions that he should personally make a searching inquiry into the matter. The Mamlatdar submitted his report on the 23rd April, and the following, I believe, accurately summarizes his finding:—

- That most of the allegations made by my State were substantially true.
- That Bhaunagar people do purchase opium from the retail shops under Gogha.
- That considering the population of the Gogha district, the sale of opium is abnormally large, e.g., at the retail shops of Chitra, Maglana, Kanad, Lakadia, and Kukad.

(d.) That although there are only 20 houses in the village of Chitra on the Gogha-Dhandhuka road, the sale of opium there averaged $2\frac{1}{2}$ maunds per month.

(Memo—The Mamlatdar is in error here in supposing, as he does, that this village is on the Gogha-Dhandhuka road. It is over two miles away from that line of communication.)

(e.) That though the Gogha farmer would not admit abnormally large sales, the Mamlatdar had evidence of sales at four tolas per rupee, and that this cheap rate doubtless attracted purchasers from the Bhavnagar villages.

(f.) That the Gogha farmer showed fictitious accounts, the names of those persons to whom five tolas and upwards were sold not being real.

(g.) That the Gogha farmer sold opium to retail salesmen of the Gogha district at rates lower than those sanctioned by Government, and the retailers again did the same. Instances are quoted which came under the Mamlatdar's own observations.

7. On the strength of this report the Gogha farmer was once more fined; and it seems to me that with this State paper in evidence, it is scarcely necessary for me to say anything more, but I would add the unimpeachable testimony of figures.

One tola per head of population is the average consumption of opium in the Ahmedabad district, and taking the population of the Gogha district to be 29,370 an annual sale of 739 lbs., or, say, six full chests would be expected. But the traffic returns of the Bhavnagar-Gondal-Junagad-Porbandar Railway show that the actual importation into Gogha during 1885-6-7-8 and 9 was 33, 33, 32, 30, and $32\frac{1}{2}$ full chests respectively, being an average of 32 or 26 chests more than Gogha had any need for. In other words, there is here an actual sale of six tolas against a legitimately probable sale of one.

8. I have said above that the Gogha Ijardar was not the only channel by which illicit sales took place. I would now ask that the sales in the Amreli Mahal of His Highness the Gaekwar's territory be also submitted to the test of figures.

The population of that district is 147,468, requiring for a fully sufficient consumption 3,687 lbs., or, say, 27 chests of opium. Compare this with the importation. On the 10th June 1887, 172 half chests were despatched from Sidhpur to Chital; in June 1888 the same quantity; while in 1889 the quantity was increased to 180 half chests, equal to an average of 87 full chests, or 60 chests more than the population could legitimately be expected to use up.

9. In further confirmation I would refer to the information given in the Shero by the Assistant Political Agent, Gohelwad, passed under date the 26th February 1885, to which I have added particulars obtained at page 160 of the Baroda Administration Report ending July 1887, from which it appears that in the Amreli Mahal in—

1878-79	3,310 lbs. were sold	= 0.90 tolas per head.
1879-80	4,165 "	" 1.13 "
1880-81	3,236 "	" 0.88 "
1881-82	7,468 "	" 2.05 "
1882-83	11,514 "	" 3.12 "
1883-84	12,486 "	" 3.38 "
1885-86	11,263 "	" 3.05 "
1886-87	11,294 "	" 3.06 "

which shows in the last four mentioned seasons a sale of over three times the recognised normal consumption. Comparing again the consumption per head of popula-

tion of the Amreli Mahal with three other Mahals of the Baroda State we have in—

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	1882-83.	1883-84.	1885-86.	1886-87.
Navsāri -	0.28	0.34	0.04	0.42
Baroda -	1.14	1.47	1.49	1.47
Amreli -	3.02	3.38	3.05	3.06
Kadi -	0.50	0.71	0.79	0.74

showing a consumption of double over Baroda itself, four times over Kari, and seven times over Nausari. The poppy is grown at Kari and Nausari, and this would account for the low figures for these districts, but why, it might be asked, should Amreli be more than the double of Baroda. The conclusion, I submit, can only be one, there must have been illicit sales.

10. I would take now the consumption in my own State, numbering roughly 403,000 souls—

In 1885-86	-	9,049 lbs.	= 0.89 tola per head.
" 1886-87	-	8,140 "	0.80 "
" 1887-88	-	8,039 "	0.79 "
" 1888-89	-	6,812 "	0.67 "

or an average of 8,010 lbs., or nearly 0.8 tola per head.

11. And next, taking the actual consumption for 1888-89—

	Lbs.
In Bhaunagar -	6,812
" Gogha -	4,550
" Amreli -	12,670

we have a total of 24,032 lbs., which, distributed over the following population—

	Lbs.
Bhaunagar -	430,000
Gogha -	29,370
Amreli -	147,468
In all -	579,838

gives an average consumption of 1.65 tolas per head, and clearly shows that while Government has not been a loser by the sales that have been effected, a point specially mentioned by the Mamlatdar in his report above quoted, my State has suffered in that one year alone a loss of over Rs. 16,000 in revenue as follows:—

Allowing 1.65 tolas as the actual average consumption per head on a population of 403,000, the opium that should have been imported by my State, had contraband not existed, would have been

$$\frac{403,000 \times 1.65}{40 \times 140} = 118.6 \text{ full chests,}$$

while the actual importation has been only 48.6, giving a difference of 70 chests, which at one-third its value, viz., Rs. 233-5-4 per chest equals Rs. 16,333-5-4.

12. I can only add, in conclusion, that I adopted the substance of the draft rules submitted to Government by the Government Resolution, No. 4,963, dated 3rd July 1883. Commissioner of Customs, the main object of which was to effectually prevent the sale of opium in my State by any but licensed vendors; that my officers have been rigid in enforcing those rules, and that with the above particulars before me I see no possibility of any prevention of illicit sales excepting by the one way of Government determining what the needs of a district or State is, and selling only to the vendors of that district a quantity sufficient for the same, requiring full particulars for sales beyond the recognised ordinary consumption.

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STATEMENT of the CASES of SMUGGLING of OPIUM tried by the CITY MAGISTRATE of BHĀUNAGAR from 1886 up to 1890.*

No.	Name of the Accused.	Quantity of Opium and the Place from whence it was brought.		Facts of the Case.	Result of the Case tried.
		Quantity.	Place from whence it was brought.		
1	Parhsotam Madhavji	Lbs. tolas. 3 3 $\frac{9}{18}$	Chitra under Gogha.	The accused was on suspicion apprehended with the opium on his person. He admitted the commission of the offence before the magistrate, and was convicted.	The accused was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 5, or in default thereof to 10 days' imprisonment with hard labour.
2	Nanchand Bechar -	0 7 $\frac{1}{6}$	Do. -	The accused was on suspicion apprehended with the opium on his person. On evidence of having been in possession of the opium not licitly purchased, he was convicted.	The accused was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 2, or in default thereof to eight days' rigorous imprisonment.
3	Bhagwan Ladha -	1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do. -	The accused while returning to Bhavnagar from Chitra, was on suspicion apprehended with the opium in his possession secreted on his person. On evidence he was convicted.	The accused was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 25, or in default thereof to suffer one and a half month's imprisonment with hard labour.
4	Ganpat Gokul -	1 22	Do. -	The accused person in this case was a licensed vendor of opium at Chitra. He was apprehended with the opium on his person. Another person who had accompanied him at that time bolted away. The opium found on the person of the accused was of the kind usually sold in the Gogha district by the licensed vendors of that place. On evidence the accused was convicted.	The accused was sentenced to suffer rigorous imprisonment for two months, and pay a fine of Rs. 50, or in default thereof to further imprisonment for one and a half months with hard labour. •
5	Nagji Bhikabhai -	0 21 $\frac{1}{2}$	Tansa under Gogha.	The accused in this case was apprehended with the opium on his person, he having purchased it at the village of Tansa under Gogha from the licensed vendor of that place. He was on evidence convicted.	The accused was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 50, or in default thereof to suffer imprisonment for two months with hard labour.
6	Nathuji Muluji -	2 39 $\frac{3}{4}$	Chitra under Gogha.	The accused in this case, who was a Darbari sowar, was persuaded by the licensed vendor of Chitra to take the opium away to Bhāvnagar and give it at his house. The sowar was apprehended with the opium on his person, and was convicted on his own admission and other evidence.	The accused was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 50, or to suffer imprisonment with hard labour for two months in default of the fine.
7	1. Bhaya Bhagwan - 2. Jivi, woman, wife of Bhaya Bhagwan. 3. Adamji Kalu.	1 39	Do. -	The accused, Nos. 1 and 2, were apprehended with the opium on their persons, they having purchased it at the licensed vendor's shop at Chitra. On their admission of the commission of the offence and other evidence they were convicted; while the third accused, against whom there was no corroborative evidence, save the statement made by the accused, Nos. 1 and 2, was discharged.	The accused, Nos. 1 and 2, were sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labour.
8	Makan Bhana -	0 9	Do. -	In this case the accused was apprehended with the opium on his person. On his own admission and other evidence he was convicted.	The accused was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 5, or in default thereof to suffer imprisonment for 10 days with hard labour.
9	Gopal Makan -	0 7 $\frac{1}{8}$	Do. -	The accused in this case, who was apprehended with the opium on his person, admitted before the magistrate that he had purchased it from the licensed vendor at Chitra, at four tolas a rupee. He was convicted on his own admission and other evidence.	The accused was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 5, or to suffer 10 days' rigorous imprisonment in default thereof.

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No.	Name of the Accused.	Quantity of Opium and the Place from whence it was brought.		Facts of the Case.	Result of the Case tried.
		Quantity.	Place from whence it was brought.		
10	1. Adu Kasu - 2. Nur Muhammad Giga. 3. Jan Wali.	Lbs. tolas. 1 4	Avania under Gogha.	The accused, Nos. 1 and 2, were, while on their way from Avania to Bhavnagar, apprehended with the opium on their person, they having purchased the same from the licensed vendor's shop at Avania. Accused, No. 3, was charged with having aided and abetted the accused, Nos. 1, and 2, in the commission of the offence of having been in possession of the opium not lawfully purchased.	Accused, No. 1, was convicted and sentenced to suffer imprisonment with hard labour for 20 days; and pay a fine of Rs. 20, or in default thereof to suffer imprisonment for 10 days. Accused, No. 2, was convicted and sentenced to pay Rs. 8, as fine, or in default thereof to suffer imprisonment for 16 days. Accused, No. 3, against whom there was not sufficient evidence, was discharged.
11	Sawa Purbhai -	0 39 $\frac{6}{10}$	Chitra under Gogha.	On information, the house of the accused was searched, from which the opium secreted in different places was found. He admitted the commission of the offence and was convicted.	The accused was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 50, or in default thereof to suffer imprisonment with hard labour for two months.
12	1. Jan Varis - 2. Nur Muhammad Giga.	1 12 $\frac{5}{10}$	Do.	Both the accused were apprehended with the opium on their persons. They admitted having purchased it from the licensed vendor at Chitra, and were convicted.	The accused were sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 25 each, or in default thereof, to suffer simple imprisonment for one month.
13	Waldas Narbheram -	0 16 $\frac{1}{2}$	Do.	The accused in this case was apprehended with the opium on his person, and on evidence was convicted.	The accused was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 10, or in default thereof to suffer simple imprisonment for one month.
14	Jan Varin -	0 18 $\frac{5}{10}$	Do.	The accused while returning from the village of Chitra was apprehended with the opium on his person. He was convicted on evidence.	The accused was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 40, or in default thereof to suffer imprisonment for two months with hard labour.
15	Alibhai Madari -	0 19 $\frac{3}{2}$	Do.	In this case the accused, who was a State servant, was apprehended with the opium on his person. He was convicted on evidence.	The accused was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 50, or in default thereof to suffer imprisonment for a month and a half with hard labour.

APPENDIX XVII.

STATISTICS regarding OPIUM CONSUMERS in the JUNAGADH JAIL.

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[Handed in by Dr. TRIBHOVANDAS MOTICHAND SHAH, Assistant Surgeon, Chief Medical Officer of the JUNAGADH STATE, see Question 24,129.]

LIST of OPIUM EATERS.

1889-90.

Nos.	Names.	Amount of Opium-habit on Admission.	Number of Days during which it was given up.	Amount of Opium consumed.	Amount of Opium that would have been consumed during Incarceration.
		Vals.	Days.	Vals.	Vals.
1	Ali B. Chand -	12	58	347	4,380
2	Hasum Yarnahomed -	4	17	43 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,920
3	Meram Shamji -	12	45	200 $\frac{1}{2}$	17,520
4	Nanji Vira -	4	32	71 $\frac{1}{2}$	960
5	Ganee Ali -	3	29	58 $\frac{1}{2}$	360
6	Kashum Shava -	3	25	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,905
7	Jasa Veja -	6	26	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	2,550
8	Ramji Jiwa -	6	18	66	180
9	Mahomedsha J. -	8	66	154	2,920
10	Rana Juma -	4	35	73	1,460
11	Hasan Jiwa -	4	14	69	730
12	Hasum Juma -	4	69	157 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,250
13	Hamir Dossa -	4	67	153 $\frac{1}{2}$	1,095
14	Dada Bogha -	4	24	49 $\frac{1}{2}$	120
15	Jamal Reman -	3		35 $\frac{1}{2}$	547 $\frac{1}{2}$

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Nos.	Names.	Amount of Opium-habit on Admission.	Number of Days during which it was given up.	Amount of Opium consumed.	Amount of Opium that would have been consumed during Incarceration.
1890-91.					
		Váls.	Days.	Váls.	Váls.
1	Nira Giga - - -	8	30	109½	1,200
2	Kana Hamir - - -	4	45	134	2,190
3	Lakha Kumbha - - -	6	34	100½	1,095
4	Bapoo Reman - - -	4	34	81½	1,460
5	Ramji Hira - - -	4	17	35½	1,460
6	Bhima Lala - - -	2	12	15	365
7	Ali Aboo - - -	1	6	4½	182½
8	Boodhoo - - -	8	39	102½	600
9	Reman H. - - -	3	14	19	547½
10	Jesa Ala - - -	3	26	51½	180
11	Devadan Hamir - - -	8	66	341	20,440
12	Nur Muhammad, I. - - -	10	59	255½	3,650
13	Monji Jiva - - -	5	35	83	1,825
14	Ram Suraj - - -	2	15	17	365
15	Kagunshah - - -	2	13	15	240
1891-92.					
		Váls.	Days.	Váls.	Váls.
1	Ismal Ali - - -	2	9	11	60
2	Maden Bhara - - -	2	9	15	1,450
3	Narbheram Zina - - -	1	5	4	60
4	Ali Sahib - - -	7	28	113	1,064
5	Jamal Amud - - -	2	10	13½	242
6	Amud Umer - - -	6	23	73	726
7	Jesing Mavji - - -	4	10	33	144
1892-93.					
		Váls.	Days.	Váls.	Váls.
1	Hamir Poonja - - -	4	15	36	320
2	Jesing Mavji - - -	3	12	21	1,095
3	Dosoo Fajal - - -	10	21	157	600
4	Anterdas, B. - - -	4	24	62	240

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APPENDIX XVIII.

MEMORANDUM on the ADMINISTRATION of OPIUM REVENUE in the MADRAS PRESIDENCY, by the Hon. C. S. CROLE, Member of the Board of Revenue in the Madras Presidency.

Introductory Remarks.—Prior to the extension of the provisions of India Act I. of 1878 to the Madras Presidency in July 1880, the transport, possession, and sale of opium were not regulated by any special or general enactments. The import and export of the drug by sea was, for a time, governed by the Sea Customs Act VI. of 1844, under which an import duty of Rs. 24 per seer of 80 tolas was fixed, and the export prohibited unless covered by a pass. The provisions of this Act relating to opium were finally repealed by the schedule to Act VIII. of 1868, so that at the latter date importation was free, and exportation was not prohibited by any law then in force. To remedy this state of affairs, the Governor-General in Council issued in June 1870 a notification, under section 23 of Act VI. of 1863, prohibiting exportation of opium, not covered by a pass, by sea from any port in the Madras Presidency, or by land to any foreign or native State. But, as the Act under which the notification was framed was purely a Sea Customs Act, the prohibition embodied in it of export by land was considered of doubtful legality, and India Act XIV. of 1871 was accordingly passed on 31st March 1871 to remove the defect noticed. At the same time, the Indian Tariff Act XIII. of 1871 was framed, re-imposing the old rate of import duty and prohibiting export by sea, except under passes.

2. Even after the issue of the notification of 1870, smuggling of the drug was held penal only when the offenders were caught in the very act of exporting or attempting to export. Mere possession, even when coupled with the expressed intention to smuggle, was not cognizable, and the leniency of the law in this respect was

frequently abused and smuggling carried on with impunity. Complaints had already been received from the Collector of Sea Customs about smuggling being rife, but it was thought that the loss of revenue on this account was trivial, and the contraband trade almost non-existent, in view of the large rewards paid to informers and heavy penalties inflicted on the offenders. It was even doubted whether it would be advantageous to place opium on a similar footing to liquor, and whether any decrease in smuggling and any increase in revenue consequent on prohibiting its sale and manufacture would compensate for the disadvantage of adding to the penal statutes and of providing a ready means of false accusation. The Collector of Sea Customs, on the other hand, once more asserted that the loss of revenue was by no means trifling, as thought by the Board, and adduced conclusive proof from facts and figures in support of his contention that Malwa opium did find its way in large quantities into the Madras Presidency and on to the sea coast, and was even exported thence to foreign countries. This he attributed to the then existing state of the law, which allowed the traffic in opium to an unlimited extent without regulation or supervision, and, as the only remedy to this evil, he persuaded the Board of the necessity for prohibiting by law the transport, manufacture, possession, or sale of opium without license under very heavy penalties. The Government, however, considered that the local production or consumption of the drug was not such as to render any excise measure necessary or advisable, and expressed its opinion that a short enactment prescribing such rates of customs duty on import and export by land or sea, as would protect the Bengal monopoly or the Bombay excise, would suffice. Acts XIII. and XIV. of 1871, already adverted to, supplied the want.

3. In June 1871, the India Government suggested, for consideration of the Madras Government, the

advisability of checking the illicit traffic in Malwa opium and imposing penalties upon possession, without making any arrangements for licit sale or possession, and directed the imposition of an export duty of Rs. 600 per chest of two Indian maunds, irrespective of destination. The duty was assented to, but as the export was almost nil it was inoperative. The Board was, however, opposed to any restrictions on the possession or sale of opium within the Presidency, as it was then thought that the extent of consumption was insignificant.

4. *Inquiries instituted in 1873 as to the extent of the consumption of opium in Godavari and other districts, at the instance of Dr. Cornish, tended to show that the consumption of the drug in four districts at least of the Presidency was very considerable, and that a special enactment restricting the traffic was urgently called for, and it was determined to deal with the subject along with that of the hemp drugs for which a Bill was then under preparation by the Local Government. This, however, was not done as the Government of India had, meanwhile, introduced into the Viceregal Legislative Council a Bill for regulating the cultivation of the poppy, and the possession, transport, and sale of opium, which was ultimately passed into law as Act I. of 1878.*

5. *Law.*—The provisions of the Act penalise the cultivation, manufacture, possession, transport, import, export, or sale of opium otherwise than in accordance with the rules framed by the Local Government, which have the force of law. Breaches of the Act and rules issued thereunder are punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or fine not exceeding Rs. 1,000, or both, together with the confiscation of the articles in respect of which any such offence has been committed. Where fine is imposed, provision is made for alternative imprisonment for not more than six months. All officers of the Excise, Police, Customs, Salt, Opium, or Revenue Department, superior in rank to a peon or constable, authorised by the Local Government in this behalf, are empowered, on receiving information that opium is unlawfully kept in an enclosed place, to enter, seize, and arrest, and are entitled to such rewards as the magistrate in each case may adjudge. Sums of money due to Government under the Act are recoverable, as arrears of Land Revenue, and arrears to farmers from their licensed vendors are also similarly recoverable, provided application is made to that effect to the collector. Vexatious searches, seizures, and arrests under the Act are punishable, and officers making arrests or seizures are required to report particulars to their superior officers within 48 hours.

6. Though the above Act was passed in 1878 it was not extended to the Madras Presidency till 1st July 1880, as negotiations had to be entered into with His Highness the Nizam's Government to prevent the import of opium from his dominions into the Madras Presidency, and preliminaries adjusted to obviate the confusion, hardship, and fraud incidental to absence of organisation at the outset.

7. *Administration.*—The administration of the opium revenue is regulated by India Act I. of 1878 and the rules and notifications issued thereunder. It is under the management of the Collectors of Land Revenue who are subject to the control of the Commissioner of Salt, Abkari, and Separate Revenue—a member of the Board of Revenue. In the Madras district the Act is worked by the Town Abkari Establishment under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner of Salt and Abkari Revenue, Central Division. The Collectors and the Deputy Commissioner are assisted in the carrying out of the Acts and rules by a large preventive establishment maintained in connexion with the Salt and Abkari Administration of the Presidency. Offences against the Act and rules are punished by magistrates of not lower rank than the second class.

8. *The Administration of the Agency Tracts.*—The restrictions imposed by the Opium Act and rules led to a considerable increase in the price of opium in the hill tracts of Vizagapatam. It rose from 5 or 6 tolas per rupee to 2 tolas, and in some parts opium was not procurable at all. This produced serious discontent and distress among the hill people, who consume opium largely, the drug being considered a necessary of life in those fever-stricken localities, and it was therefore found necessary to take steps to enable the hill tribes to obtain sufficient quantities at a reasonable price without material difficulty. Inquiries were instituted in Ganjam and Godavari as to the

system to be adopted in regulating the vend of opium in the hill tracts of those districts. The measures finally accepted for the agency tracts in the three districts are briefly noticed below.

9. *Ganjam.*—In the hill tracts of this district free licenses for sale are granted in localities in which there is a demand. The right of supplying opium to the shopkeepers is assigned by contract to one of the renters in the plains, where a maximum retail selling price of As. 8 per tola is fixed.

10. *Vizagapatam.*—It was suggested that the opium required for consumption in the hill tracts might be imported by Government and stored in depôts centrally situated for sale to the retailers at cost price. It was also proposed that some of the hill mittadars and heads of villages should receive free licenses as retail vendors, that inferior kinds of opium should be sold by Government at 5 tolas a rupee, and that the price of superior qualities be gradually raised, the retail price being fixed at 4 tolas per rupee at first, and subsequently at 3½ tolas. The system of selling opium to the vendors on behalf of Government was introduced on 1st April 1881. The opium imported by Government was sold only in the hill tracts above the ghâts at 4½ or 4 tolas per rupee to the vendors (irrespective of quality) who retailed it at not less than 4 tolas. In the agency tracts below the ghâts the supply of opium was left to private enterprise.

11. In 1882-83 and the next year opium was supplied by Government to licensed vendors at rates varying from 4 to 6 tolas, according to the quality, and retailed by them at from 3½ to 5½ tolas per rupee. Under this arrangement a portion of the duty had to be foregone, but as opium was considered a prophylactic against fever, and as it was thought that the people would be seriously inconvenienced if it were placed beyond their reach it was deemed inadvisable to enhance the price materially until more experience had been gained.

12. In 1884-85 the monopoly was left to private enterprise, and was assigned to a contractor on condition of his supplying the shopkeepers licensed by Government at 3½ tolas per rupee. The retail price rose to 3 tolas per rupee, while the price in the ordinary tracts was 2 to 2½ tolas per rupee. In 1885-86, 1886-87, and 1887-88 the monopoly of supply was disposed of by tenders and the retail price underwent no alteration. As this system was not, however, found to work satisfactorily, the Government undertook the supply from 1888-89, the monopoly of vend being sold in auction in selected localities and the retail price of opium being restricted to 3 tolas per rupee as formerly. This was tried as a temporary measure for one year, but as there was only one bidder in 1889-90, whose terms were unreasonable, the system was continued for another year. The privilege of retail vend in shops was sold by auction in localities where the consumption exceeded 3,000 tolas per annum, fixed fees were paid for shops in places where it varied between 1,000 and 3,000 tolas, and free licenses were issued only for shops the average annual consumption in which was less than 1,000 tolas. The retail selling price was enhanced to 2½ tolas per rupee except in the Gudum Hills and in the Paderu and Malkangiri taluks, where it was fixed at 3 tolas. In 1890-91 and the two succeeding years, the privilege of supplying the agency tracts was disposed of by tender, and the retail price in the excepted tracts enhanced to 2½ tolas a rupee, while the monopoly supplier was required to supply the licensed vendors therein at 3½ tolas per rupee and 3 tolas elsewhere. In view of the complaints made by the agency contractors and shopkeepers, the farms in the ordinary tracts of the district were sold subject to the condition that the price charged by shopkeepers should not exceed 2 tolas and should be not less than 2½ tolas per rupee. During the current year, the specially favourable rates in the excepted tracts have been abolished and the retail price assimilated to that prevailing in the rest of the agency tracts, and as the offers made for the monopoly of supply were exceedingly low the tracts have again been placed under direct Government management.

13. *Godavari.*—The Board proposed that the agency tracts in the district should be treated in the same way as the Vizagapatam agency tracts, and that a remission of the pass-duty should be granted, but the Government considered it unnecessary to undertake the supply as no distress or discontent had been caused in the hill tracts by the rise in the price of opium. The agents of the mittas and heads of villages and such other persons as the collector deemed fit were granted free licenses,

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which, however, did not reduce the price of opium which remained as high as 2½ or 3 tolas per rupee.

14. Between 1884 and 1889 the right of vend in certain villages was sold by auction, while the grant of free licenses for new shops in other parts was prohibited except with the Board's special sanction. Since 1890-91 the privilege has been disposed of by auction on the following conditions :—

- (i.) That the opium sold shall be of good quality.
- (ii.) That not less than 3½ tolas shall be sold for a rupee.
- (iii.) That the maximum quantity to be sold to a single individual be restricted to 6 tolas.

15. Free licenses are also issued by the collector in one or two villages where purchasers may not be forthcoming. Shopkeepers obtain their supply of opium from the taluk renters.

16. It will thus be seen that the system of issuing free licenses for the retail vend of opium is at present in force only in the Ganjam agency tracts and in portions of the Vizagapatam and Godavari agency tracts, in localities in which there is but very little traffic in the drug, and where, owing to difficulty of communication and other causes, it would be a great hardship to deprive the people of opportunities of obtaining this drug when necessary, and that the retail price has been gradually raised from 5 tolas to from 3½ to 2½ tolas per rupee. The opium traffic is carefully watched, and the system has had the effect of discouraging the hereditary habit of using opium on the part of the hill tribes.

17. *Disposal of the Privilege of Vend of Opium in the rest of the Presidency.*—There were no restrictions placed on the sale of opium prior to 1880. The Opium Act, India, I. of 1878, was brought into force throughout the Presidency on 1st July 1880, and the sales of the opium shops took place in the months of July and August following. During the first two years and nine months the monopoly of retail sale of opium was disposed of by auction to the highest bidder at the commencement of each year, the shops being sold singly or in groups at the collector's discretion, except in the hill tracts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, and Godavari. Under this system the purchasers at auction sales were bound to take out licenses and maintain shops at the localities prescribed and to pay besides the purchase money for the monopoly privilege a monthly duty of 1 rupee for each shop. Complaints having been received that the purchasers of shops under the shop-license system sold opium clandestinely in the outlying villages, and there being no check on illicit sales as there was no contractor for definite areas, whose interest it would be to bring to light such malpractices, the shop-license system was abandoned in 1883 in favour of the farming system, under which the privilege of vending opium and poppy-heads and of manufacturing and vending intoxicating drugs was sold by auction for each taluk in the mofussil and for each municipal division in the town of Madras. This system, however, was not extended to the districts of Kistna, Anantapur, North Arcot, and parts of Ganjam and Cuddapah until April following, as the right to vend in shops according to the previously existing arrangements had been sold by collectors before the Government order sanctioning the farming system was communicated to them. In the town of Madras the sale of the farms by municipal divisions having resulted in the farmers underselling one another and lowering the price of opium the whole district is now disposed of as one farm since April 1884. The sale of poppy-heads was in 1885 separated from the opium farms, and separate licenses have since been granted for the privilege on payment of a small fee of 8 annas.

18. *Disposal of the Privilege of Manufacture and Vend of Intoxicating Drugs prepared from Opium.*—The privilege of manufacturing intoxicating drugs from opium is invariably connected with that of vend. From July 1880 to March 1883 the monopoly was put up to auction at the commencement of each year, the shops being sold singly or in groups, and a license fee of rupee one per mensem was levied on each shop in addition to the amount realised at the auction sale. From April 1883 this was superseded by the farming system and the privilege of manufacture and sale of intoxicating drugs was amalgamated with that of vend of opium, but a separate license was, however, held requisite to enable shopkeepers to exercise this right.

19. *Disposal of the Privilege of Vend of Poppy-heads.*—Licenses for the vend of poppy-heads were formerly granted for a period of one year on payment of an annual fee of Rs. 3. From April 1883 to March 1885 the privilege of selling poppy-heads was included in the monopoly rights sold by farms at auction, since which latter date it has been separated and licenses issued on a fixed fee of annas 8 per annum. This arrangement has been made with a view to secure to the public greater facilities for procuring the article which is in general use as a medicine.

20. *Cultivation.*—The cultivation of the poppy in the Presidency may be said to be almost unknown, except on the Nilgiris, where the plant was cultivated to a very small extent by hillmen prior to 1880, but it has since been prohibited.

21. *Manufacture.*—The manufacture of opium is prohibited, but that of intoxicating drugs from opium is permitted under license from the collector, and is conjointly disposed of with the privilege of vend of the same.

21. *Possession.*—Any person may possess 1 tola of preparations of opium or intoxicating drugs used in smoking or 3 tolas of raw opium, or preparations thereof used for purposes other than smoking, and 5 seers of poppy-heads purchased from Government, or a farmer licensed vendor, or medical practitioner, but no person can possess a greater quantity unless he is a licensed importer, a farmer, or licensed vendor or medical practitioner, or unless specially authorised by the collector with the Board's sanction, in which case he may possess not more than 1 seer of opium or intoxicating drugs. Under a license from the collector a medical practitioner may have, for purely medicinal purposes, 1 seer of opium, 1 seer of intoxicating drug, and 10 seers of poppy-heads, or such large quantities as the Board may in special cases authorise. In the agency tracts of Ganjam and Vizagapatam the maximum quantity which may be possessed is 3 tolas, while it is fixed at 6 tolas in the agency tracts of Godavari.

23. *Sale.*—The sale of any quantity exceeding 1 tola of any preparation of opium or intoxicating drugs used in smoking, or of any quantity exceeding 3 tolas of raw opium or preparations thereof used for purposes other than smoking, or of poppy-heads exceeding 5 seers is treated as wholesale, and the sale of any less quantity as retail. Licensed vendors were formerly permitted to sell by retail at one time to any person up to 3 tolas of opium or intoxicating drugs, and it was but recently that the above limit was reduced to 1 tola in the case of preparations used for smoking, as the result of certain representations made by the society for the suppression of the opium traffic.

24. *Sale by Wholesale.*—A licensed importer or a farmer may sell by wholesale any quantity of opium or poppy-heads to a farmer or a licensed vendor. Licensed vendors also may sell by wholesale to other licensed vendors or farmers, subject to the limitation that an independent licensed vendor cannot sell by wholesale to a dependent licensed vendor in another farm. In all cases of sale to dependent licensed vendors, the seller must satisfy himself that the former has the consent of the renter on whom he is dependent. Wholesale issues may be made to licensed medical practitioners also, but the quantity so delivered must in no case exceed that which they are entitled to possess under the licenses held by them. Provision is also made in the rules for the supply of opium to farmers, independent licensed vendors, or medical practitioners by Government at collectors' offices.

25. *Sale by Retail.*—Opium, intoxicating drugs, or poppy-heads may be retailed by licensed vendors or licensed medical practitioners for medicinal purposes only. Licensed importers are disqualified from retailing opium or poppy-heads, and retail sale at collectors' offices is also prohibited.

26. *Import.*—The opium rules contemplate the import of opium on account of Government, as also by private agencies. Persons desirous of importing opium or poppy-heads are permitted to do so under a license obtained from the Board of Revenue through the collector of the district into which it is intended to import it. All opium must be procured from Indore on production of the license granted by the Board, and must be imported only by such route as may have been prescribed by the Board in the license, and only under the authority of a pass from the opium agent at

Indore certifying to the payment of an import duty of Rs. 700 per chest of 140½ lb. Consignments so imported require to be verified by the collector or other officer in charge of excise revenue of the district on their arrival, and to be stored in a registered place of deposit, whence they cannot be removed except under transport permits. The minimum quantity for which a license is granted is restricted to half a chest, and the quantity covered by a license is never allowed to exceed what can be cleared in one consignment. Imports, other than those made under the authority of the opium agent, Indore, are subject to a duty of Rs. 24 per seer (80 tolas), leviable under section 5 of the Indian Tariff Act XI. of 1882. A concession has, however, been recently made in the case of import for *bona fide* private consumption of half a tola of opium or preparations thereof by travellers crossing from French into the British territory.

No duty is levied at Indore on poppy-heads imported into this Presidency.

27. *Export.*—Opium and poppy-heads may be exported on account of Government. Exports of opium to Mysore, Travancore, Cochin, Banganapalli, Sandur, Pudukkottai, and the French Settlements in the Madras Presidency are permitted if made under the licenses of the respective residents or political agents of these places. But opium booked through from other parts of India by rail to any of these States may be imported and exported if covered by a pass issued by the opium agent, Indore, or granted under the Bombay opium rules. Export of opium to places other than these is strictly prohibited.

28. *Transport.*—Licensed importers, farmers, and licensed vendors wishing to transport opium from one district to another have to obtain a pass in the prescribed form for each consignment from the officer in charge of the opium revenue of the district from which such opium is to be transported. Each package is stamped in the presence of the officer granting the pass with his official seal. No pass is granted unless the person applying for it produces written permission for so applying from the officer in charge of the opium revenue of the district to which the opium is consigned. A copy of every transport pass is sent to the last-named excise officer, who examines the consignment on its arrival and passes it on to the consignee if satisfied that the packages have not been tampered with. These rules apply *mutatis mutandis* to consignments from one taluk to another, if farmed to different renters, with the difference that in this case the Tahsildar of the respective localities is the officer who grants passes and examines consignments. As a preventive measure against possible fraud, certain officers of the Revenue, Excise, and Police Departments are authorised to examine and verify such consignments while in transit.

29. *Confiscation.*—Opium, intoxicating drugs, and poppy-heads, in respect of which any offence has been committed, are liable to confiscation, together with the vessels, packages, coverings, animals, and conveyance used in the commission of the offence, and when the offence is against the rules as to sale the whole of the opium in the possession of the offender is so liable. Opium declared to be liable to confiscation in cases where the offender has been acquitted, and opium not in the possession of any person which cannot be satisfactorily accounted for can also be confiscated. Opium so confiscated is ordered to be immediately destroyed if pronounced unfit for consumption by the civil surgeon or chemical examiner. If fit for use, it is disposed of by sale to licensed vendors for a price not below the duty leviable thereon. Intoxicating drugs confiscated are destroyed, and poppy-heads are disposed of according to the directions of the excise officer of the district. Whenever confiscation is ordered, the owner of the property confiscated may be given the option of paying in lieu of confiscation such fine as in each case may be determined.

30. *Reward.*—When an offender has been convicted under the Act or opium confiscated, a reward not exceeding the value of the property confiscated and the amount of the fine imposed may be granted to the persons who have contributed towards such conviction or confiscation. The rule has had a wholesome influence on the detection of offences under the Act, and there are cases on record where liberal rewards have been sanctioned to informers and other co-operators in the repression of offences.

31. *Shops.*—The following statement shows the number of licenses issued for the sale of opium and intoxicating drugs during the last 13 years:—

1880-81	1,208
1881-82	1,021
1882-83	1,091
1883-84	1,107
1884-85	1,039
1885-86	1,062
1886-87	1,163
1887-88	1,157
1888-89	1,172
1889-90	1,052
1890-91	1,050
1891-92	1,034
1892-93	1,004

It will thus be observed that there has been a steady decrease in the number of licenses issued for the last five years, and that the number last year was conspicuously low as compared with the figures on record of any of the previous years. It may also be noted that no less than 694 of the licensed shops are situated in the four northern districts of the Presidency.

32. No considerations of pushing sales or raising revenue are allowed to operate in fixing the number of shops, and the sole and invariable criterion for determining the number is the actual demand for the drug. Consumption of opium in any shape on premises licensed for sale is strictly prohibited, and every care is taken to see that such premises are not used as rendezvous of bad characters. Artificial stimulus to the consumption of the drug is provided against by the prohibition of sales by barter. Honesty in the daily transactions of the shopkeeper is secured, and fraud controlled and frustrated by the frequent inspection of shops by the land revenue and excise officers, and the compulsory maintenance of accounts in a prescribed form. These precautions effectually prevent increase in the number of shops beyond the reasonable requirements of consumers, and explain the continued diminution adverted to above.

33. *Revenue.*—The opium revenue prior to 1880 was realised from duty on import and export. Since the rules framed under the present Act came into force in July 1880 it is derived from the following sources:—

- (i.) A pass duty of Rs. 5 per lb. on Malwa opium imported into the Presidency.
- (ii.) The sale, by auction, of the right to sell opium and to manufacture and vend intoxicating drugs prepared from opium.
- (iii.) Fees levied on licenses for the sale of poppy-heads.
- (iv.) Fines and forfeitures.

34. Figures for the opium revenue for the last 13 years are given in the appendix to this note. It may be remarked that the four northern districts mainly contribute to the revenue under the above heads.

35. *Consumption.*—The opinion was long prevalent that there was little or no consumption in the Presidency. But searching inquiries instituted about the year 1874 dispelled this idea and showed that it did not represent the actual facts, but that, on the other hand, there was a considerable consumption of opium in the Presidency, especially in the four northern districts of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Godavari, and Kistna.

36. A few months back a reference was made to the Board as to the alleged existence of a trade in children's opium pills, and the poisoning of many children by its use. It was found that the sale of such pills was confined to a few scattered places in the Presidency. Inquiries further went to show that the administration of opium in very small quantities to children purely medicinally and as an antidote to infantile disorders, or as a soporific, was not uncommon, but that in no case was it attended with any injurious consequences.

(Signed) W. O. HORNE,
Acting Secretary.

Board of Revenue (Separate Revenue),
Madras, 30th November 1893.

APP. XVIII.
Madras.

APP. XVIII.
Madras.

ANNEXURE A.

STATEMENT No. 1.—Showing NUMBER of SHOPS for the SALE of OPIUM, INTOXICATING DRUGS, and POPPY-HEADS.

Districts.	1880-81.				1881-82.				1882-83.				1883-84.			
	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total.	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total.	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total.	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Ganjam -	64	13	—	77	62	13	—	75	76	18	—	94	102	20	—	122
Vizagapatam -	130	6	—	136	87	21	—	108	155	24	—	179	164	16	—	180
Godavari -	448	—	—	448	435	19	—	454	468	20	—	488	453	8	—	461
Kistna -	67	17	—	84	72	17	—	89	69	10	—	79	66	11	—	77
Nellore -	20	5	1	26	14	2	—	16	13	—	—	13	13	—	—	13
Cuddapah -	14	14	14	42	21	3	—	24	14	—	—	14	17	4	—	21
Anantapur -	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	5	4	—	—	4	6	—	—	6
Bellary -	22	—	3	25	12	—	1	13	10	—	2	12	9	3	2	14
Kurnool -	53	2	—	55	14	3	—	17	13	5	—	18	14	3	—	17
Madras -	26	15	4	45	20	14	1	35	19	15	3	37	18	16	1	35
Chingleput -	8	3	1	12	8	5	—	13	6	4	—	10	9	4	2	15
North Arcot -	72	57	—	129	11	6	—	17	11	6	—	17	11	6	—	17
South Arcot -	7	1	5	13	13	3	1	17	10	4	—	14	9	4	2	15
Tanjore -	27	—	2	29	22	3	2	27	8	6	2	16	10	8	3	21
Trichinopoly -	11	12	—	23	9	9	—	18	8	9	—	17	6	9	—	15
Madura -	5	—	—	5	5	5	—	10	3	4	—	7	3	—	—	3
Tinnevely -	9	2	—	11	13	3	—	16	7	3	—	10	6	3	—	9
Coimbatore -	11	2	—	13	18	4	—	22	14	4	—	18	22	—	—	22
Nilgiris -	10	—	—	10	4	—	—	4	4	—	—	4	4	—	—	4
Salem -	18	12	—	30	15	8	—	23	16	8	—	24	16	6	—	22
South Canara -	6	1	—	7	5	2	—	7	4	2	—	6	2	—	—	2
Malabar -	13	5	—	18	13	3	—	16	14	3	—	17	26	—	—	26
Total -	1,041	167	30	1,238	878	143	5	1,026	946	145	7	1,098	986	121	10	1,117

STATEMENT No. 1.—Showing NUMBER of SHOPS for the SALE of OPIUM, INTOXICATING DRUGS, and POPPY-HEADS—continued.

Districts.	1884-85.				1885-86.				1886-87.				1887-88.		
	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total.	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total.	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total, exclusive of Poppy- head Licenses.	Opium and Intoxicating Drugs.	Poppy-heads.	Total.
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Ganjam	73	9	—	82	89	9	—	98	82	11	—	93	83	—	38
Vizagapatam	167	18	—	185	175	18	—	193	209	24	—	233	241	—	241
Godavari	456	10	—	466	380	8	—	388	412	12	—	424	421	—	421
Kistna	68	3	—	71	71	3	—	74	80	5	—	85	78	—	78
Nellore	13	—	—	13	13	—	—	15	14	—	—	14	20	—	20
Cuddapah	19	4	1	24	17	—	—	17	24	1	—	25	20	—	20
Anantapur	6	—	—	6	9	—	—	9	9	—	—	9	10	—	10
Bellary	7	3	2	12	7	2	2	11	10	2	—	12	14	3	17
Kurnool	21	2	—	23	21	1	—	22	19	1	—	20	20	—	20
Madras	15	15	8	38	12	13	1	26	13	14	—	27	25	3	28
Chingleput	9	3	2	14	8	4	—	12	7	3	—	10	10	—	10
North Arcot	18	8	—	26	29	9	—	38	29	8	—	37	42	4	46
South Arcot	10	2	3	15	11	4	5	20	11	4	—	15	10	1	11
Tanjore	13	5	1	19	16	6	—	22	15	8	—	23	23	1	24
Trichinopoly	6	9	—	15	7	9	1	17	8	9	—	17	17	1	18
Madura	2	3	1	6	6	4	—	10	13	4	—	17	23	1	24
Tinnevely	5	3	—	8	10	3	—	13	15	3	—	18	12	—	12
Coimbatore	20	4	—	24	19	2	—	21	20	3	—	23	25	—	25
Nilgiris	4	—	—	4	8	1	—	9	4	—	—	4	4	—	4
Salem	19	4	—	23	24	4	—	28	22	4	—	26	28	—	28
South Canara	3	2	—	5	3	2	—	5	4	2	—	6	6	—	6
Malabar	28	—	—	28	25	—	—	25	25	—	—	25	25	—	25
Total	982	107	18	1,107	960	102	11	1,073	1,045	118	*12	1,163	1,157	14	1,171

* District details not available.

APP. XVIII.
Madras.

STATEMENT No. 1.—Showing NUMBER of SHOPS for the SALE of OPIUM, INTOXICATING DRUGS, and POPPY-HEADS—continued.

Districts.	1888-89.			1889-90.			1890-91.			1891-92.			1892-93.			
	Opium and In-toxicating Drugs.	Poppy-heads.	Total.	Opium and In-toxicating Drugs.	Poppy-heads.	Total.	Opium and In-toxicating Drugs.	Poppy-heads.	Total.	Opium and In-toxicating Drugs.	Poppy-heads.	Total.	Opium.	Intoxi-cating Drugs.	Poppy-heads.	Total.
	33.	34.	35.	36.	37.	38.	39.	40.	41.	42.	43.	44.	45.	46.	47.	48.
Ganjam.	107	—	107	86	—	86	74	—	74	88	—	88	70	18	—	88
Vizagapatam.	198	—	198	116	—	116	119	—	119	116	—	116	91	21	—	112
Godavari.	433	—	433	441	—	441	446	—	446	420	—	420	419	—	—	419
Kistna.	77	—	77	80	—	80	77	—	77	75	—	75	70	5	—	75
Nellore.	85	—	85	30	—	30	26	—	26	30	—	30	23	3	—	26
Cuddapah.	21	—	21	19	—	19	22	—	22	22	—	22	19	3	—	22
Anantapur.	10	—	10	6	—	6	8	—	8	8	—	8	10	—	—	10
Bellary.	12	1	13	8	1	9	10	2	12	11	1	12	5	2	2	9
Kurnool.	24	—	24	24	—	24	24	—	24	22	—	22	21	1	—	22
Madras.	31	8	39	23	9	32	21	10	31	20	11	31	10	8	10	28
Chingleput.	41	—	41	15	—	15	11	—	11	11	—	11	7	5	2	14
North Arcot.	42	7	49	44	—	44	41	14	55	41	6	47	32	10	6	48
South Arcot.	11	—	11	12	—	12	13	2	15	16	—	16	12	1	—	13
Tanjore.	23	—	23	23	—	23	24	—	24	23	—	23	22	—	3	25
Trichinopoly.	17	1	18	13	2	15	18	3	21	14	3	17	6	9	5	20
Madura.	21	—	21	12	—	12	8	—	8	16	1	17	8	4	1	13
Tinnevelly.	16	—	16	11	—	11	17	—	17	18	—	18	12	1	—	13
Coimbatore.	25	—	25	24	—	24	24	—	24	24	—	24	19	2	—	21
Nilgiris.	4	—	4	4	—	4	5	—	5	4	4	4	4	—	—	4
Salem.	22	2	24	27	3	30	31	4	35	23	—	27	17	4	1	22
South Canara.	4	—	4	2	—	2	4	—	4	4	—	4	3	1	—	4
Malabar.	28	—	28	26	—	26	27	—	27	28	—	28	26	—	—	26
Total.	1,172	19	1,191	1,052	31	1,083	1,050	45	1,095	1,034	37	1,071	906	98	30	1,034

STATEMENT No. 2.—Showing the Consumption of OPIUM, INTOXICATING DRUGS, and POPPY-HEADS (in Seers).

Districts.	1880-81.				1881-82.				1882-83.				1883-84.			
	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total.	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total.	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total.	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Ganjam -	2,593	67	—	2,660	3,129	97	—	3,226	2,237	105	—	2,342	2,907	212	—	3,119
Vizagapatam -	4,673	4	—	4,677	4,362	139	—	4,501	9,645	275	—	9,920	8,002	138	—	8,140
Godavari -	14,874	—	—	14,874	27,808	316	—	28,124	19,247	113	—	19,360	19,129	360	—	19,489
Kistna -	627	19	—	646	2,044	45	—	2,089	1,995	63	—	2,058	1,942	318	—	2,260
Nellore -	97	14	16	127	9	—	—	9	183	—	—	183	161	—	—	161
Cuddapah -	211	1	7	219	363	—	—	363	420	—	—	420	306	73	—	379
Anantapur -	—	—	—	—	93	—	—	93	86	—	—	86	94	—	—	94
Bellary -	214	—	3	217	312	—	69	381	309	—	13	322	240	122	6	368
Kurnool -	253	11	—	264	406	24	—	430	428	45	—	473	262	27	—	289
Madras -	520	123	119	762	1,734	1,619	625	3,978	463	271	179	913	707	413	479	1,599
Chingleput -	189	—	—	189	40	34	—	74	34	28	—	62	55	13	5	73
North Arcot -	442	—	—	442	525	—	—	525	233	119	—	352	212	136	—	348
South Arcot -	72	2	2	76	120	8	1	129	51	18	—	69	65	19	—	84
Tanjore -	504	—	98	602	392	184	56	632	97	66	25	188	102	50	35	187
Trichinopoly -	139	69	—	208	192	138	—	330	170	149	—	319	96	118	—	214
Madura -	254	—	—	254	68	50	—	118	52	72	—	124	62	102	1	165
Tinnevely -	28	—	—	28	105	10	—	115	35	21	—	56	44	15	—	59
Coimbatore -	133	9	—	142	281	10	—	291	219	28	—	247	202	46	—	248
Nilgiris -	257	—	—	257	144	—	—	144	199	—	—	199	231	—	—	231
Salem -	169	20	—	189	265	52	—	317	177	73	—	250	198	106	—	304
South Canara -	59	1	—	60	99	7	—	106	83	16	—	99	66	—	—	66
Malabar -	344	—	—	344	929	—	—	929	550	—	—	550	412	—	—	412
Total -	26,652	340	245	27,237	43,420	2,733	751	46,904	36,913	1,462	217	38,592	35,495	2,268	526	38,289

APP. XVIII,
Madras.

STATEMENT No. 2.—Showing the CONSUMPTION of OPIUM, INTOXICATING DRUGS, and POPPY-HEADS (in Seers)—continued.

Districts.	1884-85.				1885-86.				1886-87.				1887-88.				1888-89.			
	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total.	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total.	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total, exclusive of Poppy- heads.	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total, exclusive of Poppy- heads.	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total, exclusive of Poppy- heads.
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37
Ganjam -	1,642	93	—	1,735	1,798	78	—	1,876	1,806	96	—	1,902	1,801	102	—	1,903	1,556	87	—	1,643
Vizagapatam -	7,704	178	—	7,882	8,102	158	—	8,260	7,543	149	—	7,692	8,250	185	—	8,435	7,334	132	—	7,466
Godavari -	20,576	140	—	20,716	11,334	66	—	11,400	17,762	103	—	17,865	16,368	90	—	16,458	17,469	91	—	17,560
Kistna -	2,249	74	—	2,323	5,192	61	—	5,253	2,075	73	—	2,148	1,778	87	—	1,865	1,985	94	—	2,079
Nellore -	147	2	—	149	137	—	—	137	157	—	—	157	187	—	—	187	221	12	—	233
Cuddapah -	312	56	23	391	375	—	—	375	380	58	—	438	308	51	—	359	336	45	—	381
Anantapur -	72	—	—	72	75	—	—	75	67	—	—	67	84	—	—	84	98	—	—	98
Bellary -	258	105	26	389	145	75	20	240	133	162	—	235	174	61	—	235	185	59	—	244
Kurnool -	346	23	—	369	341	20	—	361	323	15	—	338	395	13	—	408	406	17	—	423
Madras -	364	262	40	666	449	320	22	791	367	292	—	659	326	489	—	815	368	465	—	833
Chingleput -	106	15	1	122	81	14	—	95	32	18	—	50	36	24	—	60	34	25	—	59
North Arcot -	328	126	—	454	461	190	—	651	371	147	—	518	351	100	—	451	372	106	—	478
South Arcot -	40	14	2	56	44	15	1	60	66	6	—	72	122	5	—	127	70	—	—	70
Tanjore -	143	59	39	241	143	59	—	202	177	84	—	261	200	57	—	257	150	89	—	239
Trichinopoly -	103	116	—	219	93	112	36	241	107	97	—	204	157	80	—	237	155	97	—	252
Madura -	62	92	4	158	73	97	—	170	78	158	—	236	70	134	—	204	81	118	—	199
Tinnevely -	44	22	—	66	46	20	—	66	59	9	—	68	68	13	—	81	62	7	—	69
Coimbatore -	179	24	—	203	213	16	—	229	207	20	—	227	232	16	—	248	234	10	—	234
Nilgiris -	197	—	—	197	198	—	—	198	188	—	—	188	214	—	—	214	222	—	—	222
Salem -	237	80	—	317	185	109	—	294	224	95	—	319	217	59	—	276	180	73	—	253
Malabar -	73	—	—	73	66	8	—	74	57	12	—	69	58	13	—	71	55	12	—	67
South Canara -	504	—	—	504	355	—	—	355	376	—	—	376	337	—	—	337	419	—	—	419
Total -	35,686	1,481	135	37,302	29,906	1,418	79	31,403	32,555	1,534	*158	34,089	31,838	1,579	*156	33,412	31,982	1,539	*184	33,521

* District details not available.

STATEMENT No. 2.—Showing the CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM, INTOXICATING DRUGS, and POPPY-HEADS (in Seers).—continued.

Districts.	1889-90.				1890-91.				1891-92.				1892-93.			
	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total, exclusive of Poppy- heads.	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total, exclusive of Poppy- heads.	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total, exclusive of Poppy- heads.	Opium.	Intoxi- cating Drugs.	Poppy- heads.	Total, exclusive of Poppy- heads.
	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53
Ganjam	1,357	95	—	1,452	1,549	86	—	1,635	1,705	118	—	1,823	1,570	122	—	1,692
Vizagapatam	7,022	129	—	7,151	7,920	159	—	8,079	7,169	149	—	7,318	7,629	294	—	7,923
Godavari	17,624	85	—	17,709	21,632	108	—	21,790	15,801	80	—	15,881	18,729	123	—	18,852
Kistna	2,359	94	—	2,453	2,277	68	—	2,345	2,158	81	—	2,239	2,333	63	—	2,396
Nellore	225	16	—	241	214	13	—	227	240	15	—	255	185	13	—	198
Cuddapah	302	38	—	340	248	35	—	283	268	27	—	295	273	34	—	307
Anantapur	92	—	—	92	153	—	—	153	166	—	—	166	96	—	—	96
Bellary	255	42	—	297	203	28	—	231	215	44	—	259	193	34	—	227
Kurnool	366	10	—	376	387	14	—	401	426	18	—	444	376	20	—	396
Madras	336	503	—	839	333	499	—	832	346	293	—	639	278	556	—	834
Chingleput	73	19	—	92	69	17	—	86	52	16	—	68	73	9	—	82
North Arcot	422	107	—	529	563	112	—	675	370	170	—	540	429	94	—	533
South Arcot	84	7	—	91	129	—	—	129	169	—	—	169	120	2	—	122
Tanjore	178	64	—	242	99	93	—	192	154	269	—	523	198	85	—	283
Trichinopoly	170	89	—	259	138	85	—	223	74	100	—	174	131	88	—	219
Madura	66	98	—	164	61	64	—	125	139	161	—	300	184	86	—	270
Tinnevely	42	16	—	58	40	22	—	62	44	22	—	66	75	1	—	76
Coimbatore	301	19	—	320	245	20	—	265	286	20	—	306	358	16	—	374
Nilgiris	256	—	—	256	217	—	—	217	184	—	—	184	188	—	—	188
Salem	194	67	—	261	180	88	—	268	189	79	—	268	281	39	—	320
South Canara	60	13	—	73	50	12	—	62	56	10	—	66	67	8	—	75
Malabar	317	—	—	317	449	—	—	449	1,058	—	—	1,058	1,000	—	—	1,000
Total	32,101	1,511	*260	33,612	37,306	1,523	*138	38,729	31,269	1,773	*289	33,041	34,766	1,687	*213	36,453

* District details not available.

APP. XVIII.
Madras.

STATEMENT No. 3.—Showing the GROSS RECEIPTS of EXCISE OPIUM REVENUE of the PRESIDENCY as per
ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL'S STATEMENT of COLLECTIONS.

Years.						Receipts from		
						License Fees.	Pass Duty.	Total.
						Rx.	Rx.	Rx.
1883-84	-	-	-	-	-	24,527	45,458	69,985
1884-85	-	-	-	-	-	25,662	41,376	67,038
1885-86	-	-	-	-	-	35,660	40,492	76,152
1886-87	-	-	-	-	-	31,088	35,945	66,983
1887-88	-	-	-	-	-	27,561	38,532	66,093
1888-89	-	-	-	-	-	26,167	41,707	67,874
1889-90	-	-	-	-	-	26,235	38,480	64,715
1890-91	-	-	-	-	-	34,753	43,322	78,075
1891-92	-	-	-	-	-	33,298	38,965	72,263
1892-93	-	-	-	-	-	30,441	40,305	70,746

APP. XVIII.
Madras.

STATEMENT No. 4.—Showing the REVENUE (CURRENT DEMAND) derived from OPIUM, INTOXICATING DRUGS, and POPPY-HEADS—continued.

Districts.	1889-90.				1890-91.				1891-92.				1892-93.			
	License Fees.	Pass Duty.	Total.	Rs.	License Fees.	Pass Duty.	Total.	Rs.	License Fees.	Pass Duty.	Total.	Rs.	License Fees.	Pass Duty.	Total.	Rs.
	17	18	19		20	21	22		23	24	25		26	27	28	
Ganjam	Rs. 19,600	—	Rs. 19,600	Rs. 21,875.	Rs. 21,875.	—	Rs. 21,875.	Rs. 22,970	Rs. 22,970	—	Rs. 22,970	Rs. 25,772	Rs. 25,772	—	Rs. 25,772	Rs. 25,772
Vizagapatam	42,530	84,700	1,27,230	72,228	84,700	—	1,56,928	1,44,395	55,495	88,900	1,44,395	82,453	82,453	84,000	1,66,453	1,66,453
Godavari	66,945	1,76,050	2,42,995	85,610	2,07,900	—	2,93,510	2,79,877	88,077	1,91,800	2,79,877	93,128	93,128	1,32,700	2,75,828	2,75,828
Kistna	19,372	1,27,300	46,672	22,893	26,600	—	49,493	47,258	28,358	18,900	47,258	25,365	25,365	—	50,765	50,765
Nellore	4,999	—	4,999	4,587	—	—	4,587	6,059	6,059	—	6,059	4,511	4,511	—	4,511	4,511
Cuddapah	9,005	1,050	10,055	9,521	—	—	9,521	9,259	9,259	—	9,259	5,553	5,553	—	5,553	5,553
Anantapur	1,883	—	1,883	2,342	—	700	3,042	2,965	2,965	—	2,965	3,600	3,600	—	3,600	3,600
Bellary	6,127	1,400	7,527	6,988	2,450	—	9,438	8,581	6,851	3,150	10,001	5,204	5,204	1,400	6,604	6,604
Kurnool	7,857	1,400	9,257	8,592	—	—	8,592	8,386	8,386	—	8,386	6,190	6,190	—	6,190	6,190
Madras	18,514	44,100	62,614	26,205	52,500	—	78,705	19,005	19,005	53,200	72,205	14,085	14,085	61,600	75,585	75,585
Chingleput	10,588	—	10,588	9,205	—	—	9,205	4,357	4,357	—	4,357	1,809	1,809	—	1,809	1,809
North Arcot	7,772	—	7,772	16,487	—	—	16,487	16,877	16,877	—	16,877	10,847	10,847	—	10,847	10,847
South Arcot	1,789	—	1,789	2,449	—	—	2,449	2,302	2,302	—	2,302	2,478	2,478	—	2,478	2,478
Tanjore	8,566	—	8,566	5,394	—	—	5,394	4,842	4,842	—	4,842	5,844	5,844	—	5,844	5,844
Trichinopoly	5,318	—	5,318	6,495	—	—	6,495	4,397	4,397	—	4,397	5,628	5,628	—	5,628	5,628
Madura	4,806	—	4,806	5,890	—	—	5,890	7,052	7,052	—	7,052	6,109	6,109	—	6,109	6,109
Tinnevely	3,000	—	3,000	3,980	—	—	3,980	3,829	3,829	—	3,829	3,307	3,307	—	3,307	3,307
Coimbatore	4,305	—	4,305	7,207	—	—	7,207	7,770	7,770	—	7,770	6,770	6,770	—	6,770	6,770
Nilgiris	5,280	—	5,280	6,120	—	—	6,120	6,600	6,600	—	6,600	4,371	4,371	—	4,371	4,371
Salem	6,661	—	6,661	7,378	—	—	7,378	5,271	5,271	—	5,271	5,272	5,272	—	5,272	5,272
South Canara	1,185	700	1,885	1,325	—	700	2,025	1,120	1,120	700	1,820	1,305	1,305	700	2,005	2,005
Malabar	11,416	—	11,416	15,206	—	—	15,206	18,197	18,197	—	18,197	21,550	21,550	—	21,550	21,550
Total	2,62,468	3,36,700	5,99,168	3,47,977	3,75,550	—	7,23,527	3,30,139	3,30,139	3,56,650	6,86,789	3,41,351	3,41,351	3,55,600	6,96,951	6,96,951
Pass duty on opium imported into the Presidency.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pass duty on opium imported into Cochin and Travancore.	—	45,825	45,825	—	33,100	—	33,100	—	—	30,600	30,600	—	—	35,200	28,200	28,200
Grand Total	—	—	6,44,993	—	—	—	7,56,627	—	—	—	7,17,389	—	—	—	7,25,151	7,25,151

* Details for each district are not available.

STATEMENT No. 5.—Showing the NUMBER of SMUGGLING and other OFFENCES, and of PERSONS convicted under the OPIUM ACT.

Districts.	1882-83.				1883-84.				1884-85.				1885-86.			
	Smuggling Opium.	Other Offences.	Total Convictions.		Smuggling Opium.	Other Offences.	Total Convictions.		Smuggling Opium.	Other Offences.	Total Convictions.		Smuggling Opium.	Other Offences.	Total Convictions.	
			Cases.	Persons.			Cases.	Persons.			Cases.	Persons.			Cases.	Persons.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Ganjam -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	13	-	-	21	25
Vizagapatam -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	33	-	-	28	29
Godavari -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	42	-	-	32	37
Kistna -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	-	-	3	6
Nellore -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Cuddapah -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	1	1
Anantapur -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Bellary -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	1	1
Kurnool -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
Madras -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	2
Chingleput -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1	1	-	-	1	1
North Arcot -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	-	-	3	3
South Arcot -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tanjore -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
Trichinopoly -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1
Madura -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tinnevely -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coimbatore -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Nilgiris -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Salem -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	-	-	1	1
South Canara -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malabar -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	4	4
Total -	4	75	79	87	2	76	78	88	-	-	96	124	-	-	101	115

* Smuggling 24 tolas of opium from Bangalore.
 NOTE.—Details of columns 2 to 9 and particulars for columns 10, 11, and 14 and 15 are not available by districts.

APP. XVIII.
Madras.

STATEMENT No. 5.—Showing the NUMBER of SMUGGLING and other OFFENCES, and of PERSONS convicted under the OPIUM ACT—continued.

Districts.	1886-87.				1887-88.				1888-89.				1889-90.			
	Smuggling Opium.	Other Offences.	Total Convictions.		Smuggling Opium.	Other Offences.	Total Convictions.		Smuggling Opium.	Other Offences.	Total Convictions.		Smuggling Opium.	Other Offences.	Total Convictions.	
			Cases.	Persons.			Cases.	Persons.			Cases.	Persons.			Cases.	Persons.
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
Ganjam -	-	-	13	16	-	-	10	14	-	-	21	25	4	15	19	20
Vizagapatam -	-	-	20	20	-	-	20	21	-	-	22	23	-	25	25	25
Godavari -	-	-	21	23	-	-	25	25	-	-	27	28	2	11	13	13
Kistna -	-	-	2	4	-	-	3	4	-	-	5	7	1	3	4	5
Nellore -	-	-	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	1	1	1
Cuddapah -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anantapur -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Bellary -	-	-	4	4	-	-	2	2	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-
Kurnool -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	1
Madras -	-	-	9	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	2	4	4
Chingleput -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	5
North Arcot -	-	-	7	7	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	4
South Arcot -	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	2
Tranjore -	-	-	4	5	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Trichinopoly -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	4	-	3	3	3
Madura -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	13	13
Tinnevely -	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coimbatore -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nilgiris -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salem -	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	-	4	4	4
South Canara -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malabar -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	87	97	-	-	69	75	-	-	94	107	9	89	98	101

NOTE.—Particulars not available for blank columns.

STATEMENT No. 5.—Showing the NUMBER of SMUGGLING and other OFFENCES, and of PERSONS convicted under the OPIUM ACT—continued.

Districts.	1890-91.				1891-92.				1892-93.			
	Smuggling Opium.	Other Offences.	Total Convictions.		Smuggling Opium.	Other Offences.	Total Convictions.		Smuggling Opium.	Other Offences.	Total Convictions.	
			Cases.	Persons.			Cases.	Persons.			Cases.	Persons.
	84	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Ganjam	—	10	10	13	1	13	14	26	—	2	2	3
Vizagapatam	—	29	29	30	—	48	48	50	—	38	38	45
Godavari	—	18	18	20	—	22	22	29	4	26	30	35
Kistna	—	11	11	11	—	16	10	11	—	10	10	12
Nellore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Cuddapah	—	1	1	1	—	5	5	5	—	1	1	1
Anantapur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Bellary	—	1	1	1	—	7	7	7	—	9	9	11
Kurnool	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	1
Madras	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	—	2	2	3
Chingleput	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Arcot	2	7	9	12	—	3	3	3	—	12	12	18
South Arcot	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	9	10
Tanjore	—	3	3	3	—	1	1	1	—	2	2	2
Trichinopoly	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	—	3	3	5
Madura	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Tinnevely	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Coimbatore	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Nilgiris	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salem	—	2	2	2	—	3	3	3	—	3	3	4
South Canara	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malabar	1	1	2	2	—	2	2	3	2	—	2	2
Total	3	85	88	97	1	121	132	145	6	121	127	150

APPENDIX XIX.

ABSTRACTS OF EVIDENCE OF WITNESSES WHO WERE
TENDERED FOR EXAMINATION BY THE GOVERNMENT
OF MADRAS, BUT NOT EXAMINED BY THE ROYAL
COMMISSION.

I.

M. R. Ry. P. NAGESWARAM PANTULU, Acting Deputy
Tahsildar.

1. The maximum amount of opium, which large consumers use, is $\frac{1}{2}$ a tola per diem in two equal pills; one in the morning and the other in the evening.

2. It will not interfere with the maintenance of the family of poorer classes, since they live on roots, on tender roots of bamboos, on Vipra flowers, on fruits of Thummika tree, and on mango nuts, &c. Besides eating the above, they will also sell them for money with which they will buy opium.

3. It will not cause any evil effect on them, physically or mentally.

4. It will not induce people to commit any offence. But the poor and idle people, such as Doms, &c., who are accustomed to eat opium when they are unable to get opium, will commit petty thefts.

5. It will help to check the effects of malarious climate.

6. It will not injure the health of children who are born to opium eaters. Those children will rather look strong and healthy.

7. A woman will generally consume six-pie worth of opium, *e.g.*, about three chinnams per diem in two equal pills, and a child three-pie worth of opium in like manner. Some women will use one-anna worth of opium per diem.

8. Even if the women use smaller quantity of opium the health and physical endurance of them is the same as that of men, *i.e.*, no difference.

9. The hill people will give daily about three-quarter chinnam of opium in two equal pills, one in the morning and the other in the evening, to their children from the date of their birth until they attain four years of age. By this habit, their children escape from cold, enlargement of spleen, cough, &c.

10. This habit of giving opium to children will be discontinued after the children attain four years of age if they could manage to do so. But such children when they attain proper age may again use opium.

11. Some of the hill people will swallow opium pills, others will chew and swallow opium. Some of these people will also smoke madat like hooka in addition to opium. Madat will be prepared with boiled opium, mixed with the powder of burnt leaves of gooseberry and made into pills for smoking.

12. The opium consumers will use opium just before taking their meals, both morning and evening. The effect of opium will remain from morning to evening and from evening to morning, at which intervals they use it. Generally the opium eaters will take their meals at 8 a.m. and between 6 and 7 p.m. Some use opium thrice a day, *i.e.*, morning, mid-day, and evening, and these people will also take their meals thrice a day. Some of these will consume one anna worth of opium at each time. If the consumers could not get their meals in time they will swallow opium, and then drink either some water or buttermilk if they could get it. Unless they take opium at the usual time they cannot move a foot or do any work.

13. The opium will stop dysentery, diarrhoea, and cough, &c., and it is the best remedy for the hill people for all sorts of diseases, since they use it daily.

(Signed) P. NAGESWARAM PANTULU,
Ag. Deputy Tahsildar.

Pattingi,
23rd December 1893.

II.

Rai Bahadur, M.R. Ry. K. NARAINSWAMI NAIDU,
Inspector of Police, Vizianagram.

The following is the information which I can offer as regards the use and abuse of opium:—

1. Opium is used by the natives of the Vizagapatam district in all its parts. In the hilly tracts to a greater extent. It is commonly used to check some diseases, such as asthma, consumption, rheumatism, bronchitis, fever, dysentery, stomach-ache, and as a safe-guard against the evil effects of malaria. Of course some people, especially the well-to-do persons, consume it as a luxury.

2. Opium is used in this district by all classes of people without regard to caste, creed, colour, sex, or age. The Musalmans and the Kshatrias take the highest percentage on the plains, and in the hills the percentage of non-consumers is much less than on the plains. The hill people inhabiting the Gollgonda and Gudiem hills, of whom I have got good experience, cannot do without it even for a single day. They know no medicine with which they do not mix opium. They take opium pill at meals. The hill man takes a pill as his means permit, at about 9 o'clock in the morning, and eats some gruel or other food, and then leaves home for his work. At about 1 o'clock he will take another pill when his dinner is ready for him, and then in the evening between 7 and 8 another pill at night meal. His dose ranges from quarter anna to two annas worth of opium. At the pill hour, if nothing is ready to follow the pill immediately after the pill is swallowed, he will at least drink little water, and thereby supply the want of food for the time being. Women and children too have their shares. In fact, there are a very few persons who do not use opium. They think the drug is absolutely necessary to save themselves from malaria, colds, dew, and abundant rains, which are peculiar to the Agency tracts. They practise the drug upon their children from the age of four or five months, and continue to do so till about the ninth year, when they stop it in a very few cases in which children can withstand the causes as stated above, while in all other cases the practice is carried up to the grave. The low-country people frequenting the hills also practice the use of the drug as a precaution against malaria, colds, coughs, &c., and the inclemencies of the weather.

3. Both in the hills and on the plains there are opium eaters who carry the practice to an unnecessary excess, and they immediately look emaciated and restless. To these men night is day and day is night.

4. Both the moderate and immoderate users of opium suffer if they fail to get opium pill at the proper time. Their whole body pulls very badly and becomes languid, and if they fail to get it for a day or two they will catch diarrhoea or dysentery.

5. The use of opium does not seem to have direct effect on the moral condition of the people who are addicted to the use of it, but on the physical condition to some extent. The opium eater first begins the habit with a small dose and gradually increases it as his means permit, until at last he becomes a slave to it. Then he suffers from constipation, want of proper sleep, and disinclination to work, besides becoming very weak.

6. The popular native idea is that the moderate use of opium from the age of 40 years does immense good to the user by keeping up the drooping vigour from age. This proved to be quite true in the case of my old mother. She suffered for many years from some chronic belly-ache, and I tried many medicines to cure it, but without effect. Some one advised her to use opium in small doses, and she followed the advice and she finds herself much better now.

7. The moderate use of opium does not tell upon the health of the consumer's children.

8. It does not incite crime, but want of money wherewith to purchase opium drives the user to that necessity, and that too only amongst the lower classes.

9. Opium is purified and made into pills by the mixture of the roasted stuff of the betel leaves or the

leaves of the babul tree (*Acacia Arabica*). This preparation is called madat, which is said to possess stronger intoxicating properties than the opium itself, and the use of it is resorted to only by those confirmed eaters of opium and who do not satisfy themselves by the use of opium alone. To the madat shops only those people who have little or no regard to respect resort, as the use of it is considered disreputable. Madat consumers are easily detectable by their emaciated bodies, ugly appearances, and gait. It is used not as a medicine at all but as luxury. This habit when once formed cannot be easily got rid of, and has a greater tendency to the contribution of crime than that of opium itself, because the users become altogether indolent and seek for money wherewith to purchase madat by illegal means when their legal resources have exhausted. The madat smokers are

generally composed of lower classes who live hand to mouth.

10. The use of opium or madat is contracted by some as aphrodisiac and carried to excess by degrees when they find themselves deceived by the idea.

11. Native physicians use the drug (opium) by mixing it with other medicines. It is applied externally on parts of the body affected by rheumatism or violence and to heal sores or wounds.

12. In rare instances women mix opium with sweet oil and drink the mixture to kill themselves owing to some family quarrels.

(Signed) K. NARAINSWAMI,
Inspector of Police.

Vizianagram,
13th January 1894.

APP. XIX.

III.

M.R.Ry. GEDA KRISHNAMA, Kannapuram.

Question.

1. What are the effects of opium on the consumer's bodily frame as well as his character?

2. Do people, in general, accept the proposition that "opium should not be used for any other than medicinal purposes," and, if so, are they willing to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?

3. Is it possible to prevent the growth of the poppy tree, or the preparation of opium or the sale of opium except for medicinal purposes?

4. Is it possible to stop the opium trade, otherwise than by prohibiting the growth of poppy and the manufacturing of opium?

5. How is opium supplied in these hill tracts?

6. What portion of the population consume the drug, and to what extent does each man consume?

7. Do the people use opium for any purpose other than that of eating?

8. What other advantages are there by consuming opium?

9. Will they suffer in any way by stopping its use?

10. Supposing people suffer for want of it, cannot they rest satisfied with any substitute?

Reply.

I think, by the consumption of opium, a man's power of "remembrance" is diminished, as also his bodily strength. The practice in these parts is that a man should not take to this habit as long as he is under 40 or 50 years of age. Those over 50, being naturally weak, take to the habit of eating opium, thinking that the latter has the effect of giving temporary strength. I hear from the consumers that, if it is taken in old age, it improves the general strength. I actually see cases when deleterious effects are produced if the consumer is ill-fed.

No. They would not like that the use of the drug should be restricted to medicinal purposes alone, as they have been accustomed to the free use of it for a very long time. If so restricted, they will not be willing to bear any cost of the prohibitive measures.

It is not usual in these parts either to grow the poppy tree or to manufacture opium, and even granting there is such a practice, it will not be possible to stop it, as these people are not amenable to such orders.

I see no other way to stop this trade except by prohibiting the growth of the poppy.

The licensed shop-keepers procure opium from Rajahmundry and sell the same in the weekly markets where there are licensed shops.

Excluding all cases where persons in these hill tracts take opium whenever they fall sick, I think the number of the habitual consumers is about 5 per cent., each man taking on an average $\frac{1}{30}$ of a tola a time, i.e., $\frac{1}{15}$ of a tola a day.

It is used for external applications in cases of "sore eyes" and "headaches." It is not used here in smoking at all.

Those of the consumers that are over 40 or 50 years have their nervous system strengthened, and, by the use of the drug, constant irritation of their bowels is cured.

Aged persons and, who are at the same time, weak, cannot do without it, as otherwise they will be unfit to attend to their ordinary avocations. Those that are habituated to it suffer from pains in the hands and legs if they fail to eat it.

There may be medicines likely to cure the sufferings arising from the disease of opium, but as such medicines are not as easily procurable as opium, people cannot do without it.

GENERAL REMARKS.

I think that in these days under the renting system with a fixed number of shops for sale of opium the consumption of the drugs is far less than in times previous to the introduction of the renting system.

2. I do not think that in these hill tracts this drug is used first (*sic*) for the sake of intoxication and pleasure.

(Signed) GEDA KRISHNAMA.

APP. XIX.

IV.

MR. H. G. PRENDERGAST, District Superintendent of Police, Kistna.

Opium is used to a small extent throughout the Kistna district. Unlike the case of the more northern districts, more of it is consumed in the delta than in the upland taluks. It is used mostly in the solid form, as a prophylactic, and occasionally by those who cannot get a full meal because it enables them to do a day's work or less. The quantity consumed varies from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of a tola. It is also used medicinally. The use of opium is nowhere carried to excess. I do not know of any instance in which injurious effects have followed the moderate or immoderate use of opium. The moderate use of opium has a beneficial effect both morally and physically—morally, because it removes the craving for alcohol, the use of which by natives of this district almost invariably ends in abuse of it and consequent demoralisation, and physically, because it reduces the liability to delta fever, rheumatism and other diseases, and enables a man to do more work without the sense of fatigue than he could otherwise endure without injury to his constitution. The use of opium in no way contributes to the perpetration of crime, but, on the contrary, prevents it in so far as it prevents drunkenness, which does contribute to the perpetration of crime. Moderate opium eating, and this is the rule, with very few, if any exceptions in this district, is cheap, costing from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 anna per diem. The use of arrack is an expensive luxury. Toddy drinkers spend from 2½ annas upwards per diem on that beverage, and arrack drinkers spend from 3 annas upwards per diem on their drink. Those who are regular drinkers thus spend about half their earnings on drink and are impoverished. Crime soon follows. The very best men I have had serving under me are Goomsur Oriyas, who are all moderate opium eaters, consuming on an average $\frac{1}{4}$ tola a day. I had these men under me for eight years continuously, and in all that time I had not a single instance of the immoderate use of opium or any evil effects resulting from its moderate use by them. On the contrary, I had during the same time among toddy and arrack drinking telegas several instances of men dismissed for habitual drunkenness and of others invalidated from the effects of excessive drinking. To throw difficulties in the way of the moderate use of opium would, in my opinion, cause widespread discontent that would result in serious danger.

(Signed) H. G. PRENDERGAST.

V.

M.R.Ry. P.S. GANAPATI AIYER, Avergal, B.A.,
Treasury Deputy Collector, Salem.

I was Private Secretary to the Prime Minister of Indore in Central India, between August 1875 and December 1879. During this time I had occasion to visit parts of the Indore State, and also Rutlam and Dhar. I had, therefore, opportunities of studying the opium question.

In Central India opium is used by all classes of people except Brahmans. Some take it as medicine, but the majority take it from habit. When I was at Rutlam with the Prime Minister, as guests of the Maharani, a deputation of her Sirdars, who came to inquire after our health, presented us balls of very superior old opium, and drunk in our presence a preparation of opium called kusumba distilled on the spot. I mention this incident to show that opium-eaters and smokers are not looked down upon. Opium is given in very small doses in Central India to children of all classes—including Brahmans—up to about the age of two. It is given under the impression that it will prevent children from suffering from indigestion, diarrhoea, dysentery, and other disorders of the stomach, and that it will promote sound sleep. People in well-to-do circumstances do not suffer physically if they take opium in moderate quantities. In fact they are in as good health as those who never use opium. People suffering from certain complaints, such as rheumatism and asthma, enjoy better health by using opium than they would otherwise do. Even poor people who cannot afford to feed themselves properly get on well, so long as they use opium in moderate quantities. They work hard and eat well, and are strong and robust. It is the fakirs and other beggars that generally indulge themselves in

excess, mainly with a view to drown their cares and sorrows, and they suffer, getting emaciated and weak, with sunken eyes, wild staring looks, and their whole body shrivelled except their stomach, which is comparatively bloated. Opium in moderate doses seems to have no effect upon people who eat well. My observations do not lead me to think that opium leads to any immorality or crime. On the contrary opium has a sedative effect, and makes people quiet and non-interfering. The criminal class will of course be criminals, whether they take opium or not. It has all along struck me that opium-eaters and smokers, even when they use the drug in excessive quantities, are not nearly so mischievous as people who use spirits or ganja in excess. Here I may state that I have been in charge of the sub-gaol at Salem for over one year, and that I have not yet seen one man sent to it who is an opium-eater or smoker.

In the Salem town opium is used in two forms. Pills made of crude opium are eaten or are dissolved in milk, &c., and drunk. It is made into madat, and smoked. Madat is prepared by adding to an infusion of opium an equal quantity of roasted babul (*Acacia Arabica*) leaves, and then making pills of the product. About 30 pills are made out of each tola of the product. Opium in its crude state is sold at only one place, and madat in two places. The consumers are generally weavers, pensioned sepoys (Muhammadian and Hindu) and beggars. Most of them are poor. The beggars look weak and emaciated, as their brethren in Central India do; the rest look as well as other men in their station of life. Opium is given to children principally by Muhammadans up to the age of two, and then discontinued. The average daily sale from 1st April last amounts to 9 tolas of crude opium, and 5 tolas for madat. The approximate number of people using opium in Salem town is 150. In the taluks the total consumption of opium during 1892-93 is as follows:—

Taluks.	Tolas.
Salem	3,800
Namakkal	190
Tiruchengodu	349
Atur	68
Hosur	3,447
Dharmapuri	1,040
Krishnagiri	2,884
Tirupattur	18,863
Uttangarai	466
Total	31,107

The number of opium consumers in the taluks is about 680, which will give 830 for the whole district.

The following remarks are submitted as to the disposition of the people in regard to—

- the use of opium for non-medical purposes;
- their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures.

(a.) As opium has become almost as indispensable as any other necessities of life to a very large proportion of the Muhammadian and Rajput population in Central India, Rajaputana, and certain other provinces in Northern India, any proposal to prohibit the use of opium for any but medical purposes will be most strenuously opposed, and will, if carried out, produce well-founded discontent, which it would be inexpedient to give rise to.

In the first place, it will be difficult to allow the use of opium for only medicinal purposes, because it would be necessary to restrict the issue of opium only to people who can produce prescriptions from qualified medical men trained according to the European system; and as the staff of such men is exceedingly small, the result of such a restriction would be to deprive people of an admittedly very valuable medicine which is exceedingly useful in the treatment of many diseases which are very prevalent in the country.

In the next place the suppression of opium would practically mean the utter ruin of millions of cultivators who have been accustomed to its cultivation.

It is pretty certain also that if opium is suppressed, the people, who have become habituated to it, will, after undergoing a great deal of inconvenience and misery, resort to ganja or alcoholic drinks. The consensus of medical opinion seems to be that, even as an intoxicant, opium is less injurious both to the individual

and to the society than ganja and alcoholic drinks, and the experience of laymen seems to tally with medical opinion. If so, it seems most undesirable, even from a point of view of morality, to prohibit the use of opium for other than medicinal purposes. It is at all events clear that there will be no gain morally. I am decidedly of opinion, therefore, that it would be politically inexpedient and physically and morally undesirable to prohibit the use of opium for other than medicinal purposes, and I am sure that this view is in harmony with intelligent and unbiassed native opinion in Central India.

In Salem, I have taken some pains to ascertain the views of people who do not use opium, and I find that the few who have any views on the subject agree with me. Here I may be permitted to state that I recently had a conversation with a very intelligent Marvari gentleman settled here for a long time. He informed me that his father was a confirmed opium-eater, and that he himself regularly used it for seven years, then gave it up simply to see if it could be given up, then resumed it for a few years, and then finally gave it up. He thinks that the drug had no injurious effect upon either his father or himself, that even in excess it is much less injurious than ganja or alcoholic drinks, and that in the case of people suffering from certain physical complaints it is a positive boon.

(b.) On the question as to how far the people will be prepared to bear, in whole or in part, the cost of any prohibitive measures, I am decidedly of opinion that, if the matter is explained to them, not one will consent to bear any part of the cost. So far as it affects the people of India, it is clear that the opium consumers themselves regard the drug as a boon, while the others think that, if it is an evil, it is far less serious than ganja or alcoholic drinks. It is not therefore clear how people can be expected to consent to contribute towards the cost of any prohibitive measures. As regards the effect of the drug upon the Chinese, on whose behalf chiefly the present anti-opium movement has been set afloat, it should be remembered that they will have opium, whether India exports it or not, as is evident from the fact that the quantity of opium exported from India to China is very small as compared with that produced in China. It seems useless therefore to attempt to prohibit the export of opium to China. Any such prohibition will also be inconsistent with the manufacture in the country and the importation from Europe and other countries of alcoholic drinks.

The further question has not been put as to how the blank in the Indian accounts arising from the disappearance of the opium revenue is to be filled up. Unless the British Parliament will vote a contribution to India of six or eight millions sterling a year, the deficit must be made good by India as best she can.

It is a large question as to whether India can bear any additional taxation, but it may be permitted to her people to ask of their British rulers that no additional taxation should be imposed upon them because it is considered immoral to export opium to China, which will have it, or because such exportation retards the progress of Christianity in that country.

(Signed) P. S. GANAPATI AIYER,
Deputy Collector.

VI.

Surgeon-Major J. LANCASTER, District Surgeon,
North Arcot.

The nature of the evidence which I have to give is chiefly negative in its character as far as any evil effects of the drug are concerned. The opium habit is not in evidence in the large districts in Southern India in which I am and have been the principal medical officer.

2. My practice in private and in the public service extends over a period of 20 years, and I have been the principal medical officer of districts of over 2,000,000 inhabitants, and in the course of this experience, I have never had any case of opium-poisoning either in the adult or in children brought before me either in hospital or in private practice. For the last five years also no single case occurred among an average annual attendance of 162,000 patients in the dispensaries of this district (North Arcot).

In an extremely large number of cases of wounds and injuries, averaging over 6,000 a year, no single case of injury was induced or caused by the influence of opium,

while on the other hand fully 50 per cent. were due to the influence of alcohol or ganja.

3. I have had under my observation at various times an extremely large number of lunatics sent to me for observation and report, and in no single case was opium the cause of insanity.

4. I have been the medical officer of some of the largest gaols in Southern India, and only in extremely rare cases have I found the opium habit to exist in prisoners, and it is an equally rare event for opium to be smuggled into the gaol; there is no demand for it; the proportion of such attempt as compared to the smuggling in of tobacco or ganja would be 1 opium to 200 of tobacco and 100 of ganja.

I have had occasionally opium-eaters in gaol, though very few indeed. They were chiefly men of Northern India, fakirs and low class Muhammadans. Some of them were victims to old-standing diseases, venereal or urinary fistulae, and had evidently fallen into the habit from attempts to allay pain. The dose of opium given to them daily by me was gradually reduced, and tobacco given to them stopped the craving for the drug. The men soon ceased to crave for opium when good food and tobacco were given them.

5. The opium habit cannot be observed in the general population by its effects.

It is confined to a very small section of the population, and, if you want to find it, you must search for it.

The effects of the use of this drug do not show themselves as in alcohol, the use of which is fast spreading in South India among all classes.

It (opium) is used very largely in native medicines; it is the sheet anchor of the native practitioner in all diseases of the bowels, in diarrhoea, dysentery, cholera, and malarious fevers which are only too common among the people of India.

I have seen it (opium) used largely by pilgrims on long and weary journeys, footsore, sick, half-fed, and surrounded by scenes of squalor and discomfort as in the pilgrim centres of Tirupati and Ramesvaram and Tiruttani.

It (opium) is used by bandy-drivers and jutka men about to start on a long drive. While I had my coffee at daybreak, the shivering bandy-man took his pill of opium and gave five to his pony and then started on a journey without break of 20 to 25 miles.

I have seen it (opium) used by residents of villages in the early morning—possibly to stave off hunger—in villages while on special sanitary duty in the great famine of 1876-77.

In Southern India the habit of eating and smoking opium is chiefly found in the larger towns and among the poor, though a few of the better classes, like pensioned native officers, smoke, having contracted the habit on field service or on the march. Their opinion is that it staves off hunger and supports the system against fatigue. I have visited some of the places where opium is smoked; the habituals are all poor men, chiefly elderly and old. Women in Southern India rarely use it. Prostitutes sometimes smoke and eat it to fight against fatigue, anxiety, and the effects of dissipation. The wives of mendicants and wandering tribes also use it. These places, *i.e.*, the smoking-houses and their surroundings are squalid, poor, and comfortless. The majority of the men after a few whiffs went quietly away to their poor homes. There was no stupor or intoxication. They all agreed that the effects were soothing, and smiled when I asked whether it incited them to any act of violence. One man said it was a great peace-maker. This corresponds with my own experience.

Opium is the poor man's drug; he spends on it 3 to 6 pies daily. Alcohol would cost from 9 pies to 18 or more. The use of alcohol is steadily spreading, and among the better classes its powers of mischief as compared to those of opium are 100 to 1.

I am the doctor of the poor man, *i.e.*, my work for years past has been and is among the poorer strata of the population in town, district, and gaol. My entire sympathy is with this class, and if I felt that opium was doing it harm, I would preach against its use. It is against alcohol in its cheaper and meretricious forms that a crusade should be started. For one man ruined by opium a hundred are destroyed by alcohol.

Opium is the sheet anchor of Muhammadan and Hindu medicine and is used by these practitioners in a vast number of ailments. Any prohibition against its use would be unjust and may raise a ripple of discontent among a contented but poor section of the population. Powerful drugs like arsenic, corrosive sublimate,

APP. XIX.

salts of copper and many vegetable poisons are sold freely in the bazaars; let these be prohibited, for they are the chief agents of secret poisoning, before any steps are taken to prohibit the use of what is the poor man's friend—opium. There is an old Hindustani proverb which runs as follows:—“To the child opium is milk, to the adolescent an arrow, and to the old a stick. It shows that to the growing the use of opium is a danger, but to the old a means of support. This view may be generally accepted.

(Signed) J. LANCASTER,
Surgeon-Major,
District Surgeon, North Arcot.

VII.

Surgeon-Major J. MAITLAND, Acting Senior Surgeon,
General Hospital, Madras.

Having been in medical practice in the Madras Presidency for the past 17 years, and during a great part of that time in civil employment, I have had much to do with natives of all classes. My experience has been chiefly gained in the City of Madras, but also in the districts of Madura, Tinnevely, and the Nilgiris.

With the exception, presently to be mentioned, I believe opium eating to be extremely rare among the natives of the above-mentioned districts. For example during the past 10 months, when I have daily visited from 70 to 80 persons in the Madras General Hospital, I have only met with three opium eaters. The rare instances that one does meet with are usually mendicants, and the majority of them come from Northern India.

The exception above alluded to is the Nilgiri district, where some of the hill tribes (Badagas) are opium eaters. As far as I could ascertain the proportion of persons addicted to the habit amongst these people is under 10 per cent. Those who take opium are rather looked down upon by their more virtuous neighbours. My knowledge of the people is not sufficiently intimate to enable one to say whether the habit is injurious to them or not. I have never had an opportunity of watching the effects of opium given continuously for long periods to healthy persons, but I have frequently watched its effect given for a length of time and in considerable doses in cases of diabetes. In such persons its action is only beneficial.

(Signed) J. MAITLAND, M.D.,
Surgeon-Major, I.M.S., Acting Senior
Surgeon, General Hospital.

Madras,
25th January, 1894.

VIII.

Surgeon-Major O'HARA, District Surgeon, &c.,
Bellary.

Sketch of proposed evidence.—The nature of the evidence which I propose to offer is essentially negative when not favourable to the drug.

Infrequency of the opium habit.—The practice of eating opium is by no means an obtrusive habit in those parts of the country with which I am best acquainted.

Experience derived from hospital and private practice.

—In extended civil medical practice among all conditions and classes of people but few instances of opium-eaters have been met with. These have been almost invariably men from the north or north-west and amongst those who perform pilgrimages to the sacred shrines of Southern India. Subjected to privations and exposure, obliged to traverse long distances on foot and often ailing from distressing and painful diseases, they resort to opium (occasionally becoming excessive consumers) and declare themselves to be unable to exist without it. In cases of great emaciation and exhaustion admitted for treatment into hospital from this class, it is seldom possible to assign the exact degree of injury to the general system resulting from the habitual use or abuse of the drug. Suffice to say that not infrequently such cases—without cessation of the opium habit—regain health and strength from the effects of rest and generous dietary.

Experience derived from Gaols.—From a very extended experience in charge of gaols in South India, it may be asserted that the discovery of opium—as a “forbidden article”—amongst the prisoners is a rare event; that it is confined almost always to men from the north; that the average prisoner in South India has no

acquaintance with the drug, and that there is evidently “no demand” by the prisoners for its surreptitious introduction into gaols.

General observations.—From time to time instances of the “opium habit” have come under observation; the persons concerned would probably be included under the head of “moderate consumers,” taking from one to four pills, about a grain each, per diem. There was nothing in their appearance or conduct to lead to suspicion of the habit, and it certainly had no perceptible effect on their intelligence and activity.

Virtues of the drug.—Unlike alcohol, its use does not excite to crimes of violence; it is invaluable in a variety of chronic and painful ailments, also in malarial anæmia and partial starvation; it sustains nervous power, and as a remedial agent is second to no single drug in the pharmacopœia.

(Signed) WILLIAM O'HARA,
Surgeon-Major, District Surgeon,
&c., Bellary.

25th January, 1894.

IX.

Surgeon-Major W. H. THORNHILL, M.D., Superintendant, Government Lunatic Asylum, Madras.

I have no personal experience or knowledge of opium except as a medicine and I find from the records of this institution, that the use of opium has been very seldom given as the alleged cause of insanity, and can only give evidence accordingly.

(Signed) W. H. THORNHILL, M.D.,
Surgeon-Major,
Superintendent, Lunatic Asylum,
Madras.

X.

Surgeon-Major J. L. VANGEYZEL, M.B., C.M., F.C.S.,
F.I.C., Chemical Examiner to the Government of
Madras.

As to the consumption of opium for non-medical purposes and its effect upon the moral and physical condition of the people I can only speak from general observation, and my opinions are not based upon any special study of the subject.

I was district medical officer of Ganjām for nearly four years, and although the people of this district are not reputedly an opium-eating people, yet it is on the high way to the great Pooree temple and amongst pilgrims, detained in the hospital by illness, there have been opium eaters. Further, situated as this district is between the great opium-eating provinces of Orissa on the one side and Vizagapatam and Godavari on the other, the habitual use of opium in Ganjam must be more general than appears on the surface. During my four years' charge of this district, I had occasion to travel throughout its length and breadth several times. About 15,000 out-patients passed annually through my hospital, and I also had charge of a gaol with about 500 prisoners in it. With these opportunities among classes of people, who might be expected to furnish examples of the baneful effects of opium-eating, I only came across the case of one man whose bodily or mental health was apparently ruined by the habit. This was a comparatively young man, not over 25 years if I remember aright, who was constantly coming into gaol for petty theft. He was well known in the bazaar as a habitual opium eater, and he was constantly overshadowed by the police on account of his well-known propensity for thieving. Whether the crime was the result of the opium habit or only a coincidence I could not determine. This man was always extremely troublesome to manage at first; deprived of his daily dose he was rendered utterly incapable of doing any kind of work, and suffered terribly from abdominal pain and diarrhoea. I used to treat this case with moderate and diminishing doses of solid opium, and in a few days the craving for the drug would be lulled and the man took his place in the working gangs and was a fairly well-behaved prisoner. Under favourable circumstances I believe that this man could have given up the habit and lived an honest life.

Other instances of the opium habit which have come to my notice have been amongst pilgrims admitted for severe diarrhoea and amongst prisoners. It was difficult to determine in the former cases whether the diarrhoea was due to stoppage of the drug or to indiscreet dieting,

but the administration of solid opium usually cured these people in a few days and sent them on their journey again. Among prisoners the desire to have the drug was not shown after a few days, and they did not seem to miss it, or suffer from the want of it.

Ganjam is notably a feverish district, and some of the very worst forms of malarial fever are to be met with there, but I never heard that, or came across any instance in which opium was taken as a prophylactic or cure for malaria. Either its reputed action against malaria is unknown there, or I am badly informed.

I have habitually prescribed solid opium and its B.P. preparations among patients, chiefly for the relief of pain and for procuring sleep; but I have never come across any cases in which harm has resulted from its use.

I have also been in charge of five different Madras regiments, but I never came across amongst sepoys any disease attributable to opium.

With the single exception that I have noted I have not met with any instances of disastrous results, physical or moral, which could be attributed to the use of the drug. I must add that I cannot say the same with reference to alcohol. While the opium eater cannot, as a rule, be recognised by outward signs and appearances the alcohol tippler can, and while I have not met with cases of organic disease attributable to the use or abuse of opium, I can distinctly recall cases which were traceable to the abuse of alcohol. Close upon 10 years ago in a large town in South India I used to be called in to see Brahmin patients, admittedly hard drinkers, whose ailments were aggravated by the habit, and I learnt that, though Brahmins are precluded by caste rules from drinking alcohol, there was a regular practice springing up amongst certain classes of these people there to meet and spend the evenings at imported liquor-shops. I believe that the experience of medical officers stationed

in some of the other larger towns will accord with mine, that while they practically see nothing of the disastrous results of the opium habit, they do see among natives cases arising out of, or aggravated by, the abuse of alcohol, the latter being an experience, I believe, that was quite uncommon 20 years ago.

The use of opium as a poison is comparatively uncommon in this Presidency, and I append a table of figures for eight years (the period for which information in this form is available), from which it will be seen that out of 580 cases in which the presence of poison was established, in only 38 was opium found; and that out of 560 deaths traced to poison, only 24 were attributable to opium. Any restrictions placed upon opium alone would still leave the poisoner a wide choice of easily accessible poisons; hence no advantage will be secured by restricting its sale alone. A general Poisons Act, however, I regard as a necessity.

I take it that opium, wherever it is habitually consumed, is taken for much about the same purpose as alcohol, viz., as a diet, as an exhilarant or to drive away dull care. In many places I can also understand its habitual use by people suffering from chronic abdominal diseases; the use of opium in such cases helping the man to earn the means of support for his family. Under all these circumstances, I do not consider that the opium habit is an appreciable evil, or that it is one which calls for remedy. On the other hand, I consider that restrictions on the liberties of the people of India in this matter would not be justifiable, and that moral reformation, if it must necessarily be brought about by State interference, should commence in the direction of restricting the consumption of ganjah and alcohol rather than of opium.

(Signed) VAN GEYZEL,

Surgeon-Major, M.B., F.R.C., I.N.D.,
Chemical Examiner to the Government of Madras.
Madras, 27th January 1894.

	Number of cases in which poison was detected.	Ar- senious oxide alone.	Mer- curic salt alone.	Other in- organic poisons alone are mixed with other poisons.	Aco- nite.	Atro- pine and dha- tura.	Strych- nine.	Opium.	Other organic poisons.	Total number of deaths from all poisons.	Deaths attributable to opium.					Total.
											a. Suici- dal.	b. Homi- cidal.	c. Acci- dental.	Doubt- ful when- ever a, b, or c.		
1885	-	64	34	6	5	1	3	1	5	9	61	3	3	—	—	6
1886	-	74	45	4	9	—	4	—	6	6	62	—	—	—	1	1
1887	-	62	36	8	7	4	—	3	1	3	59	—	—	—	—	—
1888	-	73	28	4	9	5	3	—	7	17	73	2	1	—	—	3
1889	-	90	30	10	9	7	4	4	8	18	79	2	5	—	—	7
1890	-	76	43	11	5	3	5	2	3	4	71	—	2	—	—	2
1891	-	61	29	4	4	4	2	3	6	7	62	2	—	—	1	3
1892	-	80	38	11	8	3	8	3	2	7	93	—	—	1	1	2
Total		580	283	60	56	27	29	16	38	71	560	9	11	1	3	24

XI.

Surgeon-Captain C. L. WILLIAMS, Acting Professor of Pathology, Medical College, Madras.

Experience of the witness in the subject; where gained and extent.—Witness was Civil Surgeon of Akyab in Lower Burma, the District of Arracan, for four months in 1893; also Superintendent of the goal there. The Arracanese are an opium-consuming race, and about 30 per cent. of the adult male population eat it in tities varying from one anna's worth (about 10 grains) upwards. Smoking is less common. The population of Arracan is [figures not available at the moment] and of Akyab The average daily population in the goal was about 300, and the number of admissions in the four months I was in charge was (exact figures will be furnished; the number was about 120). Of these admissions [circa 40] confessed themselves opium-eaters. The number of deaths was three (or four) in the goal; one from acute, one from chronic dysentery, and one from chronic granular contraction of the kidney—with a death from sub-acute dysentery recorded in my Akyab notes, but not stated whether in the goal or the civil hospital. The practice was invariably to immediately stop all opium; but occasionally a prisoner would get rather severe diarrhoea, and require a few grains daily for a day or

two to graduate the stoppage of his opium. Sick list in the goal also very small (perhaps two average daily sick). Importance of the small sick and death rates amongst an opium-eating population, in a position (goal) in which very accurate observation is possible, as proving that opium cannot be so very deleterious as some would make out.

Position of Akyab—Akyab lies at the mouth of the Coladyne river on an island within the delta of the river. It is full of malaria, exactly like the Sunderbund on a smaller scale; and it would seem that this is perhaps the cause which has driven the Arracanese to eat opium.

Cirrhosis of liver.—Witness has had now four months' experience amongst Tamil people, and has been much struck with the commonness of cirrhosis of the liver here as compared with its rarity during his four months in Akyab. There he only recollects one case; here he has seen very many. The difference does not lie in the fact that he has seen more patients here, though the numbers are as about 300 to 70 a day in Madras and Akyab, respectively, but in the fact that the great bulk of the population of Akyab is Musulman and of the remainder the majority Buddhists. Neither religion, drink, alcohol, to any appreciable extent, whilst the Madras Pariah indulges freely. This emphasises the

App. XIX. contrast between the physical effects of opium and alcohol.

Abuse—harmful but—not common.—Abuse of opium harmful without doubt, as is abuse of eating, smoking, drinking, exercise. But abuse not common. Akyab, a very moist climate, with a rainfall annually of 200 inches. Agriculturists there much exposed therefore to vicissitudes of weather, and opium probably a protection to their animal economies under the circumstances.

Post-mortem changes in Opium-eaters.—Sir William Moore, having stated that no naked eye changes were produced in the organs of opium eaters, examined *post-mortem*, witness has looked very carefully for actual organic change and is inclined to attribute a cirrhotic condition of the stomach in which the mucous membrane takes on an appearance like crocodile skin, to the abuse of the stimulant. This may possibly be followed by cirrhosis of the liver and even kidneys which was found in one case. But the cirrhosis of liver and kidneys was not advanced, and was only found in one case; cirrhosis of the stomach in four or five. But many *post-mortem* examinations of opium eaters were made (of those who had died of other affections), and as the above changes were found so rarely it seems fair to conclude that actual organic change is rare, and only appears late in heavy consumers.

Dysentery in Opium-eaters.—Of dysentery in connexion with the opium-eating habit, witness has seen a good deal. The abusers of it seem to get dysentery of a very severe type which is fatal, but this usually does not occur till the fourth or fifth decade of life, and can therefore hardly be said to cause early decay. Of course these are the cases that come into a hospital for treatment, and their number, in four months at Akyab, was small. The great mass of opium eaters never come before the Civil Surgeon at all, which they would if they were seriously diseased, or only do so for ordinary diseases, not due to opium, or as prisoners in his gaol, and their absence may be taken as a very fair proof that, at the very least, opium does not interfere with the ordinary animal functions of their economies whereby they earn their daily bread.

Rapid healing in one case of an Opium-eater.—Witness was much struck with one case of an enormous wound made in a Burman's loin at Akyab by a "dah" or very heavy knife like an axe. It went down to the kidney, and easily admitted the whole hand. The patient was an eater of opium, to the extent of about 10 grains a day, yet this enormous wound healed right off by first intention, showing a vitality in the tissues which could hardly exist if opium were as deleterious as many people say. Witness has never before seen such a successful closure of such an enormous wound. [He was given his usual allowance of opium whilst in hospital.]

Visits to Opium Dens.—Witness has visited the so-called opium dens in Monywa, and Yamethin in Upper Burmah, and the retail shop kept by a Chinaman in Akyab, but has failed to find the besotted wrecks described as peopling them.

Crime in connexion with Opium.—Witness has been Superintendent of Mandalay Central Gaol, (over 1,100 prisoners) for six weeks, and of Yamethin and Akyab gaols (2nd and 4th class, with populations of about 300 and 120 respectively) for 15 months, but is unable to say that the criminal classes in those gaols are especially recruited from the opium consumers.

Smuggling.—A significant fact occurred in Akyab during witness' tenure of office there. Some men smuggling opium were detected by the Excise officers, and on the latter's attempting to arrest them, attacked them with such violence that much blood was shed, many wounds given on both sides, and one man very nearly died. This was before the recent order anent the registration of opium consumers in Lower Burmah was issued. From it it seemed fair to draw the conclusion that, if smuggling was carried on merely to avoid payment, of duty, and life thereby endangered, *a priori* would smuggling be carried on to provide an article forbidden by law, and therefore increased value. For this reason witness, as a superintendent of a gaol, regretted the issue of that recent order as it seems

a direct incentive to crime. There is no doubt that for many years yet the Arracanese will have opium; and if they cannot obtain it honestly on payment, from a licensed shop, they are likely to go to any lengths, not short of murder, and including smuggling, to obtain it. To prevent this, the mere increase in the *personnel* of the Excise department will be a serious burden on the Exchequer, and the individuals are not likely to have a task devoid of considerable personal risk. Witness has had considerable experience in Burmah of the Sikh race, having been surgeon to three police battalions of mixed Punjabi, Muhammadans and Sikhs. These men have served in the most malarious and trying districts, but most certainly, at the least, the Sikhs have not fallen victims to the unhealthy climate in any *greater* proportion than the Muhammadans which they should do if their constitutions are undermined by opium.

(Signed) C. L. WILLIAMS, M.D. Ed.,
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XII.

SYED MOHIDEEN SAHIB, First-class Hospital Assistant, Madras.

As already stated in the sketch of my evidence, the habit of taking opium is not common in the Madras Presidency. With the exception of a few districts in the north of the Presidency, such as Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Godavari and Kistna, and of those which border on the Nizam's dominions, the Madras Presidency may safely be considered to enjoy perfect immunity from this habit. Even in the places above-mentioned where opium eaters are to be met with, the use of the drug is not practised to any injurious extent. It is, in fact, used by the lower orders of the population more as a remedy for exhaustion, starvation, and chronic pains than as a luxury. In this connexion it may be mentioned that the poorer classes are in the habit of dosing their children, especially infants, with opium in the night to keep them quiet and put them to sleep. In all these cases it seems to have a powerful effect. Any excessive consumption of the drug is, of course, dangerous, but during my service of 20 years, during which period I have served both in the northern and southern parts of the Presidency, I have hardly come across any such case.

The opium-eaters who may be found in our hospitals in Madras or the southern districts do not belong to the indigenous population, but are chiefly men from the north of India on pilgrimage to the sacred shrines in Southern India or pensioned Sepoys who contract the habit on field service.

From my own experience as a medical man of 20 years' standing, I have found this drug extremely useful for medical purposes. It has a beneficial effect in all diseases of the bowels, in diarrhoea, dysentery, chronic peritonitis, rheumatism, diabetes, in cases of all chronic and painful ailments, and in malarious fevers. This drug is largely resorted to even by native hakeems and vaidians in such cases.

Its use certainly does not excite to acts of violence and has no powers of mischief when compared to that of alcohol. On perusal of the report on lunatic asylums for the year 1891, under the heading "Causes," it is seen that opium as a cause of insanity takes the last place; whereas alcohol, Indian hemp, and privation take the lead. Again on page 22 of the same report, under the heading "Types of insanity," it is seen that opium smoking caused *no cases* for admission during the year, and that opium eating caused only two cases out of a grand total of 810 admissions, whereas spirit drinking caused seven. As the use of alcohol is now steadily spreading amongst all classes of the population in this Presidency, and as it is in most cases followed by disastrous result, legislation in this direction seems urgently called for.

(Signed) SYED MOHIDEEN,
First-class Hospital Assistant.

APPENDIX XX.

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NOTE on the system of EXCISE MANAGEMENT of OPIUM in the BOMBAY PRESIDENCY, presented by the Honourable T. D. MACKENZIE, Commissioner of Customs, and Superintendent of Opium and Abkari in the Bombay Presidency.

In view of the approaching visit of the Parliamentary Opium Commission, it seems desirable to prepare some brief account of the system of management under which the revenue from opium is realised in the Bombay Presidency, and that the various changes which have from time to time taken place, and the method under which the existing system is worked may be understood, some historical sketch thereof is necessary.

The opium trade of the Bombay Presidency first attracted the attention of the Supreme Government in the early years of the present century, as being likely to injure the revenue derived from the Government monopoly in Bengal, and a desire was expressed for the entire suppression of opium cultivation in British and native territories controlled by the Local Government; but as the Court of Directors on the matter being referred to them considered the measure not absolutely necessary, as the poppy did not appear to be cultivated in the territories under the control of this Government for profit or exportation so much as for local consumption, especially in Gujarat, where it was large, further action was for the time deferred.

But about 1818 much anxiety was caused by the serious danger to the prosperity of the Bengal monopoly, by the competition in the China market of opium from the Native States of Central India, where cultivation was unrestricted, the manufacturers skilful, and the quality of the drug, when ready for the market, exceptionally good. It was found that this opium was brought *via* Baroda and Cambay to Diu and Daman, and thence shipped to China, while yet another route was open *via* Pali and Jaisalmer to Karachi, where it was shipped to Daman, and thence to China.

It was evident that, owing to the high value and the portability of the drug, the difficulties presented by various foreign States, and the enormous line of country which would have to be guarded, any measures for checking this importation into and transit through British territory would be useless, unless arrangements were made with the producing States for restricting cultivation, and introducing a monopoly system, such as prevailed in the Behar and Benares. With this object in view therefore agreements were entered into with the chiefs of Udaipur, Bundi, Kotah, Dhar, Rutlam, the Maharaja Holkar and others, containing provisions to limit cultivation, prohibit sale and transit of opium, and requiring it to be made over at a fixed price to the British Agent, who was to buy up the whole stock, and send it to Bombay for resale. For the same purpose also the Treaty of 1820 was concluded with His Highness the Gaekwar, while the various petty chiefs, owning territories separating Malwa from British Gujarat and the Gaekwari Mahals north of Ahmedabad, signed agreements binding themselves to prevent the transit of Malwa opium through their respective territories. It was hoped that by these means the supply of opium to the foreign ports above-named for transhipment to China would be stopped.

Measures were also taken to regulate the consumption of opium in Gujarat, and to secure a regular revenue therefrom, by establishing depôts for the sale of the drug to persons licensed to retail it, at such rates as might tend to check its inordinate use, and at the same time afford a reasonable supply to consumers, a small fee being charged for each licence. For the supply of opium to Kutch the Political Resident was authorised to prefer indents on the Commissioner of Opium, Bombay, and a depôt was established at Rajkot to provide for the wants of Kathiawar. The agreements made with the Kutch and Kathiawar chiefs in 1820-21 will be found at pages 133-138 of Aitchison's Treaties, Volume IV., edition of 1876, and are still in force. The further arrangements made with them later on, after the Opium Act I. of 1878 came into force, will be noted in their proper place. To return to the earlier period: a duty of Rs. 12 per Surat ser was imposed, by Regulation I. of 1818, on all opium not the produce of the territories immediately dependent of the Presidency of Fort William, which might be brought into the Presidency of Bombay, except on Government account, and by Regulation II. of 1820 rules were promulgated for the more effective prevention of clandestine importation. These were repealed by Regulation XXI. of

1827, which, while reproducing the provisions of the repealed regulations as to import duty and illicit importation, also contained definite rules for regulating the supply of opium for internal consumption and its transit from place to place.

After 10 years' trial, however, the scheme was found ineffectual, as regards the prevention of the exit of Malwa opium to foreign ports for export to China. Sindia, Jeypore, and others had from the first refused to join in the arrangements made with the other chiefs in Central India; Karachi was still available as a port for illicit export, and the high duty imposed on licit importations into Bombay had proved prohibitory and driven the trade to illegitimate channels, with the result that the illicit trade was centred at Daman into which several thousand chests of Malwa opium were annually imported *via* Sind for direct export to China. Besides this, those chiefs in Central India who had entered into the agreements above-mentioned viewed the arrangements with disfavour, their wealthy merchants were on the verge of ruin, and their cultivators, who had previously disposed of their crops in the open market, were discontented at having to sell to the British Opium Agent at a fixed price.

In 1829 therefore the Government of India withdrew entirely from the Malwa opium monopoly, and although the restrictions in force in British and native territories in the Bombay Presidency were still maintained, the trade in Central India was thrown open to private enterprise, and in lieu of the abandoned system, it was decided to raise the revenue by the grant, at a special rate, of passes to cover the transit of opium through British territory to Bombay, for eventual exportation to China. Care was, however, taken to fix the rate at a figure which would make the cost of opium put down in Bombay by the direct route compare favourably with the cost of transmission to the coast by the cheapest of the more circuitous routes through foreign territory. At the same time Regulation XX of 1830 was passed, rescinding sections 1 and 2 of Regulation XXI. of 1827, so far as they related to Malwa opium, and making it lawful to import such opium by direct route into Bombay for exportation by sea, under a pass granted on payment of the prescribed fee, instead of the duty leviable under Regulation XXI. of 1827.

It is worth mentioning that this last-named Regulation had been framed on the assumption that no opium was grown within the limits of the Presidency, and that all the opium required for local consumption had to be imported. So far from this being the case, however, considerable tracts of land in Gujarat, Khandesh, and elsewhere were suited to, and were cultivated with, the poppy, and when the Government of India, in 1838-40, expressed their desire to stop the cultivation, and at the same time their unwillingness to pass a special law for the purpose, it was only by straining the meaning of the words "imported and brought into" in Section 1 of the Regulation, that the cultivation of the poppy was put a stop to, and there was difficulty in dealing with the large stocks of opium, manufactured in Khandesh on Government account by gaol labour, owing to the absence of purchasers at the price—equal to that of Malwa opium—demanded by Government.

In order to remedy this state of affairs, there were lengthy discussions between the local and supreme Governments, the outcome of which was that in 1853 it was decided to pass a law prohibiting the cultivation of the poppy in the Bombay Presidency, to abandon the Khandesh manufacture, to obtain opium for home consumption from Bengal or Malwa, and to closely enforce the rights of restriction in Native States, in which any traffic in opium for exportation by sea was likely to be carried on. The then Commissioner of Customs was directed to draft a Bill to prohibit the cultivation of the poppy, and amend the existing law as to the importation and retail sale of opium. He prepared a Bill accordingly, but as it was found that the repeal of much of Regulation XXI. of 1827, which was proposed therein, would also affect the law relating to Abkari and Poisons, and the many questions involved in the former subject were of a difficult and complicated nature, the result was a series of protracted discussions without change in the Opium Law, for many years.

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The Government of India Acts, No. XXIII. of 1876 ("to amend the law relating to opium") and VI. of 1877, postponing the date of coming into force of the former, need merely be noted *en passant*, as they were both repealed by Act I. of 1878, the opium law now in force, with effect from 1st April, 1878. Under this Act "no one shall

- (a) cultivate the poppy,
- (b) manufacture opium,
- (c) possess opium,
- (d) transport opium,
- (e) import or export opium, or
- (f) sell opium."

save under rules to be made by the Local Government with the previous sanction of the Government of India.

The history of legislation regarding opium having thus been briefly traced, there remain for consideration details connected with the

- sources of supply;
- routes prescribed;
- rates of duty imposed from time to time;
- the manner in which duty is payable;
- the examination of opium in transit, and on arrival at its destination;
- the sources from which the opium revenue is derived.

Sources of Supply.

All opium required for consumption in the Bombay Presidency is obtained from Malwa or Rajputana. It is permissible to obtain it also from the Government factories in Bengal, but in practice none has been obtained thence for many years past.

For the weighment of the opium, the issue of the passes, the recovery of pass fees, Government have established scales, and maintain offices at the following places in Rajputana and Central India, viz., Indore, Ujjain, Ratlam, Dhar, Jaora, Ajmir, Mandesaur, Bhopal, and Chitor.

The scales at Ajmir were established in 1877, at Jaura in 1878, at Mandesaur and Bhopal in 1879-80, at Chitor in 1883-84, while those at the other places are of earlier date. In 1857, scales were established at Ahmedabad to meet the emergency arising from the disturbed state of the country at that time. They have been retained up till now, and are used for the weighment and passing, for export to Bombay, of opium grown in the territory of His Highness the Gaekwar, and for the examination of opium imported from Dongarpur. His Highness the Gaekwar, it may be noted, is allowed to cultivate the poppy and manufacture opium in the Kari division for the consumption of his subjects, and for export by sea to China and other foreign countries on payment of the full British pass fee duty.

Routes prescribed.

The rules sanctioned by the Bombay Government, with the previous approval of the Government of India, direct that "no opium shall be imported into the Presidency of Bombay by land unless it be—

- (a) booked through by railway for re-exportation to other parts of British India or to Native States;
- (b) for exportation by sea from Bombay;
- (c) for retail sale by licensed vendors in any district in which the direct importation of opium for such sale is sanctioned by the Local Government, and subject to any conditions which the Local Government may from time to time prescribe";

And further, that—

"no opium shall be imported into the Presidency of Bombay by land except by one of the following routes, that is to say:—

- (a) from any place on the frontier of the Kari Division in the territory of His Highness the Gaikwar, which the Local Government may from time to time appoint, direct to the town of Ahmedabad;
- (b) by railway from Khandwa or *via* Palanpur and Ahmedabad."

Under Bombay Government Notification, No. 3340, dated 29th June 1880, it is ruled that the Palanpur-Ahmedabad State Railway shall be the route by which alone opium from Baroda territory may be imported into the Bombay Presidency for transmission to the scales at Ahmedabad. All opium so imported shall be carried direct to the Government Opium Agency in the town of Ahmedabad. There is but one exception to

the railway being the sole route by which opium can be imported into the Bombay Presidency, and that is for Dongarpur opium. By Government Notification, No. 229, dated 13th January 1886, "opium the property of His Highness the Maharaval of Dongarpur may be imported into Ahmedabad, under an escort furnished by His Highness the Maharaval, by the following route, viz., by Vichvada, Samera, Samlaji, Tintoi, Bakrol, Lembhoi, Dhakrol, Modhuka, Harsol, Ujdia, Dehgam, and Naroda to Ahmedabad.

Rates of Duty imposed from time to time.

The first duty on opium in this Presidency was imposed by Regulation I. of 1818. It was Rs. 12 per Surat ser on all opium not the produce of territories immediately dependent on the Presidency of Fort William which might be brought into the Presidency of Bombay except on account of Government. When Regulation XXI. of 1827 repealing Regulation I. of 1818 was passed, the same rate of duty was continued thereby, but Regulation XX. of 1830 left the rate to be decided by Government from time to time, and the pass fee was fixed at first at Rs. 175 per chest of 140 lbs. In 1835 the rate was lowered to Rs. 125, but in subsequent years it was progressively increased as follows:—

1843 to Rs. 200.	1859 to Rs. 500.
1845 „ 300.	1860 „ 600.
1847 „ 400.	1861 „ 700.

On 1st October 1862, however, it was lowered to Rs. 600, at which figure it remained till 16th July, 1877, when it was raised to Rs. 650, while for opium passed at the scales at Ajmir, which were established a few months before, the rate was higher by Rs. 25 per chest. On 16th September 1879 the rate was raised to Rs. 700, that for Ajmir being Rs. 725. These rates were applicable to all opium, whether imported for local consumption within the Presidency, or for subsequent export from Bombay to China or other foreign ports. On 28th June 1882 the rate for the latter was lowered by Rs. 50 per chest, and on 5th July 1890 this was further decreased by Rs. 50; at present, therefore, the rates are:—

- (a) if imported for local consumption, Rs. 725 at the Ajmir scales; Rs. 700 at all others;
- (b) if imported for export to foreign countries, Rs. 625 at the Ajmir scales; Rs. 600 at others.

Mode of Payment of Duty.

The duty payable—

- (a) at the Ahmedabad Opium Agency is paid either in cash or by hundi payable at sight at the Bank of Bombay;
- (b) at the Ajmir Agency, either in cash or by hundi drawn on some trustworthy firm in Bombay, and payable at sight;
- (c) at all Agencies subordinate to the Opium Agent, Indore, by hundis payable at six days' sight drawn on some trustworthy firm in Bombay. The opium is liable to detention by the Collector of Land Revenue, Customs and Opium, Bombay, at the risk of the consignee until payment of the duty, when it is paid by hundi, has been certified by the Bank of Bombay.

Examination of Opium in transit, and on arrival at destination.

Opium booked through for re-exportation to other parts of British India or Native States shall be detained and examined as to number and weight of, and tampering with packages in transit at such stations in the Presidency as the Local Government may appoint in this behalf. By road route the naka at Samera in the Mahi Kantha has been appointed an examining station for opium imported from Dongarpur, while for opium imported by rail, Dadar, Kalyan, Ahmednagar, Nandgaon and Sabarmati Railway stations are the places appointed for examination.

On the arrival of the opium at its destination the permit and the packages are presented for examination to the Collector. If he considers that the packages have not been opened or tampered with in transit, if their number is complete, and if they are found to be of the full weight specified in the pass, less such allowance for dryage, if any, as the Local Government may from time to time prescribe, the packages may be dealt with by the owner as the law or the rules thereunder prescribe, and the permit is retained by the examining officer.

Sources from which the Revenue from Opium is derived.

These may be arranged under four heads:—

- (a) the export duty on opium for China or other foreign countries;
- (b) the duty on opium locally consumed, which is drawn from (1) the farms for retail vend in British districts, (2) payments by Native States;
- (c) the transshipment fees on Persian Gulf opium;
- (d) collections on behalf of the Madras Presidency.

The manner in which the revenue under head (a) is levied has been described in the preceding paragraphs, and it seems unnecessary here to go into further detail.

As to head (b), the system throughout the Presidency proper, except in a few districts, which will be noted later on, and in Sind, is now to give the farm to a contractor selected by the Commissioner of Opium for a term of one year, and a brief summary of how the present method arose may be of interest. Previous to the reforms introduced in 1873, duty at the rate of Rs. 1,630 per chest was leviable on opium imported for home consumption, the rate on opium for China ranging from Rs. 600 to Rs. 700 per chest. In practice, the full duty rate was not imposed on opium for home consumption, but taxation considerably in excess of the export duty rate was levied on it. The sales of licit opium dwindled to insignificant proportions, and almost the whole wants of the people were met by smuggled opium. After many years spent in discussing various remedial proposals, the conclusion ultimately arrived at was that the rate of taxation levied was prohibitive, and was the main cause of the smuggling which so extensively prevailed. The first measures of reform decided on were,—

(1) the reduction of the duty rate on opium for home consumption, and its assimilation to that obtaining for the time being on opium for the China market;

(2) the abolition of fees for the privilege of vend.

Government determined to be content with the duty realisations, and not to attempt to raise additional revenue by imposing license fees on the retail sale of opium. Another main feature of the scheme introduced in 1873, with the object of displacing contraband opium from consumption, and inducing the opium dealers to confine their transactions to licit opium, was the apportionment to farmers of a sufficient share of the sale proceeds of licit opium to induce them, from motives of self-interest, to act honestly, to repress illicit practices on the part of their retailers, and to enlist their co-operation with Government for the suppression of opium smuggling. The system of giving the opium farms by competition was devised for the application of the above principles, and being tried first in Bombay City in June 1873, it was subsequently extended to Gujarat, the greater part of the Deccan and Konkan, and to Sind.

The scheme succeeded admirably in the first few years after its introduction in displacing from consumption in many districts considerable quantities of contraband opium. There was at first no great competition for the farms, and the minimum vend was guaranteed by the farmers were not forced by competition to too high a figure. Although the sales of licit opium rose rapidly, the farmers were able to sell at, or about, the maximum prices allowed, the full quantities they had undertaken to sell, and they made good profits. But as years went on the progress of licit consumption became slower, the farmers did not exert themselves as they should have done to put a stop to opium smuggling and the consumption of smuggled opium, and it was evident that some of them had entered into bargains out of which they could not make certain of the profit they looked for, if they confined their own dealings and those of their retailers to licit opium. The large profits earned by many of the farmers in the earlier years induced considerable competition for the farms, and many of them were let to speculators, who guaranteed too high minimum vend, and tendered for the farms on terms which left a very small, if any, margin for honest profit. It was clear that the whole object for which monopoly farms were granted was lost if the farmers dealt, or permitted their retailers to deal, in smuggled opium, and it became essential to reconsider the terms on which the farms should be granted, so that the farmers might be assured of a reasonable profit on licit dealings.

It was decided that the competition for the farms must be confined within limits, and no form of auction being possible which would satisfy the condition of restricted competition, the most practicable resource,

while the farming system was continued—and the time for dispensing with the aid of the farmers in suppressing illicit practices had not arrived—seemed to be selection from amongst the candidates for these farms. Government, therefore, in July 1889, directed that arrangements for the disposal of opium farms should be made as follows:—

(1.) The existing license conditions should be maintained intact. (2.) A margin of about Rs. 2-8-0 on each pound of opium sold should be secured to the farmers by limiting the minimum guaranteed vend to quantities which the farmers might reasonably be expected to sell at the maximum selling price allowed. For this purpose the Commissioner of Opium was instructed to estimate carefully the quantities that farmers dealing honestly were likely to be able to sell in each district at the retail selling price allowed, and to enter those quantities in the licenses as the minimum vend which the farmers would be required to guarantee. The commissioner was directed to estimate the minimum vend from the statistics in his office showing the actual sales for a series of years, the number and nature of offences committed against the opium laws, the quantities of contraband opium seized and the amounts paid by farmers as penalties for short sales. It was considered that with these figures and the general experience of the Department to aid him, the commissioner should be able to form a fair idea of the minimum quantities which the farmers ought to be able to sell. He was directed to use his discretion in fixing these quantities, but to be careful not to overburden the farmers, and to fix the minimum vend rather below than above his own estimate of the normal demand at the retail prices fixed.

(3.) Having fixed the minimum vend the commissioner was instructed to publish them with the other terms of the farm licenses, and call for applications for the farms on those terms. He was then to make his selection from among the candidates, and give the farms to the persons whom he might consider most likely to conduct the business satisfactorily.

The system was to be tried experimentally in the first instance for one year, but from one cause or another the term has since then been, as a rule, but one year.

In the districts where the monopoly farm system, either by competition or selection, was never introduced, comprising Bijapur, Dharwar, Belgaum in the Southern Maratha Country, Kanara, and Ratnagiri, where the consumption of opium has always been insignificant, the system has, since the introduction of the Opium Act up to the end of 1892-93, been for the license to pay to Government a fixed amount for the privilege of sale in addition to the duty on the opium actually issued to him from the Government depôts for vend at his shops, the farms being sold either by districts, talukas, or shops.

The further modifications which have been made with effect from 1st August, 1892 are—

- (a) abolition of the minimum guaranteed vend everywhere;
- (b) the reduction of the maximum quantity allowed to be sold by the retail vendors to one person in one day from ten tolas to two without a special permit;
- (c) the prohibition of the sale of opium for consumption on the premises,—in other words, the closing of licensed *chandul* and *madat* shops.

Owing to the term of the farm in Bombay City not having expired till the 31st July 1893, the modification did not take full effect there till the beginning of the current year. By the abolition of the minimum guaranteed vend it will be understood that farmers have now to pay only the duty on opium actually bought by them for sale, and instead of paying any license fees they are required to maintain additional establishments for the supervision of their retailers, and the prevention of smuggling and other illicit practices.

Under sub-head (2)—Payments by Native States—it may be mentioned that, on the introduction of the Opium Act in 1873, the Kathiawar States were informed that the cultivation of the poppy and the production of opium must be discontinued, that they must import their opium under passes granted by recognised authorities, and by specified routes, must take measures to cause opium retailed in their States to be sold under the same rules and at the same prices as opium supplied to consumers in British territory, must furnish half-yearly a statement showing the

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quantities of opium imported and sold during that period, the proceeds of the sales and the balance of the opium in hand in each division of the State at the end of the half-year, and lastly they were required to pay the full pass fee of Rs. 650 on every chest of opium imported into those States for the use of their subjects. A drawback, however, of Rs. 130 per chest, or 20 per cent. of the pass fee, was to be allowed in the case of opium so imported, on the distinct condition that the Governments of the States, to which the privilege was conceded, should use their utmost endeavours to prevent the smuggling and illicit sale of opium, adopt the British retail system, and not permit opium to be sold by retail within their States at a lower price than that at which it was sold in British territory. It was further laid down that in case of failure to comply with this condition, Government were free to withdraw the concession. Similar instructions were issued as regards Cutch.

That State, as well as those of Kathiawar, memorialised in 1880 the Government of India on the subject of these orders, and in September 1881 they were informed of the decision of the Supreme Government, which confirmed that the Bombay wholly, except for the modification that "the pass duty on re-imported opium" shall be lowered from four-fifths of the full duty to "two-thirds, the prohibition against cultivation and "manufacture being maintained," while it was expressly stated that "the right of the British Government to impose the full duty is not affected by this concession, which has been made in the expectation that the Chiefs will enter into loyal co-operation with the Government of Bombay for the suppression of all illicit traffic."

In December 1881 a further concession was made to the States, in that they were permitted to purchase opium from Bombay, or to import it from Central India for consumption within the limits of their respective States, subject to the condition that they strictly complied with the rules under the Opium Act regulating such traffic. In the beginning of 1882 the Political Agent reported that the States had finally accepted the arrangements determined on by Government, and these arrangements were then duly and publicly notified throughout Kathiawar. They have been worked in these States and in Cutch for some 14 years now, but formal agreements, binding mutually on Government and the States, have not as yet been drawn up and signed. It is expected, however, that these will shortly be completed.

In the Mahi Kantha, the Rewa Kantha, and Palanpur, Government in 1878 decided that the growth of the poppy and the manufacture of opium must be stopped, that the sale of opium should be a State monopoly, that the opium consumed should be procured by the State itself by special arrangements, either by direct importation from Malwa under an official pass, or from the Government opium depôts at Ahmedabad or elsewhere. The Political Agents were instructed to inform the various Chiefs in those States that the Government would insist on the strictest performance of their treaty engagements to prevent the importation of opium across their borders from Malwa, Meywar, or Rajputana. With the view of securing the co-operation of the Chiefs they were permitted to import, free of duty, the quantity of opium actually required by each State for *bona fide* home consumption, but on the distinct understanding that the illicit importation of opium should be completely stopped, and that the opium should not be sold by retail at a less price than that at which opium was retailed in British territory. The full duty per chest was to be paid by the local importers and consumers, but the amount of the duty would form part of the revenues of the Chiefs, and not be charged by or paid to the British Government. The right of withdrawing the privilege and of charging the full duty, in the event of violation of the terms laid down, was, however, reserved by Government. The States were further required to furnish similar returns to those prescribed for Cutch and Kathiawar. The terms were accepted by the respective Chiefs, and are in force up to the present time.

Similar obligations and terms have been imposed on all the Native States in the Presidency, but the history of these the more important opium consuming States has been given in detail. Cambay, alike with Palanpur, the Mah Kantha and Rewa Kantha States, is allowed remission of the whole of the British duty on opium imported for home consumption, the States under the Surat Political Agency, viz., Dharampur, Bansda, and

Sachin that under Thana, viz., Jawhar; under Sholapur, viz., Alkalkot; under Dharwar, viz., Savanur; under Kolaba, viz., Janjira; the State of Savantvadi; and those under the Southern Maratha Country Agency (except Jath with the Dafapur Estate) received one-fifth, while Jath, under the Southern Maratha Agency, Bhor, under Poona, Aundh and Phaltan, under Satara, receive one-tenth remission.

Of Baroda, which though territorially in the Bombay Presidency, is politically subordinate to the Government of India, it is sufficient to say that it enjoys the whole of the revenue derivable under its State monopoly both for home consumption and export to China, and is besides allowed to import from Malwa, free of duty, whatever quantity of Malwa opium it may require for home consumption.

Regarding head (c), "Transshipment fees on Persian Gulf opium," this is provided for under Rule 29 of the opium rules sanctioned under Government Notification, Revenue Department, No. 4472 A., dated 3rd June 1885. The rule is quoted for ready reference:—

"Notwithstanding anything herein-before contained to the contrary, opium not the produce of India may be imported by sea into the ports of Bombay or Karachi, and opium, whether the produce of India or not, may be imported by sea into the port of Aden: Provided in each case that the opium so imported be manifested for transshipment or for re-exportation in the same bottom:

"Opium so imported may be re-exported by sea from the said ports:

"All such opium imported into and re-exported from the said ports in the same bottom shall be liable to a duty at the following rates on each chest not exceeding 140½ lbs. avoirdupois net weight:—

"When the consignment does not exceed 150 chests at Rs. 5 per chest.

"From 151 to 300 chests at Rs. 4 per chest.

"From 301 to 600 " at " 3 "

"601 chests and upwards at " 2 "

"Provided that opium on which a transshipment or re-export fee has been levied at one of the said ports shall be exempt from the payment of a re-export fee at any other of the said ports."

Under head (d), "Collections on behalf of the Madras Presidency," it may be noted that this is really nominal, so far as Bombay is concerned. It includes all revenue collected on behalf of Madras; e.g., opium passed for that Presidency from the scales in Malwa under the Bombay Opium Commissioner, or opium exported by sea from Bombay for Madras ports. It will be understood that all such revenue is credited to Madras.

For the information of the Commission is appended a complete annotated copy of the Opium Act I. of 1878, with the rules in force up to date, and copies of the license forms showing the conditions now imposed on opium vendors.

T. D. MACKENZIE,
Commissioner of Customs, Salt,
Opium, and Abkari.

Camp Bordi, 4th December 1893.

The INDIAN OPIUM ACT, No. I. of 1878, together with the RULES and NOTIFICATIONS issued thereunder and in force in the Presidency of Bombay on 1st December 1893.

ACT No. 1 of 1878.

An Act to amend the Law relating to Opium.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the law relating to opium; it is hereby enacted as follows:—

Preamble.

1. This Act may be called "The Opium Act, 1878." Short title.
It shall extend to such local areas as the Governor-General in Council may, by notification in the "Gazette of India," from time to time direct; Local extent.

And it shall come into force in each of such areas on such day as the Governor-General in Council in like manner directs in this behalf. Commence-ment.

The Act came into force in the territories administered by the Governor of Bombay in Council on the 1st April 1878, Government of India Notification, No. 1888, dated the 22nd March 1878.

The Act came into force in the territory of Peint on the 1st April 1887, Government of India Notification, No. 480, dated the 10th March 1887.

2. The reference made to Bombay Regulations XXI. of 1827, and XX. of 1830, in Act No. VII. of 1836, shall be read as if made to the corresponding sections of this Act. Amendment of Act VII. of 1836, s. 1.

[Paragraphs 1 and 2 of section 2:—repealed by Act XII. of 1891.]

Interpretation clause.	3. In this Act, unless there be something repugnant in the subject or context—
"Opium."	"Opium" includes also poppy heads, preparations or admixtures of opium, and intoxicating drugs prepared from the poppy;
"Magistrate."	"Magistrate" means, in the Presidency towns, a Presidency magistrate, and elsewhere a magistrate of the first class or (when specially empowered by the local government to try cases under this Act) a magistrate of the second class;
"Import."	"Import" means to bring into the territories administered by any local government from sea, or from foreign territory, or from a territory administered by any other local government;
"Export."	"Export" means to take out of the territories administered by any local government to sea, or to any foreign territory or to any territory administered by another local government;
"Transport."	"Transport" means to remove from one place to another within the territories administered by the same local government.
Prohibition of poppy cultivation and possession, &c. of opium.	4. Except as permitted by this Act, or by any other enactment relating to opium for the time being in force, or by rules framed under this Act or under any such enactment, no one shall— (a) cultivate the poppy; (b) manufacture opium; (c) possess opium; (d) transport opium; (e) import or export opium; or (f) sell opium.
Power to make rules to permit such matters.	5. The local government, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, may, from time to time by notification in the local Gazette, make rules consistent with this Act to permit absolutely, or subject to the payment of duty or to any other conditions, and to regulate within the whole or any specified part of the territories administered by such Government, all or any of the following matters:— (a) the cultivation of the poppy; (b) the manufacture of opium; (c) the possession of opium; (d) the transport of opium; (e) the importation or exportation of opium; and (f) the sale of opium, and the farm of duties leviable on the sale of opium by retail. Provided that no duty shall be levied under any such rule on any opium imported and on which a duty is imposed by or under the law relating to sea customs for the time being in force or under section 6. REVENUE DEPARTMENT, Government Notification No. 44724A, dated 3rd June 1885.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 5 and 13 of the Opium Act, 1878, and in supersession of all previous rules made under the same sections, the Governor in Council is pleased, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, to make the following rules for regulating the traffic in opium in the Bombay Presidency (namely):
Short title.	<i>Preliminary.</i> 1. These rules may be cited as the BOMBAY OPIUM RULES. 2. In these rules, unless there be something repugnant in the subject or context,— (1) "opium" has the meaning defined in the Act; (2) "commissioner" means the commissioner of customs, salt, opium, and ábkári; (3) "collector" means any revenue officer in independent charge of a district, and, within the limits of the town of Bombay, the collector of customs; it also includes any assistant collector, deputy collector, or assistant collector of customs duly authorised by such collector to perform all or any of the duties imposed on a collector by these rules; (4) "farmer" means a person who has obtained from the collector a farm under Rule 43; (5) "licensed vendor" means a person who has obtained a license for retail vend under Rule 39 or 45; (6) "Presidency of Bombay" includes Sind; (7) "town of Bombay" means the area comprised in the limits of the jurisdiction of the Presidency magistrates; (8) "warehouse" means the Bombay Opium Warehouse appointed by the Governor in Council, in Government Notification No. 2205, dated 16th March 1885 (published in the "Bombay

Government Gazette" of 19th idem, page 341), under section 7, clause (c), of the Act, for the storage and deposit of opium legally imported into and intended for exportation by sea from the Presidency of Bombay.

Cultivation and Manufacture.

3. The cultivation of the poppy and, except as provided in Rules 22, 39, 43, and 44, the manufacture of opium for sale or export are prohibited within the Presidency of Bombay.

[*Imperatrix v. Kangleo Asao*.—Where a person who had purchased opium from a licensed dealer, and, from such opium had made a preparation called chandul for his domestic use, was convicted of an offence in contravention of the rules prescribed and made by Government under the Opium Act I. of 1878—(*vide* "Government Gazette" for 1885, Part I., pages 704 to 715).

Held, that the conviction was bad and that Rules 3 and 4 (1), read together, must be construed as permitting the manufacture of chandul, by a person for his own domestic use, from opium licitly obtained.

Criminal Ruling, No. 42, dated 12th October 1893. Candy and Fulton, JJ.]

Possession.

4. Except as provided in Rules 5 and 6, or by a special order of the commissioner under Rule 11.

(i) no person shall have in his possession any opium other than—

(a) opium purchased from Government, or from a farmer or licensed vendor, or under Rule 36, or

(b) a preparation or admixture made for his own domestic use from opium so purchased;

(ii) Save as provided in Rule 60,* no person, not being a farmer or licensed vendor, shall have in his possession more than five seers of poppy-heads or two tolas of any description of opium not being poppy-heads.

5. Rule 4 does not apply to—

(i) opium in transit covered by a permit under Rule 7;

(ii.) opium lawfully imported—

(a) during transit to its destination;

(b) when warehoused under the provisions of Rule 21.

(iii.) (c) Opium imported into Ahmedabad under Rule 13a and possessed, subject to such conditions as the commissioner may prescribe, by an authorised agent of His Highness the Maharaval of Dongarpur pending disposal. (Added by Government Notification No. 229, dated 13th January 1886.)

6. The collector may grant:

(a) to any medical practitioner residing within his district, a license in the form marked A., hereto annexed, for the possession of opium for medical purposes only (in such quantity as the collector may fix, which, except in any special case in which the commissioner may authorise a larger quantity, shall not exceed one seer).†

(b) to any person, a special permit authorising him, for a specified period, to have in his possession for private consumption only a specified quantity of opium in excess of two tolas.

The collector, with the sanction of the commissioner, may delegate to the Mamlatdar, or other chief revenue officer of a Taluka, the power of granting special permits given him by sub-clause (b) of this rule under such restrictions and subject to such instructions as he may think fit. (Added by Government Notification No. 491, dated 18th January 1893, published at page 39 of the "Government Gazette," Part I., dated 19th idem.)

* *Vide* Government Notification, No. 5515, dated 31st July 1883, page 688, "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 3rd August 1893.

† *Vide* Government Notification, No. 6437 of 10th August 1892, page 802 of the "Bombay Government Gazette" of 11th idem.

‡ Added by Government Notification No. 4861, dated 24th June 1893.
§ *Vide* Government Notification No. 6137 of 10th August 1892, page 802 of the "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., of 11th idem.

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Transport.

7. Save as provided in Rule 60,* the transport from one place to another within the Presidency of Bombay of any quantity of opium exceeding two† tolás in weight is prohibited, except under cover of a permit in Form B., hereto annexed, or in such other form as the commissioner from time to time prescribes, granted—

- (a) in the case of opium to be transported from one place to another within the town of Bombay, or from any place within to any place without the town of Bombay, by the collector;
- (b) in the case of opium to be transported from any place in the Presidency, outside the town of Bombay to the town of Bombay, or to any other place in the Presidency, by the collector of the place from which it is to be despatched :

Provided that—

- (1) in the case of opium imported into the town of Bombay, the permit to cover transport from the railway station to the warehouse may be endorsed on the pass referred to in Rule 16;
- (2) in the case of opium to be exported by sea, the permit to cover transport from the warehouse to the place of shipment may be endorsed on the shipping bill;
- (3) in the case of opium removed from a Government depôt to a retail shop, a permit in the Form C., hereto annexed, or in such other form as the commissioner from time to time prescribes may be granted by the officer in charge of such depôt.

8. Except in the case of transport from one place to another within the town of Bombay or within any district, no such permit shall be granted unless the person applying for it can produce a written permission so to apply, signed—

- (a) if transport to a place within the town of Bombay be applied for,—by the collector of customs;
- (b) if transport to any district be applied for,—by the collector of such district.

A copy of the permit granted shall be sent—

- in case (a) to the collector of customs;
- in case (b) to the collector of the district to which the opium is to be transported.

9. No package containing opium shall be opened during transport.

10. The permit and the packages shall, on arrival, be presented for examination to the collector.

If, after examination, the collector concludes that the packages have not been opened or tampered with in transit, if their number is complete, and if they be found to be of the full weight specified in the pass (less such allowance for dryage, if any, as the Local Government from time to time prescribes), the packages may be dealt with by the owner as the law or these rules allow, the permit being retained by the examining officer. Otherwise the packages shall be detained and dealt with as the law or the orders of any duly authorised authority may direct.

Import.

11. No opium shall be imported into the Presidency of Bombay by sea except in whole or half chests for re-exportation as provided by Rule 29.

Provided, however, that at the port of Bombay only, opium may be imported otherwise than in whole or half chests for re-exportation, subject in all cases to payment of the full duty imposed by the Sea Customs Tariff for the time being in force, and to any special orders passed by the commissioner as to subsequent possession and disposal of the opium imported.

12. No opium shall be imported into the Presidency of Bombay by land, unless it be:

- (a) booked through by railway for re-exportation to other parts of British India, or to Native States;
- (b) for exportation by sea from the port of Bombay;
- (c) for retail trade by licensed vendors, in any district in which the direct importation of opium for such sale is sanctioned by the Local Government, and subject to any conditions which the Local Government may from time to time prescribe :

Provided that any opium imported for either of the purposes mentioned in clause (b) and clause (c) may, after it reaches its destination in the Presidency of Bombay, and with the permission in writing of the collector, be dealt with in any other way permitted by the law for the time being in force. But, subject to any conditions which the local government may prescribe in this behalf, permission shall not be granted by the collector until the difference between the duty on the opium in question, calculated at the rates in force at the date of the application, on opium intended for exportation and on opium intended for retail sale, respectively shall have been recovered or refunded, as the case may be.

Government Notification No. 2365 of 8th May 1878, modified by Notification No. 8157, dated 21st November 1882.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to permit the direct importation of opium from Málwa into the town of Bombay for retail sale in the said town by persons duly licensed there to retail opium subject to the following conditions:—

- (a) All opium so imported shall be subject to the rate of duty notified from time to time under section 6 of the Opium Act, 1878, to be leviable on opium imported into the Presidency of Bombay for consumption therein, and payment of the duty leviable thereon shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the rules made under section 5 of the Opium Act;
- (b) All opium so imported shall, on arrival at Bombay, be deposited either in the Government opium godown, or in the licensed shop of the licensed vendor importing the same;
- (c) Opium deposited in the Government godown will remain there at the risk of the importer, who shall be at liberty to keep it in his own boxes and under his own keys and seals, and to remove it in reasonable quantities at a time to his shop as he requires it for use; but he shall not be entitled to have access to the godown except during office hours, nor without special permission from the collector of customs oftener than twice a week.
- (d) The quantity of opium to be removed from the Government godown shall on each occasion be presented to the officer in charge of the Opium Department of the Custom House for weighment and registration, and shall be covered by a pass in the Form C. attached to the rules.

Similar permission for direct importation from Malwa and direct purchase in Bombay from wholesale dealers has been accorded to licensed retailers in—

Ahmedabad, Kaira and Panch Mahals.—By Government Notification No. 5214 of 2nd October 1880, modified by Notification No. 8157 of 21st November 1882.

Broach and Poona.—By Government Notification No. 6341 of 26th October 1881, modified by Notification No. 8157 of 21st November 1882.

Sholápur and Násik.—By Government Notification No. 10,197 of 29th December 1884.

Ahmednagar.—By Government Notification No. 2236 of 16th March 1885.

Revenue Department, Government Notification No. 5300, dated 29th June 1885.—In supersession of paragraph 2 of each of the five Notifications noted at foot,* and of so much of Notification No. 8157, published at page 996 of the "Bombay Government Gazette" for 1882, as refers to paragraph 2 in each of the first three of the Notifications, the Governor in Council is pleased to direct, under clause (c) of No. 12 of the Bombay Opium Rules, published at pages 704 to 715 of the "Bombay Government Gazette" of 4th June 1885, Part I., that persons duly licensed to retail opium in any district or place to which any of the said five Notifications applies may supply themselves with opium by purchase from wholesale

* Vide Government Notification No. 5515, dated 31st July 1893, page 888, "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 3rd August 1893.

† Vide Government Notification No. 6437 of 10th of August 1892 of the "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 24th June 1893.

* (1) No. 2365 of 8th May 1878, published at page 303 of Part I. of the "Bombay Government Gazette" for 1878.

(2) No. 5214 of 2nd October 1880, published at page 850 of Part I. of the "Bombay Government Gazette" for 1880.

(3) No. 6341 of 26th October 1881, published at page 650 of Part I. of the "Bombay Government Gazette" for 1881.

(4) No. 10,197, dated 29th December 1884, published at page 2 of Part I. of the "Bombay Government Gazette" for 1885.

(5) No. 2236 of 16th March 1885, published at page 342 of Part I. of the "Bombay Government Gazette" for 1885.

dealers in Bombay, subject to the following conditions, viz. :—

- (1) that permission be in every case obtained as required by the proviso to No. 12 of the said rules;
- (2) that the differential duty, if any, leviable on the opium under the said proviso be duly paid;
- (3) that the opium be purchased by whole or half chests only;
- (4) that it be shown to the satisfaction of the collector of customs and opium that the whole of the opium purchased has been obtained from the Bombay Opium Warehouse, and not from any other place;
- (5) that the opium purchased be forthwith transported to its destination, and lodged for issue in the same manner as if it had been imported direct from Malwa or Meywar, as the case may be.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION NO. 7594, dated 9th October 1889.—Under the provisions of section 12 (c) of the rules framed under sections 5 and 13 of the Opium Act, 1878, and notified in Part I. of the "Bombay Government Gazette" of the 4th June 1885, his Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to permit the direct importation of opium from Malwa or Meywar into the district of Khandesh for retail sale in the said district by the person duly licensed to retail opium in that district, subject to the following conditions :—

- (a.) All opium so imported shall be subject to the rate of duty imposed, for the time being, on opium imported into the Presidency of Bombay for home consumption, and payment of the duty leviable thereon shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Rule 17 of the rules under the Opium Act, 1878, for the payment of duty on opium intended for exportation by sea.
- (b.) All opium so imported into the Khandesh district shall, on arrival, be deposited in the Government Treasury at Dhulia, or in the *Mamlotdar's Treasury at Jalgaon*. (The words in italics were added by Government Notification, No. 8120, dated 17th November 1890.)
- (c.) Opium deposited as aforesaid will remain there at the risk of the importer, who shall be at liberty to keep it in his own boxes and under his own keys and seals, and to remove it to his shops at such times as the collector of the district may determine, and in such quantities at a time as he may require for use, not being less than the minimum quantity to be fixed by the collector; he shall not be entitled to have access to the place of deposit except during office hours, nor without special permission of the collector or other officer duly empowered by the collector to grant such permission.
- (d.) The quantity of opium to be removed from the place of deposit shall, on each occasion, be presented to the officer in charge of the place for weighment and registration, and shall be covered by a pass in the Form C. attached to the rules.

2. The person duly licensed to retail opium in the aforesaid district is further permitted to supply himself with opium by purchase direct from wholesale dealers in Bombay, subject to the following conditions :—

- (1) that permission be in every case obtained as required by the proviso to No. 12 of the rules;
- (2) that the differential duty, if any, leviable on the opium under the said proviso be duly paid;
- (3) that the opium be purchased by whole or half chests only;
- (4) that it be shown to the satisfaction of the collector of customs and opium that the whole of the opium purchased has been obtained from the Bombay Opium Warehouse and not from any other place; and
- (5) that the opium purchased be forthwith transported to its destination, and lodged for issue in the same manner as if it had been imported direct from Malwa or Meywar, as the case may be.

Similar permission for direct importation from Malwa or Meywar has been accorded to the licensed retailer in the Surat district by Government Notification, No. 2533, dated 11th April 1893.

13. No opium shall be imported into the Presidency of Bombay by land, except by one of the following routes, that is to say :—

- (a) from any place on the frontier of the Kadi division in the territory of His Highness the Gaikwar which the Local Government may from time to time appoint direct to the town of Ahmedabad;
- (b) by railway from Khandwa, or *via* Palanpur and Ahmedabad.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to rule that the Palanpur-Ahmedabad State Railway be the route by which alone opium from Baroda territory may be imported into the Bombay Presidency for transmission to the scales at Ahmedabad. All opium so imported shall be carried direct to the Government Opium Agency in the town of Ahmedabad.—Government Notification, No. 3340, of 29th June 1880.

13A. Notwithstanding anything contained in Rule 13, opium, the property of His Highness the Maharaval of Dongarpur, may be imported into Ahmedabad, under an escort furnished by His Highness the Maharaval, by the following route, viz., from Kherwada, by Vichwada, Samera, Samlaji, Tintoi, Bakrol, Lembohi, Dhakrol, Modhuka, Harsol, Ujdia, Dehgam, Naroda to Ahmedabad, and subject to examination as to number, weight, and tampering in transit, at any of the above places which the local government may appoint in this behalf. (Added by Government Notification, No. 229, dated 13th January 1886)

14. Opium booked through for re-exportation to other parts of British India or Native States shall be detained and examined as to number, weight, and tampering in transit at any railway station in the Presidency which the local government may appoint in this behalf.

Dadar Station on the G. I. P. Railway has been appointed an examining station for opium booked through for re-exportation.—Government Resolution, No. 2250, dated 5th April 1882.

Kalyan Station on the G. I. P. Railway has been appointed an examining station for opium booked through from Khandwa to Hyderabad and stations on the Nizam's State Railway.—Government Notification, No. 6004, dated 8th November 1879.

Ahmednagar on the Dhond-Maumad State Railway has been appointed an examining station for opium booked through for Madras, Hyderabad, and stations south of Ahmednagar.—Government Notification, No. 6466, dated 3rd December 1879.

Sabarmati railway station on the B. B. and C. I. and Rajputana-Malwa Railway has been appointed an examining station for opium brought by Rajputana Malwa Railway and booked through for stations north and south of Ahmedabad.—Government Notification, No. 6045, dated 8th September 1887.

Nandgaon Railway Station on the G. I. P. Railway has been appointed an examining station for opium booked through from Indore for the Aurungabad Opium Warehouse in the territory of His Highness the Nizam.—Government Notification, No. 3243, dated 12th May 1891.

15. Opium imported by land for exportation by sea shall be brought direct to the town of Bombay, and there deposited in the manner provided in Rule 21, until such time as it may be disposed of.

16. No opium shall be imported by land except after payment of the duty, if any, imposed by the Governor-General in Council under section 6 of the Act, and under a pass in Form D. hereto annexed, or in such other form as the commissioner from time to time prescribes granted by the Government Opium Agent at Indore, Chitor, Ujjein, Rutlam, Dhar, Ajmir, Ahmedabad, Mundisaur, or Bhopal, or by some other officer duly authorised in that behalf by the Governor-General in Council or the local government respectively.

16A. Notwithstanding anything contained in Rule 16 opium imported from the Kari division of His Highness the Gaikwar's territory under clause (a), Rule 13, and opium imported under Rule 13A from the territories of His Highness the Maharaval of Dongarpur, shall be allowed to be brought to the scales of Ahmedabad on provisional passes to be granted by the Opium Agent, Ahmedabad, in such form as may be prescribed by the commissioner from time to time without previous payment of duty. But no such opium shall be allowed to be passed from the scales, except on payment of duty, if any, and under a pass as provided in Rule 16.

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(Added by Government Notification, No. 6914, dated 14th September 1889.)

Resolution of the Government of India, No. 3689, dated 17th November 1879.

"Read the following telegram, dated 22nd October 1879, from the Agent, Governor-General for Central India:—

"Collector Kistna issues passes unstamped to merchants for a large quantity of opium to be imported from Indore. Merchants slip from Malwa with consignments evading scales and will often get away. This system will strengthen smuggling. No pass should be given for Malwa opium, except through this office. If any collector desires opium imported, requisition should be sent to Indore, not made over direct, as pass, by him to merchant."

Resolution.—Under several local rules and regulations, the import of opium from Malwa for local consumption is permitted, under passes granted by revenue officers.

2. The Governor-General in Council has resolved that no pass shall, in future, be thus granted, excepting by the Opium Agent at Indore.

3. Officers desiring to authorise the import of Malwa opium, under sanctioned conditions, should accordingly address the Opium Agent at Indore, who will issue the required passes under such conditions, and with such precautions as he thinks necessary for the safety of the opium revenue which he supervises.

4. Each local government concerned will determine and inform the Opium Agent what officers are authorised to move him to issue passes under these orders."—*Vide* Government Notification, No. 6465, dated 3rd December 1879.

17. The duty on opium intended for exportation by sea shall be payable as follows:—

At the Ahmedabad Opium Agency, in cash or by hundi payable at sight at the Bank of Bombay;

At the Ajmir Agency, in cash or by hundi drawn on some trustworthy firm in Bombay and payable at sight;

At all agencies subordinate to the Opium Agent, Indore, by hundis drawn on some trustworthy firm in Bombay, and payable at six days' sight.

18. Intimation of the passes granted and hundis received daily shall be sent by the officer granting and receiving the same direct to the collector of customs, and to the Bank of Bombay (in the case of hundis thereon); and when the opium concerned is intended for retail sale by licensed vendors, or for immediate re-exportation from the Presidency of Bombay to another part of British India, or to a Native State, to the collector or political officer of the locality to which the opium is to be sent. The passes shall be delivered to the importers to cover their consignments.

19. Save as permitted in Rules 11 and 20, no opium shall be imported into the Presidency of Bombay:—

(a) except in whole chests containing 140 lbs. of opium, or half-chests containing 70 lbs., plus such allowance, if any, for dryage as the local government may from time to time prescribe;

(b) unless each such chest or half-chest be marked with the consecutive number of the pass, the total number of chests forming the consignment, and the distinctive brand of the office from which the pass was issued.

20. Notwithstanding anything contained in Rule 19, opium booked through by railway for re-exportation to the Presidency of Madras may be imported in strong wicker baskets subject to the following conditions:—

(a) each basket shall be stoutly and securely sewn over with leather, and shall contain 10 lbs. of opium;

(b) seven of such baskets shall be packed in a strong gunny or cloth bag, which shall be securely sewn;

(c) each bag shall have a label sewn on it, showing the number of its covering pass and its weight at the scales, and a distinguishing number or mark.

21. Opium imported into the Presidency for exportation by sea shall be conveyed to Bombay and shall, on arrival, be presented to the collector, together with the pass covering the same. The consignment shall be verified in the manner specified in Rule 10, and conveyed direct to and deposited in the warehouse:

Provided that any such opium may be detained by the collector at the risk of the consignee, until payment of the duty, when it is paid by hundi, has been certified by the Bank of Bombay, or until any other condition prescribed by this rule has been fulfilled.

22. Opium imported into the town of Bombay may, for export purposes, be manufactured into chandul, but such chandul shall continue liable to all the restrictions on transport which under these rules apply to opium. The manufacture shall be conducted under licenses to be issued by the collector on such conditions as the commissioner may from time to time prescribe.

Export.

23. Opium imported under Rule 12 for exportation by sea may be so exported from the port of Bombay only.

24. Opium so exported by sea shall be packed in whole or half chests containing the weights specified in Rule 19.

25. When opium is to be removed for exportation by sea, the exporter shall enter in the shipping bill under which the opium is to be exported the marks and numbers of packages and the number of packages of each mark to be removed from the warehouse. The shipping bill so prepared shall be checked with the warehouse register and removals noted therein.

26. Opium converted into chandul under Rule 22 may be exported under the same conditions as are provided in Rules 23 to 25 for ordinary opium, at the rate of 140 lbs. of chandul to 70 lbs. of opium.

27. When any person desires to export opium from the Presidency of Bombay into any foreign state, or into any other part of British India, he shall obtain a pass for each consignment, in such form as the commissioner may from time to time prescribe, from the collector of the district from which such opium is to be exported, or in the case of export from the town of Bombay, from the collector of Customs.

The pass shall specify—

(1) the name of the person in charge of the consignment,

(2) the name of the consignee,

(3) the number of the packages and the weight and contents of each, and

(4) the destination of the consignment.

But no such pass shall be granted unless the person applying for it produces a written permission so to apply, signed by the collector of the district, or the political officer accredited to the foreign State into which such opium is to be imported.

28. The collector may thereupon grant a pass for the export of such opium.

Each package shall be sealed in the presence of the officer granting the pass and with his official seal.

Transshipment and Re-export.

29. Notwithstanding anything herein-before contained to the contrary, opium not the produce of India may be imported by sea into the port of Bombay or Karachi, and opium, whether the produce of India or not, may be imported by the sea into the Port of Aden or Perim,* provided in each case that the opium so imported be manifested for transshipment or for re-exportation in the same bottom.

Opium so imported may be re-exported by sea from the said ports.

All such opium imported into and re-exported from the said ports in the same bottom shall be liable to a duty at the following rates on each chest not exceeding 140½ lbs. avoirdupois net weight:—

When the consignment does not exceed 150 chests, at Rs. 5 per chest.

From 151 to 300 chests, at Rs. 4 per chest.

From 301 to 600 chests, at Rs. 3 per chest.

601 chests and upwards, at Rs. 2 per chest.

Provided that opium on which a transshipment or re-export fee has been levied at one of the said ports shall be exempt from the payment of a re-export fee at any other of the said ports.

30. Small parcels of opium imported under Rule 11, on which full customs duty has been paid, may be exported by sea or land under the special orders of the commissioner.

* Added by Government Notification, No. 7482, dated 18th December 1886.

Notification under Section 133 of the Sea Customs Act, VIII. of 1878, published at page 28 of the "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 11th January 1883:—

Bombay Castle, 10th January 1883.

No. 221.—In supersession of Government Notification No. 67, dated 6th January 1880, published in the "Bombay Government Gazette Extraordinary" of the same date, and in exercise of the power conferred by Section 133 of Act VIII. of 1878 (The Sea Customs Act), his Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased, with the previous sanction of his Excellency the Governor General of India in Council, to declare that a fee on opium not the produce of India imported by sea into the Ports of Bombay, Karachi, or Aden* or Perim and transhipped in any of the said ports shall be levied at the following rates on each chest not exceeding 140½ pounds avoirdupois net weight:—

When the consignment does not exceed 150 chests, at Rs. 5 per chest.
From 151 to 300 chests, at Rs. 4 per chest.
From 301 to 600 chests, at Rs. 3 per chest.
601 chests and upwards, at Rs. 2 per chest.

(Government Notification No. 618, dated 11th September 1883.)

Opium on which a transhipment or re-export fee has been levied at one of the said ports shall be exempt from the payment of a transhipment fee at any other of the said ports.

General Rules as to Opium transported, imported, and exported.

21. No railway company shall receive or convey opium not covered and accompanied by a permit or pass of an officer competent under these rules to grant the same; or shall convey opium otherwise than direct, and in custody of its own officers, to the station at which, according to the route prescribed in such permit or pass, it should leave the railway.

32. The bulk of a consignment of opium in transport or in transit in the course of importation or exportation shall not be broken; and any revenue officer not inferior in grade to a Mahalkari, or any inspector or sub-inspector in the abkari or opium department, or any police officer not inferior in grade to a head constable, may at any time examine such a consignment.

If, after such examination, the officer concludes that the packages have not been opened or tampered with in such transport or transit, if their number corresponds with the number specified in the permit or pass, and if they be of the full weight specified in such permit or pass (less the allowance, if any, granted for dryage), the consignment shall be allowed to proceed. Otherwise the consignment shall be detained and disposed of according to law.

33. Opium, the property of a farmer licensed by His Highness the Gaikwar for the retail sale of opium in His Highness's territories, and intended for the supply of the said farmer's retail shops, may be imported into and transported through or exported from British territory when taken direct from one or other of the depôts and sub-depôts† mentioned in the foot-note under cover of permits issued and signed by a Naib-Subha of a division or of a taluka of His Highness's territories to the retail shop at which it is to be sold. Such permit shall be in Form C. appended to these rules.

33A. The conditions subject to which the transport through British territory of opium which has been seized as liable to confiscation in any part of the territories of His Highness the Gaikwar of Baroda, but which has not been ordered to be confiscated, shall be permitted, are as follows:—

- (a) that the opium shall be transported by the most direct route from the place of seizure, to the place at which its liability to confiscation is to be decided.

- (b) that it shall be covered by a pass which shall contain the following particulars:—

- (i) the route by which, the time during which, and the places from and to which transport is to be effected;
- (ii) the quantity of the opium to which the pass refers.

- (c) that every such pass shall be—

- (1) in the Form F. hereto appended,
- (2) signed by the Naib-Subha of the division,
- (3) kept during transport in the possession of the person in charge of the opium,
- (4) produced on demand made by any British officer of the departments of land revenue, police, opium, and abkari;

- (d) that no quantity shall be so transported in excess of that mentioned in any pass granted or produced in respect thereof, or by any route other than that mentioned in such pass;

- (e) that intimation of the route by which any such opium is to be transported shall be given to the police patel of the first village in British territory through which the opium may have to pass, not less than 24 hours before the transport through such village is commenced. (Added by Government Notification, No. 4426, of 30th June 1891, page 538 of the "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 2nd July 1891.)

33B. The conditions subject to which the import into, transport through and export from British territory shall be permitted of opium which is the property of a farmer licensed by His Highness the Maharaja of the Idar State, and which is to be taken direct from the depôt in His Highness's territory, in and through British territory for the supply of the said farmer's retail shops in His Highness's territory, are as follows:—

- (a) that the opium shall be imported, transported, and exported by the most direct route from the State depôt of the Idar State to the place where it is to be licitly sold;

- (b) that it shall be covered by a pass which shall contain the following particulars:—

- (1) the route by which, the time during which, and the places from and to which import, transport, and export are to be effected,
- (2) the quantity of the opium to which the pass refers;

- (c) that every such pass shall be—

- (1) in Form G. appended hereto,
- (2) signed by the Treasury officer of the Idar State,
- (3) kept during import, transport, or export in the possession of the person in charge of the opium,
- (4) produced on demand made by any British officer of the departments of land revenue, police, opium, and abkari;

- (d) that no quantity shall be imported, transported, or exported in excess of that mentioned in the pass granted in respect thereof, or by any route other than that mentioned in such pass;

- (e) that not less than 24 hours before the import into British territory is commenced, intimation of the route by which any such opium is to pass shall be given to the police patel of the first village in British territory through which the opium may have to pass;

- (f) that a duplicate of every such pass shall at the time of its issue be forwarded to the Mamlatdar of every taluka in which a British village through which the opium will have to pass is situated. (Added by Government Notification, No. 8811, dated 9th November 1892, page 1093 of "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I. of 10th idem.)

Sale.

34. Opium is said to be sold "retail" when a quantity less than half a chest of 140 lbs. is sold in a single transaction. It is said to be sold "wholesale" when half such a chest or any larger quantity is so sold.

35. No person shall sell any opium to any person not legally authorised to possess the same.

36. Opium deposited in the warehouse Rule 21 may be sold wholesale in the town of Bombay pending its disposal, subject to the provisions of these and of the Bombay Opium Warehouse Rules as to removal from

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* Vide Government Notification, No. 7483, dated 18th December 1886.
† Depôts:—Navsari, Baroda, Kadi.
Sub-Depôts:—Viana, Velacha, Petlad, Dehgam, Patan, Kheralu, Atarsumba. (Added by Government Notification, No. 7592, dated 9th October 1889.)

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the warehouse, and provided that only whole chests or half chests shall be so sold.

36A. Opium imported into Ahmedabad under Rule 13A may be sold wholesale to Native Chiefs and British farmers or licensed vendors in the city of Ahmedabad pending its disposal, subject to the provisions of these rules as to transport or export, as the case may be, and provided that only whole chests or half chests shall be so sold. (Added by Government Notification No. 229, dated 13th January 1886.)

37. No person shall sell opium by retail without a licence in this behalf; provided that a medical practitioner, who holds a licence granted to him under Rule 6 (a), may sell medical preparations containing opium to the extent and subject to the conditions prescribed in his said licence. Amended by Notification No. 6292, dated 3rd August 1892, page 773 of 4th idem.)

38. Save as provided in Rule 60*, no retail vendor shall sell more than two tolás of the inspissated juice of the poppy, or of any preparation or admixture thereof, or of any intoxicating drug prepared from the poppy, or more than five sers of poppy-heads, except to a licensed vendor or farmer or to a medical practitioner or other person holding a special permit granted by the collector under Rule 6, or under a special order from the commissioner or a collector.

39. Licences for the retail of opium or for the manufacture and retail of all or any intoxicating drugs prepared from the poppy may be granted for the town of Bombay by the collector of customs, and for other parts of the Presidency, by the collector of the district. Such licences shall be in the Form E. hereto annexed, or in such other form as the commissioner from time to time prescribes.

40. Whenever a licence is granted for the retail of opium, the officer who grants it shall demand such payments, and shall impose in the licence such conditions on the licensee as may from time to time be prescribed by the commissioner.

41. (Cancelled by Government Notification No. 9061, dated 10th November 1885.)

42. Licences for retail shall be granted for one year only, unless the commissioner shall otherwise specially direct.

43. With the general or special sanction of the commissioner, the collector may let in farm the right to retail opium, or to manufacture and retail all or any intoxicating drugs prepared from the poppy, in any local area under his control, for a term not exceeding five years. The commissioner may prescribe rules,—

(a) for the invitation and acceptance of tenders for such farms,

(b) for the requisition of security for the due fulfilment of the engagements entered into by the farmers, and

(c) as to the form and conditions of such leases.

Any breach of such engagement shall render the lease liable to annulment by the authority by whom the farm was sanctioned.

44. When any such farm is given, the farmer may make his own arrangements for the appointment of subordinate vendors, and for the manufacture of intoxicating drugs, within the limits of his farm and subject to the conditions of his lease; provided that no opium except that supplied from a Government dépôt and opium lawfully imported under clause (c), Rule 12, and opium otherwise lawfully obtained, shall be retailed or used in the manufacture of such drugs.

45. Licences for the retail of opium, or of intoxicating drugs prepared from the poppy, by persons appointed by the farmer to retail on his behalf, shall be granted by the collector in such form and on such conditions, consistent with the conditions of the farm as the commissioner from time to time prescribes.

46. With the sanction of the commissioner, the collector may cancel any lease granted under Rule 43; or may, within the period of the lease, impose any new reservation of restriction on the farmer.

If any such lease be cancelled for any cause other than a breach of the conditions thereof, or if any

reservation or restriction with respect to the grant of licences be imposed during the lease, the commissioner shall award such compensation as he thinks reasonable to the farmer for any damage sustained by him by reason of such cancellation, reservation, or restriction.

47. If any licensed vendor or farmer shall have in his possession, on the expiry of his licence or farm, any opium which he is unable to dispose of, to the satisfaction of the collector by private sale to other licensed vendors, or farmers, he shall surrender the same to the collector; and the incoming licensed vendor or farmer, or, if the expired licence or farm is not renewed, any licensed vendor or farmer within the district, when required by the collector, shall be bound to purchase the opium aforesaid to the extent of two months' supply at such price and in such quantities as the collector shall adjudge; provided that the price of opium thus adjudged shall in no case exceed the rate at which it can be procured from the Government: provided also that, if such opium be in the opinion of the collector unfit for use, the collector shall cause it to be destroyed.

48. Central and subsidiary dépôts of opium for issue to licensed retailers and farmers and for other Government purposes shall be established at Bombay, and such other places as the local government may from time to time direct.

49. The opium required for these dépôts shall be imported from Malwa or Bengal, or otherwise procured as the local government may direct, and shall be stored in the first instance at the central dépôts, whence it will be supplied on indents to the subsidiary dépôts as required.

50. Opium shall be issued from the Government dépôts to licensed vendors at a price to be fixed and notified from time to time by the local government.

Under Rule 50 of the rules under the Indian Opium Act I. of 1878, published at pages 704 to 715 of the "Bombay Government Gazette," dated the 4th June 1885, Part I., and in supersession of Government Notification, No. 3128A, dated the 31st March 1892, it is hereby notified for general information, by order of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, that on and after 15th February 1893, and until further intimation, opium will be issued from the Government dépôts at Aden, Rajkot, Palanpur, Sadra, and Baroda Cantonment, and from those in the Province of Sind, and in the British Districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira, the Pauch Mahals, Broach, and Surat at the fixed rate of Rs. 10 per lb. of 40 tolás, and from those in all other districts of the Presidency at the fixed rate of Rs. 9 and As. 8 per lb. of 40 tolás. (Government Notification, No. 903, of 1st February 1893, published at page 65 of "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I. of 1893.)

Import, &c., on behalf of the Government.

51. Nothing contained in the foregoing rules shall be deemed to affect the possession, transport, import, export or sale of opium by or on behalf of the Government.

Permission to import, export, transport, and sell Opium.

52. Subject to the prohibitions, conditions, and regulations imposed and prescribed by the foregoing rules, the manufacture, possession, import, export, transport, and sale of opium are permitted.

[For Rules 53 to 57, see notes under section 13.]

Control.

53. All collectors shall, as regards any matter arising in the administration of these rules, be subject to the general control of the commissioner.

** Special Exceptions as to Crude Opium in Part of the Thar and Parkar District.*

60. In applying, so far as concerns crude opium, the provisions of Rule 4 (ii.), Rule 7, and Rule 38, to such portion of the Thar and Parkar District as lies east of

* *Vide* Government Notification No. 5515, dated 31st July 1893, page 688, "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 3rd August 1893.

+ *Vide* Government Notification, No. 6437, dated 10th August 1892, page 802 of the "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 11th idem.

* Added by Government Notification, No. 5515, dated 31st July 1893, page 688, "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 3rd August 1893.

the Eastern Nara Canal, those rules shall be read as if for the words "two tolas," wherever they occur therein, there were substituted the words "ten tolas."

6. The Governor-General in Council may from time to time, by notification in the "Gazette of India," impose such duty as he thinks fit on opium or on any kind of opium imported by land into British India or into any specified part thereof, and may alter or abolish any duty so imposed.

With reference to Financial Notification, No. 2027, dated 28th June 1882, and in exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of Act I. of 1878 (the Opium Act, 1878), the Governor-General in Council is pleased to notify that, till further orders, all opium imported by land into the Presidency of Bombay, and not covered by a pass for exportation by sea from the port of Bombay, granted in accordance with Rule 14* of the Rules made under the Opium Act, 1878, and published by the Government of Bombay, will be subject to the following duty upon each chest weighing net 140½ lbs. avoirdupois weight, namely:—

	Rs.
When the pass for such opium is granted at Ajmir	725
When the pass for such opium is granted elsewhere	700

(Government of India's Notification, No. 4709, dated 3rd November 1882, republished at page 965 of the "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 9th November 1882.)

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of Act I. of 1878 (the Opium Act, 1878), the Governor-General in Council is pleased to reduce by Rs. 50 per chest the duty on opium imported by land into the Presidency of Bombay for exportation by sea from the port of Bombay.

Accordingly it is hereby notified that, till further orders, all opium imported by land into the Presidency of Bombay, and covered by a pass for exportation by sea from the port of Bombay, granted in accordance with Rule 16 of the rules made under the Opium Act, 1878, published by the Government of Bombay in their Notification, No. 4472A,† dated 3rd June 1885, shall be subject to the following duty upon each chest weighing net 140½ lbs. avoirdupois weight, namely:—

	Rs.
When the pass for such opium is granted at Ajmir	625
When the pass for such opium is granted elsewhere	600

(Government of India's Notification, No. 3242, dated 5th July 1890, republished under Bombay Government Notification, No. 4767, dated 9th idem.)

7. The Governor-General in Council may, by order notified in the "Gazette of India,"

(a) authorise any local government to establish warehouses for opium legally imported into, or intended to be exported from, the territories administered by such local government, and

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 7 (a) of the Opium Act, 1878, the Governor-General in Council is pleased to authorise the Governor of Bombay in Council to establish a warehouse for opium legally imported into or intended to be exported from the territories administered by him — (Government of India's Notification, No. 757, dated the 2nd May 1884, page 363 of the "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 15th idem.)

(b) cancel any such order.

So long as such order remains in force, the local government may, by notification published in the official gazette,

(c) declare any place to be a warehouse for all or any opium legally imported whether before or after the payment of any duty leviable thereon, into the territories administered by such government, or into any specified part thereof, or intended to be exported thence, and

(d) cancel any such declaration.

An order under clause (b) shall cancel all previous declarations under clause (c) of this section relating to places in the territories to which such order refers.

So long as such declaration remains in force, the owner of all such opium shall be bound to deposit it in such warehouse.

Government Notification, No. 2205, dated 16th March 1885. Under the power vested in him by section 7,

clause (c), of the Opium Act, and with the previous sanction of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council, His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council is pleased to appoint the building known as the Port Trust Apollo Bonded Warehouse, situated in Marine Street, within the Port of Bombay, to be the place for the storage and deposit of opium legally imported into the Presidency of Bombay and intended for exportation by sea therefrom.

This Notification shall come into force from the 1st June 1885.

8. The local government, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, may, from time to time, by notification in the local gazette, make rules consistent with this Act to regulate the safe custody of opium warehoused under section 7; the levy of fees for such warehousing; the removal of such opium for sale or exportation; and the manner in which it shall be disposed of, if any duty or fees leviable on it be not paid within 12 months from the date of warehousing the same.

Government Notification, No. 4472, dated 3rd June 1885.—In exercise of the power conferred by section 8 of the Opium Act, 1878, the Governor in Council is pleased, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, to make the following rules relating to the warehouse appointed in Notification, No. 2205, dated 16th March 1885 (published at page 341 of the "Bombay Government Gazette," of the 19th idem), for the storage and deposit of opium legally imported into the Presidency of Bombay and intended for exportation by sea therefrom, viz.:—

1. The said warehouse shall be known as "the Bombay Opium Warehouse," and these rules may be cited as "the Bombay Opium Warehouse Rules."

2. In these rules, unless there be something repugnant in the subject or context, any word or expression which is defined in the Opium Act, 1878, or in the Bombay Opium Rules, shall be deemed to have the meaning attributed to it by that Act or those rules.

3. Opium brought to the warehouse for deposit shall be accompanied by the passport covering it issued at the scales.

4. At the time of receipt of the opium into the warehouse the warehouse-keeper, or some other officer authorised by him in this behalf, shall examine the marks, numbers, and other particulars on the chests or half-chests and verify the same by comparison with those entered in the passport.

5. If the marks, numbers, and other particulars on the chests or half-chests are not found to correspond with those given in the passport, the warehouse-keeper shall at once report the fact for the orders of the collector, the opium being held in safe custody pending such orders.

If they correspond, the opium shall be stored in the warehouse.

6. After storage of the opium, the warehouse-keeper shall stamp across the passport the word "warehoused," and shall enter therein, in the place provided for the purpose, the number of the compartment of the warehouse in which the opium has been stored with the date and his signature.

The passport shall then be sent to the opium department.

7. On receipt of the passport in the opium department, the particulars thereof shall be entered in a register; the passport shall then be stamped with the word "cancelled" and retained in the opium department. The date of warehousing shall also be noted in the register of passports.

8. All opium deposited in the warehouse as above shall be at the disposal of the owners, to be dealt with as provided in the Opium Act and the Bombay Opium Rules.

9. No warehoused opium shall be removed from the warehouse until application in writing has been made to the collector and a permit for such removal has been obtained from him.

This rule shall not apply to the removal of opium from one compartment of the warehouse to another.

10. Before removal of warehoused opium for exportation by sea, the exporter's shipping bill, which shall be in the form of Schedule A., or to the like effect, and shall be prepared in the manner provided in No. 25 of the Bombay Opium Rules, shall be presented to the warehouse-keeper, together with the collector's permit authorising such removal.

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Power to
make rules
relating to
warehouses.

Duty on
opium imported
by land.

Ware-
housing
opium.

* Now Rule 16.

† Published at pages 704 to 715 of Part I., of the "Bombay Government Gazette" of the 4th June 1885.

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11. As the opium is passed out of the warehouse, the warehouse-keeper, or some other officer authorised by him in this behalf, shall compare the marks and numbers and other particulars on the chests or half-chests with those entered on the shipping bill and shall permit the removal of the opium only on finding the particulars to correspond.

12. When all the opium covered by a shipping bill has been passed out of the warehouse, the warehouse keeper or other officer aforesaid shall note on the shipping bill the fact of the removal of the opium and the date thereof.

13. The warehouse keeper shall then note in the shipping bill the hours between which the opium shall be transported from the warehouse to the place of shipment, and return it to the exporter.

14. Before removal of any warehoused opium, under the proviso to No. 12 of the Bombay Opium Rules, for consumption within the Presidency of Bombay, or for exportation under No. 27 of the said rules into any foreign State or into any part of British India outside of the Presidency of Bombay, the pass required by No. 7 or No. 27 of the said rules, as the case may be, shall be presented to the warehouse keeper, together with the collector's permit authorising such removal.

15. Previous to permitting removal of any opium under Rule 14, the warehouse keeper shall check by weight the contents of each chest or half-chest, and shall compare the weight with that given in the pass, and in the case of opium which is to be exported under No. 27 of the Bombay Opium Rules, shall seal each package as required by No. 28 of those rules.

16. On the removal of any such opium from the warehouse the warehouse keeper shall note on the pass the fact of the removal and the date thereof, returning the pass to the person who presented it.

17. Before any warehoused opium is removed, whether under Rules 10-13 or Rules 14-16, the warehouse-keeper or other officer authorised by him in this behalf, shall mark each chest or half-chest with the Government stamp provided for this purpose.

18. Unless the collector by a special order otherwise directs, no opium shall be taken into, or passed out of, the warehouse, except in whole or half-chests, and in the manner prescribed in the foregoing rules.

19. Every operation connected with the deposit and removal of opium in or from the warehouse, the bringing of the same to the proper place for examination and weighing, and putting thereof into and out of the scales, and the opening, sorting, lotting, marking, and numbering of packages of opium, in accordance with or for the purposes of these rules, shall be performed by or at the expense of the owner of the opium.

20. The warehouse-keeper, or any person duly authorised by the collector, may at any time enter any compartment or part of the warehouse, and may weigh or otherwise take an account of any opium that may be there.

21. All assays, tests, examinations, and samplings shall be performed within the warehouse.

22. Assaying, testing, and other operations in which the use of fire is necessary shall be carried on only in the part of the warehouse premises set apart for that purpose, and known as the "testing-rooms."

23. The balance of opium, if any, remaining after assay or test shall be removed from the testing-rooms and again deposited in the portion of the warehouse set apart for its storage.

24. The use of fires and naked lights and smoking within the warehouse are absolutely prohibited except in the testing-rooms.

25. The use of covered lights and lanterns may be permitted by the warehouse-keeper whenever it is shown to his satisfaction that it is necessary to allow the packing and sorting of opium to be proceeded within the warehouse after sunset. The use of petroleum or other inflammable or dangerous oils for the purpose of lighting is strictly prohibited.

26. The warehouse shall be closed on Sundays and on New Year's Day, Good Friday, the Empress' Birthday, Christmas Day, and all other days on which the closing of public offices is ordered by Government. The collector, however, may, on application, permit the warehouse to be opened on these days on payment of such fees as the collector, with the sanction of the commissioner, may from time to time fix.

(The scale of fees sanctioned by the commissioner in his No. 775, dated 8th February 1887, is Rs. 10 for attendance of warehouse-keeper, Rs. 5 for each gatekeeper, annas 12 for the naik, and annas 8 for each peon.)

27. The ordinary working hours in the warehouse shall be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. But when the owner of any opium to be deposited in the warehouse, or of any opium already in the warehouse, makes—

(a) a verbal request that the warehouse be kept open at any other time between sunrise and sunset, or

(b) a written application, giving sufficient reason for the request, that the warehouse be kept open after sunset up to an hour not later than 10 p.m., the warehouse-keeper shall open or allow the warehouse to remain open as desired.

28. No opium, or any other article, shall be brought into or removed from the warehouse except between the hours of sunrise and sunset; provided that opium unavoidably detained in transit to the warehouse and brought to the warehouse after sunset may be received in safe custody pending verification in the manner specified in Rule 4.

29. The warehouse shall be opened and closed only in the presence of the warehouse-keeper, who shall be responsible that all doors and windows giving access to the warehouse are properly closed and secured at the end of each day, and at the time of closing shall see that no person remains within the warehouse after it is closed, and that all lights and fires have been properly put out.

30. After the closing of the warehouse the warehouse-keeper shall place the keys of all locks in a box provided for the purpose, and after locking the said box, shall forward it to the Superintendent, Preventive Service, or other officer for the time being residing at the town Custom House; one key of the said box shall remain in charge of the warehouse-keeper and a duplicate with the officer aforesaid.

31. The responsibility of securely closing the doors and windows of the several compartments within warehouse shall rest with the respective occupants of such compartments, and the keys shall remain in their charge.

32. Every person who enters or leaves the warehouse shall be liable to be searched for the purpose of ascertaining if he has opium secreted about him.

33. All cases, bundles, and other articles shall be liable to examination when being taken into or removed from the warehouse.

34. Any person found guilty of any breach of the Opium Act, or of any rule framed thereunder, or otherwise committing any offence in respect of the warehouse or of the warehouse officials, or of any property contained in the warehouse, may be excluded from and prohibited entry into the warehouse by the collector.

35. The owners of opium stored in the warehouse shall ordinarily pay monthly in advance rent at the rates specified in Table I. of Schedule B., but the Commissioner of Customs and Opium may at any time substitute therefor fees at the rates specified in Table II. of the same schedule (Government Notification No. 6,315, dated 5th August 1885).

36. In the event of any rent (or warehouse fee) not being paid when due, the collector may detain any opium in the warehouse, the property of the person or persons by whom such rent (or warehouse fee) is due, until the claim be satisfied, and no opium in respect of which rent (or warehouse fees) have not been paid shall be removed from the warehouse until they are paid.

37. The allotment of compartments and of testing rooms in the warehouse shall rest with the collector, who may at any time revise or alter any such allotment previously made by him.

38. Nothing contained in the foregoing rules shall be deemed to affect opium in the warehouse belonging to or which is to be purchased by or on behalf of Government.

9. Any person who, in contravention of this Act, or of rules made and notified under section 5 or section 8,

(a) cultivates the poppy, or

(b) manufactures opium, or

(c) possesses opium, or

(d) transports opium, or

(e) imports or exports opium, or

(f) sells opium, or

(g) omits to warehouse opium, or removes or does any act in respect of warehoused opium,

and any person who otherwise contravenes any such rule,

Penalty for
illegal cul-
tivation of
poppy, &c.

shall, on conviction before a magistrate, be punished for each such offence with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to Rs. 1,000, or with both;

and, where a fine is imposed, the convicting magistrate shall direct the offender to be imprisoned in default of payment of the fine for a term which may extend to six months, and such imprisonment shall be in excess of any other imprisonment to which he may have been sentenced.

Presump-
tion in
prosecu-
tions under
section 9.

10. In prosecutions under section 9, it shall be presumed, until the contrary is proved, that all opium for which the accused person is unable to account satisfactorily is opium in respect of which he has committed an offence under this Act.

Confiscation
of opium.

11. In any case in which an offence under section 9 has been committed—

- (a) the poppy so cultivated;
- (b) the opium in respect of which any offence under the same section has been committed;
- (c) where, in the case of an offence under clause (d) or (e) of the same section, the offender is transporting, importing, or exporting any opium exceeding the quantity (if any), which he is permitted to transport, import, or export, as the case may be, the whole of the opium which he is transporting, importing, or exporting;
- (d) where, in the case of an offence under clause (f) of the same section, the offender has in his possession any opium other than the opium in respect of which the offence has been committed, the whole of such other opium,

shall be liable to confiscation.

The vessels, packages, and coverings in which any opium liable to confiscation under this section is found, and the other contents (if any) of the vessel or package in which such opium may be concealed, and the animals and conveyances used in carrying it, shall likewise be liable to confiscation.

Order of
confiscation
by whom to
be made.

12. When the offender is convicted, or when the person charged with an offence in respect of any opium is acquitted, but the magistrate decides that the opium is liable to confiscation, such confiscation may be ordered by the magistrate.

Whenever confiscation is authorised by this Act, the officer ordering it may give the owner of the thing liable to be confiscated an option to pay, in lieu of confiscation, such fine as the officer thinks fit.

When an offence against this Act has been committed but the offender is not known or cannot be found, or when opium not in the possession of any person cannot be satisfactorily accounted for, the case shall be inquired into and determined by the collector of the district or deputy commissioner, or by any other officer authorised by the local government in this behalf either personally or in right of his office, who may order such confiscation: Provided that no such order shall be made until the expiration of one month from the date of seizing the things intended to be confiscated or without hearing the persons (if any) claiming any right thereto, and the evidence (if any) which they produce in support of their claims.

The collector of salt revenue has been authorised, under paragraph 3 of this section, to inquire into and determine cases of adjudications "so far as regards" any opium or other thing seized by himself or by "any officer subordinate to him." (Government Notification, No. 3578, dated the 20th June 1879, published at page 609 of the "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 26th idem.)

Power to
make
rules, re-
garding

13. The local government may, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, from time to time, by Notification in the local gazette, make rules consistent with this Act to regulate—

disposal of
things
confiscated
and rewards.

- (a) the disposal of all things confiscated under this Act; and
- (b) the rewards to be paid to officers and informers out of the proceeds of fines and confiscations under this Act.

Government Notification, No. 4472A, dated 3rd June 1885.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 5 and 13 of the Opium Act, 1878, and in supersession of all previous rules made under the same sections, the Governor in Council is pleased, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, to make the following rules for regulating the traffic in opium in the Bombay Presidency (namely):

[For Rules 1 to 52, see notes under section 5.]

Disposal of Things confiscated.

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53. Opium confiscated under the Act shall be examined by the collector, and, if declared by him to be fit for use, shall be sent to the nearest depôt. If declared to be unfit for use, it shall be immediately destroyed.

54. If the opium so sent to a depôt be of quality sufficiently good for retail purposes, it shall be added to the stock at the depôt. But if such opium be of inferior quality, it may be issued to retail dealers at a special rate proportioned to its quality, but shall be subject in other respects to the same conditions as other opium.

55. All property, other than opium, which is confiscated under the Act shall be sold under the orders of the magistrate or other officers by whom the confiscation was adjudged.

Rewards to be paid to Officers and Informers.

56. Any magistrate convicting an offender under section 9, or any magistrate or other authorised officer ordering the confiscation of opium under section 12 of the Act, may grant, in such proportions as he thinks fit, to any person or persons who have contributed to the seizure of the opium, or the conviction of the offender, a reward not exceeding the value of the opium and other articles confiscated in the case plus the amount of any fine imposed; or may place such aggregate amount to be awarded at the disposal of the head of the department, any officer or officers of which may have contributed to the seizure of the opium or the conviction of the offender, to be distributed by such head of the department in such proportion as he thinks fit among persons whom he may consider to be entitled to reward in connexion with such seizure or conviction.

Government Notification, No. 7007, dated 20th October 1888.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 13 of the Opium Act, 1878, the Governor in Council, with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, is pleased to make the following rules, and to direct that they shall be inserted as sub-sections of No. 56 of the Rules under the said Act published at pages 704 to 715 of Part I. of the "Bombay Government Gazette," dated 4th June 1885:—

1. Every order for reward shall state exactly the sum of money awarded as a reward from—

- (a) the value of the opium and other articles confiscated in the case, and
- (b) the amount of fine imposed.

2. For the purpose of determining the amount of reward under head (a) above, the value of the opium shall invariably be calculated at the rate of Rs. 6 per lb. (unless the officer passing the order considers the opium to be decidedly valueless and records an opinion to that effect), and the value of other confiscated articles shall be appraised by him at his discretion.

3. Immediately after an order for a reward is passed, a warrant shall be issued on the Treasury for the prompt disbursement of the amount of reward adjudged under the head (a), Rule 1., and for the payment of the amount adjudged under the head (b) after the recovery of the fine shall have been certified by the magistrate concerned, a copy of the warrant being at the same time given to the intended recipient.

4. The sufficiency of the amount adjudged as a reward in each case should be judged (a) by the importance of the seizure, and (b) by the dexterity displayed, and the trouble and risk undergone, by the informers, captors, and others concerned, acting in good faith.

5. If the fine is not paid within 24 hours, or only paid in part, the convicting magistrate may, within a limit of Rs. 100, order payment of its full amount or of the unrealised balance, as the case may be, from the Treasury. (Government Notification, No. 8664, dated 5th December 1890.)

6. If an officer who passes an order for a reward considers the maximum amount of reward which he is competent to grant or the amount actually available for reward to be insufficient, or if the district magistrate is of opinion that the reward granted in any case by a subordinate court or officer is insufficient, the district magistrate may, on the application of the officer concerned in the former case, and of his own accord in the latter case, apply for the sanction of the commissioner to supplement the reward by a further reward under Rule 57 of the Opium Rules of such amount as the district magistrate may deem fit to

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Bombay.

recommend, submitting at the same time a clear statement of the case, and of the grounds for his recommendation. The commissioner may sanction, modify, or reject the district magistrate's recommendation as he may think fit in each case.

57. In any case in which, in the opinion of the commissioner, any person has performed any service of special merit in respect of the prevention or detection of opium smuggling or of any offence against the Act, the commissioner may grant to such person a reward not exceeding in amount of Rs. 500.

The commissioner, or, with the sanction of the commissioner, a collector or the collector of salt revenue, may incur at his discretion expenditure not exceeding Rs. 500 in each case for the employment of informers or for any other purpose connected with the prevention or detection of opium smuggling or of any offence against the Act.

The commissioner shall from time to time report to the Government the circumstances under which any reward may have been granted or expenditure may have been incurred under this rule.

[For Rule 58, see notes under section 5.]

Control.

59. The decision of the collector as to the value of opium which has been seized shall be final.

Any officer of any of the departments of excise, police, customs, salt, opium, or revenue, superior in rank to a peon or constable, who may in right of his office be authorised by the Local Government in this behalf, and who has reason to believe, from personal knowledge or from information given by any person and taken down in writing, that opium liable to confiscation under this Act is manufactured, kept, or concealed in any building, vessel, or enclosed place, may, between sunrise or sunset,

- enter any such building, vessel, or place;
- in case of resistance, break open any door and remove any other obstacle to such entry;
- seize such opium and all materials used in the manufacture thereof, and any other thing which he has reason to believe to be liable to confiscation, under section 11, or any other law for the time being in force, relating to opium; and
- detain and search, and if he thinks proper, arrest any person whom he has reason to believe to be guilty of any offence relating to such opium, under this or any other law for the time being in force.

Government by Notification No. 3578, dated 20th June 1879, published at page 609 of the "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 26th idem, have authorised the officers named below to act under this section, within the limits of their respective charges:—

All officers of the revenue department invested with magisterial powers, all police officers superior in rank to a head constable, all sarkarkuns and inspectors in the departments of opium and abkari, the collector, deputy collector, and all assistant collectors of salt revenue, the superintendent of the coastguard service, and all coastguard inspectors, frontier inspectors, sarkarkuns of Talukas, and supervisors of distilleries subordinate to the collector of salt revenue.

Sub-inspectors in the department of opium and abkari have been authorised to act, within the limits of their respective charges, under this section. (Government Notification No. 9339, dated 19th December 1883, published at page 1000 of the "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 20th idem.)

Inspectors of salt revenue in Sind have been authorised to act, within the limits of their respective charges, under this section. (Government Notification No. 7249, dated 7th September 1885.)

The superintendent and the assistant superintendents of the salt preventative establishment in the Thar and Parkar district have been authorised to act, within the limits of their respective charges, under this section. (Government Notification No. 2362, dated 4th April 1893, published at page 340 of the "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 6th idem.)

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 14 of the Opium Act, 1878, his Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to authorise, within the limits of the town and island of Bombay, the gaugers and clerks of the abkari department employed within the said limits when performing the duties of inspectors or sub-inspectors under the orders of the collector of land revenue, customs, and opium, Bombay, to exercise the

powers conferable under the said section. (Government Notification, Revenue Department, No. 3569A, dated 16th May 1893.)

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 14 of the Opium Act, 1878, and in continuation of the notifications under the said section specified in the footnote,* the Governor in Council is pleased to authorise, in right of their offices, the officers of the police department herein below specified to exercise within the limits of their respective charges all the powers conferable under the said section, that is to say:

All head constables specially appointed—

- for the protection of the opium revenue in the Bombay Presidency, including the Province of Sind,
- for the protection of the abkari revenue in any part of the Presidency of Bombay other than the Province of Sind.

(Government Notification No. 7157 dated 2nd October 1893, Revenue Department, page 933, "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 5th idem.)

15. Any officer of any of the said departments may—

- seize, in any open place or in transit, any opium or other thing which he has reason to believe to be liable to confiscation under section 11, or any other law for the time being in force, relating to opium,
- detain and search any person whom he has reason to believe to be guilty of any offence against this or any other such law, and, if such person has opium in his possession, arrest him and any other persons in his company.

Power to seize opium in open places.

Power to detain, search, and arrest.

16. All searches under section 14 or section 15 shall be made in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Searches, how made.

17. The officers of the several departments mentioned in section 14 shall, upon notice given or request made, be legally bound to assist each other in carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Officers to assist each other.

18. Any officer of the said departments who, without reasonable ground of suspicion, enters or searches, or causes to be entered or searched, any building, vessel, or place, or vexatiously and unnecessarily seizes the property of any person on the pretence of seizing or searching for any opium or other thing liable to confiscation under this Act, or vexatiously and unnecessarily detains, searches, or arrests any person, shall for every such offence be punished with a fine not exceeding five hundred rupees.

Vexatious entries, searches, seizures, and arrests.

19. The collector of the district, deputy commissioner, or other officer authorised by the Local Government in this behalf, either personally or in right of his office, or a magistrate, may issue his warrant for the arrest of any person whom he has reason to believe to have committed an offence relating to opium, or for the search, whether by day or night, of any building or vessel or place in which he has reason to believe opium liable to confiscation, to be kept or concealed.

Issue of warrants.

All warrants issued under this section shall be executed in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The collector, deputy collector, and all assistant collectors of salt revenue have been authorised to issue warrants under this section within the limits of their respective charges. (Government Notification No. 3578, dated 20th June 1879, published at page 609 of the "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 26th idem.)

20. Every person arrested, and thing seized, under section 14 or section 15, shall be forwarded without delay to the officer in charge of the nearest police station; and every person arrested and thing seized under section 19 shall be forwarded without delay to the officer by whom the warrant was issued.

Disposal of person arrested or thing seized

Every officer to whom any person or thing is forwarded under this section, shall, with all convenient despatch, take such measures as may be necessary for the disposal, according to law, of such person or thing.

* Notification No. 3578 at "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., for 1879, page 609.

Notification No. 9339 at "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., for 1883, page 1000.

Notification No. 7249 at "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., for 1885, page 1102.

Notification No. 2362 at "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., for 1893, page 340.

Notification No. 3569A at "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., for 1893, page 428.

Power to enter, arrest, and seize, on information, that opium is unlawfully kept in any enclosed place.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

21. Whenever any officer makes any arrest or seizure under this Act, he shall, within 48 hours next after such arrest or seizure, make a full report of all the particulars of such arrest or seizure, make a full report of such arrest or seizure to his immediate official superior.

22. In the case of alleged illegal cultivation of the poppy, the crop shall not be removed, but shall, pending the disposal of the case, be attached by an officer superior in rank to a peon or constable, who may in right of his office be authorised by the Local Government in this behalf; and such officer shall require the cultivator to give bail in a reasonable amount (to be fixed by such officer) for his appearance before the magistrate by whom the case is to be disposed of, and such cultivator shall not be arrested unless within a reasonable time he fails to give such bail:

Provided that, wherever Act No. XIII. of 1857 (An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the cultivation of the poppy and the manufacture of opium in the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal), or any part thereof, is in force, nothing in this section shall apply to such cultivation.

All collectors, assistant and deputy collectors, mamlatdars, mukhtiar-kars, awal karkuns, and head munshis have been authorised to act under this section, within the limits of their respective charges. (Government Notification No. 3578, dated 30th June 1879, published at page 609 of the "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 26th idem.)

23. Any arrear of any fee or duty imposed under this Act or any rule made hereunder, and any arrear due from any farmer of opium revenue, may be recovered from the person primarily liable to pay the same to the Government, or from his surety (if any), as if it were an arrear of land revenue.

24. When any amount is due to a farmer of opium revenue from his licensee in respect of a license, such farmer may make an application to the collector of the district, deputy commissioner, or other officer authorised by the Local Government in this behalf, praying such officer to recover such amount on behalf of the applicant; and on receiving such application such collector, deputy commissioner, or other officer may, in this discretion, recover such amount as if it were an arrear of land revenue, and shall pay any amount so recovered to the applicant.

Provided that the execution of any process issued by such collector, deputy collector, or other officer for the recovery of such amount, shall be stayed if the licensee institutes a suit in the civil court to try the demand of the farmer, and furnishes security to the satisfaction of such officer for the payment of the amount which such court may adjudge to be due from him to such farmer.

Provided also, that nothing contained in this section or done thereunder shall affect the right of any farmer of opium revenue to recover by suit in the civil court or otherwise any amount due to him from such licensee.

All assistant and deputy collectors, mamlatdars, mukhtiar-kars, and mahalkaris have been authorised to act under this section, within the limits of their respective charges. (Government Notification No. 3578, dated the 20th June 1879, published at page 609, of the "Bombay Government Gazette," Part I., dated 26th idem.)

An appeal against an order passed by a collector under this section lies to the commissioner of the division and not to the Commissioner of Opium. (Government Resolution, Revenue Department, No. 1108, dated 6th February 1885.)

25. When any person in compliance with any rule made hereunder gives a bond for the performance of any duty or act, such duty or act shall be deemed to be a public duty, or an act in which the public are interested, as the case may be, within the meaning of the Indian Contract Act, 1872, section 74, and upon breach of the condition of such bond by him, the whole sum named therein as the amount to be paid in case of such breach may be recovered from him as if it were an arrear of land revenue.

Schedule repealed by Act XII. of 1891.

1. Form A.—Special license to medical practitioner (see Rule 6 under section 5).

2. Form B.—Permit for transport of opium (see Rule 7 under section 5).

3. Form C.—Permit for conveyance of opium from Government depôt to shop for retail sale (see Rule 7 under section 5).

4. Form D.—Import pass (see Rule 16 under section 5).

5. Form E.—License for retail sale of opium for the town and island of Bombay and the districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira, Panch, Mahals, Broach, Surat, Thána, Násik, Khándesh, Ahmednagar, Sholapur, Poona, Satara, and Kolaba (see Rule 39 under section 5).

6. Form E.—Do. for the province of Sind only (see Rule 39 under section 5).

7. Form E1.—Do. for the districts of Bijapur, Belgaum, Dharwar, Ratnagiri, and Kanara (see Rule 39 under section 5).

8. Form E3.—License for the retail sale of opium by a person appointed by the farmer to retail on his behalf (see Rule 45 under section 5).

9. Form F.—Pass for the transport through British territory of opium liable to confiscation in any part of the territories of His Highness the Gaikwar of Baroda (see Rule 33A under section 5).

10. Form G.—Pass for the import into, transport through, and export from British territory, of opium which is the property of a farmer licensed by His Highness the Maharaja of the T'dar State (see Rule 33B under section 5).

11. Schedule A.—Form of Export Shipping Bill (see Rule 10 under section 8).

12. Schedule B.—Scale of warehouse rent and fees (see Rule 35 under section 8).

A.—SPECIAL LICENSE TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS. (See Rule 6 (a).)

Special license is hereby granted under No. 6 (a) of the Bombay Opium Rules, to A.B., following the profession of _____ at _____ for the possession of opium (*in quantity not exceeding), subject to the following conditions, viz.:—

1. That he shall procure and have in his possession only such opium as he *bond fide* requires for making up medical preparations or prescriptions;

2. That, except when taking or sending medical preparations from one place to another, as herein-after permitted, he shall keep all opium in his possession at _____ and nowhere else;

3. That he shall procure all crude opium which he requires for the said purposes either from a Government depôt or from a licensed retail vendor of opium, and not from any other place or person;

4. That he shall keep the seals on all balls of opium in his possession intact, except the seal on the ball at any time in actual use;

5. That he shall not sell crude opium to any person except on a *bond fide* medical prescription from a medical practitioner, and shall in no case sell to any one person on any one day more than two tolas† of crude opium;

6. That except to a medical practitioner holding a license under No. 6 (a) of the Bombay Opium Rules, he shall not sell to any one person in any one day more than 10 tolas (4 ozs.) of any of the following preparations of opium, viz.:—

Powdered opium,
Extract of opium,
Tincture of opium;

7. That if he sells to a medical practitioner holding a license as aforesaid, any such preparation as aforesaid, in quantity exceeding in any one transaction, or in one day 10 tolas (4 ozs.), he shall satisfy himself, before permitting the removal of the preparation,

* Added by Government Notification No. 4561, dated 24th June 1893.
† In filling in the form one or more places may be specified according to circumstances.

‡ Vide Government Notification No. 4960, dated 10th July 1893.

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Bomb: y.

that the purchaser has obtained from the proper authority* a permit to cover the transport thereof;

8. That if he himself wishes to carry with him from place to place crude opium, or any such preparation as aforesaid in quantity exceeding 10 tolas (4 ozs.), he shall obtain a similar permit to cover the transport thereof;

9. That if he wishes to take or send any such preparation as aforesaid in quantity exceeding 10 tolas (4 ozs.) from the city of Bombay to any district, or from one district to another district, or to the city of Bombay, he shall, when applying to the proper authority* for a permit to cover the transport thereof, produce a written permission from the proper authority* of the place to which the same is to be transported;

10. That if he wishes to export any such preparation as aforesaid in quantity exceeding 10 tolas (4 ozs.) to a Native State, or to any territory administered by a Local Government other than the Government of Bombay, he shall before doing so obtain from the proper authority* an export pass, producing, with his application therefor, a written permission from the Political Agent of the Native State, or the collector of the British district to which the export is to be made; and if he wishes to bring back any preparation so exported, he shall obtain from the proper authority* an endorsement on the export pass permitting such re-importation;

11. That he shall keep an accurate and regular account showing from time to time the quantities of dry opium and of extract and of tincture of opium purchased by him, and also, in each case, the date of purchase and the name of the purchase from whom the purchase is made;

12. That he shall produce the said account and this license, and also any dry opium and any extract or tincture of opium that may be in his possession, for inspection on demand by any officer duly authorised in this behalf by the proper authority.*

* In the City of Bombay, the collector of land revenue, customs, and opium; elsewhere, the collector of the district or other officer authorised by him.

FORMS.

B.—PERMIT FOR TRANSPORT OF OPIUM.

(See Rule 7 under Section 5.)

No. of .

Pass from (here state locality and district) to (here state locality and district), by (here give route and mode of conveyance) in charge of (here give name) opium to the amount of (here state weight) in (here state number and description of packages).

This pass is to remain in force from (specify date or hour) to and to be delivered on arrival of the opium at its destination to (here enter name or official designation).

Dated 189 .

Collector (or as the case may be).

C.—PERMIT FOR CONVEYANCE OF OPIUM FROM GOVERNMENT DEPÔT TO SHOP FOR RETAIL SALE.

(See Rule 7 under Section 5.)

No. of .

Pass from the Government Opium Depôt at to the shop of (here enter name), at (here enter locality and shop), sers tolas of opium, in charge of (here enter name), between the hours of M. and M., on the (here enter date) 189 .

Dated at (Bombay), 189 .

Officer in charge of Depôt.

D.—IMPORT PASS.

(See Rule 16 under Section 5.)

(Front.)

OPIUM.

PASSPORT.

No. of 189 .

Seal.

MEMORANDUM of the Out-turn of
Opium taken from
Scales under Pass NoHalf-chests of
Chests brought to the

	No.	of 189 .	WHEREAS having paid to the British Government the sum of Rs. as a consideration for the privilege of importing from (Málwa, or as the case may be) to Bombay chests of opium containing pounds of Málwa opium, at the rate of hundred rupees per 140½ (one hundred and forty and a quarter) pounds weight; and the said having agreed to pay all customs and duties thereon to the Native States and Chiefs through whose territories the opium will have to pass; is hereby permitted to convey by the route described in the margin from (Málwa, or as the case may be) to Bombay, for exportation thence by sea (or as the case may be), the above quantity in such packages as shall hereupon be endorsed, free of any further duties whatever.	Contents of chests, net weight	Average per one chest	Allowed to export chests at 140½ lbs. per chest	Average contents of chests brought to the scales	Deficiency made good in No.	No.	Out-turn of each Half Chest.	Out-turn of each Half Chest.
Importer											
Consignee											
In charge											
Rupees											
Chests											
Half-chests											
Rupees											
Net weight											
Allowance for leaf and dust.											
Total net weight of a chest.											
Route											
Registered											

Indore Opium Agent's } By order of his Excellency the
Office, 189 . } Honourable the Governor in Council.
Opium Agent.

Cleared in full as above.

Paid on the 189 .

Railway Station, }
Bombay, 189 . }
Deposited in compartment No. of the Government
Opium Warehouse on 189 Warehouse Keeper.
Entered in Register.
Assistant Collector of Customs
in charge of Opium Department.

Pass from railway station to Warehouse
by in charge of opium to the amount
and in the packages above stated.
Opium Department, } Assistant Collector of Customs
Bombay, 189 . } in charge of Opium Department.

(Reverse.)

DETAILS OF REMOVALS PRIOR TO EXPORT BY SEA.

[illegible]

PACKAGES OF OPIUM IMPORTED FROM MÁLWA UNDER
PASS NO. .

[illegible]

No. 1.

[FOR THE TOWN AND ISLAND OF BOMBAY AND THE
DISTRICTS OF AHMEDABAD, KAIRA, PANCH MAHÁLS,
BROACH, SURAT, THÁNA, NÁSÍK, KHÁNDESH, AHMED-
NAGAR, SHOLÁPÚR, POONA, SÁTÁRA, AND KOLÁBA.]

FORM E.

License for Retail Sale of Opium.

District
Number of license in the Register
Name of retailer
Locality of shops

Be it known that
resident at _____
in the town of _____
is hereby authorised to sell opium by retail at the shops
above mentioned from the _____ day
of _____ to the _____ day
of _____ (both inclusive) upon the following
conditions :—

1. That he will purchase from the collector confiscated opium and opium surrendered to the collector by the retiring licensed vendor or farmer of the district, in such quantities not exceeding two months' supply, and at such price not exceeding the rate at which opium can be procured from a Government depôt, as the collector shall adjudge.

2. That he will sell no opium but such as may have been previously approved and passed by the collector or by some other officer authorised by the collector to approve and pass the same, and no opium but such as he may have—

- (a) purchased from a Government dépôt, or
(b) purchased from a wholesale dealer in Bombay and transported for retail sale in accordance with the provisions of the Opium Act and the rules framed thereunder, or
(c) lawfully imported for retail sale in accordance with the same Act and rules, or
(d) purchased from the collector under the provisions of clause 1 of this license.

That he will not receive or have in his possession any opium obtained in any other manner.

3. That he will bring all opium purchased by him from a wholesale dealer, or lawfully imported by him, under the last preceding clause, direct to the (Bombay Opium Warehouse)* to be there examined by the collector or other officer nominated by the collector to examine and pass opium for retail sale; that he will remove and dispose of forthwith in some lawful manner other than for retail sale at his shops any portion of the opium tendered for examination which the collector or other officer aforesaid may reject as being unsuited for retail sale in the locality concerned; and that he will lodge such opium as may be passed by the collector or other officer aforesaid, as well as all opium purchased from a Government dépôt, or from the collector under clause 1 of this license, at such place, in such manner, and under such custody, and will remove and transport opium from such place of deposit at such times, in such quantities, and in such manner as the collector or other officer aforesaid may from time to time direct.

4. That he will keep in stock at the place appointed by the collector under clause 3 above, at all times between the 1st August 189 and the 1st July 189 , inclusive, a quantity of opium passed for retail sale by the collector or other officer aforesaid, or of opium purchased from a Government dépôt or from the collector under clause 1, amounting in the aggregate to at least lbs. weight, or that he will deposit with the collector the value thereof rupees.

5. That he will keep in a book, bound and paged, each page of which shall bear the seal of the collector, plain and correct accounts written up to date daily of opium lodged into, removed from, and in store at the place of deposit mentioned in clause 3, and of opium daily received, sold, and in stock at each of his retail shops, as well as the price realised by sale, together with a list showing the names and addresses of all persons to whom opium may be sold in quantities exceeding two talas at one time, and will render to the collector on or before the 5th of each month a statement, showing the number of pounds of opium lodged into, removed from, and in store at the place of deposit mentioned in clause 3, and the number of pounds of opium received, sold, and in store at each of his shops during the preceding month, and will furnish forthwith on demand by the collector such other accounts, returns, and information respecting his dealings and arrangements under this license as the collector may require; and that the keeping or rendering of incorrect accounts, statements, or information will constitute a breach of the conditions of this license.

6. That the collector shall have a lien on all opium held in stock by the licensee at the place of deposit mentioned in clause 3 for the recovery of the (license fees and†) contribution for establishment, recoverable under clause 21 and of any fine levied on him under clause 25.

7. That the licensee will, immediately after the expiry or recall of this license, surrender to the collector all opium remaining unsold on his hands on the date of the expiry or recall of this license as he may have been unable to dispose of in lawful manner, and will receive from the collector such price, including duty, as the collector shall adjudge for so much of the opium so surrendered as may not be liable to confiscation, and as may be declared by the collector to be of good quality and fit for retail sale; but he will not be entitled to receive any payment whatever for any portion of the opium so surrendered which may be liable to confiscation, or which may be declared by the collector to be unfit for retail sale.

3. That he will not sublet any of his opium shops without permission of the collector, or employ for the retail sale of opium any person for whose employment in that behalf he may not have previously received written sanction and a separate license signed by the collector, authorising such person to sell opium on behalf of the licensee.

9. That he will cause each ball of opium intended for sale to be threaded and stamped with the collector's (or mámlatdár's) official seal, at his own expense and in such manner as the collector may prescribe; that in

* The addition applies to Bombay only; for other districts the name of the depôt or other place to be specified in writing.

† One month's estimated sales of the district.

† The additional words to be inserted in the Bombay license only

To be omitted from the Bombay license,

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—
Bombay.

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retailing opium only the quantity required by each successive customer shall, as far as possible, be cut of from a sealed ball; that he shall not have in his possession at each of his shops more than one broken ball of opium at a time for sale to customers.

10. That he will retail opium only in the shops above mentioned, and that he will open and maintain new shops and close existing shops, and shall maintain at each shop such minimum stocks of opium as may be required by the collector from time to time during the currency of this license.

11. That he will keep and use for selling opium by retail, and other purposes of this license, such weights as the collector may direct.

12. That, except to a medical practitioner or other person holding a special license from the collector, he will not sell more than two tolas weight of opium to any person at one time, or on any one day in the aggregate.

13. That he will not adulterate or admix any foreign substance or material whatever with the opium sold by him.

14. That he will not receive any wearing apparel or other goods in barter for opium; that he, his servants, agents, and his sub-tenants will not sell opium on credit nor at prices below* the rates notified from time to time for the issue of opium from the nearest Government depôt, or exceeding such rates by more than one anna for a tola, unless specially authorised by the collector in writing to sell opium at a higher rate.

15. That he will not open his shop or make sales therein before sunrise; that he will not keep it open or make sales therein after o'clock p.m., and that he will not harbour any person therein during the night.

16. That he shall keep all his shops open daily during authorised hours. If the collector requires him to establish any new shop, the licensee shall open the same immediately on receipt of the collector's order.

17. That he will not allow the consumption of opium on the premises; that he will not permit persons of notoriously bad character to resort to his shop; that he will prevent gaming and disorderly conduct therein, and that he will give information to the nearest magistrate or police officer of any suspected person who may resort to his shops.

18. That he will have constantly fixed up at the entrance of his shop a signboard bearing the following inscription in legible characters in the English and vernacular languages:—

(Name of vendor).

"Licensed to retail Opium."

"Price of Opium per Tola, annas . . ."

19. That he will produce forthwith for inspection on demand of any revenue, police, excise, or customs officer above the rank of jamádár the accounts of any of his retail shops, or of the place of deposit mentioned in clause 3 of this license, as well as the whole quantity of opium in his possession, and that he will not prevent any revenue, police, excise, or customs officer of whatever grade from entering any of his shops at any hour of the day or night.

20. That the "pound" mentioned in this license will be a pound equal in weight to 40 tolas, a tola being reckoned as equal to 180 grains.

21. That the licensee shall pay into the collector's treasury monthly the sum of (Rs.† as license fees, and a further sum of) Rs.‡ as contribution towards the cost of the Government establishment employed for the prevention of opium smuggling in the district. The first payment shall be made not later than the 31st August 189 , and subsequent payments not later than the last working day of each successive month during the term of the license. That the licensee shall employ and maintain sufficient establishments for the inspection of shops and the prevention of irregularities or malpractices therein, contrary to the conditions of this license or to the law for the time being in force; that he shall also maintain establish-

ments, expend money in the payment of rewards and otherwise, and exert himself to the utmost for the purpose of checking the illicit manufacture and sale of opium and all illicit opium traffic within the licensee's district, and of securing on the part of all the persons employed by him in the carriage and sale of opium, a strict adherence to the law and to the provisions of the engagements entered into by them and by him; and if it comes to his knowledge that a breach of the law or of any of the said provisions has been committed, he shall forthwith bring the same to the notice of the collector, in order that the penalties prescribed for the offence may be enforced.

22. That he has deposited with the collector the sum of Rs.* in cash or Government promissory notes as security for the due performance by him of the conditions prescribed in this license, and that the said amount or such portion of it as may not have been appropriated by the collector in liquidation of Government demands against him will be returned to him after the expiry of the license and after all demands against the licensee shall have been fully satisfied.

23. That this license may be recalled by the collector—

(a) for default of punctual payment of the amount mentioned in clause 22; or

(b) for default in or violation of any of the conditions specified in this license; or

(c) if the holder thereof be convicted of a breach of the peace, or of any other offence during the currency of this license; or

(d) if he infringes any of the conditions imposed on him by the Opium Act, 1878, or by the rules in force thereunder.

24. That any loss caused to Government in consequence of the recall of this license for any of the aforesaid causes shall be recovered from him from the cash deposited by him with the collector, or by attachment and sale of the stocks of opium held by him, or in such other lawful manner as the collector shall direct. He shall not be entitled to any sum that may be realised over and above the sum payable by him by putting the license to sale in consequence of his default, nor shall he be entitled to any compensation or refund of any sums paid by him. Should the collector desire to cancel this license before the expiry of the period for which it has been granted for any causes other than those specified in the preceding clauses, the collector shall give him three months' previous notice, and absolve him from all liabilities under this license for the unexpired term of the license, or if notice be not given, shall make such further compensation in default of notice as the Commissioner of Customs, Salt, Opium, and Abkâri may direct.

25. That the collector shall have power at any time to impose a fine not exceeding Rs. 1,000 on the licensee instead of recalling this license, for infringement by the licensee, or by any of his servants, agents, or sub-tenants of any of the conditions of this license, and to recover the amount of the fine so imposed from the cash deposited by the licensee, or by attachment and sale of the opium lodged under clause 3, or in such other lawful manner as the collector may think fit. Nothing contained in this clause or in clauses 23 and 24 shall, however, affect the liability of the licensee to criminal prosecution under the Opium Act.

26. That this license does not cover the manufacture and sale by the licensee of chandul, madat, or any other preparation of poppy juice, other than opium.

27. That he will comply with all police regulations as to the closing of shops on the occasions of the Mohoram and other festivals; no compensation or allowance will be made on account of such closure.

Granted this the . . . day of . . .
189 . . . Collector.

Seal of
the Collector.

* In licenses for the districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach, Surat, and the Panch Mahals the following words should be inserted between the word "below" and the words "the rates" in line 3 of clause 14:— "half an anna for a tola in advance of."

† The additional words to be inserted in the Bombay license only.

‡ The amount fixed by the Commissioner of Opium in respect of each farm will be notified at the time of inviting tenders for the farms.

* The amount fixed by the Commissioner of Opium in respect of each farm will be notified at the time of inviting tenders for the farms.

No. 1.

FOR THE PROVINCE OF SIND ONLY.

FORM E.

License for Retail Sale of Opium.

District _____
 Number of License in the Register _____
 Name of Retailer _____
 Locality of Shops _____

Be it known that _____ resident at _____, is hereby authorised to sell opium by retail at the shops above-mentioned from the _____ day of _____ to the _____ day of _____ (both inclusive) upon the following conditions:—

1. That he will purchase from the collector confiscated opium, and opium surrendered to the collector by the retiring licensed vendor or farmer of the district, in such quantities not exceeding two months' supply, and at such price not exceeding the rate at which opium can be procured from a government depôt, as the collector shall adjudge.

2. That he will sell no opium but such as he may have—

- (a) purchased from a government depôt, or
- (b) purchased from the collector under the provisions of clause 1 of this license.

That he will not receive or have in his possession any opium obtained in any other manner.

3. That he will lodge all opium purchased from a government depôt, or from the collector under clause 1 of this license, at such place, in such manner and under such custody, and will remove and transport opium from such place of deposit at such times in such quantities and in such manner as the collector or other officer nominated by the collector may from time to time direct.

4. That he will keep in stock at the place appointed by the collector under clause 3 above, at all times between the 1st August 189 and the 1st July 189, inclusive, a quantity of opium purchased from a government depôt or from a collector under clause 1, amounting in the aggregate to at least* _____ lbs. weight, or he will deposit with the collector, the value thereof rupees.

5. That he will keep in a book, bound, and paged, each page of which shall bear the seal of the collector, plain and correct accounts written up to date daily of opium lodged into, removed from, and in store at, the place of deposit mentioned in clause 3, and of opium daily received, sold and in stock at each of his retail shops, as well as the price realised by sale, together with a list showing the names and addresses of all persons to whom opium may be sold in quantities exceeding two tolas at one time, and will render to the collector on or before the fifth of each month a statement showing the number of pounds of opium lodged into, removed from, and in store at, the place of deposit mentioned in clause 3, and the number of pounds opium received, sold and in store at each of his shops during the preceding month, and will furnish forthwith on demand by the collector such other accounts, returns, and information respecting his dealings and arrangements under this license as the collector may require; and that the keeping or rendering of incorrect accounts, statements or information will constitute a breach of the conditions of this license.

6. That the collector shall have a lien on all opium held in stock by the licensee at the place of deposit mentioned in clause 3 for the recovery of contribution for establishment under clause 21, and of any fine levied on him under clause 25.

7. That the licensee will, immediately after the expiry or recall of this license, surrender to the collector all opium remaining unsold on his hands on the date of the expiry or recall of this license as he may have been unable to dispose of in lawful manner, and will receive from the collector, such price, including

duty, as the collector shall adjudge for so much of the opium so surrounded as may not be liable to confiscation and as may be declared by the collector to be of good quality and fit for retail sale; but he will not be entitled to receive any payment whatever for any portion of the opium so surrendered which may be liable to confiscation, or which may be declared by the collector to be unfit for retail sale.

8. That he will not sub-let any of his opium shops without permission of the collector, or employ for the retail sale of opium any person for whose employment in that behalf he may not have previously received written sanction, and a separate license signed by the collector authorising such person to sell opium on behalf of the licensee.

9. That he will cause each ball of opium intended for sale to be threaded and stamped with the collector's or Mamlatdar's official seal, at his own expense and in such manner as the collector may prescribe; that in retailing opium only the quantity required by each successive customer shall, as far as possible, be cut off from a sealed ball; that he shall not have in his possession at each of his shops more than one broken ball of opium at a time for sale to customers.

10. That he will retail opium only in the shops above-mentioned, and that he will open and maintain new shops and close existing shops and shall maintain at each shop such minimum stocks of opium as may be required by the collector from time to time during the currency of this license.

11. That he will keep and use for selling opium by retail and other purposes of this license such weights as the collector may direct.

12. That except to a medical practitioner or other person holding a special license from the collector, he will not sell more than two tolas weight of opium to any person at one time, or on any one day in the aggregate.

13. That he will not adulterate or admix any foreign substance or material whatever with the opium sold by him.

14. That he will not receive any wearing apparel or other goods in barter for opium; that he, his servants, agents, and his sub-tenants will not sell opium on credit nor at prices below the rates notified from time to time for the issue of opium from the nearest government depôt, or exceeding such rates by more than one anna for a tola, unless specially authorised by the collector in writing to sell opium at a higher rate.

15. That he will not open his shop or make sales therein before sunrise; that he will not keep it open or make sales therein after _____ o'clock p.m., and that he will not harbour any person therein during the night.

16. That he shall keep all his shops open daily during authorised hours. If the collector requires him to establish any new shop, the licensee shall open the same immediately on receipt of the collector's order.

17. That he will not allow the consumption of opium on the premises; that he will not permit persons of notoriously bad character to resort to his shop; that he will prevent gaming and disorderly conduct therein; and that he will give information to the nearest magistrate or police officer of any suspected persons who may resort to his shops.

18. That he will have constantly fixed up at the entrance of his shop a signboard bearing the following inscription in legible characters in the English and vernacular languages:—

(Name of Vendor.)

"Licensed to Retail Opium." "Price of Opium per Tola, Annas _____."

19. That he will produce forthwith for inspection on demand of any revenue, police, excise, or customs officer above the rank of jamádár, the accounts of any of his retail shops, or of the place of deposit mentioned in clause 3 of this license as well as the whole quantity of opium in his possession, and that he will not prevent any revenue, police, excise or customs officer of whatever grade from entering any of his shops at any hour of the day or night.

20. That the "pound" mentioned in this licence will be a pound equal in weight to 40 tolas, a tola being reckoned as equal to 180 grains.

* One month's estimated sales of the district.

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*21. That the licensee shall pay into the collector's treasury monthly the sum of Rs. as contribution towards the cost of the government establishment employed for the prevention of opium smuggling in the district. The first payment shall be made not later than the 31st August 189 , and subsequent payments not later than the last working day of each successive month during the term of the license.

That the licensee shall employ and maintain sufficient establishments for the inspection of shops and the prevention of irregularities or mal-practices therein contrary to the conditions of this license or to the law for the time being in force; that he shall also maintain establishments, expend money in the payment of rewards and otherwise, and exert himself to the utmost for the purpose of checking the illicit manufacture and sale of opium and all illicit opium traffic within the licensee's district, and of securing on the part of all the persons employed by him in the carriage and sale of opium a strict adherence to the law and to the provisions of the engagements entered into by them and by him; and if it comes to his knowledge that a breach of the law or of any of the said provisions has been committed, he shall forthwith bring the same to the notice of the collector in order that the penalties prescribed for the offence may be enforced.

22. That he has deposited with the collector the sum of Rs.* in cash or Government promissory notes as security for the performance by him of the conditions prescribed in this license, and that the said amount or such portion of it as may not have been appropriated by the collector in liquidation of government demands against him will be returned to him after the expiry of this license and after all demands against the licensee shall have been fully satisfied.

23. That this license may be recalled by the collector :—

- (a.) for default of punctual payment of the amounts mentioned in clause 21; or
- (b.) for default in or violation of any of the conditions specified in the license; or
- (c.) if the holder thereof be convicted of a breach of the peace or of any other offence during the currency of this license; or
- (d.) if he infringes any of the conditions imposed on him by the Opium Act, 1878, or by the rules in force thereunder.

24. That any loss caused to Government in consequence of the recall of this license for any of the aforesaid causes shall be recovered from him from the cash deposited by him with the collector, or by attachment and sale of the stocks of opium held by him, or in such other lawful manner as the collector shall direct. He shall not be entitled to any sum that may be realised over and above the sum payable by him by putting the license to sale in consequence of his default, nor shall he be entitled to any compensation or refund of any sums paid by him. Should the collector desire to cancel this license before the expiry of the period for which it has been granted for any causes other than those specified in the preceding clauses, the collector shall give him three months' previous notice and absolve him from all liabilities under the license for the unexpired term of the license, or if notice be not given, shall make such further compensation in default of notice as the commissioner of customs, salt, opium, and abkari, may direct.

25. That the collector shall have power at any time to impose a fine not exceeding Rs. 1,000 on the licensee, instead of recalling this license, for infringement by the licensee or by any of his servants, agents, or subtenants of any of the conditions of this license and to recover the amount of the fine so imposed from the cash deposited by the licensee, or by attachment and sale of the opium lodged under clause 3, or in such other lawful manner as the collector may think fit. Nothing contained in this clause or in clauses 23 and 24 shall, however, affect the liability of the licensee to criminal prosecution under the Opium Act.

26. That this license does not cover the manufacture and sale by the licensee of chandal, madat, or any other preparation of poppy juice, other than opium.

27. That he will comply with all police regulations as to the closing of shops on the occasions of the Mohoram and other festivals; no compensation or allowance will be made on account of such closure.

Granted this the day of 189 .

Seal of
the Collector.

Collector.

No. 2.

FOR THE DISTRICTS OF BIJAPUR, BELGAUM, DHARWAR,
RATNAGIRI, AND KANARA ONLY.

FORM E.—1.

License for Retail Sale of Opium.

District
No. of License in Register
Name of Retailer
Locality of shop

Be it known that resident at in the town of is hereby authorised by the collector of to sell opium by retail at the shop above-mentioned from the day of 189 , to the day of 189 , (both days inclusive) upon the following conditions:—

1. That he will pay to Government an aggregate sum of Rupees in 12 equal monthly instalments, to be paid in advance on the 1st day of each month.

2. That he will sell no opium but such as he may purchase from a Government depôt, and that he will not receive, or have in his possession opium obtained otherwise.

3. That he will, immediately after the expiry or recall of this license, surrender to the collector all opium remaining unsold on his hands on the date of the expiry or recall of this license as he may have been unable to dispose of in lawful manner and will receive from the collector such price, including duty, as the collector shall adjudge for so much of the opium so surrendered as may not be liable to confiscation and as may be declared by the collector to be of good quality and fit for retail sale; but he will not be entitled to receive any payment whatever for any portion of the opium so surrendered as may be liable to confiscation or as may be declared by the collector to be unfit for retail sale.

4. That he will not sublet his opium shop without permission of the collector, or employ for the retail of opium any person for whose employment in that behalf he may not have previously received written sanction of the collector.

5. That he will retail opium only in the shop above-mentioned; and, unless with the sanction in writing of the collector, will keep opium only at the said shop or at the Government depôt.

6. That he will keep and use for selling opium by retail and other purposes of this license such weights as the collector may direct.

7. That, except to a medical practitioner or other person holding a special license from the collector, he will not sell more than two tolas weight of opium to any person at one time.

8. That he will not adulterate or admix any foreign substance or material with the opium sold by him. That in retailing opium issued to him in balls threaded and stamped with the collector's or Mamlatdar's seal, only the quantity required by each successive customer shall, as far as possible, be cut off from a sealed ball; that he shall not have in his possession more than one broken ball of opium at a time for sale to customers.

9. That he will not receive any wearing apparel, or other goods, in barter for opium.

* The amount fixed by the Commissioner of Opium in respect of each farm will be notified at the time of inviting tenders for the farms.

* In licenses for the districts of Ahmedabad, Kaira, Broach, Surat and the Panch Mahals, the following words should be inserted between the word "below" and the words "the rates" in line 2 of clause 6:—
"half an anna for a tolâ in advance of."

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or of the mámlatdár, and write up to date, daily, a true and correct account, in such form as the collector may direct, showing the quantity of opium received and sold daily, and the quantity in stock at the end of each day, as well as the price recovered for opium sold, together with a list showing the names and addresses of all persons to whom opium may be sold in quantities exceeding two tolas at a time. That he will furnish to the collector such accounts, returns, and information, respecting his dealings under this license as the collector may require.

11. That he will produce for inspection on demand of any revenue, police, excise, or customs officer above the rank of jamadar, his license and accounts, as well as the whole quantity of opium in his possession; and that he will not prevent any revenue, police, excise, or Customs officer of whatever grade from entering his shop at any hour of the day or night.

12. That he shall not manufacture or sell chandúl, madat, or any other preparation of poppy juice, other than opium.

13. That this license may be recalled by the collector at any time without assigning any reason.

Granted this the day of 189 .

Seal of the
Collector.

Collector.

FORM F.

(See Rule 33A.)

Pass within days from this date, opium weighing lbs. , tolas , grains , seized at the village of , in the táluca or mahál of , in the division of , in the territories of His Highness the Gaikwar, through the British villages named in the margin, to the village of in the táluca of mahál of in the said division in the custody of , for production before the undersigned.

Naib Subha.

FORM G.

Pass in accordance with Rule 33B of Rules under section 5 of the Indian Opium Act from the Depôt at * * * in the State of His Highness the Maharaja of Idar sers * * tolas * * opium, the property of A. B., farmer, licensed at * * for retail sale at * * in His Highness's territory to be taken by the following route and within the following times, viz. :—

departing from* within (time)
passing through * (names of villages) „ „
arriving at * for sale „ „
in charge of C. D. „ „

(Signature)

Treasury Officer, Idar State.

SCHEDULE A.
(See Rule 10, under Section 8.)

FORM OF EXPORT SHIPPING BILL.
(Front.)

from the Prince's Dock, Bandor, per S.S. "Cathay," under English colours, to Hongkong.

Entry of Goods exported by

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
Marks.	Number and Kind of Packages.	Description of Goods.	Whether Duty is leviable according to Tariff or Market Value.	Tariff Rates for Duty.	Tariff Value for Duty.	Market Rates for Duty or Value.	Market or Real Value under Sections XXIX. and XXX. of Act VIII. of 1878.	Rate of Duty.	Amount of Duty.	Number and Date of Import Entry.
AB 118... BC 1 1/2...	(20) Twenty Chests.	Opium.	140 lbs. each chest— From Compartment No. 3 (6) six chests. Do. No. 5 (7) seven chests. Do. No. 10 (4 1/2) four and half chests. Do. No. 13 (2 1/2) two and half chests. Total - - (20) Twenty chests.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Checked with and noted in Store Register. Pass from the Government Opium Warehouse to the Prince's Dock by Marine Street and Frere Road, in carts, in charge of Rāma Govind, opium to the amount and in the packages mentioned in this shipping bill. This pass is to remain in force from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. this day only.

Enterer Customs received No. 189 Let Export. Bombay } declare the contents of this application to be truly stated. 189

Cashier. Asst. Collector.

N.B.—When goods are assessable for duty according to tariff value, columns 5 and 6 are to be filled in for duty and columns 7 and 8 for re-value, according to the sections of the Act quoted.
When goods are assessable for duty according to real, that is, market value, columns 5 and 6 will be left blank, and columns 7 and 8 filled in.
When goods are assessable for duty according to weight or quantity, columns 5, 7, and 8 will be filled in, and column 6 left blank.
Free goods will have columns 7 and 8 filled in.
Columns 9 and 10 will be filled in by the Customs Department.

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(Reverse.)

Vessel's name may be altered.
Fee one rupee.
189 Asst. Collector.
Fee received.
Cashier.

Vessel's name may be altered.
Fee one rupee.
189 Asst. Collector.
Fee received.
Cashier.

After check with the original
entry for
fresh one may be granted for the
portion shut out or not shipped.
Fee one rupee.

189 Asst. Collector.
No. .

FOR MEASUREMENT AT BANDER AND COLLECTION OF MEASUREMENT FEE.

BOMBAY, 189 .
Rs. a. p.

Measurement Fee on _____ bales levied

(Signed)

Measurement Fee Clerk.

[N.B.—Henceforward Export Shipping Bills (Export Notes) will be presented by shippers in triplicate.

The original of those will be taken with the first boat load of each consignment to the ship or steamer, as the case may be, and delivered to the master or commander, who will keep it with him until the loading of the vessel is completed, and at the time of applying for port clearance, deliver all such Export Shipping Bills duly endorsed as to his having received on board the quantity covered by them, together with the Export Manifest in duplicate as usual.

The duplicate copy will be delivered to the gate-keeper, who will endorse on the back of it the quantity passed by him, and in the evening will return to the Export Department all such duplicates that have been completely disposed of.

The triplicate will remain in the Custom House as Office Record.]

Contents received.

(Signature)

Master or Commander of the Ship.

SCHEDULE B.

(See Rule 35 under Section 8.)

TABLE I.

RENT.

(As amended by Government Notification, No. 3588, dated 18th May 1886.)

No. of Compartments in Warehouse.	Rate per mensem.	Payable.	No. of Testing Rooms.	Rate per mensem.	Payable.
3, 4, 9, and 10 - - -	Rs. 80 each -	Monthly in advance.	1 and 7 - - -	Rs. 30 each -	Monthly in advance.
1, 7, 13, 15, 16, and 18 - -	Rs. 75 do. -	Do.	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13.	Rs. 15 do. -	Do.
2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, and 17 -	Rs. 70 do. -	Do.			

TABLE II.

WAREHOUSE FEES.

(As amended by Government Notification No. 5447, dated 5th August 1890.)

	Rate per chest.	Payable.
When deposited in any compartment in the warehouse.	At the rate of 10½ annas on each chest or two-half chests.	Before receipt of opium into warehouse.

NOTE.—This rate does not include rent for testing rooms, which will be charged for separately as provided for in Table I.: that is, at the rate of Rs. 30 each per mensem, payable monthly in advance, in the case of rooms Nos. 1 and 7 and of Rs. 15 each per mensem, also payable in advance, in the case of rooms Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

SUPPLEMENTARY EVIDENCE PLACED BEFORE THE ROYAL OPIUM COMMISSION BY THE HONOURABLE T. D. MACKENZIE.

Though I have in some measure touched upon the question of opium smuggling in the printed statement I have already submitted, I think it is desirable that some further particulars on a point which so peculiarly affects the Bombay Presidency should be given. It was with the view of checking smuggling and illicit practices generally that the minimum guaranteed vend system was introduced. I have given some account of this system and the reasons which led to its discontinuance at pages 7-9 of my "Note on the System of Excise management of Opium," and the matter is further dealt with in the letter from the Government of India to the Bombay Government, No. 4,120, dated

1st October 1891, printed as Appendix No. 15 to the despatch from the Government of India to the Secretary of State, No. 289, dated 14th October 1891, printed at pages 76-79 of the "Collection of Papers relating to the Consumption of Opium in India." My object now is mainly to show—

- (a) from reports of officers with special knowledge of the subject;
- (b) from statistics;

that opium smuggling was excessively prevalent before 1878; and that the introduction of the minimum guaranteed vend system materially checked this smuggling and caused licit largely to replace illicit opium.

2. Under head (a) I would call attention to—

(1) Mr. C. W. Bell's report, dated 1st October 1869 on the Abkari system in this Presidency, from which I extract the following paragraphs on the then system of retailing opium:—

"63. I now come to the opium retail business. For many years past the system of levying a fixed fee from the licensee has been done away with, and after fixing the number of shops required, the license for each has been separately put up to auction. The licensee is bound to take the opium he is to retail from the Government stores. At one time, but only for a few years, the licensees obtained their supplies at a little over cost price and free of duty, but for the last 30 years they have charged the duty as well.

"64. This system acts pretty well in districts where there are no great opportunities afforded for smuggling, and where the consumption is almost entirely confined to what is used by mothers to keep their infants quiet, as in the Konkan, Deccan, and Southern Maratha country: but in Gujarat, where a large proportion of the population are inveterate opium eaters, and the adjacent Native States produce the drug at half the price at which Government supply it to the licensed retailer, the system works badly. The licensee takes a little opium from the Government stores as a blind, but the mass of what he retails is smuggled. One has only to refer to Statement No. 49, column 6, in the Appendix, to see that, even if the retailer sells, as he asserts, at 50 per cent. advance on the price he pays Government for the opium supplied, he would rarely make enough out of the Government opium to pay for his license. Again, from the said statement, column 11, one sees how entirely disproportioned is the issue from the Government stores to what must be the local consumption of the drug. The per-centage of opium eaters and the annual consumption per head shown in column 8 and 10 are fixed at rates, in almost every case, far below what the local officers estimated. The excess of local consumption over issue from Government treasuries in the Regulation Provinces is shown by me at 775 maunds, and may be relied on as much below the mark. This quantity represents 457 chests of opium and about 2½ lakhs of rupees duty. The receipts from licenses in our Regulation Provinces in 1867-68 do not contrast favourably with the receipts from the same source in the province of Sind, being only Rs. 81,472 against Rs. 52,994.

"65. I need not dwell on this part of the subject as the Government records for many years teem with reports from local officers in Gujarat, placing the fact of the existence of opium smuggling beyond a doubt. The primary cause apparently is that Government insist on the retail of the most expensive kind of opium at an enormous price in a district where the drug can be got illicitly with little fear of detection for half the price. A secondary cause is the prohibition of the production of opium. That this has encouraged smuggling seems to be evidenced by the fact that for the three years previous to the suppression of the cultivation of the poppy, the average supply from the Government stores to retailers in Ahmedabad was about 381 maunds against an average of 126 maunds for the three following years. The issue in 1867-68 is a little over five maunds."

(2) Mr. W. G. Pedder's report, No. 103, dated 30th July 1870, on "The Internal Management of the Salt Department," in which he incidentally, paragraph 105, touches on the opium question:—

"Nothing can be a more legitimate source of revenue than the internal consumption of opium. We are supposed to tax it heavily, our Collectors have strained the law to prevent its production in our own districts, yet the only effect has been that our cultivators are debarred from profiting by the cultivation of the poppy, while the use of the drug is not checked in the smallest degree, and the consumption is supplied entirely by smuggled opium grown in foreign territory. In 1832 the licit sale of opium in the Ahmedabad Collectorate was Indian maunds 448-28, and the revenue from it Rs. 2,36,408. In 1886 the licit sale was Indian maunds 5-9, and the revenue Rs. 5,450. I have no hesitation in saying that if the present actual consumption of Ahmedabad and Kaira was licit, the revenue would be at least 10 lakhs of rupees."

(3) Mr. (now Sir Charles) Pritchard's "Notes on the manufacture, importation, and consumption of opium in Gujarat, with suggestions for the repression of opium smuggling," dated 17th October 1873. He writes as follows:—

"11. It is the duty of the preventive force on the Kathiawar Runn and Marwar frontiers to prevent opium from passing westwards into Cutch and Kathiawar, and southwards (from Rajputana) into the States under the Pálanpur Superintendency; but this precaution can be of little value so long as the road from Malwa, Meywar, and Udepur, across the eastern frontier of the Presidency is left entirely open.

"12. *Prevalence of Smuggling.*—It is so generally known and admitted that almost the whole of the opium consumed in Gujarat is smuggled, that little need be advanced here in proof of the assertion. Indeed, so long as Malwa opium has free access along the whole length of our eastern boundary, and opium manufacture is permitted in foreign territory interlaced with our own, it cannot be expected that people will buy the taxed drug.

"13. A mass of conclusive evidence on the subject is collected in Mr. Fernandez's (printed) reports, Nos. 357 and 436 of 1871, and in Mr. Bell's Abkari report. The following table carries Mr. Bell's statistics of opium consumption down to the latest date, and fully confirms all that he has written on the subject:—

Years.	AHMEDABAD.		KAIRA.		BROACH.		SURAT.	
	Licit Consumption.	Population.	Licit Consumption.	Population.	Licit Consumption.	Population.	Licit Consumption.	Population.
	Mds. s.		Mds. s.		Mds. s.		Mds. s.	
1868-69	11 33	829,637	1 13½	782,733	—	285,015	8 10	731,936
1869-70	9 8½		1 0		1 30½		6 33½	
1870-71	14 0		0 23½		2 24½		6 35½	
1871-72	20 17½		0 27½		2 25		7 19½	
1872-73	17 12½		0 28		2 25		6 27½	

Mr. Bell says:—"The licensee takes a little opium from the Government Stores as a blind, but the mass of what he retails is smuggled."

"14. Mr. Pedder remarks (paragraph 27 of his able Salt report) that not one-twentieth of the opium consumed in Kathiawar is licit. Further on (paragraph 105) he writes:—

"In Statement 49 of Mr. Bell's valuable Abkari report, he estimates that the proportion of opium eaten to the adult male population in Ahmedabad and Kaira

is 9 per cent., and that if each consumes 20 tolas per annum (and many Rajputs eat half a tola a day), the actual annual consumption is 376 Indian maunds, the licit consumption being little over six maunds. At the rate of Rs. 26 per ser, or Rs. 1,050 per maund, the revenue ought to be nearly four lakhs of rupees. But Mr. Bell has much under-estimated both the number of consumers and the average quantity each consumes. Having been long a Settlement Officer in Gujarat, I am well acquainted with the habits of the people, and

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feel sure that a majority of the adult male population of Northern Gujarat, of all classes except the mercantile and literary, are habitual consumers of the drug.*

"Again, in the same paragraph, he writes:—'In 1832 the licit sale of opium in the Ahmedabad Collectorate was 448 Indian maunds, 28 sers, and the revenue from it Rs. 2,36,408; in 1861 the licit sale of opium was Indian maunds 5, sers 9, and the revenue Rs. 5,450.'

"15. It is impossible to make an accurate estimate of the whole quantity of illicit opium that enters British Gujarat; but the quantity *known* to pass into the province is very large indeed. It has been ascertained from the accounts of the Idar State and the returns of sale at the Samlaji fair, that on an average 1,800 Indian maunds of Málwa opium, exclusive of 'Pass' opium for China, *pay transit duty* every year on passing through Idar and other petty States in the Mahi Kantha. The accounts of the Panch Mahals also show that the 1,200 Indian maunds of untaxed Málwa opium annually enter Gujarat through that district. It has further been shown (paragraph 9 of my report, No. 1,138, dated the 5th March last) that at least 1,000 chests of Visnagar (Gaikwar) opium are smuggled into British territory every year. This makes up a total of 2,745 chests, the duty on which for home consumption at Rs. 24 per ser amounts to the enormous sum of 46 lákhs rupees; and besides an undetermined quantity of untaxed opium is known to be imported *via* Rajpipla and the Mewasi States under Khandesh.

"17. * * It is difficult, of course, to form a reliable estimate of the produce of the Gaikwar's districts; but the Wahiwatdar of Visnagar has lately informed Mr. Carey that his collections on account of the Rs. 135* duty average four lakhs a year, and it is probable, as he farms the revenue, that he would not *overstate* them. This represents an export of about 3,000 chests, the whole of which *ought* to go to Ahmedabad, as Idar and Palanpur (which with British territory circumscribe the Gaikwar's northern Mahals) produce more than sufficient opium for their own consumption. But from information, with which Mr. Fernandez has favoured me, it appears that the average number of chests of Visnagar opium brought to the scales at Ahmedabad during the last 10 years is less than 2,000, and that the

number is steadily decreasing year by year, and last year fell as low as 1,300 and the year previous to 800. From all I could learn while in the Gaikwar's districts, it would appear that the cultivation of the poppy is not decreasing, and there can be no doubt that some quantity of manufactured opium finds an exit from His Highness's dominions without paying his export fee. It may then, I think, be positively stated that *at least* 1,000 chests of Visnagar opium, the duty on which at 12 rupees per ser amounts to 17 lákhs rupees, are smuggled into or through British territory every year.

"This opium mostly goes to Cutch and Kathiawar, which are supposed to consume taxed opium supplied by Government. The adult population of those provinces are opium-eaters almost to a man; but Cutch does not now take an ounce of taxed opium, and the consignments to Kathiawar are less than 500 maunds a year, notwithstanding a special reduction in the rate of duty and the strenuous endeavours of the Political Agent to induce the chiefs to indent on Bombay for their supplies. That Government should lose the revenue from the opium consumption of Cutch and Kathiawar is a serious matter in itself, but the failure of existing arrangements to secure that revenue involves a consideration of far greater moment. If those two large provinces are able to smuggle sufficient for their home consumption, what is there to prevent their smuggling for export to China also?"

3. The first point I wish to make by referring to these reports is that these officers writing long before 1878 asserted that opium smuggling, chiefly in Gujarat of course, very largely existed, and that in consequence of their reports, measures were taken which resulted in the Opium Act No. 1 of 1878, and the rules thereunder.

The second point will be to show by the statistics which follow how far those officers were justified in their assertions.

As regards head (b)

4. I have in paragraph 6 of my "Abstract of Evidence" shown the quantities of licit opium which passed into consumption during each of the 10 years ending 1892-3, and I now supplement that with a similar table for the nine years from 1874-75 to 1882-83:—

Districts.	1874-5.	1875-6.	1876-7.	1877-8.	1878-9.	1879-80.	1880-1.	1881-2.	1882-3.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Bombay - - - -	1,144	1,030	587	3,125	8,966	9,246	11,125	10,750	11,791
Ahmedabad - - -	2,885	3,089	3,848	2,853	6,363	16,139	20,465	17,617	22,649
Kaira - - - -	168	155	179	140	2,683	8,262	10,063	9,299	11,765
Panch Mahals - -	-	-	-	-	29	3,176	3,780	2,760	2,020
Broach - - - -	237	221	241	210	2,898	6,449	9,879	8,807	10,453
Surat - - - -	720	799	928	865	1,445	2,326	3,406	3,531	3,920
Thana - - - -	586	580	529	590	502	692	1,103	1,299	1,589
Nasik - - - -	2,171	2,040	2,024	1,936	1,739	1,586	1,922	2,194	3,474
Khandesh - - -	1,033	1,154	890	1,205	1,276	1,576	2,771	6,693	8,115
Ahmednagar - - -	1,201	1,277	1,076	1,098	1,085	974	1,670	2,499	5,404
Poona - - - -	964	1,134	992	952	974	1,205	5,190	5,852	7,266
Sholapur - - - -	216	261	368	704	510	762	1,187	2,983	4,196
Satara - - - -	565	524	345	603	697	967	1,252	1,207	1,815
Belgaum - - - -	345	458	357	357	542	742	652	730	849
Dharwar - - - -	326	343	314	265	263	280	351	380	424
Bijapur - - - -	113	126	112	109	109	124	140	190	426
Kanara - - - -	130	131	172	157	109	106	108	113	116
Ratnagiri - - - -	177	176	184	183	179	191	173	164	181
Kolaba - - - -	-	29	166	203	210	244	261	320	326
Karachi - - - -	1,796	1,730	1,597	2,143	1,749	2,216	2,290	2,599	2,653
Hyderabad - - -	8,147	8,574	8,749	7,628	4,365	4,609	4,587	5,684	7,100
Shikarpur - - -	724	945	1,241	1,385	1,090	1,156	1,603	1,592	2,051
Aden - - - -	212	246	207	244	265	239	259	265	239
Total - - - -	23,856	25,022	25,106	26,955	38,048	63,267	84,237	87,528	108,822

I would draw special attention to the average consumption for three years previous to 1877-78:

(a) in the five Gujarat districts;

(b) in Bombay City;

and to the consumption in the same localities for the first complete year 1879-80 under the Opium Act, and the minimum guaranteed vend system.

In the former the average annual consumption of licit opium for each of the three years was 4,490 lbs., while in 1879-80 the consumption had risen at a bound to 36,352 lbs.

In the latter the average consumption for each of the three years was 919 lbs., while in 1879-80 it was

* The duty levied by the Gaikwar on opium exported beyond his own territory.

9,246 lbs. In the one case the consumption was, in round numbers, multiplied 84, in the other 10 times. Is not the only fair inference not that the general opium consumption had increased so enormously in some 18 months, *but that licit opium had replaced that which was formerly smuggled for consumption?* The original minimum guaranteed vend system was in force in the Gujarat districts and in Bombay in 1879-80, and I submit that the above figures prove conclusively that smuggling was, as asserted by Messrs. Bell, Pedder, and Fritchard extensively prevalent in Gujarat before the introduction of the operation of the Opium Act, that it also largely prevailed in Bombay, and that a most decisive check was given to it by the minimum guaranteed vend system.

APPENDIX XXI.

NOTE by Mr. HORNE on the SIGNATURES to the PETITION in favour of the PROHIBITION of the use of OPIUM, except for MEDICAL PURPOSES, presented to PARLIAMENT by certain MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS in Bombay (*vide* Question 25,603).

I have shown that every means was taken to give publicity to the petition after it had been presented to Parliament.

Nine months after the portraits of Dr. Atmaram Pandurang and Dr. Khory appeared in the "Guardian," the illuminated petition was issued as a supplement to the "Bombay Guardian" on October 14th, 1893, and in the "Banner of Asia" for November 1893.

From "Times of India."

Dr. Atmaram Pandurang says:—"I do not remember, but I may have signed the petition without carefully reading it, for when I now read it carefully, I do not agree with it."

I have already shown how Dr. Pandurang signed the petition twice, which makes it hard to believe that it was done without his agreeing to the contents of it. When I visited him, he said that he did not know when he was being interviewed by the "Times of India" correspondent that the result of the interview would be made public. A fuller knowledge of the "Times of India" correspondent than they then had would also have tended to make the doctors cautious as to what information they gave him. The correspondent is Rustomji Pestonji Jehangir, Chief Opium Inspector, Bombay. To this fact Rev. A. W. Prauteh, Mr. Man Sukh Lal, and others can witness.

Dr. J. Gerson da Cunha says he never signed the petition, and Dr. Khory could not have done so, "because he is known to be a pro-opiumist."

In the "Bombay Gazette" of January 11th, 1894, Dr. Ranina wrote that Dr. J. Gerson da Cunha signed in his presence. To which a reply was given, and Dr. da Cunha was represented as saying that he always signed his name in full "J. Gerson da Cunha" and that that was "the nomenclature given to me in every book or paper in which I have the honour to be mentioned." In McLean's Guide to Bombay, however, for 1892, I find Dr. J. G. Cunha, and in the "Guide" for this year I find Dr. J. G. de Cunha. Also Dr. da Cunha's second public denial of his signature to the petition is somewhat qualified, which his first was not.

Dr. Bhalchandra Krishna says:—"I have read the petition to Parliament. I believe, so far as I remember, I signed a petition which was not worded in the manner this is worded, I really do not agree with the sentiments expressed in the petition."

Dr. Krishna pleads that he did sign a petition, but that it was not the petition we are considering. His name was deciphered in England as Bhalchandra Kinbun, and on the receipt for my registered letter which the Post Office brought back to me his signature might easily be read Kinbun. This is incidental proof that the petition Dr. Krishna signed was the petition we are now dealing with.

Dr. Mehta says:—"I have never signed the petition, and I am in favour of the drug."

There is a great difference in these two statements. I have not personally seen Dr. V. N. Mehta, but he is evidently not prepared to maintain the statement which the "Times of India" attributes to him.

Dr. N. P. Mehta:—"I have never signed the petition, being in favour of opium eating rather than alcohol drinking."

I learn from other sources that Dr. N. P. Mehta's statement in the "Times of India" was not made on the merits of the petition only, but was influenced by other questions.

Dr. Madon says:—"I am quite sure and remember well that I have not signed the petition. In my opinion the moderate use of opium, even as a habit, apart from its use in certain chronic diseases, where it is certainly beneficial, does no harm to the system generally."

On November 14th the leading Bombay daily paper published a list of 13 doctors who were represented as either denying their signatures to the petition, or in some way qualifying them. On November 27 and November 28 further lists of doctors were given, and a long leading article on the alleged "Anti-Opium Fraud." From it I read, "The communication which we publish to-day practically completes the disavowals, one by one, of the petition by those who are represented as having signed it."

I now comment upon a few of the extracts from the "Times of India," and letters from the doctors to myself, which for convenience in comparing, I have arranged side by side.

From Letter to Myself.

No reply received.

J. Gerson da Cunha:—"I have no idea of having signed the petition you refer to. I know, however, that the name attached to the printed petition is not mine."

Bhalchandra Krishna:—"I have received your printed letter, by registered post, dated the 22nd instant. In reply to it I have to state that I certainly did not sign the petition which has been published as the Anti-Opium Petition. The statements in it are so grossly wild and exaggerated that I could never subscribe to them."

V. N. Mehta:—"So far as I remember I never signed the petition. However, I cannot say one way or the other in the matter unless I see personally my signature."

No reply received.

Framji Edulji Madon:—"In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, I have the honour to give my honest and true opinion as follows: That to the best of my knowledge I well remember to have never signed the Anti-Opium Petition. I once remember to have signed a petition concerning the temperance movement. I was and am still strongly against the use of spirits by the masses. That I have not read the Anti-Opium Petition I am positive and certain. Whether one was offered to me to read I do not remember. My views regarding the use of opium I had expressed before in connexion with the use of Balagholi (containing opium) in children. According to my honest belief the moderate use of opium is not harmful, but beneficial."

A.P. XXI.

From "Times of India."

From Letter to Myself.

Dr. A. G. Viegas says:—"I did sign the petition, but do not agree with the sweeping and condemnatory remarks in the petition which has been now read to me. Opium in moderate quantities is certainly beneficial in some cases and a sheet anchor in a few diseases. Its indiscriminate use is certainly dangerous, and proper restrictions should be placed, but care should be taken that this effect should not lead to substitution of alcohol for opium by the people, the latter being a much more deadly poison."

Accacio G. Viegas:—In answer to your letter I have to say that I did sign an Anti-Opium Petition, and that I am against the indiscriminate use and sale of opium; but I am also of opinion that the drug in suitable cases and in proper doses is most beneficial, and in certain diseases it is our sheet anchor. It is certainly desirable that its sale and use should be controlled by proper restrictions.

I was shown a petition in which it is said, or hinted, that some opium eaters will go the length of selling their wives and children to get the drug; I repudiate this statement, if it does occur in the petition in question, as I have not known or heard of any opium eater having done so. You will know from this short letter what my views on opium are.

In this case the second statement is more qualified than the first.

Dr. Cowasji Pestonji says:—"I remember having signed the petition, taking it as a whole to do some good. I do not agree with all the points therein contained, particularly what is mentioned in paragraphs Nos. 2, 4, and 6."

Cowasji Pestonji:—Since you are prepared to put a wrong construction on one's silence to your registered letter of yesterday's date, I beg to state that I did sign the medical Anti-Opium Petition, but when I saw extravagant paragraphs in the printed petition in the daily papers regarding selling of wives and children by the opium eaters, I was obliged to repudiate my signature thus far. In doing so I have qualified my statement, and I did it with my full will.

In one case three paragraphs are challenged, in the second only one paragraph.

Dr. A. F. Fernandez says:—"I remember having signed the petition, but probably under some misrepresentation, for I do not quite share the views therein stated. Only when abused opium produces its bad effects, and not when taken in moderation."

No reply received.

Dr. M. R. Sethna says:—"I remember having signed the petition, but to say the truth I had no time to read it, as I was very busy at the time. I am for opium, and had I read the contents I should not have signed it."

No reply received.

Dr. A. P. Andrade says:—"I signed the petition under misrepresentation."

Left. Letter returned.

Dr. Dinshaw Dorabji says:—"I remember to have signed some petition about opium but I have done so without reading such an exaggerated account as I find it in the accompanying petition. If I had read it carefully I would not have signed it."

Dinshaw Dorabji:—"I have received your registered letter to-day. I wish to withdraw my signature from the petition, as I find it to contain an exaggerated account."

Dr. Phirozsha Pallonji says:—"I remember having signed the petition, but I cannot say how I could have done so, when my views are very contrary to those contained in the petition. Perhaps I read something else, or must have signed it under some misrepresentation."

Phirozsha Pallonji:—In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, I beg to inform you that although I have a faint recollection about my having signed a petition anent opium (but what it was I do not remember now), still I can affirm, that I could not possibly have signed the petition in question, which has been lately made public, as my views have been, and are, different from those contained in the said petition.

These statements do not agree.

Dr. Cowasjee Motabhoj says:—"I remember to have signed the petition without reading it, but now on careful perusal of it I am of views quite contrary to those contained in the petition."

Cowasjee Motabhoj:—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, and in reply to the enquiry therein made, to inform you that I signed the petition without a careful perusal of the contents thereof, but when my attention was drawn to them subsequently, I could not, but with regret, repudiate my signature to it, as I did then and do now hold views quite contrary to what was embodied in the petition.

My letter refused.

Dr. Pereira says:—"I remember signing a petition about opium consumption. I signed it hurriedly, as I was busy at the time. I am in favour of a moderate use of opium, and therefore do not agree with the petition that appears in the 'Anti-Opium News' for September 1892."

S. W. Kane:—I regret there has been considerable delay in replying to your note of the 22nd January last. I hope you will excuse me for it. I am sorry I have not been able to get a copy of the Petition which you refer to, and which contains my signature, I was so anxious to see it again before writing this. I am, however, prepared at once to admit that I did sign some such Petition soon after this anti-opium agitation was set on foot, though it will be difficult or nearly impossible for me now to identify it. I also recollect that it contained signatures of some of my brother practitioners. But I have reason to believe, from the few extracts that were now and then published in some of the local papers, that it contained some exaggerated

Dr. S. W. Kane says:—"I remember to have signed some such petition. But now I find that I cannot subscribe to all the views therein expressed. On proper consideration of the question, I have come to believe that opium-eating is not always injurious to health as it is declared by the anti-opiumists to be."

From "Times of India."

Dr. A. M. De Souza says:—"I remember to have signed some petition without a careful perusal of the document. On reading the petition as it now appears in the 'Anti-Opium News' for September 1892, I have reason to disagree with it. In my opinion a moderate use of the drug is not only harmless, but necessary to certain persons under many conditions."

Dr. F. X. Ferreira says:—"I remember having signed a petition, but did so under some misapprehension. I am for opium."

Dr. L. D. Almeida says:—"I have faint recollection of signing a petition about opium consumption. . . . I must have signed under some misunderstanding or wrong information."

The following do not remember signing:—

Dr. Shantaram Vithal says:—"I do not remember having signed the petition. If I have done so it was perhaps after a hurried perusal of the document. On reading the petition now carefully I have reason to disagree."

Dr. R. N. Permanand says:—"I do not remember signing the petition, a copy of which appears in the 'Anti-Opium News' for September 1892, and to which my signature has been attached. I do not agree with the views contained therein."

Dr. Joshi says:—"I do not remember to have signed the petition taking an extreme view of the opium question. I am of opinion that opium used in moderate quantities by people accustomed to its use proves of great benefit to them, and that the total abstinence from it would lead the people to vices of a worse nature."

Dr. Merwanjee Kuvarjee says:—"I do not remember having signed such a petition. If I have it must have been under some misrepresentation, for my views are quite the contrary."

Dr. Eduljee says:—"I do not remember having signed the petition, but if I have done so it must have been under some false representation, or without a careful reading of it. On carefully reading it now I quite disagree with it."

From "Letter to Myself."

statements to which I cannot conscientiously subscribe. Besides, I freely confess that, within the last year or two, my own personal observation of the effects of small doses of opium on my opium-eating patients, and a careful consideration of the question, have led me to change my views; and this is another reason why I cannot allow my signature to remain in the petition.

A. M. De Souza.—I am in receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, and in reply I wish to state that some years ago I recollect to have signed, with a half mind I may say, a petition as regards the subject matter; but I am quite certain that I could never have signed the petition in question, I mean the one containing that abominable statement, viz.:—An opium eater, especially perhaps a native, will not have any scruple to sell his wife and children for the sake of procuring the drug, &c., &c.

During the last 20 years of my practice in Bombay and out of Bombay I have never observed such a thing, nor have I heard this said by my patients, even from the books, or dens, or by anybody else.

Yes, I have heard such and similar statements or remarks from those natives, and especially the Eurasians and the Anglo-Indians, addicted to the use or rather the abuse of alcohol; and they have told me that such is the case more in the United Kingdom.

I say, let the alcohol traffic be abolished or greatly checked by a heavy duty, and let the natives enjoy moderately the juice called toddy, which compares more favourably than even the best beer itself; and I say, not to encourage or seek to encourage by some such means as the petition in question, which I again declare I could not have very probably signed in the form you mention, since I know fully well that the injurious effects of opium were not half so bad as those of alcohol, especially of foreign brand, which is now being forced on the people of India to the great benefit both of the Government and the missionary societies, and which is done to the great detriment of the people, especially the natives, otherwise there would be prosperity everywhere amongst the subjects of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen and Empress of India.

No answer.

L. D. Almeida.—I have received your registered letter, and in reply I wish to state that I wish to repudiate my signature formally in the petition concerning the consumption of opium. I do not know how I happened to sign such a petition, with which my views are quite the contrary.

No answer.

R. N. Permanand:—I am in receipt of your letter dated the 22nd ultimo. I ought to have replied to it immediately, but I have been too ill to write till now. With reference to your query permit me to say that I surely did not put my signature to the memorial which has appeared as the Anti-Opium Memorial. Some of the statements in it are so grossly exaggerated that I could never agree to subscribe to them.

No answer.

No answer.

Edulji Nushirwanji:—In reply to your registered letter dated the 22nd instant, I beg to inform you, that though I might have put down my signature to the Anti-Opium Petition under circumstances of which I have now no recollection, I now do formally withdraw it, or repudiate it as you term it, and that for the reason, that when I happened to read a printed copy of the petition bearing my signature, I found that it contained statements for the truth of which I could bear no testimony.

APP. XXI.

From "Times of India."

Dr. A. Hyams says:—"I do not remember having signed a petition with a photo attached to it. At any rate my views are quite opposite to those contained in the petition."

Dr. P. J. L. De Souza says:—"So far as I remember I do not think I have signed such a petition. My views are quite at one with those of the gentlemen who have signed above."

Dr. Shivdas Permanandas says:—"I may have signed the petition. I have no recollection of it now. My views at present are more in favour of opium than against it."

Dr. E. C. Tukina says:—"As far as I remember I have never signed such a petition. While I am generally in favour of the beneficial effects of opium on its habitué, how can I have said to have signed such a petition?"

Dr. F. N. Bisni says:—"I do not remember to have signed the petition as appears in the 'Anti-Opium News' of 15th September 1892. I am in favour of using opium in moderate and judicious doses."

Dr. R. M. Mody says:—"I do not remember having signed the petition as appears in the 'Anti-Opium News' for 15th September 1892; but if I have done it, it must be under some false representation or without carefully reading it. My views are quite contrary to what appears in the paper."

Dr. V. Desai says:—"I do not remember to have signed the petition as appears in the 'Anti-Opium News' for 15th September 1893."

Dr. Khote says:—"I do not remember to have signed the petition as appears in the 'Anti-Opium News' for 15th September 1892, I am not against moderate opium-eating under certain restrictions."

Dr. E. F. Sethna says:—"I do not remember to have signed the petition; and if I did, I must have done so without reading it. I am in favour of a moderate use of the drug."

Dr. Manji says:—"I do not remember at all having signed the petition. If I have, it must be without my reading it or under misrepresentation. As far as my experience goes, a moderate use of opium is not harmful."

Dr. Kandawala says:—"I do not remember having signed the petition. My views are in favour of the use of opium."

Dr. F. L. Kapadia says:—"I do not agree with the exaggerated accounts that appear in the petition published in the 'Anti-Opium News' for September 1892. If a person could do without opium, much better; but a moderate use of it to certain persons under certain conditions would not be harmful."

Dr. Dalal says:—"I do not remember having signed the petition. My views, on the contrary, are in favour of it."

Dr. H. N. Contractor says:—"At this date I do not remember whether or not I signed the petition. If I have, it was through misrepresentation, as my views were and are in favour of a moderate use of the drug."

From Letter to Myself.

No answer.

No answer.

Shivdas Permanandas:—"As it appears in the 'Times of India' of Monday the 27th November 1893, I wrote in a book that was brought to me what appears under the heading, 'How anti-opium petitions are got up,' viz., 'I may have signed the petition. I have no recollection of it now; my views at present are more in favour of opium than against it.'"

I now add that had I been aware of the nature of the petition which I have since come to know, I should certainly not have signed the petition (if I did so) in the first instance.

Edulji Cawasji Tukina:—"In reply to your printed registered letter sent to me this day I beg to inform you that I never recollect to have ever signed an Anti-Opium Petition. As I am in favour of the beneficial effects of opium, I now beg to inform you that I now repudiate my signature to the petition sent to the Parliament. I wonder how my name appeared in that petition when I cannot recollect to have ever signed it, and when I am in favour now of the good effects of opium."

No answer.

Ratansha Manekji Modi:—"In reply to your letter dated the 22nd instant, I do not remember to have signed the Anti-Opium Petition. I do not think I have done it. I hold different views on the subject to those expressed in the petition."

My letter refused.

No answer.

No answer.

Not found.

No answer.

No answer.

My letter refused.

H. N. Contractor:—"Your letter to hand yesterday. In reply, I should say, I do not remember now whether I signed the Anti-Opium Petition or not. Had I, I might have through misrepresentation, misunderstanding, or mistake, because I am in favour of the appropriate use of the drug—but, not its abuse."

APPENDIX XXII.

EXTRACT from "LIVES OF BOMBAY OPIUM SMOKERS,"
by MR. RUSTOMJI JEHANGIR. (See question 27,094.)

Syed Ulfat Hussein, a fairly well set up man, said:—I am a *beggar*, and am 50 years of age. I was born at Azimabad in Patna; I have smoked opium for the past 30 years, I took to the habit in consequence of bad health. My earnings are about eight annas a day, and I smoke between two and three annas worth of opium daily. If I do not take the opium I feel very sick and miserable, but if I get my daily supply I have a good appetite and feel cheerful. I was married and had one child, but both wife and child are now dead.

Bahadurshaw Balashaw, who seemed to enjoy the best of health, said:—I am 55 years of age. I am now a mendicant. Formerly I had a *chundool* licence in Nassick. I began to smoke opium 16 years ago on the advice of a doctor who was attending me for asthma. The asthma does not trouble me so long as I get the *chundool*, but when I go up-country and cannot get it my old complaint returns. After I have smoked *chundool* I do not feel in the least intoxicated, on the contrary, I am quite active, and could easily walk 12 or 15 miles. I am very strong, and will lift any weight you like to give me, but I could not do it without *chundool*. I have three children, but none of them smoke *chundool*. I earn from 12 annas to one rupee a day, and spend two annas of my dailings earnings on *chundool*.

Sheik Abdul Sheik Rehman, a tolerably healthy-looking man, said:—I am a lascar. My age is 30. I began smoking *chundool* when I was 16. I was then suffering from intestinal colic and dysentery, and went to a doctor who gave me some medicine, but as it did not do me any good he gave me opium. Since then I have always smoked *chundool*, as I find it does me more good than eating dry opium; the latter always gives me flatulence. Ever since I have taken *chundool* I have had good health and a good appetite. If a person has no food and is starving then he would be injured by smoking *chundool*, but a man who has good food is not injured at all. I earn about eight annas a day, and smoke about ten *pice* worth of *chundool* every day. I am a married man, but have no family.

Sheik Hussein Sheik Hamad, who appeared to have a good constitution, stated:—I was born in Indore. I am 40. I started to smoke *chundool* 15 or 16 years ago. I learnt the habit from some friends. My earnings average six annas a day, and I spend about two annas in *chundool*. I was formerly a farmer in Indore, but when my parents died I became a mendicant. I work five or six hours a day, and always have good health.

Baldev Parsadi, a well-built man, said:—I am a Purdasi, and was born at Agra. I am about 40. Formerly I was a railway porter, but now I work at docks. I have smoked *chundool* for the last eighteen years. I took to it in consequence of pains in my chest which was caused by a fall while I was in the railway service. Since taking to the habit, I have had very good health. If I gave up taking it I should be sick. When I am away and unable to get *chundool* I get asthma. I smoke about two annas worth of *chundool* every day.

Premji Devji, a well-set-up young man, said:—I am 28. I took to smoking *chundool* three years ago. I was then suffering from diarrhoea, and my uncle who had smoked *chundool* for the last 20 years advised me to try it. I am a sweatmeat seller, and earn about 10 annas a day, and spend two annas in *chundool*. I work about six hours a day.

Ibrahim Joseph, a good specimen of his race, said:—I belong to Kutch Mandvi, and am 50 years of age. I am a tailor and earn from Rs. 40 to Rs. 60 a month. I smoke four annas worth of *chundool* every day. I acquired the habit 25 years ago from some friends. It always gives me strength. I work seven hours a day, and if I did not get the *chundool* I should die. I am a married man and have four children; none of them smoke *chundool*.

Fazul Khan Kher Khan, a somewhat thin but healthy looking man, of bright disposition, stated:—I am 50 years old, and was born at Nagar. I am a Victoria driver and work 12 hours a day. I earn from eight annas to a rupee a day and spend two annas of it in *chundool*. I learnt the habit from friends 30 years ago. If I did not smoke *chundool* I should not be able to work. I am married and have five children. It is not true that *chundool* intoxicates a man, but it makes him cheerful and happy.

Hussein Syed Nasib, a sturdy young fellow, said:—I was born at Kutch Mandvi. I am 35, and have been a smoker of *chundool* for 10 years. I work about seven hours a day. I make about three annas, and get my food. I smoke about two annas worth of *chundool* every day, because it gives me an appetite, and makes me feel well.

Cassam Hyderbeg, a bright, intelligent looking man, stated:—I am a maker of tooth-picks, and am 38 years of age. I make four or five annas a day, and regularly spend two annas in *chundool*, which I have smoked for about 20 years. Some friends introduced me to the practice. I have always had good health since I took to smoking it.

Rama Gunesh, apparently a man of active habits, said:—I was born at Goa, and am 50 years old. I am a goldsmith, and get three annas a day and my food. I work six hours a day. I took to smoking *chundool* 20 years ago, and smoke about three *pice* worth a day. I learnt the habit from some friends.

Mahomed Hussein Ali, a well developed Mahomedan, said:—I was born at Delhi, and am 30 years of age. By trade I am a gold embroiderer, and earn 10 annas a day, in which I work seven hours. I have acquired the habit of smoking *chundool* from friends five years ago, but I am not a regular smoker. When I take *chundool* I smoke three annas worth at a time. My health is very good.

Abdoola Currim said:—I was born in Bombay, and am now 65 years of age. I am a Victoria driver, and work 13 hours a day. I have smoked *chundool* for the last 30 years. My daily earnings are from 12 annas to one rupee. I smoke about three annas worth of *chundool* every day. If I did not smoke it, I should get sick and not be able to do my work. I am married and have several children, but none of them smoke.

Kaloo Noor Mahomed stated:—I am 37 years of age. I work for my brother, an hotel-keeper, who gives me my food and 8 annas a day. I learnt to smoke *chundool* 22 years ago from a friend who then held a *chundool* licence. I smoke three or four annas worth of opium every day. I work seven hours a day, but could not do half my work if I did not have the *chundool*.

Yakoot Noor Mahomed, a well-built young man, of healthy appearance, said:—Mangroli, in Kathiawar, is my native place. I am 25 years of age. I am a bottle seller, and make about eight annas a day. I took to smoking *chundool* by way of a luxury five years ago. When I first took to habit I consumed two annas worth a day, but now I smoke three annas worth. I work from six to seven hours a day. The *chundool* gives me a good appetite and keeps me in very good health; if I did not smoke it I should not be able to walk.

Ali Mahomed Soomar, who appeared to be in very good health, and had plenty of flesh on his bones, stated:—I am a native of Verawal, Kattiawar, and am 38 years of age. I am a bottle seller, and work five hours a day, during which I make eight annas. When I first learnt to smoke from some friends eight years ago, I smoked only six *pice* worth of *chundool*, but now I take three annas worth a day. If I leave off *chundool* I feel pains in my body, but as soon as I take it again it makes me active and fit for work.

Mahomed Cassum, a medium sized, bright, healthy-looking man said:—I am 50. I am a Victoria driver, and earn from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 a day, and work from 12 to 14 hours a day. About 20 years ago I was

APP. XXII.

suffering from piles, and on the advice of friends took to opium. I keep all right as long as I smoke *chundool*, but when I leave it off I get sick and cannot do my work. I smoke from two to three annas worth a day. I have one child; my wife is dead.

Bava Sahib Ismail, a fleshy, well-set-up man said:—I was born in Sholapore, and am 40 years of age. I was a weaver in Sholapore, and come to Bombay to find work; but as not having succeeded in getting employment as a weaver, I now earn my living as a musician. I earn from eight annas to one rupee a day, and smoke four *pie* worth of opium daily. I learnt the habit from a friend in Sholapore. Formerly, I used to smoke only two *pie* worth. I am married, and have five children; none of them smoke *chundool*. My appetite is good when I get *chundool* regularly, but not otherwise.

Khervo Per Mahomed, a tall, muscular man, stated:—I was born at Aurangabad, and am 30 years of age. I am a butcher, and earn from 10 to 12 annas a day. I am married, and have two children. I have smoked *chundool* for the last 11 years. Some friends taught me the habit. Formerly I smoked five annas worth a day, now I have decreased the quantity to two annas for I cannot afford to spend more. I work 11 hours a day, but I could not do my work if I did not get opium. I left off smoking some time ago, but as I got diarrhoea I had to take it again.

Malook Kanjee, a good-looking, powerful young fellow, said:—I belong to Kattiawar, and am 20 years of age. I am a Victoria driver, and earn about 12 annas a day. I work from 10 o'clock in the morning till six in the evening, and from eight at night till eight in the morning. I have smoked *chundool* for the last two years, and could not do half the work I now do if I did not take it.

Lampow Assoo, a bright, healthy looking Chinaman, said:—I am 51 years of age. I am proprietor of this *chundool* shop, and earn from Rs. 36 to Rs. 50 a month. I have been 30 years in Bombay, and contracted the habit of *chundool* smoking 20 years ago. I smoke from two to six annas worth a day. I take it as a luxury. I am very healthy and have a good appetite. I am a married man, and have one child.

Salu Mahomed Ismail, thin, and not very bright, said:—I was born in Mauritius 35 years ago. I was formerly a grain merchant there, but am now a tailor, and earn from 12 annas to one rupee a day. I have smoked *chundool* for the last 20 years. I used to smoke between Re. 1 and Rs. 1-4-0 worth every day, but now I smoke only two annas worth. I work seven hours a day. I have never tried to do without *chundool*, because I know if I leave it off I shall suffer, and not be able to do my work.

Odhvadas Hemraj, thin, but extremely bright and cheerful, said:—I am a native of Shikarpur, and am 30 years old. I am an indigo dealer, and earn about one rupee a day. I have smoked *chundool* for a year and a half, and now smoke two annas worth a day. I learnt the habit from friends. I also take *ganja* when I feel sick. I work 10 hours a day. If Government close the *chundool* shops, I shall be perfectly satisfied to take dry opium.

Khivji Moolje, a thick-set man, said:—I was born at Porebunder, and am 32 years of age. I am employed by my uncle, who is a pearl broker, and I work seven or eight hours a day. I learnt to smoke *chundool* one and a half years ago from some friends. I smoke two annas worth a day. When I cannot get *chundool* I take dry opium. I should not be able to do my work if I do not take opium. I am married, and have one daughter, who is eight years of age.

Gotrungar Motigur, in good condition for his years, said:—I was born at Benares, and am 60 years old. I am a mendicant, and make from eight annas to two rupees a day. I acquired the habit of *chundool* smoking 40 years ago, and formerly smoked from 12 annas to one rupee's worth of *chundool* daily; I now smoke four annas worth. My health is very good.

Latiff Ismail, well formed, and in fair condition, said:—I belong to Kutch Mandvi, and am 30 years old. I am a fireman, and get Rs. 18 a month. When I am on shore I drive a Victoria, and work 16 or 17 hours a day. I learnt to smoke *chundool* 12 years ago, but I am not a regular smoker. When at sea I take dry opium, about 1 *pie* worth a day.

When on shore I smoke four or five *pie* worth of *chundool* daily, but would smoke more if I had more leisure time. I am married, and have one son.

Cassum Mir Hamad Mir, a tall, stalwart man, said:—I come from Kattiawar and am 35 years old. I am a tailor, work seven or eight hours daily, and earn eight annas a day. I have smoked *madat* for the last five years. I take it as a luxury. I am healthy, and have a good appetite. I am married, and have got three children.

Goolab Russool, nice looking old man, and apparently in good condition, said:—I was born at Baroda, and am 65 years of age. I am a mendicant, and get four or six annas a day and my food. I go out begging about five hours a day. I began to smoke *madat* 30 years ago. I took it for piles, and it has cured me. I smoke four annas worth of *madat* daily. I have two children.

Mahomed Chotoo, a powerfully-built man, said:—I am 25, and was born in Bombay. I am a dock labourer, and earn nine annas a day. I have smoked *madat* for the last two years. I smoke two annas worth a day. I learnt the habit from friends. My work lasts the whole night, and I am always able to do it.

Peroo Mir Alam Khan, tall, well-built, said:—I was born in Quetta, and am 40 years of age. I am a cook in a hotel and earn from ten annas to one rupee a day. I work about ten hours. I began to smoke *madat* four years ago. Some friends learnt me the habit. I smoke about four *pie* worth of *madat* daily. If Government close the smoking houses I shall take dry opium.

Suleman Tar, in very fair condition, stated:—I belong to Bombay, and am 30 years of age. I am a coal seller and earn six annas a day. I have smoked *madat* for eight years. Formerly I smoked eight annas a day but I have reduced the quantity to three annas, because I could not afford more. I acquired the habit from friends. I work from seven to nine hours a day, and am always fit to do my work when I take *madat*. If I did not take it I should want two men to carry me out of this place.

Kalekhan Nathikhan, a wonderfully fine old man, said:—I was born at Jeypore, and am 70 years of age. I am a serang in the service of the P. and O. Company, and earn from Rs. 30 to Rs. 35 a month. I learnt the habit of *madat* smoking from friends 20 years ago, and smoke four annas worth a day. I work eight hours. I am a married man and have had seven children, but two of them are dead.

Phamdandass Jugundass, well built and of cheerful disposition, said:—I was born at Faizabad, and am 30 years of age. I am a mendicant and get a little money and my food and clothes. I started to smoke *madat* 10 years ago, but I am not a regular smoker.

After smoking several balls of *madat* this man played the *sitar* and sang some native songs in clear ringing voice.

Ali Bakat, well developed, bright, and intelligent, said:—I come from Teheran, and am 30 years old. I am a baker and earn from 12 annas to two rupees a day. I began to smoke *madat* 10 years ago. I was then suffering from eyesight, and was advised by friends to take it. Since taking it my eyesight and general health has improve. I smoke six *pie* worth a day. Formerly I took dry opium.

Ismail Ahnas, strong, active, said:—I was born in Muscat, and am 40 years of age. I am a Victoria driver and earn from 12 annas to one rupee a day. I commenced smoking *madat* 20 years ago for asthma. Since taking it I have not been troubled with that complaint. I smoke from five to six annas worth a day. I am married and have three children. I work 10 hours a day.

Gophur Baba, a handsome man of fine physique, said:—I was born at Rajapur in Rutnaghiri, and am 50 years of age. I am the owner of a *fattimar* and make from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 a year. I have smoked *madat* for the last seven years. I took it to reduce myself as I was too fat. I take four *pie* worth daily. Since taking it I am less corpulent, but my appetite is very good. Before taking opium I could not do my work.

Suleman Cassum, tall and strong, said:—I come from Rajapur in Rutnaghiri, and am 50 years of age. I am a dyer and earn from eight annas to one rupee a day. I took to smoking *madat* several years ago on account of rheumatism. I am now much better and enjoy good health. I smoke from two to four *pie* worth of *madat* every day. I am married and have one child.

Rama Mahadoo, of medium height and good condition, said:—I am 40 years of age, and come from Hyderabad. I am a dyer and earn from 10 to 12 annas a day. I work eight or nine hours. I began to smoke *madat* six or seven years ago for rheumatic pains. Since taking it I am feeling well, and have a good appetite. I smoke four pice worth of *madat* a day. I am married and have four children.

Kisingur Barogir, strong, bright, and healthy, said:—I was born at Benares, and am 45 years old. I am a *sadoo* and get a little money and my food. Twenty years ago I suffered from enlargement of the spleen and piles and was advised by a friend to take opium. I took to it and have been much better ever since, but if I leave off taking it my old complaint returns. I smoke two or three pice worth *madat* every day.

Balishah Casimghab, a poor weakly looking man, said:—I come from Hyderabad, and am 20 years old. I am a dyer and earn from eight to twelve annas a day. I was suffering from dyspepsia a year ago, and in consequence took to *madat*. I smoke two pice worth a day. Since taking *madat* I am feeling very much better.

Narsoo Rama, rather thin, but bright and intelligent, said:—I was born in Bombay and am 20 years of age. I am a mill hand, and earn Rs. 15 per month. I began to smoke *madat* six months back, but I do not smoke every day. I took to it as I was suffering from indigestion. When I smoke I take two pice worth of *madat*. I am feeling better since taking to it.

Din Mahomed Abdul Rehemam, a good specimen of his race, said:—I come from Nagpur, and am 40 years old. I am a kallassi, and earn eight annas a day. I have smoked *madat* for the last 12 years. A *hakim* advised me to take opium for intestinals colic, and an enlarged spleen. I smoke four pice worth of *madat* a day, and now feel very well.

Kurrim Khan Ghoree Khan, a man standing about six feet high, of healthy appearance, said:—I come from Delhi, and am 40. I am a bricklayer, and earn one rupee a day. Twenty years ago a doctor in Bhussaval recommended me to take opium for rheumatism from which I was then suffering. Since taking it, the rheumatic pains have not troubled me. I smoke two annas worth of *madat* daily.

Allabuku Pir Goolam, good-looking and apparently in thorough health, said:—I am a native of Benares, and am 30 years old. I am a hawker, and earn from eight to ten annas a day. I have smoked for 10 years. I take about two annas worth a day. When I do not take it I feel lazy and unable to do my work.

Cassum Joseb, in fairly good condition, said:—I belong to Kattiawar, and am 30 years of age. I am a fruit seller, and make Rs. 20 a month. I took to smoking *madat* 14 years ago, on account of have an enlarged liver. If I leave off smoking the pain returns. I smoke three annas worth of *madat* daily. I am married and got two children.

Sandoo Sarviji, apparently in good health, said:—I am 40, and was born in Bombay. I am a milkman, and earn 12 annas a day. I was advised to take *madat* three years ago for rheumatism. I smoke two pice worth a day. I do not get the rheumatic pains now. I have good appetite, and my general health is very good.

Tookaram Mahipatram, in fair condition, said:—I am 30, and belong to Satara. I am a dock labourer, and earn eight annas a day. I smoke between two and three pice worth of *madat* a day. I was advised to take it 10 years ago for fever and an enlarged spleen.

Aga Mahomed, healthy looking, though not very stout, said:—I am 53, and belong to Bombay. I am the licensee of this shop, and earn about Rs. 50 a month. I work from 6 in the morning till 10 at night and enjoy very good health. I commenced to smoke *madat* 35 years ago, and smoke two annas worth daily. I take it as a luxury. I am married and have had two children, but only one of them is living.

Kadershaw Booranshaw, tall, thin, but healthy, stated:—I was born at Hyderabad, and over 50 years of age. I am a beggar, and go out begging three hours a day. I have smoked *madat* for the last 20 years. I also take dry opium. I smoke only one pice worth a day. Some friends taught me the habit.

° Mahomed Amir, a tall, well set-up man, said:—I am a native of Calcutta, and am 46 years of age. I am a

lascar in the service of the P. and O. Company, and earn Rs. 24 a month. I took to smoking *madat* 10 years ago, on account of indigestion. I am now very much better, and have got a good appetite. When on shore I smoke one anna's worth of *madat* a day, but when at sea I take only dry opium. I am married and have four children.

Sheik Enoos, in good condition for his years, said:—I am 65, and come from Rutnaghiri. I am a grocer, and earn eight annas a day. Ten years ago a *hakim* advised me to take opium for rheumatic pains in my joints. I smoke two pice worth *madat* daily. I am married and have two children.

Cassum Abdoola, short, but securely strong, said:—I come from Satara, and am 25 years of age. I am a lascar, and earn Rs. 12 a month. I took to smoking *madat* as a remedy for enlarged spleen three years ago. I smoke four pice worth a day. I am keeping very good health now.

Jamatsha Dilsha, rather languid looking, said:—I belong to Fazabad, and am 50 years of age. I am a mendicant, and get from six to ten annas a day, and my food and clothing. I took to smoking *madat* as a luxury 25 years ago. I smoke five annas worth a day, and keep very good health. I have not had any smoke yet, that is why I feel and look tired. As soon as I have had it I shall be active again.

Wahad Ahmed Ally, a well-conditioned man, said:—I was born at Hyderabad (Deccan), and am 39 years of age. I am a fortune teller, and earn from eight annas to two rupees a day. I have smoked *madat* as a luxury for the last 15 years. I smoke about four annas worth a day. I am married and have four children. My general health is very good. Nothing will induce me to give up opium smoking. It does me no harm. On the contrary, it gives me appetite, and I always feel cheerful.

Enait Ally Bashratli, a fine, handsome old man, in splendid condition, said:—I am 75 years of age and was born at Lucknow. Formerly I was a fireman in the G. I. P. Railway Company, but now I do no work. My son, who earns Rs. 26 a month, supports me. I have smoked *madat* as a luxury for the last 50 years. I smoke two annas worth daily. My eyesight is very good, and so is my general health. I have two children. I always advise my friends to take opium, for if taken in small quantities it does one lot of good.

Esoob Ally Khan Mahomed, a splendid specimen of his race, said:—I am 30 years old, and come from Mooltan. I am a dock labourer, and earn seven annas a day. I have smoked *madat* for the last four years. I take it for my cough. I smoke one pice worth daily. My health now is very good. I work about eight hours every day. If I did not smoke *madat* I would not be able to do half the work I do at present.

Abdool Rehman, a man of weak constitution, said:—I belong to Jubulpore, and am 46 years of age. I am employed in a shop, and earn six annas a day. I began to smoke *madat* when I was 25 years old. I smoke one anna's worth a day. I am married and have one child.

Sekh Baba, a well-built, and bright-looking young man, said:—I belong to Zanzibar, and am 25 years of age. I am cabman, and earn from eight annas to one rupee a day. I have smoked *madat* as a luxury for the last four years. I smoke three annas worth a day. I work 12 hours a day. I am married and have one child.

Sekh Chand Mahomed, over six feet and well-built, said:—I come from the Berars, and am 40 years of age. I am a beggar and earn about ten annas a day and food. I go out begging between seven and ten hours daily. I have smoked *madat* as a luxury for the last 15 years. I smoke two annas worth a day.

Ebrahim Balaram, rather delicate looking, said:—I belong to Calcutta, and am 22 years of age. I was formerly a measurer of ground, but am now getting my living by begging, as I cannot find a situation on account of ill-health. I have smoked *madat*, for fever, for the last two years. I smoke an anna's worth daily.

Mahomed Jaffer, tall, bright-looking, but not very strong, said:—I was born at Janjira, and am 35 years of age. I was formerly a lascar, but am now a sub-licensee for the sale of *madat*, and make about Rs. 12 per month. Ten years ago I suffered from severe pains in my right side, and consulted many

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doctors, and spent much money on trying to get cured, but without success. I was advised to take opium, and since doing so my pains have disappeared. I smoke about six pice worth of *madat* daily. I am married and have two children.

Alishaw Mahomedshaw, bright, and in good condition, said:—I belong to Allahabad, and am 37 years of age. I am a beetle leaves seller, and make nine annas a day. I have smoked *madat* for the last eight months. A friend advised me to take it as I was suffering from diarrhoea. I smoke three pice worth a day, and am feeling much better. I am married and have one child.

Haji Aga Khan, a big, well-built man, said:—I am 36, and belong to Bokhara. I take one pice worth of dry opium every day, as it keeps me active. I attend to my work daily. I am married and have two children.

Nazirshaw Omarshi, tall, and somewhat weakly, said:—I am 48, and was born at Hyderabad. I began to smoke *madat*, for asthma, ten years ago. I smoke six pice worth a day, and feel well so long as I take it. I earn my living by begging.

Abdool Mahomed, a short, thick-set man of very happy disposition, said:—I am 45, and come from Arabia. I was formerly a soldier in the Hyderabad army, but left it in consequence of ill-health. I am now earning my living by begging, and make from six to eight annas a day. I have smoked *madat* for the last six years. I smoke about four pice worth a day. I am married and have one child. My health has very much improved since I began smoking *madat*, and I am now trying to find out some employment for me.

Mahomed Ismael, well-preserved for his years, said:—I was born in Hyderabad, and am 70 years of age. I am a coffee-seller, and work eight hours a day. I have taken opium for the last 40 years. Formerly I smoked *madat*, but now I take crude opium, as it is cheaper. I take opium as a luxury. I have two children and am quite happy.

Vazir Shai, tall, and of fine physique, said:—I am 45, and am a native of Delhi. I was a sowar in the Nizam's cavalry, but left it on account of ill-health. I now make my living by begging, and get about six annas a day and food. I have smoked *madat* for the last 10 years as a cure for asthma. It has done me much good, but if I leave it off my asthma returns. I smoke four pice worth a day. I am married and have one child.

Abdool Karim, thin, but healthy and cheerful, said:—I belong to Ahmednagar, and am 30 years of age. I am an ear-cleaner. I have to move about in the town the whole day. I earn from six to eight annas a day. I take *madat* to keep away a cough from which I suffer. I have smoked *madat* for the last three years. I take two or three pice worth daily. I have good appetite.

Sekh Chand Dada, short, but well built, said:—I am 30 years of age, and was born at Hyderabad. I have smoked *madat* as a luxury for the past six months. I smoke two pice worth a day. I earn my living by begging. My general health is very good.

Haji Oosman, in fair condition, said:—I was born at Poona, and am 36 years of age. I am a lascar, work eight hours a day, and earn Rs. 15 a month. I have smoked *madat* as a luxury for the last 10 years. I smoke two pice worth daily. Opium smoking has done me no harm. My health is good, and I have good appetite. Why should I leave off smoking?

Haji Fakir Mahomed, tall, and in good health, said:—I belong to Kutch Mandvi, and am 46 years old. I am a hawker, and earn 10 annas a day. I have smoked *madat* as a luxury for the last 15 years. I smoke two annas worth daily. If I find that smoking does me harm, I will give it up.

Telwar Bahadur, a fairly strong man, said:—I was born at Malwa, and am 45 years of age. I am a beggar, and get about six annas a day and food. I began to smoke *madat* 20 years ago. I smoke two annas worth of *madat* a day. I take it as a luxury. I go out begging for five hours and sometimes seven hours a day.

Alivar Khan Kalekhan, somewhat delicate-looking, said:—I was born at Gwalior, and am 30 years old. I am a singer, and earn eight annas a day. I took to smoking *madat* as a luxury four years ago. I smoke one anna worth a day. My general health is good, but just at present I have fever and have taken no food.

Mahomed Khan Goolam Khan, medium-sized man, in fair condition, said:—I am 35 years of age, and was born in Delhi. When the Burmese Prince was dethroned I was then in the Commissariat, but I am now working as a bricklayer, and earn eight annas a day. I began to smoke *madat* five years ago. I took it for hernia. I am now very much better, and am able to do my work. I smoke two annas worth daily.

Bahadur Khan Fatekhan, of medium height, healthy appearance, and bright disposition, said:—I am a native of Jubulpore, and am 35 years of age. I go out begging, and earn one rupee a day. Five years ago I was suffering from lung complaint, and took to smoking *madat*. I am much better now, but if I do not smoke I feel very bad. I smoke two annas worth every day.

Hussein Cassum, medium-sized, but strong looking, said:—I am 30 years of age, and come from Poona. I am a dock labourer, and earn from nine to 12 annas a day. I have smoked *madat* for the last two years. I learnt the habit from friends. I smoke one anna worth of *madat* daily. I work about 10 hours a day.

Ramjan Bax well built, and of a very happy disposition, said:—I come from Allahabad, and am 39 years of age. I am a hawker, and earn from one rupee to one rupee and four annas a day. I have smoked *madat* as a luxury for the last eight years. I smoke four annas worth a day. I am married and have two children. My health is very good.

Soobhan Ruttonjee, small, but well set up, said:—I belong to Poona, and my age is 35 years. I am a butcher, and earn 12 annas a day. I have smoked *madat* as a luxury for the last two months. I smoke four pice worth a day. Formerly I took *ganja*, but since taking to *madat* I have given it up. My health is very good, and I attend to my work regularly every day.

Asgir Ally Nazir Ally, good looking, well built, and very intelligent, said:—I am 40, and belong to Patna. I am a lascar in the P. and O. Company's service, and earn Rs. 25 a month. I have smoked *madat* for 12 years. I learnt the habit from friends. I smoke two annas worth a day when I am on shore, but when at sea I do not smoke at all.

Mohidin Salamat, apparently about 35 years of age, in good condition, said:—I come from Madras, I do not know how old I am. I am a lascar, and earn from eight to 10 annas a day. I have smoked *madat* as a luxury for the past 10 years. I smoke 11 pice worth a day. My health, as well my appetite, is very good.

Goolabdass Lalooobhai, a smart, good looking young man, said:—I come from Ahmedabad, and am 27 years of age. I am a letter-writer, and earn Rs. 16 a month. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past five years. I smoke four annas worth a day. When I go to my native country I stop taking it. For the first two or three days I miss it, but, after that, the desire for it leaves me. I am married, and provide for my wife, and also my mother.

Baboo Sekh Amir Oola, bright, but in broken health, said:—I come from Delhi, and am 45 years of age. I make my living by selling beetle-leaves, my earnings being from six to eight annas a day. I work 10 hours daily. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last 10 years. I smoke five pice worth daily. Four years ago I tried to leave off the habit, but at once felt sick, and so I took to it again.

Khare Khan, a fine handsome old Arab, objected at first to answer the questions put to him, as he thought an agitation was being got up to close the smoking houses. After much persuasion, he stated that he was a horse-dealer, that he had smoked two annas worth of *chundool* daily for the last six years, and that his health was very good.

Mir Abbas Mir Khan Ally, a handsome looking man of splendid physique, said:—I come from Lucknow, and am 55 years of age. I am in the employ of a horse-dealer, and earn Rs. 1-8 a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past 20 years. I smoke five annas worth a day. If people get good food and *chundool* it will never hurt their health. It only injures the starving. I keep very good health, and am very strong. If you wish to gauge my strength I am willing to fight. I am married and have three children.

Abdool Rehman, tall, and not very strong, said:—I belong to Ajmere, and am 39 years of age. I have

smoked *chundool* for the past eight years. I took to it as I had asthma. I now feel very much better, but if I leave off *chundool* my old complaint returns and I pass restless nights. I smoke four pice worth a day.

Sekh Baban, strong and healthy, said:—I am 30 years of age, and come from Poona. I am a fireman in one of Messrs. Greave's Cotton Mills, and earn Rs. 18 a month. I work six hours a day. I was suffering from a severe cough two years ago, and took to smoking *chundool*. I smoke one anna's worth a day, and feel much better for it.

Haji Sulleman, in splendid condition for his age, active, and intelligent, said:—I am 70 years of age. I am a cabman, work 10 hours a day, and earn 12 annas. Twenty years ago I was very weak and had pains in my stomach. I took to smoking *chundool* on the advice of some friends. Since then I have been keeping good health. I smoke four pice worth daily. I am married and have three children.

Aboo Bukur, cheerful and robust, said:—I come from Malabar, and am 40 years of age. I am a lascar in the P. and O. Company's service, and earn Rs. 20 a month. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury on and off for the last six years. When I am at sea I do not take opium in any form. When on shore, I smoke *chundool*, four pice worth a day. I am married and have four children. I also support my old mother.

Mahomed Ally, a very good specimen of a healthy old man, said:—I am 75. I am a Persian-writer and earn Rs. 20 a month. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past 40 years. I smoke three pice worth daily. I keep good health and work all day, but I must have my *chundool* or dry opium. My wife is dead, but I have two children.

Hurry Kherdari, small, but in good condition said:—I come from Satara, and am 40 years of age. I am a cabman, and earn from twelve annas to one rupee a day. I work ten hours a day. I have smoked *chundool* for the last eight years. I am not injured in any way. I smoke two annas worth a day. If I did not have it I should feel ill.

Sayed Sadoo, a remarkably fine man for his age, said:—I belong to Surat, and am 65 years old. I am a cabman, and earn about 12 annas a day. I have taken opium for the last 30 years as a luxury. Formerly I took *madat*, but now I smoke *chundool*. I smoke one anna's worth a day. If I did not take opium in some form I should not be able to do my work. I am quite healthy and have a good appetite. I am married and have two children.

Ahmed Yakub, of healthy and active appearance, said:—I am a native of Viramgaum, and am 25 years of age. I am a milkman, and earn from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-8 a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last five years. I smoke four annas worth a day. I have never stopped the habit, and do not mean to do so. My wife is dead, but I have two children living. They do not eat or smoke opium.

Ahmed Rahim, a big, well built man, said:—I was born at Nasik and am 33 years of age. I am a lascar in the service of the P. and O. Company, and earn eight annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for five years. When I stop smoking it for a few days I get dysentery. I am very healthy and have a good appetite.

Sekh Ahmed Sekh, in good condition, said:—I am 45, and belong to Poona. I am a cloth-seller, and earn seven annas a day. I have smoked *madat* as a luxury for the last four years. I smoke three pice worth a day. I have good health while I take it, but if I could not get it I should die.

Sekh Ahmed, not looking very well on account of suffering from fistula, said:—I was born at Barreilly, and am 40 years of age. I am the keeper of a *madat* shop, and earn from 12 annas to one rupee a day. I have smoked *madat* as a luxury for the last 15 years. I smoke two annas worth a day. My general health is very good, as is my appetite. I do not look well on account of little sickness, besides, I am worried on account of my wife having been ill for the last five months.

Sulleman Moossa, a good-looking, healthy man, said:—I was born at Gogo, and am 45 years of age. I am a milkman, and earn from one rupee to two rupees a day. I have taken dry opium for the last 12 years for a cough with which I used to be troubled. I am very much better since taking it, and my appetite has also improved.

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Sekh Ismael Sekh Mahomed, rather thin but enjoying good health, said:—I am a native of Janjira, and am 60 years of age. I keep a *chundool* shop, and earn 10 annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* for the last 30 years as a luxury. Formerly I smoked 12 annas worth a day, but I have now reduced the quantity to two annas a day. I stopped smoking so heavily because it did me some harm. I am keeping very good health now.

Buxshoo Ebrahim, in fair condition, said:—I am 50 years old, and come from Cochin. I am a knife-seller, and make eight annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last 20 years. I smoke two annas worth a day. I enjoy good health. I am married and have two children, but none of them take opium.

Mahomed Joolan Hussein, tall, and not very strong, said:—I am 37 years old, and come from Calcutta. I am a weaver, and earn Rs. 15 a month. Two years ago I was in a delicate state of health, and took to smoking *chundool*. I am feeling strong now, and my appetite has also improved. I smoke one anna's worth daily.

Mir Sekh Hussein, in rather poor condition, said:—I am 50 years old. I am a seller of bangles, and earn six annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past ten years. I smoke two annas worth a day. My health keeps good, so long as I get the *chundool*.

Ebrahim Esmael, healthy, active, and intelligent, said:—I am a native of Kattiawar, and am 38 years of age. I am a cabman, earn 12 annas a day, and work all night. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last 12 years. I smoke four annas worth daily. It has not done me any harm. In fact I get sick when I do not take it. I once left off *chundool*, but during that time I took dry opium.

Rahim Khan Mir Jan, healthy, and of cheerful disposition, said:—I am 55 years old. I am a tailor, and make Rs. 20 a month. I work ten hours every day. I have taken dry opium, as a luxury for the last 20 years. I take three pice worth a day. I am married and have two children. I have been twice to Cabul in the hospital service. I am very strong, and if Government want my services I am quite ready to join the army.

Fareed Bux Mahomed, well-developed and intelligent, said:—I am 38, and come from Aurungabad. I am a cabman, earn eight annas, and work nine hours a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for 10 years. I smoke two annas worth a day. My health is good so long as I take *chundool*.

Aloo Din Rahim Bux, healthy and smart-looking, said:—I come from Delhi, and am 30 years old. I am a gold embroiderer, and earn Rs. 34 a month, and work nine hours a day. I am not a regular smoker of *chundool*. I smoke every third day. I smoke four pice worth a day. I take it as a luxury. I began smoking *chundool* when I was 24 years old. I am not married, but I support my mother, who is in her native country.

Baboo Sadubhai, a small man, bright and intelligent, said:—I was born in Goa, and am 60 years of age. I am a tailor, and earn eight annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* for the last 20 years. I take dry opium when I go to my native country. I keep good health as long as I take *chundool*. I am married and have four children. I smoke two annas worth of *chundool* daily.

Chand Rajan Ahmed, of slender-build, but bright and active, said:—I am 40 years of age. I get my living as a tin-maker. I make about 10 annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* for the past 12 years for fever. My health now is good. I smoke two annas worth a day. I am married and have one daughter.

Ashun Bux Hussein, a fine, well-built man, said:—I am 25, and come from Fattipur. I am a dyer, and earn 12 annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past five years. I smoke two annas worth a day. I am married and have one child. I send part of my earnings to my old mother, who is in her native country.

Abdool Rehman Sekh Cassum, well-conditioned, said:—I am 45, and belong to Bombay. I am a gold embroiderer, and earn Re. 1 to Rs. 1-8-0 a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past 12 years. I smoke four pice worth a day. It would do me harm if I did not take it. I am married, have two wives and children. I work 10 hours a day.

Sekh Hyder Goolzar, thin, and rather delicate looking, said:—I come from Indore, and am 45 years of age. I sell country tobacco, and earn eight annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past 20 years.

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I smoke three annas worth a day. My health is good, and so is my appetite. I work nine hours a day.

Sirdir Khan Buddur Khan, splendidly built, and of capital physique, said:—I come from Lucknow, and am 37 years of age. I am a goldsmith, and earn Rs. 35 a month. I have smoked *chundool* for the last three years. I smoke four pice worth daily. I take it as a luxury. My health is very good, and so is my appetite. My parents are living, and I provide for them. I work ten hours a day.

Din Mahomed Bhugvandass, in good condition, and cheerful disposition, said:—I belong to Bhopal and am 45 years of age. I am a beggar, and get three annas a day and my food. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past 10 years. I smoke three pice worth a day.

Nathoo Lalubhai, in the enjoyment of good health, said:—I come from Ahmedabad, and am 50 years of age. I am a cook, and earn eight annas a day and get my food. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury on and off for the last 30 years. I smoke five pice worth a day. Sometimes I leave it off for a few days, but it does not make any difference to me. I am married and have four children.

Gunpat Narayan, tall and thin, said:—I belong to Poona, and am 25 years of age. I am a coolie, and earn six annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last 10 years. I smoke six pice worth a day. I work from early in the morning till late in the evening. My mother is living, and I provide for her.

Mahomed Esoo, thick-set and healthy, said:—I was born at Ooran, and am 25 years of age. I am a fitter, and earn eight annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* for the last five months as a luxury. I smoke one anna's worth a day. My health is good, and I do my every day's work regularly.

Syed Jalal, under-sized, said:—I come from Nasik, and am 50 years of age. I am a seller of old clothes, and make eight annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last 30 years. It has done me no harm. I smoke three annas worth a day. I have never dropped the habit. I had five children, but two are dead. My wife is living, she does not smoke opium.

Sekh Mahomed Sekh Hussein, a big strong man, said:—I was born in Bombay, and am 38 years of age. I am a fireman in the service of the P. and O. Company, and earn from Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 a month. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury, on and off, for the past eight years. I smoke two annas worth a day. When I go to sea I take dry opium. I work nine hours a day. My health is good, and so is my appetite. I am married, and have two children.

Esooji Pitale, tall wiry man, said:—I belong to Nagpore, and am 55 years of age. I took to smoking *chundool* as a luxury in Delhi 40 years ago. I smoke two annas worth a day. I am healthy, and have a good appetite. I am married, and have two children. I get my living as a cabman, and earn eight annas a day.

Hakim Ramjan Ally, in very good condition, said:—I am 70, and come from Faizabad. I am a native doctor, and earn from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 a month. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past 20 years. I smoke four annas worth daily. I am married, and have three children. The moderate use of opium will never injure anybody. If there was any truth in such a contention, I should not have reached my present good old age. My father was an opium-eater, and he died at the age of 85.

Ranezan Ally Budul, somewhat thin, but healthy, said:—I come from Faizabad, and am 45 years of age. I am a weaver, and earn eight annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for six years. I smoke two annas worth daily. My appetite is very good. I work eight hours a day.

Mahomed Hussein Goolam Hussein, thin but healthy, said:—I am 40, and come from Barreilly. I earn my living by begging. I get about seven annas a day. Some years ago I went wrong in my head, and took to opium. Now I am in my full senses and able to work. Opium is a blessing, otherwise I should have before this died in a lunatic asylum.

Abdool Rehman, a fine, healthy, muscular man, said:—I am 45 years of age, and belong to Bombay. I am a lascar, and earn Rs. 16 a month. I have smoked *chundool*, on and off, for the last 12 years as a luxury. When on shore, I smoke from two to three annas worth opium a day, but, when at sea, I take dry opium. Six

years ago I had a *chundool* shop near the Royal Albert Docks in London, and all the lascars used to come there, but after two years some people did me out of some money, and so I had to take to the sea again. My health is very good, and when at sea I work 10 hours a day.

Abdool Rehman, healthy and cheerful, said:—I am 37 years of age, and come from Kutch Mandvi. I am a dyer, and earn Rs. 12 a month. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last seven years. I smoke three annas worth daily. I left it off some time ago, but had to take to it again, as I felt pains in my joints. If my health were not good I should not be able to work eight or 10 hours a day, as I do.

Soobratr Soolar, whose weakly appearance was accounted for by an internal complaint, said:—I come from Cawnpore, and am 45 years of age. I am a weaver, and earn seven annas a day. For the last 12 years, I have smoked six pice worth of *chundool* daily. I am married, and have one child.

Cumroodin Mahomed Essa, tall, and in very good condition, said:—I am 45, and come from Aurangabad. I am employed by the licensee of a *chundool* shop, and earn Rs. 30 a month. I have smoked *chundool* for the last 22 years. I smoke five annas worth a day. I took to opium as I was suffering from dysentery, and it cured me. Four years back I left it off for two or three days, but as I felt very bad, I took to it again. I was in a hospital for two months, but the medicines I was given did me no good. I am married, and have two children.

Husun Mumdul, healthy, well-built man, said:—I am 40, and come from Cambay. I am a cook, and earn Rs. 20 a month. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past 15 years, but my health is not injured in any way.

Ramjan Adam Saheb, tall, thin, but quite healthy, said:—I am 35, and come from Kurachi. I am a shampooer, and make from four to six annas a day and get my food. I learnt the habit of smoking *chundool* from friends 18 years ago. Formerly I smoked eight annas worth a day, but when my father died I had not so much money to spend, and so I reduced the quantity to two annas. Besides, I was formerly a bachelor, but now I am married, and have one child.

Ahmed Ally, Subedarally, well-built, and smart looking, said:—I belong to Bombay, and am 30 years of age. I am a tailor, and earn 10 annas a day. I work 10 hours daily. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for eight years. I smoke three annas worth daily.

Abdul Kadir, a fine powerful man, said:—I am 50, and come from Allahabad. I am a cloth seller, and make Rs. 30 a month. I have smoked *chundool* for 20 years, as a luxury. Formerly I smoked one rupee's worth daily, but now I smoke only four annas worth. I reduced the quantity because the excess did me some harm. I am now keeping very good health, and work nine hours a day. I am married, and have six children, but none of them smoke.

Haji Ally, big well-built man, said:—I am 57, and come from Arabia. I am a lascar, and earn Rs. 20 a month. I have smoked *chundool*, on and off, for the last 10 years, as a luxury. I learnt the habit in company with friends in China. I am not a regular smoker. When I do smoke, I take four pice worth. I am always cheerful and happy. My health is very good.

Hussein Juma, stout, and in good health, said:—I am 45, and belong to Kathiawar. I am a baker, and earn six annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* for 15 years. I took it as I had bleeding piles. I was in the Sir Jamsetji Jeejeebhoy Hospital for eight months with that complaint, but the medicines did not do me any good, and I left the hospital. Then I was under the treatment of some native doctors for another year, but I was not cured. Ultimately, friends advised me to take a little opium every day. I did so, and since then am much better, and my appetite has also much improved. I smoke three annas worth of *chundool* every day.

Aboo Bukkur Sekh Ally, tall, thin, and active, said:—Bombay is my native place, and I am 60 years of age. I am a moola (priest), and get five annas a day and food. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for 20 years. I smoke four pice worth daily. My health is good.

Elahi Kadur, a big, well-set-up man, said:—I was born in Cawnpore, and am 64 years of age. I am employed as a mill-hand, and earn 14 annas a day. I

learnt to smoke *chundool* from some friends 14 or 15 years ago. When I first took to the habit, I smoked four pice worth a day, but I now take two annas worth. I am married, and have one child. My wife and child are in Cawnpore, and I send them part of my pay every month.

Moosaffkan Hyder Khan, over 6 feet, a powerful man, said:—I was born in Lucknow, and am 29 years of age. I am a tailor, earn 10 annas a day, and work 12 hours daily. I learnt to smoke *chundool* from friends 10 years ago. I smoke four annas worth daily.

Goolam Hussein Boolki, short, but strong, said:—I am 52, and come from Benares. I am a weaver, and earn eight annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* for the past 16 years. I took it as I was suffering from colic. I was under medical treatment for one year and a half, but got no relief. Some friends advised me to take opium. I did so, and got much better. Four years ago I felt completely recovered, and gave it up for four months. The result was that my health began to fail, and my eye-sight became dim. On the advice of a native doctor I again took to opium. I smoke two annas worth of *chundool* every day, and now enjoy excellent health. I am married, and have two children.

Syed Oosman, thin, but healthy and intelligent-looking, said:—I am 60, and come from Aurungabad. I earn my living as a beggar. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for 30 years. Formerly I smoked nine annas worth a day, but as I do not get so much money now, I have reduced the quantity to two annas worth. I go out begging at 6 a.m., and return at 10 a.m., and again go out in the evening from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. I am in the enjoyment of good health.

Yakub Mahomed Hussein, a good specimen of his race, said:—I am 45, and was born in Deccan Hyderabad. I am a bricklayer, and earn 12 annas a day. I have smoked two annas worth of *chundool* daily for the last 20 years. A native doctor advised me to take it, as I was suffering from dropsy. When I go up country I take dry opium, as I cannot get *chundool*. I am married, and have two children. I am enjoying very good health.

Mazim Din Kalekhan, strong, healthy-looking man, said:—I am 30, and come from Cawnpore. I am a lascar in the P. and O. Company's service, and earn Rs. 25 a month. I take *chundool* as a luxury. But I am not a regular smoker. When I do smoke *chundool* I take from two to three annas worth. I have practised the habit for the last two years.

Nunekhan Hazi, a well-built man, standing over six feet, said:—I am 50, and was born at Teheran. I am a sweetmeat seller, and earn from six to eight annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last 20 years. I smoke two annas worth daily. A person who wishes to live long and enjoy good health must take opium.

Ganga Gir Ramgir, a robust handsome man, said:—I come from Nasik, and am 45 years of age. I get my living by begging, which brings me in from eight annas to one rupee a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last 20 years. I smoke from one to two annas worth a day. I had left off smoking for about two years, but took to it again as I liked it. A year ago I was offered a place of a peon, but I would not take it, as I earn more by begging.

Sulleman Noor Mahomed, medium height, of good physique, said:—I was born at Poona, and am 30 years of age. I am a singer, and earn from 12 annas to one rupee a day. I have smoked four pice worth of *chundool* as a luxury for the past two months.

Balla Hurry, well-built and intelligent, said:—I am 25, and was born at Poona. I am a vegetable-seller, make 12 annas, and work 10 hours a day. I have smoked *madat* as a luxury for the past nine months. I smoke three pice worth daily. Since I have taken to opium my health has very much improved.

Mir Ally Hook, in good condition, said:—I come from Cutch Mandvi, and am 55 years of age. I am a shopkeeper. I have taken one pice worth of dry opium daily for the past seven years. If I did not take opium I should not be able to do my work. I am married and have six children, but none of them take opium. Why do Government want to close the opium shops? Opium has done us no harm; besides, we have never raised any complaint. Why should Government hear the Padris and Mooktifauwallas (clergymen and Salvationists). They know nothing about the matter. It is the

duty of Government to consult the opium consumer themselves before taking any steps in the matter.

Abdool Ibrahim, in rather poor condition, said:—I am 29, and come from Poona. I am a cloth seller, and make six annas a day. I have smoked two annas worth of *chundool* daily for the past 12 years. I left it off once for a short while, but as I began to lose my appetite I again took to *chundool*. My appetite now is as good as I could wish it to be.

Samen Khodabux, tall and well developed, said:—I was born in Deccan Hyderabad, and am 30 years of age. I get my living by selling rings, and make about eight annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for 14 years. I smoke six pice worth daily. My appetite is good and so is my health.

Syed Hussein Syed Ally, a strong healthy man, said:—I am 30, and come from Hyderabad. I am a horse broker, and make Rs. 40 a month. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past six years. I smoke six annas worth a day. I am not married. I have my parents whom I give half of my earnings.

Sooryat Ally Maudishaw, tall and healthy, said:—I was born at Hyderabad, and am 35 years of age. I am a labourer, and earn six annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* for the last 10 years. I smoke three pice worth a day. Some friends taught me the habit. When I leave of *chundool* I take dry opium, but if I do not take one or the other I get dysentery. If Government close these *chundool* shops I shall take dry opium.

Abdoola Khan Aliar Khan, healthy and of cheerful disposition, said:—I come from Delhi, and am 40 years of age. I am a cabman, and earn Rs. 13 a month. I have taken *chundool* as a luxury for the past 20 years. I smoke three annas worth a day. I once left it off, but did not feel any ill effects from doing so. I am married and have had five children, but only three of them are alive.

Sayed Mir Adar Alli, healthy and bright, said:—I am 24, and come from Lucknow. I am a carpenter, earn 12 annas, and work nine hours daily. I have smoked one anna's worth of *chundool* daily as a luxury for the past two years. I am married and have one child.

Osman Khan Sorab Khan, a well built healthy man, said:—I am a native of Delhi, and am 45 years of age, I am a tin-maker, earn from 12 annas to two rupees, and work eight hours a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last six years. I smoke four annas worth a day.

Shekh Amir Sekh Hussein, short and rather delicate looking, said:—I was born at Khundwar, and am 35 years of age. I am a tea seller, and make six annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* for the past ten years as a luxury. I smoke two annas worth a day. I once left it off for a time but could not take my food. Immediately after resuming the habit my appetite improved.

Mohidin Cassum, who seemed to be in very poor health, said:—I am 25, and come from Nasik. I am a singer, and earn ten annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for eight years. I smoke two annas worth daily. I have been suffering from fever these last 10 days.

Amik Luman Adookh, a fine, big, strong man, said:—I am 24, and come from Persia. I am an Arabic writer, and earn about one rupee a day. I have smoked four pice worth of *chundool* daily as a luxury for the last 12 months.

Sayed Daod, a fine healthy-looking old man, said:—I am 56, and come from Bahrampur. I have smoked *chundool* for the past 30 years. I smoke four annas worth a day. I enjoy the best of health, and am quite happy. I have 11 children. I am a pensioner.

Ram Govind, a strong, good-looking man, said:—I come from Satara, and am 36 years of age. I am a beggar, and earn six annas a day and my food. I have smoked *chundool* for nearly four years. I smoke four pice worth a day. I left it off for a month or two, but during that time I took dry opium. I go out begging seven hours every day.

Samuel Benjamin, well set up, said:—I am 36 years of age, and belong to Bombay. I am a Naik in the 18th Bombay Infantry, and get Rs. 18 a month. I smoke six pice worth of *chundool* a day. I learnt the habit in Cabul. I keep very good health, otherwise I should be compelled to retire. I know many men in the army who take opium, without which they would not enjoy the excellent health they do now.

APP. XXII. Mir Khan Bahadur Khan, short, good-looking, and in the best of health, said :—I come from Deccan Hyderabad, and am 25 years of age. I am a Persian letter writer, and earn 12 annas a day. I have smoked four annas worth of *chundool* daily as a luxury for the last two years.

Fakir Mahomed Sekh Mahomed, stout, healthy and intelligent, said :—I am 29, and was born in Hyderabad (Deccan). I am a fireman in the service of the P. and O. Company, and earn Rs. 18 a month. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past six years. I do not, however, smoke every day. I smoke every second or third day. I take three annas worth. While at sea I sometimes take dry opium. I have been keeping very good health.

Mahomed Yusuph, over 6 feet, strong, and well proportioned, said :—I am 28, and was born at Peshawar. I am a tailor, earn eight annas, and work seven hours a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last four years. I smoke two annas worth a day. If I do not take it I should not be able to do my work. My appetite is very good.

Sallum Noor Mahomed, very robust, said :—I was born at Poona, and am 39 years of age. I am a singer, and earn one rupee a day. I have smoked four pice worth of *chundool* daily for the past two months as a luxury. Formerly I used to drink country liquor.

Ebrahim Khamisin, thin, but of fairly healthy appearance, said :—I am 37, and come from Junaghad. I am a Victoria driver, earn from 12 annas to one rupee, and work from eight to ten hours a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for 12 years. I smoke four annas worth a day.

Sayed Hyder, tall, strong, and active looking, said :—I come from Sholapur, and am 30 years of age. I am a stevedore's foreman, and earn one rupee a day. I commenced to smoke *chundool* eight years ago. Some friends taught me the habit. I do not smoke every day; when I do I take three pice worth.

Ulphat Sekh Hussein, in excellent health, said :—I am 25, and was born in Bombay. I am a beggar, and get three annas a day and my food. I have smoked six pice worth of *chundool* daily as a luxury for the past three years.

Bhiroo Nathoo, good looking, bright, and healthy, said :—I was born at Benares, and am 35 years of age. I am a sweetmeat seller, and earn six annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* for the last two years. I smoke two pice worth a day.

Mijikhan Mamookhan, stout, active, and intelligent, said :—I was born at Lucknow, and am 50 years of age. I am a gold embroiderer, and earn from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 a month, and work eight hours a day. I was always strong and healthy. Some years ago I took a chill from sleeping on damp ground, and this brought on rheumatism. I had dreadful pain in my legs, in the sides, and between the shoulders. For several months I went on in this way. I was under the care of the doctor for many months, but as I got no better, one of my friends recommended me to take opium. I did so. By degrees I got stronger and stronger, and the pain left me. My appetite also improved, and I have never ailed anything to speak of since. When I do not take opium I cannot eat. I smoke four annas worth of *chundool* daily. I am married and have three children.

Itoo Manaji, tall, but not very strong, said :—I come from Kolapoor, and am 30 years of age. I am a cooly, and earn six annas a day. I smoke two annas worth a day. I work six hours daily.

Dugroo Bhicaji, well-conditioned, said :—I am 30, and come from Poona. I am a blacksmith, and earn 10 annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* for the past 12 years. I smoke one anna's worth daily. The *chundool* shops were closed in Poona last year, and as I did not get *chundool* my health began to fail me, so I came down to Bombay, and am carrying on my business here. I am all right now. I am married and have one child. They live with me.

Ramprasad Bhavani, thin and weakly, said :—I come from Dharwar, and am 30 years of age. I am a sweetmeat seller, and earn four annas a day. I am suffering from asthma, which is the reason for my taking opium. So long as I get my smoke I keep fairly in good health. I have smoked *chundool* for the last 10 years.

Gormoo Maini, a well-built young man, said :—I was born in Calcutta, and am 20 years of age. I am a lascar in the P. and O. Company's service, and earn

Rs. 13 a month. I have smoked *chundool* for about one year and a half. When on shore, I smoke four pice worth daily. When I go to sea I take dry opium for the first two or three days, and I then leave off the habit till I return to shore. My parents are living, and I give them part of my earnings.

Babaji Laximan, healthy, fine-looking man, said :—I was born at Alibag, and am 30 years of age. I read religious books amongst the Hindus, and earn Rs. 30 a month. I began to smoke *chundool* as a luxury six years ago. I smoke five annas worth of *chundool* every day. My health is very good, and so is my appetite. I am married, and have one son.

Sekh Abdool Rehman, tall and robust, said :—I am 30, and belong to Tallegam. I am a lascar, and earn Rs. 18 a month. I have taken *chundool* since I was 12 years of age. I now smoke four annas worth a day. I work hard all day. While I take *chundool* my health and appetite are good.

Amrit Laximom, of medium height, and in good condition, said :—I am 35, and belong to Ooran. I am a cabman, and earn from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4 a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last 18 years. I smoke four annas worth a day. Three months ago I went to my native country, and not being able to get *chundool* there, I became sick, and had to return to Bombay. So long as I get *chundool* my health is good and am able to work. I work 10 hours a day. I am married and have two children. I also support my old parents.

Damodar Rupjee, small, but in good condition, said :—I belong to Jamnagar, and am 30 years of age. I am a coconut seller, and earn seven annas daily. I began to smoke *chundool* as a luxury four years ago. I smoke two annas' worth daily.

Fez Mahomed Goolam Khan, well built and in good health, said :—I am 48, and come from Lucknow. I am a commission agent, and earn from Rs. 60 to Rs. 100 a month. I commenced to smoke *chundool* 20 years ago, but I am not a regular smoker. When I do smoke I take four pice worth. Sometimes I take dry opium. Some years ago I smoked one rupee's worth of *chundool* a day, but it was too much for my health, and I thought it was an expensive luxury, so I reduced the quantity. I am married and have two children.

Ahmed Hussein, in fairly good condition, said :—I come from Barreilly, and am 37 years of age. I am a tailor, and earn eight annas a day. I began to smoke *chundool* 11 years ago. Formerly I used to take it in large quantities, but now I am not a regular smoker. When I do smoke I take only four pice worth. I take it for asthma. I am now feeling considerably better. I send part of my earnings to my parents, but when I was taking *chundool* to excess I was unable to send them anything.

Noor Mahomed Goolam Mahomed, health broken, said :—I am 28, and come from Benares. I am a beggar, and earn 10 annas daily. With the exception of two or three annas for food I spend all my earnings in *chundool*. I have smoked *chundool* for the past seven years. My general health is not very good.

Abdool Rehman, strong, good-looking man, said :—I am 26, and come from Nussarabad. I am a beggar, and earn about eight annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past three years. Formerly I smoked four annas worth a day, but I have now reduced the quantity to two annas worth.

Samat Khan Bunde Khan, tall, thin, and of a very happy disposition, said :—I come from Delhi, and am 40 years of age. I am a blacksmith, earn 12 annas, and work 10 hours daily. I have taken *chundool* as a luxury for the past 12 years. I smoke two annas worth a day. My health and appetite are both good. I am married and have three children.

Nobob Mirza, thin, with shortened leg, but intelligent, said :—I am a native of Lucknow, and am 45 years of age. I am an Arabic teacher, and earn Rs. 15 a month. Some years ago I got a fall while flying a kite. I had to take to my bed, and was attended by a doctor. After a month I was able to move about, but the pain in my stomach and the chest did not leave me. Sometimes I felt better, sometimes worse, but never well. Some friends advised me to take opium. I did so and after a few days the pain disappeared. The habit afterwards settled on me. When I do not take *chundool*, my old complaint returns. I smoke one anna's worth daily. I am married and have one daughter.

Garib Farath, strong, well-built, active man, said:—I was born at Hyderabad, and am 40 years of age. I am a butcher, and earn 10 annas a day. I work 10 hours daily. I have taken *chundool* as a luxury for the last 16 years. I take four pice worth daily. I always have good appetite and health.

Badshaw Laloo, tall, strong, and healthy, said:—I was born at Oodepore, and am 30 years of age. I am a cook, and earn Rs. 10 a month. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past 10 years. I smoke six pice worth daily.

Valoo Virchand, tall, robust, and in good health, said:—I am 22, and come from Guzerat. I am a Brahmin (priest). I get Rs. 6 a month, and food and clothes. I smoke two annas worth of *chundool* daily. I have taken it for the last two years.

Sekh Munir Sekh Currim, tall, well-developed and active, said:—I am 37, and belong to Mhow. I am a shopkeeper, and make Rs. 25 a month. I commenced to smoke *chundool* as a luxury six years ago. I am not a regular smoker, but when I do not have *chundool* I take dry opium. I smoke one anna's worth of *chundool* every day.

Kalidass Purundass, tall, thin, but healthy, said:—I belong to Lucknow, and am 40 years of age. I am a beggar, and get eight annas a day and food. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for 20 years. I smoke three annas worth a day. When I went to Cabul as a porter in the Commissariat Department I had to drop the habit as I could not get *chundool*. For the first few days I suffered, but the craving left me. I keep good health while I take it regularly. I earn more in begging, and so I do not care to serve any one.

Abdool Rehman Khan Ismail Khan, of average height and good health, said:—I am 45, and come from Delhi. I am a hawker, and make Rs. 13 a month. I began to smoke opium as a luxury 25 years ago. I smoke one anna's worth daily. My health is good and so is my appetite.

Ismail Alli, a robust young man, said:—I am 26, and belong to Bombay. I am a dock labourer, and earn eight annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past two years. I smoke two pice worth daily. I work ten hours every day.

Mahomed Essoo, a nice-looking healthy young man, said:—I am 25, and was born in Bombay. I am a shopkeeper, and earn from eight annas to a rupee a day. I took to smoking *madat* two months ago on account of fever. I am now better. As soon as I am thoroughly recovered I shall leave off smoking *madat*, but I will continue taking dry opium, as it is a good preventive for fever.

Abdool Latif, strong, healthy man, said:—I was born in Bombay, and am 40 years of age. I am a landowner, and have an income of Rs. 100 a month. I have smoked *madat* for 15 years. I smoke eight annas worth a day. My general health is very good. I am married and have four children.

Ismael Moosa, a small man, health broken, said:—I was born in Bombay, and am 40 years old. I am a watchmaker, and earn Rs. 2 a day. I have smoked *madat* for the last 13 years. I smoke two annas worth a day. My health is not good. I never was strong. Thirteen years ago a friend advised me to take opium and I did so. Since then I am feeling somewhat better. Without *madat* I should be simply miserable.

Raja Khan Ghore Khan, a healthy old man, said:—I was born at Poona, and am 65 years of age. I am a milkman, and earn a rupee a day. I have smoked *madat* as a luxury for the past 30 years. I smoke one anna's worth daily, and drink two seers of milk. My wife is dead, but I have four children living with me. I also support my old mother. She does not smoke *madat*, but she takes little dry opium every day. She is 80 years old.

Abdool Rahman, tall, healthy, and active, said:—I belong to Allahabad, and am 38 years of age. I am a biscuit seller, and make Rs. 10 a month. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past four years. I take six pice worth daily. My parents are alive and I send them part of my earnings.

Cassum Khan Abdool Khan, tall, muscular, and full of vigor, said:—I am 35, and come from Dehra Dun. I am a gymnast, and make Rs. 20 a month. I have smoked from two to four annas worth of *chundool* daily during the last 12 years,

Mahomed Pir Mahomed, a very respectable looking old man, said:—I come from Peshawar, and am 80 years of age. I am a tobacco seller, earn eight annas, and work six hours a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the past 60 years. Formerly I smoked one rupee worth a day, but now I generally smoke two annas worth. When I earn more I smoke more. My wife is dead, but I have four children and six grand-children.

Goolam Rusul, strong, robust young man, said:—I am 25, and come from Jafferabad. I am a weaver, and earn eight annas a day. I have smoked two annas worth of *chundool* daily for the past two years. Last year I left it off for a few days, but was not able to do much work, so I took to it again. My health is good. I laugh, I eat, I drink, and am happy. I am not married, but I am engaged to a girl.

Syed Nazar, a healthy-looking old man, said:—I am 65, and come from Lucknow. I am a beggar, and get my food and eight annas a day. Twenty-two years ago a native doctor advised me to take opium, as I had dreadful pain in my hips and legs. My appetite left me and I had a bad taste in my mouth. I smoke five pice worth of *chundool* daily. My health now is very good. Smoking does not injure those who are well fed.

Gagita Sadoola, in fine condition, said:—I am 30, and come from Lucknow. I am a dyer, and earn 10 rupees a month. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last two years, but I am not a regular smoker. When I smoke I take two pice worth daily. My health is very good. I am married and have one child.

Naiz Ally Mohulril, slightly withered, said:—I am 50, and belong to Ajmere. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last 15 years. I smoke four pice worth a day. I am married, and have two children.

Mahdoo Davul, a thin wiry man, said:—I belong to Hyderabad, and am 40 years of age. I am a butcher, and earn two rupees a day. When I was 35 years of age I was attacked with rheumatism. A doctor advised me to take opium. I did so and felt better. I smoke three annas worth daily. I work 10 hours a day. I am married, and have three children.

Mahomed Bakir, in poor condition, said:—I am 50, and come from Ahmedabad. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last 16 years. Formerly I used to smoke 12 annas worth, but since the last few months I have reduced the daily quantity to two annas worth. I wish the *chundool* shops were closed, then I would take dry opium, which would not cost more than two pice.

Munekhan Chunekhan, medium height, strong, and cheerful, said:—I come from Rampur, and am 30 years of age. I am a tea seller, and earn 10 annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last six years. I smoke two annas worth daily. I am not married, but I have my parents. They live in Rampur, and I send them 5 rupees a month. I earn from 10 annas to 14 annas a day.

Narayan Baboo, a fine, robust young man, said:—I was born at Lucknow, and am 25 years old. I am a cloth merchant, and earn 40 rupees a month. Five years ago some friends taught me to smoke *chundool*. I smoke two annas worth a day. I am much benefited by its use. Before I commenced smoking *chundool* my health was not very good. Now I am enjoying good health. I am married, and have one son.

Sekh Hussein Sekh Maneck, slenderly built, said:—I am 35, and come from Patna. I have taken dry opium for the last four years. I take one pice worth a day. I was in the Hospital Department during the last Afghan War. There I took a chill from sitting on some wet grass. Then I was seized with pains in the chest and back. Some friends advised me to take opium, and I did so. I am much better now, but have not quite recovered.

Fazul Fadoo, tall, thin, but of healthy appearance, said:—I was born at Decca, and am 37 years of age. I am a blacksmith, and make from 12 annas to one rupee a day. I commenced to smoke *chundool* as a luxury 12 years ago. I smoke six annas worth a day. I am married, and have two children. I also support my old mother.

Sekh Bahadur Abdool Rehman, tall and powerful looking, said:—I come from Hyderabad, and am 36 years of age. I am a beggar, and make from eight

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to 10 annas a day. Some friends taught me to smoke *chundool* 18 years ago. I now smoke two annas worth a day. If Government close the *chundool* shops I will take dry opium. I am very strong, and enjoy the best of health.

Dost Mahomed Bhisti, sickly looking, said:—I am 50, and come from Thana. I began to smoke *chundool* 22 years ago. I am a beggar, and earn four annas a day, and get my food. I smoke three annas worth daily. When the Government closed the *chundool* shops in the Thana District I had to come to Bombay, as my health got bad.

Allabux Rujub, a powerful young man, said:—I am 20, and come from Lucknow. I am a weaver, and earn six annas a day. I have smoked *chundool* as a luxury for the last three years. I smoke three pice worth a day. I work 10 hours daily.

Dost Mahomed Goolam Mahomed, in very good health, said:—I am 100 years old. I am a beggar, and earn eight annas a day. I have taken two pice worth of opium as a luxury for the last 45 years. My wife is dead, but I have six children living.

Hematali Khan Mir Mahomed Khan, a well built man, said:—I am 40, and am a gold embroiderer. I work 10 hours, and earn a rupee daily. I have taken *chundool* worth six pice daily as a luxury for the last 20 years. I am married, and have two children. My general health is good.

Pir Khan Sayed Khan, in good condition said:—I am a dyer, and am 60 years old. I work seven hours daily, and earn about 10 annas. I have commenced smoking *chundool* since the last two months. I take it for fever.

Mahsum Sekh Esub, a nice looking robust man, said:—I am 35. I am a wood seller, and earn 12 annas a day. I have smoked two annas worth of *chundool* for the last 10 years. My general health is very good. If you wish to try my strength, I am willing to fight the best boxer in Bombay.

Sayed Survar Jamal, health-broken, said:—I am a beggar, and am 50 years old. I earn four annas a day. I have smoked two annas worth of *chundool* daily for the last eight years. I sometimes smoke *ganja* also. My general health is not good.

The following persons are all soldiers in the Sikh Army. Most of them are between 24 and 35 years of age, and have seen service in Afghanistan, Burmah, Egypt, and North-west Frontier. They are regular opium-eaters. They have been consuming it almost since their birth. They are all specimens of fine warriors. Their energy, endurance, and bravery are not at all affected by their addiction to opium. They are physically, morally, and mentally, one of the finest races in India. They say that without opium they would soon be useless:—

Brahmsing Martahsing.	Succhesing Dulesing.
Brahmsing Daftawarsing.	Kevalsing Jeysing.
Bursing Kirhasing.	Sundersing Metapsing.
Atraursing Molasa.	Chandsing Dhunsing.
Pakursing Tehansing.	Karamsing Nihalsing.
Menjabsing Hursing.	Kisamsing Miasing.
Brahmsing Fatesing.	Mooluksing Boosar.
Bahasing Metahsing.	Hurnamsing Chotesing.
Polasa Ramsing.	Sundersing Kansing.
Chagarsing Gurdensing.	Kakusing Nakasing.
Achersing Gurdensing.	Naransing Fatesing.
Sundersing Bellasing.	Hurnamsing Hirasing.
Pausa Chiasam.	Budumsing Namsing.
Chandasing Jeversing.	Gujersing Ramsing.
Gurdensing Tarasing.	Mungalsing Kansing.
Dayabsing Balatsing.	Moolsing Zohichand.
Sundersing Bhavansing.	Hirasing Satsing.
Malatsing Ratlamsing.	Hakimsing Malsing.
Lachmansing Bukursing.	Bejansing Fatesing.
Bulakasum Kansing.	Naransing Mangalsing.

Haji Ahmed Moti, in very good health, said:—I am 55. I am a salt merchant, and earn two rupees a day. I have smoked six annas worth of *chundool* daily for the last 30 years. I always take good food, and that is the reason why I keep good health. I am married, and have three children.

Zerab Ally Shaw Isphan Ally Shaw, a tall, well built man, said:—I am 50 years old. I am a beggar, and earn 12 annas daily. I have smoked six annas worth of *chundool* daily for the last 20 years.

Kedir Rehman, a healthy old man, said:—I am 60 years old. I am a butcher, work six hours a day, and earn 12 annas daily. I have smoked three pice worth of *chundool* daily for the last two years. I took it for asthma. I feel better now. I am married, and have three children.

Hakim Mahomed Hussein, a tall healthy looking man, said:—I am 56 years old. I am a doctor and earn from two rupees to four rupees daily. I have smoked six annas worth of *chundool* daily for the last 40 years. I am married, and have six children.

Rahim Gangaji, a strong young man, said:—I am 25. I am selling hides and skins. I earn 12 annas daily. I have smoked two annas worth of *chundool* daily for the last eight years. My health is very good. I am married and have one child.

Sadia Aga Mahomed, a stout healthy looking woman, said:—I am 65 years old. I am selling *madat*, and earn Rs. 40 a month. I have smoked four annas worth of *chundool* daily for the last 40 years. I am married and have eight children. Two of them smoke *chundool*.

Bhagoo Waman, health-broken, said:—I am 50 years old. I am a beggar, and earn five annas daily. I have smoked two annas worth of *chundool* daily for the last 20 years for asthma. I keep fairly good health so long as I get my *chundool*, but when I do not get it I feel very sick. If Government wishes to close the opium-smoking houses I would advise them to first open a few hospitals.

Pirbhai Nurbhai, in good condition, said:—I am 35 years old. I am a mill-hand, and earn Rs. 18 a month. I have smoked one anna's worth of *chundool* as a luxury for the last six years. I am married and have two children. I work ten hours daily.

Goolam Rusul Sekh Husen, a robust man, said:—I am 29 years old. I am a fitter. I work 10 hours a day, and earn about 12 annas. I have smoked *chundool* for the last six years.

Khoja Mahomed Taj Mahomed, a healthy looking man, said:—I am 50 years old. I am a cart-driver, work 10 hours, and earn eight annas daily. I have smoked two pice worth of *chundool* daily for the last 20 years. I am married and have two children.

Fate Mahomed Sekh Chand, in very good condition, said:—I am 40 years old. I am a lascar, work 10 hours and earn eight annas daily. I have smoked one anna's worth of *chundool* daily as a luxury for the last eight years. I am married and have two children.

Rehanshaw Mavashaw, a cheerful, healthy looking old man, said:—I am 50 years old. I am a beggar, and earn seven annas daily. I have smoked two pice worth of *chundool* for the last 12 years. It has done me no harm.

Sekh Buchoo Sekh Mohidin, said:—I am 52 years of age. I am a beggar. I earn eight annas a day, and get my food. I have smoked two annas worth of *chundool* daily for the last 10 years. My general health is very good.

Goolam Mahomed Buksh, a powerful looking man, said:—I am 50 years old. I am a weaver, and earn eight annas daily. I have smoked one anna's worth of *chundool* daily for the last 15 years. I am married and have four children.

Diliyar Khan Bahadur Khan, a robust man of cheerful disposition, said:—I am 45 years old. I am a cabman. I work 10 hours daily, and earn about a rupee a day. I have smoked three annas worth of *chundool* daily for the last eight years.

Nabab Khan Bahadur, said:—I am 45 years old. I am a tin-maker. I work nine hours, and earn 10 annas daily. I have smoked three annas worth of *chundool* daily for the last 10 years. I am married and have children. My health is very good. I have nothing to complain.

Sekh Ali Mahomed, in very good condition, said:—I am a baker, and am 40 years old. I earn 10 annas daily. I have smoked two annas worth of *chundool* daily for the last 10 years. I am married and have three children.

Sawlal Bal Govindlal, a well-built young man, said:—I am 29 years old. I am a photographer, and earn about three rupees a day. I have smoked six pice worth of *chundool* daily for the last three years. My health is very good. I work seven hours daily. I am married and have two children.

Sawli Rama, in very good health, said:—I am 30 years old, and am a cart-driver. I work 12 hours daily, and earn 10 annas. I have smoked one anna's worth of *chundool* daily for the last five years.

Din Mahomed Ekoo, slightly withered, said:—I am 50 years old. I am a beggar, and earn six annas daily. I have smoked two annas worth of *chundool* daily for the last 10 years. I took it for asthma. I am better now, but have not completely recovered.

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APPENDIX XXIII.

ABSTRACTS OF EVIDENCE of the HON. W. LEE-WARNER, C.S.I., and the HON. FAZALBHAI VISHRAM, absent at Calcutta on duty with the Council of the Governor General when the Royal Commission was at Bombay.

[See page 373 of this Volume.]

The Honourable Mr. W. LEE-WARNER, I.C.S., C.S.I., Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay.

Replies to questions based on paragraph 5 (1) and (2) of letter from the Government of India, No. 3915 Ex., dated 8th September 1893.

1. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted? Please name the districts:—Since my attention is specially called to the effect which the proposed prohibition would have on the Native States, I content myself with submitting the briefest remarks upon the other and more general questions.

2. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people:—I am acquainted with the districts of Satara, Nasik, Poona and Karachi, the City of Bombay, and the States of Kolhapur and the southern Maratha Country, in which I have served in various capacities. I have visited most of the Native States and every district in Sind and the Presidency on tour. I have served as political agent, as under secretary, Political Department, Bombay, and as under secretary in the Foreign Department to the Government of India, also for many years as political secretary to the Government of Bombay. The experience I have gained does not enable me to answer the first question, since my first impressions in one district have been corrected in another, and the only conclusion I have drawn is, that between province and province, and district and district, the greatest contrast exists in the matter of the extent to which, and the classes by whom, opium is consumed.

3. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India (a) in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes; (b) as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures? But it is possible upon the above-mentioned experiences to express an opinion on the next question. I cannot honestly attribute any of the moral or physical degeneracy, which is common in India, and more marked in some districts than in others, to the use of opium. I attribute it to other moral and social causes, e.g., vicious habits and early marriages.

4. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes? Could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted? Supposing total prohibition to be impracticable, can you suggest any change in the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the opium traffic and for raising a revenue therefrom? Be good enough to state what, in your opinion, would be the political effect upon Native States in this Presidency resulting from the prohibition of opium therein, and how such prohibition would be regarded by the people thereof. Be good enough to frame an estimate, if possible, showing on what it is based, of what would be the claims for compensation in the Native States of this Presidency, exclusive of Baroda, which would result from restrictive measures: I have frequently discussed the opium question with high Native officials and non-officials. I apprehend that the restriction of opium to medicinal purposes, unless each man is to be his own doctor, would be bitterly resented by all classes, by those who never use it as well as by those who use it, indicating a dangerous departure from the tolerant principles of British rule.

I am convinced that the taxpayers would not willingly consent to pay for the prohibition, and I believe that they would equally resent such a measure even if the British taxpayer paid the cost of the necessary compensation to opium-growers or proprietors, and made good the loss of revenue to the Indian treasury.

5. Reserving the second clause of question 4, I am of opinion that there is no moral justification for restricting the sale of opium to persons requiring it for medical purposes. I feel that, as a matter of sentiment, it would be desirable if the British Government did not manufacture or sell opium, but that as a matter of honesty and morality there is no difference between selling the right to manufacture or to sell opium, and selling the produce of the poppy direct. I foresee that any alteration of the present system would involve a sacrifice of revenue, an adulteration of the article, an increased supply and distribution of it, and fresh taxation, which would strain beyond the limits of endurance the loyalty and contentment of the people of India.

6. I now proceed to the main question, as to whether the prohibition of the sale of opium, save on medical certificate, could be extended to the Native States.

To answer this question, which raises momentous issues affecting British relations with the Native States, I must

- (a) submit some remarks on our principles of interference;
- (b) examine the past history of our opium dealings with the Native States;
- (c) inquire whether the price to be paid for such prohibition would correspond to the advantages gained by it.

7. *Principles of interference with the States.*—As to (a) I assume, for the sake of argument, that the British Government having legislated and imposed upon British subjects legal restrictions as to the growth and use of opium, desires to impose upon the allied States under British protection, the obligation to legislate in a similar manner for their own subjects. The question is, how such an obligation can be justified. The paramount protecting power has, by treaty and usage, acquired and exercised its rights of interference under four heads, namely, (i) for the common defence; (ii) for the settlement of the external affairs of the States; (iii) in the exercise of the royal prerogative; and (iv) for the regulation of the internal administration of the States. Clearly any action taken in this matter will fall under the fourth division. But whereas the rights of the British Government to station troops in foreign territory or regulate native armaments therein; or its right to undertake for the States all international or interstatal settlements, and to bind them by its own diplomatic action, or its prerogative to settle disputed successions, and take charge of the administrations during minority, rest in every case upon the clearest titles and admissions of the Queen's allies, and in many cases upon principles declared in the statutes of the Imperial Parliament, the right of the British Government to interfere in the internal administrations of the States, opens up a question of great delicacy and controversy. If the measure of intervention now proposed is to be examined by the light of public faith and policy, it is essential to analyse British rights of interference in the internal affairs of the States in order to see whether past theory, practice, and treaty will justify a demand for their co-operation in suppressing the sale of opium.

Notwithstanding treaties disclaiming interference and theories of sovereignty, interference with the internal affairs of native states has been justified in the past, either—

- (a.) when adopted in the interests of the states, or
- (b.) when adopted in the interests of the British Government.

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Under class (a) history affords instances of six recognised grounds of intervention, namely,—

- (i.) to settle disputes as to succession,
- (ii.) to prevent the partition and dismemberment of a State,
- (iii.) to suppress rebellion against the lawful ruler,
- (iv.) to arrest gross misgovernment,
- (v.) to secure religious toleration,
- (vi.) to check offences against natural law or public morality.

Under class (b.) the British Government, in the interests of the whole empire, has (i.) asserted jurisdiction over Europeans and Americans, over railways that are parts of the general system, and over telegraphs, and has protected its mails in foreign territory; it has (ii.) occasionally suppressed a mint which issued spurious coin; and it has (iii.) asserted a right, which every nation possesses against other nations and *a fortiori* against subordinate allies, of protecting vital British interests at all hazards where the safety or paramount interests of the empire require it. My first proposition then is, that the interference now suggested can only be justified, if it is justifiable at all, under class (a.) (vi.) “to check offences against public morality,” or under class (b.) (iii.) to protect “vital British interests.” Interference to prevent suttee is justified under the former, and the opium agreements taken for the protection of the British revenue are the furthest step yet taken in the direction of the latter. A scrutiny of these precedents shows that by no logical process could the obligation to suppress the sale of opium under the altered conditions now proposed be forced on the states. Lord William Bentinck had the courage to make suttee a criminal offence in British India on the 4th of December 1829. Six years later the widow of a Bombay Native Chief in the Mahi Kantha was burned alive, despite the protest of British officers. In 1854 the obligation of personal liberty was still so imperfectly recognised that Sir Henry Lawrence negotiated with Udaipur for the suppression of seizing people for sorcery, and in May 1860 Lord Canning included a provision against suttee in the Patiala Sanad. No doubt public opinion would now in 1894 endorse the punishment of suttee in every protected Native State, because the public conscience of united India, at last, if not universally at least sufficiently condemns it. But other crimes like those punished by the age of consent Act, are not yet ranked as offences against public morality, and no one can pretend that the conscientious objections of certain British subjects to the opium trade constituted a moral obligation to break treaties and public pledges against interference in the Native States, on the ground that “natural justice,” or the law of nature compels the paramount power in this instance to set aside treaties and break pledges in deference to a higher law. An appeal to the law of nature brings into the arena of discussion the *tu quoque* argument. If the conscience of a few on the subject of opium justifies action, which was not taken in the case of suttee, where the whole of civilised opinion was on one side, until the lapse of many years, and which is not now taken in the age of consent question, why does the British Government turn a deaf ear to the millions of Mahomedans who would prohibit the import or sale of liquor, or to the greater millions of Hindus who detest the consumption of flesh? It cannot seriously be contended that the law of nature demands in this case the abandonment of pledges given to the Indian sovereigns, that the Company and the Crown (Statute 21 & 22 Vict. c. cvi. s. 67) will uphold their treaties which guarantee in the clearest terms their sovereign rights in the internal administration of their principalities. Nor, again, can it be urged that the “vital interests” of British rule require this sudden change of policy from the production and sale of opium to its suppression despite the protests of the Native States.

The past History of our Opium Dealings with the States.

8. British action in the past would give the contradiction to such a proposition. Between the interference which has been exercised in Bombay with the opium dealings of the Native States, and that which is now under discussion, there is all the difference between yea and nay. The vital interests of the British Government have justified the action hitherto taken, but that very action, and the arguments by which it has been supported, cut the ground from under the fresh position which the advocates of suppression of

the trade seek so take up. We have justified a departure from the rule and pledge of non-interference because the British from the date of their first contact with the States proclaimed their right to raise a revenue from opium, with which right the otherwise admissible rights of the States were incompatible. The new position is that we are to change our minds and abandon the revenue, and yet impose on the States disabilities not in the solid or vital interests of our revenue and of the imperial expenditure which confers so many benefits on the States, but in the interests of our own view of morality. In short, we abandon the fiscal justification recognised by the States, and plead a moral justification which the States do not accept, and which, for the reasons given, it would be contrary to our policy and pledges to enforce against their consent. We have never claimed a right to impose our conscience on the Queen's allies except where our conscience was the conscience of the civilised world, and the evil we have sought to prevent was an offence against humanity, or, what I have called, the law of nature.

I shall endeavour now to support my argument that our interference with the States of India, and the particular form of it which has been adopted in Bombay, have been based avowedly on the vital requirements of Indian finance. Under the Moghal Empire, from which we derived our rights in Bengal, an opium monopoly was asserted. As the Moghal power declined their rights also fell into abeyance, until in 1773 Warren Hastings assumed the monopoly in the Company's possessions in Bengal, Behar, and Orissa. The contract system was abandoned in favour of the direct agency system at the close of last century. The fall of the Peshwa and the break up of the Maratha confederacy extended British ascendancy to Rajputana, Central India, and Bombay by the year 1817, A.D. Our increased knowledge of the country proved that the Bengal monopoly could not be maintained without co-operation in Western and Central India. After some attempts to prevent the export of opium from that side of India by buying up the produce of a restricted cultivation, we settled down in 1829 to the principle which has in the main been followed since then, although owing to faulty regulations the principle was worked defectively until Mr. Pritchard restored its efficiency. Briefly the scheme was this. Central India and Rajputana were allowed to grow what they pleased, but their opium was not to leave the States save under passes granted at a special rate of duty to cover the transit to the ports whence it was shipped or the markets it was to reach. The flaw in the scheme was, that sufficient checks were not devised to prevent the introduction of opium into our own adjoining districts. The Bombay States in their turn paid the penalty due to geographical conditions. If they too had been allowed to grow opium it would have been impossible to protect the revenue, since their ready access to the sea would have defied proper supervision. If, then, Rajputana and Central India were to be allowed to produce opium, and if the Bengal monopoly and British finance were to be protected, the Bombay States must submit to differential treatment. It was just possible to treat Baroda, whose isolation from the sea line was completed by other arrangements more liberally than Kathiawar, girt by the sea, or Cutch in the same position, or Cambay, Savantvadi, Janjira, and even Kolhapur, and other States close to the seaboard. Accordingly Baroda got the benefit of the possible exemption from the prohibition to the growth which was enforced in the case of the other States. We have evidence of the views of Government in 1820 in a letter addressed by Secretary J. Farish to the Resident at Baroda, No. 1,031, dated August 16th, 1820. The Gaekwar was requested to fall into line with the intention of the Bombay Government to enforce Regulations I. of 1818 and II. of 1820. In informing him that His Highness would be supplied with Malwa opium from Kaira, the words were added, “at such rates as may check the inordinate use of it; and yet besides a profit to the retailers, be within the reach of those who may have been accustomed to indulge in opium, and yield a revenue to the Gaekwar Government.” I quote this to support any argument that the rights of the Native States to make a revenue out of opium were recognised in 1820, subject to the conditions that their systems did not injure British finance, and in certain cases that special British rights acquired from the Peshwa were safeguarded. The State of Baroda got the benefit of its position in 1820, and it has retained its advantages in the engagement of 1878,

which introduced a sort of State monopoly, which was intended to prevent smuggling into British territory. I believe that some 3,500 acres in Baroda are under poppy cultivation. The rest of the Bombay States fared worse, because in their cases the paramount fiscal interests of the British Government and their special rights over opium could not be otherwise safeguarded. Under the approved system introduced by Mr. Pritchard, the Bombay States cannot cultivate the poppy of manufacture opium, and they adopt the British system of passes, of purchases from a depôt or from Malwa, and of retail sale, while they receive three benefits in exchange—

- (a.) A supply of free opium for their requirements to Cambay, the Palanpur, the Mahi Kantha and the Rewa Kantha Agencies; and a supply at a reduced rate of duty, viz. $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the duty, to Cutch and the Kathiawar States, $\frac{9}{10}$ ths of the duty to the Satara Jaghirs, and $\frac{4}{5}$ ths of the duty to the other States;
- (b.) Compensation to certain States as follows for the loss of transit duties and cesses on manufacture, viz. :—

	Rs.
Palanpur -	31,500
Mahi Kantha -	7,228
Rewa Kantha -	7,137
	45,865

- (c.) Certain profits on the retail sale.

The duty remitted by Government under (a.) varies, of course, with the amount supplied, but in 1891-92 it was estimated at Rs. 1,47,354, which was less than in the previous year, I believe. If, then, an estimate is required of the cost to the British taxpayer of suppressing the opium traffic in the Native States of Bombay, the account would have to include these items, the value of the opium duty now refunded to the States, say Rs. 1,50,000 + the compensation of Rs. 45,865 now paid to them + something for loss of retail profits + Rs. 2,02,500 which the British Government now retains as its share of the duty on opium consumed in the States + a further compensation (which cannot be estimated without detailed discussion with the States), representing the value of their full rights to administer their estates as they please, which rights they would have a claim to resume when the vital fiscal interests of the paramount power no longer require compulsion on the protected States to adapt their administration to the Imperial monopoly. Their requirements for medicinal purposes would also have to be met.

The Profit and Loss Account.

9. Would the advantages gained compensate for the cost? The prohibition of the growth or manufacture or sale of opium except for medicinal purposes in British India would either be accompanied by a similar pro-

hibition in the Native States, or it would not. If it were not so accompanied, a complete failure of our attempts to suppress the traffic may be confidently anticipated. Despite an army of Customs officers on our frontiers, we never could prevent the drug from reaching our own people at a rate which would greatly stimulate the consumption of it.

A glance at the map of Bombay with its patchwork of foreign territory, its irregular frontiers, and the frequent *enclaves* of foreign jurisdiction will establish the proposition. If the prohibition is enforced against the Native States by compensating them and their raiats for the revenue they now raise in Baroda, Rajputana, and Central India, or for the revenue which they might raise when the argument of vital interests is withdrawn, and the revenue they do raise under present conditions in compensation and refunds in whole or in part of the duty in the States of Bombay, then a further question arises whether the prohibition which the law imposes can be enforced in fact. With due deference I submit that it could not be enforced. I take the instance of Cutch, with its area of 6,500 square miles, with its single British Agent to represent supervision, and with its ruler pointing to Article 10 of his treaty of 1819, "the Rao, his heirs, and successors, shall be absolute masters of their territory." Could the Rao and the British Agent enforce the simpler prohibition against infanticide practised by only one class of the community? On October 13th, 1819, the Rao "engaged to join heartily in abolishing the custom generally through the Bhayads." Twenty-one years later the Foreign *(sic)* Chiefs confessed, "in 1835 we renewed our engagement." "Now the two Governments have no confidence in the fulfilment of our engagements." Six years later another engagement was taken, and a few years ago the Bombay Government still felt no confidence that the practice had ceased to exist. A restrictive law against an article in popular demand passed in the teeth of public opinion would not only not be enforced, but it would entail opposition and resentment. Once this feeling gained ground amongst the 67 millions of people subject to the Native States, the 221 millions of people subject to the Queen-Empress would catch the contagion. I have no doubt that more than 260 millions of the population of India are not aware that the question of interference with their right to take opium if and when they desire it is under discussion. If their attention could be roused to the fact I should apprehend serious consequences; but confining my remarks to the feelings of the ruling families, I am convinced that not merely Nawabs like those of Cambay and Junagadh, who use it for purposes of hospitality, but scores of Chiefs who never use it at all would view with the greatest alarm the extension of interference by the paramount power to matters in which disputed views of morality, and not the recognised necessities of finance or public tranquility, could alone be pleaded as the justification for abandoning the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of the country princes.

Honourable Mr. FAZALBHAI VISHRAM, Member of His Excellency the Viceroy's Legislative Council, and one of the leading Merchants of Bombay.

REPLIES to questions based on paragraph 5 (1) and (2) of letter from the Government of India, No. 3,915-Ex. dated 8th September 1893.

Questions.

1. What is your experience as regards the consumption of opium by the different races of people in the districts with which you are personally acquainted? Please name the districts?

2. What is your experience as regards the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people?

3. What is your opinion as to the disposition of the people of India—

(a.) in regard to the use of opium for non-medical purposes?

(b.) as to their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures?

4. Should, in your opinion, the sale of opium in British India be prohibited except for medical purposes?

Could such prohibition be extended to Native States with which you are acquainted?

Answers.

1. Contact with different classes of people in Bombay and Kathiawar.

2. In my opinion opium eating in moderation has no demoralising effect on the people, and there is no physical degeneration either.

3. (a.) It is considered to be a non-stimulant and an agreeable sedative, besides being most valuable for medical purposes.

(b.) I am sure the people are unwilling, as well as unable, to bear any portion of the cost of prohibitive measures.

4. Certainly not.

6. What, in your opinion, would be the effect on the finances of India if the production and consumption of opium were prohibited, taking into consideration clauses (a.), (b.), and (c.) of the Resolution of Parliament, copy of which has been sent to you?

8. Supposing total prohibition to be impracticable, can you suggest any change in the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the opium traffic and for raising a revenue therefrom?

6. I have no statistics by me at present, but it goes without saying that the effect on the already crippled finances of India will be something enormous. Any prohibition of the production and consumption of opium will be most unwise.

8. On the whole, I think the present system is working very well, but I think that if Government were to take all the farms into their own hands and not let them out to contractors, the revenue is sure to increase materially. Under the present system it is a well known fact that opium contractors or "farmers" (as I believe they are called) make large profits in their contracts with Government from year to year.

APPENDIX XXIV.

NOTE ON CHILDREN'S PILLS OF BALA GOLIS, by Mr. J. M. CAMPBELL, C.I.E.

[Presented to the Royal Commission in continuation of his Evidence.]

In March 1891 inquiry showed that the number of shops at which Bala Golis were sold had risen from 150 in 1887 to nearly 300 in 1891; and also that bhang, dhatura, aconite, and other drugs harmful to children were occasionally used in addition to opium, and that the quantity of opium used was most uncertain, varying from a minute particle to a dose large enough to cause injury. It further appeared that most of the opium used in these pills was illicit.

To put a stop to these irregularities, in August 1891 it was arranged that children's pills should be prepared under the supervision of the licensed opium farmer, and that the regulation pills should contain nothing but a variety of harmless spices and from 9/50 to 9/25 of a grain of opium. On samples of these pills recently (27th January 1894) submitted to him for testing, Surgeon-Major Parker, the Superintendent of Government Drugs, reports, No. 586, dated 30th January 1894, that though the practice of using opium pills to quiet children may be open to objection it is inseparable from native habits and customs. Dr. Parker holds that the pills sent to him, being free from aconite, bhang, and dhatura, are comparatively harmless, and that to withdraw the existing supervision and restrictions on the manufacture of bala golis or children's pills would be a most dangerous procedure calculated to increase the rate of infantile mortality.

While few authorities deny that the pills are given not with the object of freeing the mother from the annoyance of a fretful child but with the intention of benefiting the child, Bombay professional opinion is almost equally divided on the question whether opium is beneficial or hurtful to children. Of 84 statements obtained in 1893 from members of the Grant College Medical Society, 27 were in favour of the use of the drug, 30 were against it, 25 gave no opinion, and two were doubtful. At the same time it is to be remembered that practitioners and physicians associate with opium cases of sickness in which the child is out of health either in spite of or because of the use of opium. Doctors do not as doctors see any of the mass of children who are given opium and who benefit from its use. The view that opium is beneficial to children finds support in the fact that the people of Malwa have been giving opium to their children for the last 300 years. In Bombay the case of the North Gujarat Memons and Khojas, two of the most vigorous and prosperous of the trading classes, is important evidence in support of the tonic virtues of opium. In 1893, when the rumour spread that the use of children's opium pills was likely to be stopped, over 350 Khojas and Memons, including leading men of both communities, petitioned the collector against the proposed prohibition. They and their fathers had always taken opium as children. It secured sleep, helped digestion, and kept off fever. To deprive their children of opium pills would be a serious evil. The case of the Khojas and Memons, which to a less extent is the case of the Banias and Bhatias from North Gujarat, is important not only from their notable robustness of body and mind but

because they are well-to-do. That Khoja women give their children opium is an answer to the common statement that such pills are given solely by the poor to keep their children quiet. It is beyond doubt that Khoja and Memon women give their children opium for their children's benefit. The practice is the result of long experience. There seems no reason to suppose that the lesson of experience is a mistaken lesson.

This experience of the higher classes of Gujaratis is supported by the experience of the higher classes of Hindus in the Bombay Dakhan, where Brahmans and Marathas, classes of notable keenness and endurance, commonly give their children opium from a few months to two or three years old. Rao Bahadur Balvant Ramchander Nathu, a Sirdar and Inamdar of the Dakhan, a competent witness of robust bodily and mental health, states (23rd January 1894) that he was dosed with opium as a child. He says the practice is most common. He has never heard of the death of an infant from eating opium. He knows of no instance of a lad or a man made a dullard or a failure from the effects of opium taken in childhood. Mr. K. Raghunathji, a Prabhu gentleman of Bombay, of unusual intelligence and information, writes on the 3rd of February 1894: Gujaratis and Marathas alike, more especially Marathas, use Balgolis or baby pills. They give these pills to their children to soothe them and also as a tonic. These Balgolis always do good. I have no knowledge of any child dying, I know of no lad turning out a failure because of Balgolis. Maratha women give their children opium in tiny pills varying from a poppy to a millet seed. The opium is given either dry or in milk. It is a soothing agent. Under its influence the child thrives.

It may be asked why should not the making of Balagolis be left to medical practitioners. The answer is medical practitioners never have and never would make children's pills. The ingredients are too many; the profit is too small. The pill making is grocer's not doctor's work. The bulk of the people who use the pills are at home in a grocer's shop, they are ill at ease in a practitioner's consulting room. Nor should the making be left to grocers. Grocers would use either illicit opium or other cheaper and more dangerous materials. They would take no care that the pills are of uniform strength. The pills would be made in hundreds of shops. No opium staff could check the manufacture. Whether opium is on the whole hurtful or beneficial to infants, it is a matter of the first importance that as the belief in the efficacy of opium is widespread, parents should be able to obtain pure opium instead either of adulterated opium or of arsenic bhang or dhatura. During the year ending 31st July 1893, under the contractor's supervision about 240 pounds of opium mixed with spices have been made into about 12 lakhs of children's pills.

17th February 1894.

J. M. CAMPBELL,
Collector of Bombay.

APPENDIX XXV.

APP. XXV.

Hyderabad
State.

LETTER from the MINISTER to His Highness the NIZAM to Mr. Plowden, the Resident at Hyderabad, containing the views of the Nizam's Government on the Opium Question.

[Handed in by Mr. Dunlop. See Question 27,898.]

Hyderabad, Deccan,

MY DEAR MR. PLOWDEN, 8th December 1893.

I HAVE much pleasure in complying with the request conveyed in Mr. Tucker's letter, No. 1891, dated 1st instant, to the effect that I should state in writing the views of His Highness' Government on the opium question which is now being inquired into by a Royal Commission.

2. If there were reason to believe that the use of opium is being carried to such an extent that it is physically or morally affecting the population, or any large class of the population, His Highness' Government would not hesitate to adopt measures to check, at least, the inordinate consumption of the drug. But nothing short of very strong evidence of the evil effects of opium would justify such an extreme measure as the general prohibition of the use of opium except for medicinal purposes.

3. So far as Hyderabad is concerned there is no doubt that the use of opium is not a public evil. On the contrary, there is a general feeling that opium in moderation is necessary for many persons, and that the use of it, far from being attended with bad results, is beneficial to those who have become accustomed to it.

4. Opium is used to a considerable extent in Mahomedan families, and is almost invariably given to young Mahomedan children. The Sikhs and Rajpoots are regular consumers of opium, and show no bad results from it. It is also used by many other classes in the city of Hyderabad, and in the Western Districts of the Dominions. In the Telingana Districts there is very little consumption of opium, the people being more addicted to drink.

5. In the year 1881 Sir Salar Jung, who was then Minister, acting under the advice of the Government of India, suppressed the cultivation of poppy and arranged to obtain supplies for licit consumption from Malwa, the Government of India undertaking to levy a pass duty on behalf of His Highness' Government of British Rupees 10 per seer.

This arrangement was regarded at the time with considerable dissatisfaction by many Jagirdars who had been in the habit of receiving a high rental for opium lands, and also by the ryots who cultivated opium. But all classes have now become accustomed to the existing arrangement, and it has certainly been a profitable one to His Highness' Government, for, whereas the revenue from opium prior to 1881 was estimated at H. S. Rs. 41,871 (British Rs. 36,000) it is now, including His Highness' Sur-fi-khas District, about British Rs. 4,37,000. At the same time the consumption of opium has decreased. It was estimated that in the year prior to the introduction of the new system the quantity of opium for consumption was about 31,000 seers. The average imports during the past three years is 26,000 seers, or 5,000 seers less than when the local cultivation of the poppy was permitted. This is no doubt the result of having raised the price of opium by the system of pass duty.

6. The average consumption of opium in the whole of His Highness' dominions is as little as 18 tolas per annum per 100 head of population. In the City of Hyderabad and its suburbs the annual consumption is 72 tolas per 100 persons, or rather less than three-fourths of a tola to each person per annum.

7. In the face of these statistics, and with the fact before us that no single class of the population can be pointed to as having become degraded by an over-indulgence in opium, His Highness' Government would be strongly opposed to any prohibition of the use of opium.

8. The suggestion that it should be prohibited except for medicinal purposes, seems to me a singularly impracticable one, for there are no druggists in His Highness' Districts who could be employed as agents for the sale of opium, nor are there medical men who could regulate the supply; and, moreover, how could it be ascertained that a purchaser required the opium for *bonâ fide* medicinal use and not as a luxury?

9. The existing rules which were framed in communication with the Government of India provide an effective check on the import and transit of opium from one district to another. It is also provided that a licensed dealer shall not sell to any one person at one time more than 5 tolas of opium.

The result of the import duty of Rs. 10 per seer, and the sale of opium contracts in districts, has been to raise the retail price of opium so that it now sells in the City at from 2½ to 2¾ tolas per rupee, and in the districts at 2 tolas per rupee. At these rates the ordinary classes of the people cannot afford an over-indulgence in opium.

10. Taking the questions referred to me *seriatim*, I would sum up the views of His Highness' Government as follow:—

1. Whether if the production and use of opium for non-medicinal purposes are prohibited throughout British India such prohibition could be extended to Native States?

His Highness' Government would be strongly opposed to the introduction of any such measure in these Dominions because—

(1.) there are no valid grounds for such a high-handed procedure; (2.) the distinction desired to be drawn between opium required for medicinal and non-medicinal purposes is an impracticable one; (3.) interference with the normal consumption of opium would be resented by those who are in the habit of regularly using the drug, and in the city of Hyderabad would be likely to engender a feeling the results of which might be most embarrassing to the Government; (4.) if the supply of opium is cut off, opium eaters will be likely to take to ganja or strong spirits, both of which are worse than opium.

2. The nature of the existing arrangements with the Native States in respect of the transit of opium through British Territory, and whether such arrangements could be with justice terminated?

The arrangements by which the opium supply for His Highness' dominions is obtained from Malwa is regulated by the agreement entered into with the Government of India on the 29th October 1893.

It is true that the Government of India could, under Article IV. of this agreement, withdraw from the arrangement on giving 12 months' notice, but in the event of such a course being adopted, and the supplies of Malwa opium cut off, His Highness' Government would certainly maintain its right to resume the system of local cultivation of the poppy, and I need scarcely say that the effect of this would probably be highly inconvenient to the adjoining British Provinces, for it would be almost impossible to check the smuggling of Hyderabad grown opium across the frontier.

3. To what compensation would the Native States be fairly entitled in the event of measures of prohibition being adopted?

I feel so strongly the practical impossibility of prohibiting the consumption of opium as proposed, that it seems almost unnecessary to refer to this question. But, supposing for a moment that the inquiry of the Royal Commission were to lead to results that would adversely affect the revenue derived from opium in the Hyderabad State, His Highness' Government would certainly expect to be compensated for any loss that might be caused thereby.

11. I have in the foregoing, frankly and without reserve, expressed the views of His Highness' Government on this subject, because the proposals now under inquiry by the Royal Commission are of grave importance both socially and politically; and believing, as I do, that there are no valid grounds for prohibiting the consumption of opium and that the course suggested by the anti-opiumists would not only be a dangerous one for any Government in India to adopt, but would be harsh and unjust to the people, I have felt it incumbent on myself to say that His Highness' Government would not, under the present circumstances of the case, accept any measure that might be calculated to unduly interfere with the consumption of the drug to the moderate extent it is now generally used.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

VIKAR-UL-UMRA.

APPENDIX XXVI.

APP. XXVI.
Hyderabad
State.

MEMORANDUM on the SYSTEM of OPIUM EXCISE in the HYDERABAD STATE, by Mr. A. J. DUNLOP, Senior Member,
Board of Revenue in the HYDERABAD STATE.

[Handed in by Mr. Dunlop. See Question 26,754.]

System of Administration.

Up to the year 1880 there was no restriction on the cultivation of poppy nor on the local manufacture of opium; nor was any special attention paid to the sale of opium.

The supply of opium was derived partly from local sources and partly from Central India, or British territory.

2. In 1878-79 the area under poppy cultivation was—

	Bigas.
Government and Surfkhas lands	4,553
Jagir lands	1,944
Total	6,497

or about 5,000 acres, and it was estimated that the local production of opium amounted to 17,302 seers. In the same year the imports of opium into Hyderabad amounted to 14,291 seers, and, deducting 636 seers exported, it was estimated that the opium available for consumption in 1878-79 was 30,957 seers, equivalent to about 442 chests of 140 lbs. each.

Opium imported, either from beyond the frontier or from the districts, into the City of Hyderabad, and also opium exported beyond the frontiers, were subjected to a uniform customs duty of Rs. 1 per seer.

The total income from opium in 1878-79 (1288 Fasli) was estimated as follows:—

Government and Surfkhas.

Revenue from lands under poppy cultivation, *H. S. Rs. 22,941 = Government Rs. 19,622.

Export and import duty on opium, H. S. Rs. 18,930 = Government Rs. 16,193.

Total, H. S. Rs. 41,871 = Government Rs. 35,815.

Jagirs.

Revenue from land under poppy cultivation, H. S. Rs. 27,191 = Government Rs. 23,258.

Total, H. S. Rs. 69,062 = Government Rs. 59,073.

3. Shortly after the enactment of the India Opium Act (I. of 1878) and a consequent change in the opium system of the British provinces adjoining Hyderabad, it was found that the opium revenue of these provinces was likely to be affected by the absence of a sufficient control over the cultivation, manufacture, and sale of opium in His Highness the Nizam's dominions.

4. Negotiations were accordingly entered into with the Nizam's Government with a view to raising the price of opium in Hyderabad to the level pertaining in the adjoining provinces, so that there would not be the same inducement to smuggle opium from Hyderabad into British territory. It was finally resolved by Sir Salar Jung, who was then Minister and Regent of the Hyderabad State, to adopt, in accordance with the Resident's advice, the same system as had been shortly before introduced into Berar with good results, viz., to prohibit the local cultivation of poppy in both Government and Jagir lands, and to obtain supplies of opium from Indore in Central India, the Government of India undertaking to collect, on behalf of the Nizam's Government, a duty on all consignments of opium at a rate of not less than Rs. 600 per chest of 140 lbs.

5. In pursuance of this arrangement, a notification was issued on the 2nd October, 1880, prohibiting the cultivation of the poppy and the manufacture of opium throughout the whole of His Highness' Dominions.

6. At the same time Opium Rules (having the same effect in Hyderabad as a legal enactment) were framed very much on the same lines as the Berar Rules, and on the 10th October 1880 it was notified that these Rules would be brought into effect from the 1st January 1881, from which date the import of opium was prohibited except under a pass issued by the Opium Agent at Indore, the rate of duty being fixed at Rs. 10 per seer, or Rs. 700 per chest.

The export of opium was at the same time prohibited, provision being made for the transit of opium through

the Hyderabad State, from Bombay or Central India to the Madras Presidency.

7. Subsequently, on the 29th October 1883, the terms of the new system were embodied in a formal memorandum of agreement between the British Government and the Government of His Highness the Nizam, a copy of which is as follows:—

"Memorandum of agreement between the British Government and the Government of His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad.

"For the protection of the common interests of the British Government and the Government of His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad in the matter of the opium revenue, His Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad has agreed, as regards His Highness' territories, that—

"(1.) The cultivation of the poppy and the manufacture of opium shall be absolutely prohibited.

"(2.) With the exception of opium booked through by rail to the Madras Presidency, no opium shall be imported without a license from His Highness the Nizam.

"(3.) With the same exception, no opium shall be exported.

"(4.) The import of opium shall, as far as possible, be confined to what is absolutely requisite for licit home consumption.

"(5.) The transport, possession, and retail sale of opium shall be permitted only under license from His Highness the Nizam.

"II. His Highness the Nizam further agrees to communicate to the Resident at Hyderabad all alterations which it may from time to time be found necessary to make in the rules which have been framed to give effect to the above conditions, and not to make any alterations the effect of which will be to diminish the securities provided by the rules for due observance of the said conditions.

"III. And the British Government has agreed that the Opium Agent at Indore shall issue passes for the transport from Indore to Hyderabad of such quantities of opium as may from time to time be applied for by His Highness' Government through the Resident at Hyderabad; and shall levy on the same, on behalf of His Highness' Government, pass duty at the rate which may, from time to time, be fixed by the British Government; and shall remit the said duty through the Resident at Hyderabad in such manner as may be from time to time arranged: provided that, if the British Government fix a rate of pass duty lower than Rs. 600 (six hundred) per chest of 140 lbs. avoirdupois, the rate charged on opium supplied to Hyderabad shall not be less than Rs. 600 per chest of 140 lbs. avoirdupois, except with the previous consent of His Highness' Government.

"IV. Lastly, it is provided that either of the parties to this agreement shall be at liberty to withdraw from it after giving to the other party 12 months' notice."

This agreement remains in force to the present day, and the rate of duty has been maintained at Rs. 700 per chest.

8. Up to the year 1892 the whole of the opium imported under the new arrangement was brought by rail to the City of Hyderabad, from whence it was sent by dealers under passes issued by the Excise Officer to the different districts. It was found, however, that the trade, which had to supply an area of 82,698 square miles, was inconvenienced by being centralised at Hyderabad, and in 1892 it was arranged with the Resident that opium may be imported from Indore to either Aurangabad in the northern part of the State, Gulburgah on the western side, Warangal on the eastern side, of the City of Hyderabad as a central depot.

9. Rules for the control of imports of opium have been framed by the Resident and are appended.

10. Government opium godowns are established at the four places to which opium can be imported, and all consignments are weighed on arrival and kept in the godown until they are sold or despatched to the districts. Opium issued from the godowns is covered by a pass

* H. S. is Halli Sikka, the term for the Hyderabad coinage in rupees.

which shows the quantity and destination of the opium, and this pass has to be delivered up to the officer in the district or taluka to which the opium has been sent.

System of Controlling the Internal Opium Trade.

11. Any person may import opium for wholesale dealings, on his obtaining a permit from the Resident (the application being submitted through the Nizam's Government) and on his paying at Indore a duty of 10 British rupees per seer. But he can only sell the opium to a licensed retail vendor or wholesale dealer, and is prohibited from selling a smaller quantity than five tolas. A wholesale dealer is required to take out a license, for which the charge is Rs. 16.

12. For the official year that has just commenced, the excise commissioner has sold the monopoly of importing opium from Indore to one person, who has undertaken to pay H. S. Rs. 30,000 = Government rupees 25,661 for it. Some objections have been raised to this departure from the usual course, and the matter has not yet been finally decided by His Highness' Government.

13. The monopoly of the retail vend of opium is sold at auction by districts or sub-divisions of districts. Retail vendors are prohibited from selling to one person at one time more than five tolas of opium. The number of shops is fixed by the revenue officers. Opium cannot be sold at any but recognised shops. The licensed vendors are bound to keep an account of the opium sold daily, showing both the name of the purchaser and the quantity of opium sold to him. Shops have to be kept closed from 9 p.m. to sunrise.

A clause is inserted in the license to the effect that drunkards, persons of notoriously bad habits, or gamblers, shall not be allowed in the opium shops.

Muddutkhanas and chandul shops, known in Hyderabad as bambookhanas, because the chandul is smoked through a bamboo pipe, are prohibited by law, and the police have instructions to prevent the opening of any such places.

14. The rules, in short, provide for a very thorough control over the opium trade, and heavy penalties are imposable for any breach of them. My experience, however, is that the rules are not so strictly enforced in the Hyderabad State as they are in the adjoining districts of Berar under British Administration.

15. In the city and suburbs of Hyderabad, including the Military Cantonment of Secunderabad, persons were formerly allowed to establish shops for the retail sale of opium on taking out a license, for which the charge was Rs. 16. This system was stopped in 1889, and since then the monopoly of the retail sale in the city and suburbs has been put up to auction in the same way, and under the same conditions as have been described above for the districts.

16. Since the stoppage of cultivation of poppy, the quantity of opium annually imported into Hyderabad, and the revenue obtained by the Nizam's Government from the pass duty of Rs. 10 per seer are shown below :—

Years.	Chests of 140 lbs.	Duty.
		Govt. Rs.
1882	306	2,14,550
1883	375	2,62,500
1884	371	2,59,700
1885	356	2,48,100
1886	368	2,57,250
1887	364	2,54,800
1888	391	2,73,500
1889	347	2,43,250
1890	319	2,22,950
1891	396	2,77,550
1892	425	2,97,850

The average imports of 11 years is 365 chests, on which the duty is Government Rs. 255,500.

17. It is to be regretted that when the Nizam's Government decided to stop the cultivation of opium, they did not at the same time arrange for the sale of opium in jagir estates, by Government agency. It would have been better at that time for Government to have acquired a complete monopoly of the opium trade, giving, of course, compensation to Jagirdars for any loss they might sustain. The population of the

Hyderabad State is 11,530,450, which is distributed as follows :—

	Population.	Percentage of total population.
Government Districts, including City and Surfkhas managed by Government.	7,988,484	69
Surfkhas under His Highness -	228,643	2
Jagirs -	3,313,323	29
Total -	11,530,450	100

It will thus be seen that 29 per cent. of the population belongs to jagir estates, and as the Jagirdars, although bound to observe the opium rules already referred to, are free to make their own arrangements for the wholesale and retail sale of opium with their jagirs, the result is that there is competition between the Government and jagir contractors, which prevents Government realizing the same revenue for opium farms (and thus indirectly raising the price of opium) as is obtained in the adjoining province of Berar, where the monopoly of the sale of opium is undisturbed by the private rights of any Jagirdars.

18. Taking for comparison the Berar figures for 1891-92, the consumption of opium in that year in Berar was 18,898 seers, on which the Government realized a pass duty of Rs. 188,980 and by sale of opium contracts Rs. 300,800, making a total revenue for the year of Rs. 489,780, so that the Berar Administration realised Rs. 25-13-0 for every seer of opium consumed.

The imports into Hyderabad for 12 months of about the same period were 27,755 seers. It is not possible to show the actual revenue derived from the farms for the retail sale of this quantity, because 5,604 seers were sold in jagirs, but a fair estimate of the total revenue in 1891-92 may be taken as follows :—

	H.S. Rs.	Govt. Rs.
Pass duty -	-	2,77,550
By sale of Government farms	215,135	= 1,84,000
Jagirdars' income, about	-	40,000
Total -	-	5,01,550

These figures give an average of nearly Rs. 18 per seer, or Rs. 7-13-0 per seer less than the amount realised in Berar.

19. It is now under consideration to get over the difficulty of divided jurisdiction by leasing the rights of Jagirdars in the matter of opium, but nothing has yet been decided.

20. The quantity of opium consumed in each district in the past three years and the revenue derived therefrom, are shown in the accompanying statements.

The average revenue derived by His Highness' Government and Surfkhas from opium in the three years 1890 to 1893 is as follows :—

	H.S. Rs.	Govt. Rs.
Pass duty -	-	2,66,117
Opium farms in districts -	84,310	= 72,217
Government revenue in the City of Hyderabad -	87,469	= 74,820
Surfkhas revenue -	27,464	= 2,464
Total -	-	4,37,618

21. The average imports of opium in the three years referred to are 26,600 seers. In 1878-9, prior to the introduction of the new system, the imports were 14,291 seers and the local production about 17,302 seers, giving a total, as already shown, of 30,957 seers. It will thus be seen that the consumption of opium has fallen off, and this is the natural consequence of the increase in the selling price of opium.

At the same time the Government revenue has risen from Government Rs. 36,000 in 1878-79 to an average of Government Rs. 4,38,000 in the past three years.

22. As I have shown, the Government revenue on a seer of opium is about Government Rs. 18, and adding about Rs. 6 for original cost and carriage, the price to the wholesale importer cannot probably be less than Rs. 24 per seer.

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23. The retail price of opium is from 2½ to 2½ tolas per Halli Sicca rupee in the City, and about 2 tolas per rupee in the districts, which is equal to from Government Rs. 34-3-0 to 24-12-0 per seer.

24. The incidence of revenue per head of population in the whole of the dominions is 3 pies.

25. The average consumption of opium per 100 head of population is 18 tolas per annum, or 32 grains per head per annum. In the City and suburbs it is 72 tolas per 100 persons, or about one-third of a grain per head per day.

Proposal to prohibit the use of Opium.

26. On the general question as to whether the use of opium should be prohibited except for medicinal purposes, my view is that such an extreme course could only be justifiable if it were proved, beyond all doubt, that the use of opium is carried to such an extent, and so abused that it is undermining the health, strength, and moral character of the population, or any large class of the population. Nothing short of this would justify interference with the habits of the people. My own experience, gained from 24 years' service in the country, the last 10 of which have been in Hyderabad, is that there is absolutely no evidence to show that opium is consumed to such an extent in the Hyderabad State as to amount to an abuse of it. Medical evidence, based on experience gained from hospital or private practice, may or may not show that there have been cases in which persons have ruined themselves by an over-indulgence in opium, but any such isolated cases cannot be held to justify a Government in decreeing the prohibition, except for medicinal purposes, of opium. For my own part I can only say that, while I see much drunkenness among the lower classes of the native population caused by excessive indulgence in country spirits, and while the consumption of European liquor is seriously increasing, I cannot recall a single instance in which I have seen a person the worse of opium smoking or eating.

27. Since the question has been raised in its present form, I have heard many people remark on the good effects of a moderate use of opium and of the necessity for it under certain conditions; but in connexion with this I wish merely to confine myself to saying that, if there is to be any interference with the habits of the people from philanthropic motives, or on moral grounds, then such interference would be better directed towards checking the consumption of European liquor, for this habit is growing among the younger generation in Hyderabad, and is infinitely more injurious, and more prevalent, than the habits of excessive opium smoking or eating.

28. Opium is used to a considerable extent in Mahomedan families, and it is almost invariably given to young Mahomedan children as a preventative or cure for their ailments. Any interference on the part of Government with this practice would, I believe, be much resented.

Rahtores and Marwaries also use opium freely. Sikhs, of whom there are 4,600 according to the last census, are also regular consumers of opium. The poorer classes, which form the greatest mass of the population, cannot afford much opium at its present price, and confine themselves mainly to liquor drinking.

29. It seems to me practically impossible, even if it were desirable, to give effect to the suggestion that the use of opium should be limited to medical purposes, for who is to decide that opium demanded by a purchaser is going to be used medicinally or as a luxury?

30. As I have already shown, our rules limit the quantity of opium which any single person may hold at a time to five tolas. The present value of this quantity is about Rs. 2, and in practice it is found that the sales are of much smaller quantities. There are no druggists' shops or medical practitioners in the Hyderabad districts to whom the duty of selling opium could be entrusted, and I regard this suggestion as a singularly impracticable one.

31. It is in my opinion possible for His Highness' Government to make opium still more expensive to the consumer. This is the really effectual way of checking an over-indulgence in opium and is all that is necessary. The prohibition of the general use of opium in a large native City like Hyderabad would, I believe, arouse a bitter feeling among the consuming classes, the results

of which might be most embarrassing both to His Highness' Government and to the Government of India, and it is an entirely impracticable measure.

It would also drive the people to the use of liquor, which is worse for them than opium.

32. It is instructive to note that Sir Salar Jung, who knew well the feeling of people in Hyderabad, and who seems to have been reluctant to suppress the cultivation of opium, stated in his order of October 1880 to Jagirdars and others that the cultivation and manufacture of the poppy are prohibited *under the advice of the Resident*. I should be sorry to predict the results if the present Government in Hyderabad were to issue an order that the use of opium was prohibited under the advice of the British Government.

33. The present Minister, the Nawab Vikar-ul-Umra Bahadur, has, in his letter of the 8th December 1893, to the Resident, expressed very decided views on this question.

In reference to the proposed prohibition of the use of opium the Minister has said:—

"His Highness' Government would be strongly opposed to the introduction of any such measure in these dominions, because (1) there are no valid grounds for such a high-handed procedure, (2) the distinction desired to be drawn between opium required for medicinal and non-medicinal purposes is an impracticable one, (3) interference with the normal consumption of opium would be resented by those who are in the habit of regularly using the drug, and in the City of Hyderabad would be likely to engender a feeling the results of which might be most embarrassing to the Government, (4) if the supply of opium is cut off, opium eaters will be likely to take to ganja or strong spirits, both of which are worse than opium."

On the question of compensation to Native States, the Minister has said:—

"I feel so strongly the practical impossibility of prohibiting the consumption of opium as proposed, that it seems almost unnecessary to refer to this question. But, supposing for a moment that the inquiry of the Royal Commission were to lead to results that would adversely affect the revenue derived from opium in the Hyderabad State, His Highness' Government would certainly expect to be compensated for any loss that might be caused thereby."

And in concluding his letter the Minister said:—

"I have, in the foregoing frankly, and without reserve, expressed the views of His Highness' Government on this subject, because the proposals now under inquiry by the Royal Commission are of grave importance both socially and politically, and believing, as I do, that there are no valid grounds for prohibiting the consumption of opium, and that the course suggested by the anti-opiumists would not only be a dangerous one for any Government in India to adopt, but would be harsh and unjust to the people, I have felt it incumbent on myself to say that His Highness' Government would not, under the present circumstances of the case, accept any measure that might be calculated to unduly interfere with the consumption of the drug to the moderate extent it is now generally used."

34. The existing arrangements with the Government of India may, as I have shown, be terminated on 12 months' notice. But supposing that the Government of India were to prevent the import of opium into Hyderabad, His Highness' Government would then be entitled to remove the restriction on the local cultivation of the poppy, and the Government of India would find itself in a worse position, for not only would the Hyderabad State produce sufficient opium for its home consumption, but it would also, in all probability, manufacture largely for export, and the expense to the British Government of preventing smuggling on the frontiers of so large a territory would be so heavy that it could not be entertained.

35. On the other hand, if the Government of His Highnesses the Nizam were induced, against their own convictions, to prohibit the use of opium as proposed, they could not reasonably be expected to adopt this course without receiving compensation for the loss of revenue, and such compensation could not be fixed at less than the amount of revenue the Government is now receiving from opium, plus the Jagirdars' losses, and the whole may be stated at about 5 to 5½ lakhs of British rupees annually.

**RULES for IMPORT of OPIUM by RAILWAY into the
HYDERABAD STATE.**

Extracts from Residency Orders, No. 16 and 15, dated respectively the 15th August 1892 and 1st August 1893.

* * * * *

I.—No station master shall, without the special orders of the Resident, receive any opium offered for consignment to any station outside His Highness' territories.

II.—The importation of opium into the dominions of His Highness by rail is prohibited unless—

- (a) it has been consigned from Indore;
- (b) it is consigned to the Hyderabad Station to the care of the Talukdar of the Abkari, or to Gulburga or Warangal station to the care of the First Talukdar of these districts;
- (c) it is covered by a pass granted by the Deputy Opium Agent, Indore.

Should opium consigned to any place in His Highness' dominions not mentioned in clause (b) arrive at any railway station in Hyderabad territory, the station-master must detain it and report the matter, through the Superintendent, Railway Police, for orders of the Resident.

N.B.—Opium can also be consigned to Aurangabad via Khandwa and Nandgaon, but as such consignments do not enter His Highness the Nizam's territory by rail, they do not come within the scope of these rules.

III.—Opium consigned to any of the places mentioned in clause (b), Rule II., shall be made over to the consignee or his agent on his producing the pass mentioned in clause (c) of the same rule in the presence of the senior officer of the railway police, and of the Customs officer at the station. It shall be the duty of these officers to see, before the opium leaves the station, that

the seals of the packages are unbroken, that their weight tallies with that entered in the pass, and that the term for which the pass is valid has not been exceeded. The date on which the package reaches the station shall be deemed to be the date of import, and not the date on which the delivery may be made. Should it appear to the railway police officer that the package has been opened *en route*, or that there is other reason for suspicion, he is authorised to open the package and weigh the opium.

IV.—The Superintendent of Railway Police shall keep a register in the form attached, and he should report all suspicious cases for the orders of the Resident.

V.—There are no restrictions on the transport of opium from stations in the territories of His Highness to the other stations within the same territories, but immediate information regarding such consignments shall be given to the senior police officers at the station of despatch and receipt by the respective station masters.

Opium in transit through the Bombay Presidency is liable to be examined at Ahmednagar. Therefore, when opium under transport from one station to another in His Highness the Nizam's dominions will have to pass through Bombay territory, the sender must, prior to despatch, report the consignment to the Superintendent of Railway Police or the senior officer of railway police present at Hyderabad, who will despatch an advice of it in the form annexed direct to the Collector of Ahmednagar, granting a duplicate to the sender.

The duplicate must be produced before the station master of the station of despatch at the time of booking, and that officer shall refuse to receive any consignment that does not agree with the particulars entered in the duplicate. All such refusals shall be reported without delay to the Superintendent, Railway Police.

FORM.

Advice of the despatch of the following Consignments of Opium from _____ to _____

Serial No.	Date.	Chests.		Packages.				Destination.	Route.
		Number.	Weight.	Half Chests.		Bags.			
				Number.	Weight.	Number.	Weight.		

OPIUM--HYDERABAD STATE.

Statement showing Supply of Opium to each District including City and Suburbs.

Name of District.	Population.	Quantity of Opium supplied.			Average of Three Years.
		1,300 F.	1,301 F.	1,302 F.	
<i>Western Division.</i>					
Aurangabad	828,975	2,695	2,520	6,615	3,943
Bir	642,722	1,890	1,715	1,050	1,552
Parbhani	805,335	1,820	1,260	380	1,153
Nander	632,529	1,030	525	660	738
Total	2,909,561	7,435	6,020	8,705	7,386
<i>Southern Division.</i>					
Raichur	512,455	220	165	245	210
Linsagur	620,014	90	68	161	106
Gulburga	649,258	500	490	571	520
Naldurg	649,272	1,218	1,985	2,745	1,983
Total	2,430,999	2,028	2,708	3,722	2,819

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OPIUM—HYDERABAD STATE—cont.

Name of District.	Population.	Quantity of Opium supplied.			Average of Three Years.
		1,300 F.	1,301 F.	1,302 F.	
<i>Northern Division.</i>					
Medak	364,735	328	523	373	408
Indur	639,598	290	495	685	490
Elgandal	1,094,601	128	299	178	202
Bidar	901,984	295	351	372	339
Sirpur Tandur	231,754	220	190	205	205
Total	3,232,672	1,261	1,858	1,813	1,644
<i>Eastern Division.</i>					
Warangal	853,129	1,360	1,053	864	1,092
Nalgundah	624,617	359	826	379	522
Mahbub Nagar	674,649	247	172	115	178
Total	2,152,395	1,966	2,051	1,358	1,792
Total of Districts	10,725,627	12,690	12,637	15,598	13,641
Hyderabad City	804,823	8,177	6,125	4,070	6,124
Atraf Balda		35	20	3,360	1,139
Jagirs		2,689	5,604	6,383	4,892
Grand Total	11,530,450	23,591	24,386	29,411	25,796

Statement showing Revenue by Opium Contracts in Districts including the City Suburbs and Surfkhas.

Name of district.	Population.	Amount of proceeds of auction sale of opium.			Average of three years.	Incidence per head.	Remarks.
		1,300 F.	1,301 F.	1,302 F.			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
<i>Western Division.</i>							
Aurangabad	828,975	19,827	20,263	31,525	23,872	0 0 6	
Bir	642,722	10,854	11,746	16,463	13,021	0 0 4	
Parbhani	805,335	14,295	14,782	16,240	15,106	0 0 3	
Nander	632,529	3,573	3,699	3,913	3,728	0 0 1	
Total	2,909,561	48,549	50,490	68,141	55,727	0 0 4	
<i>Southern Division.</i>							
Raichur	512,455	1,099	1,165	1,296	1,187	—	
Lingsagur	620,014	865	1,435	1,435	1,245	—	
Gulburga	649,258	1,900	1,875	1,900	1,892	—	
Naldrug	649,272	5,751	7,617	7,931	7,099	0 0 2	
Total	2,430,999	9,615	12,092	12,562	11,423	—	
<i>Northern Division.</i>							
Medak	364,735	452	1,088	846	795	—	
Indur	639,598	1,854	1,855	1,854	1,853	—	
Elgandal	1,094,601	847	815	815	826	—	
Bidar	901,984	1,331	2,028	2,857	2,073	—	
Sirpur Tandur	231,754	2,334	2,657	2,980	2,657	0 0 2	
Total	3,232,672	6,818	8,443	9,352	8,204	—	
<i>Eastern Division.</i>							
Warangal	853,129	2,833	7,226	7,226	5,762	0 0 1	
Nalgundah	624,617	1,031	2,296	2,270	1,882	—	
Mahbub Nagar	674,649	985	1,475	1,475	1,312	—	
Total	2,152,395	4,899	10,997	10,971	8,956	—	
Total of Districts	10,725,627	69,881	12,022	1,01,026	84,310	0 0 2	
City and Suburbs	415,039	1,04,123	1,06,713	51,571	87,469	0 0 4	
Atraf Balda	389,784	26,400	26,400	33,000	28,600	0 1 2	
Grand Total	11,530,450	2,00,404	2,15,135	1,85,597	2,00,379	0 0 3	

APPENDIX XXVII.

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ABSTRACTS OF EVIDENCE OF WITNESSES tendered for Examination at HYDERABAD from the HYDERABAD STATE and not Examined by the ROYAL COMMISSION.

CASE II.—(Hospital).

Malarious Remittent Fever with Complications.

Miss H., age 21.

I.

Memorandum by Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel EDWARD LAWRIE, Residency Surgeon, Hyderabad.

I have served in India for 21 years, during the last eight years of this period in Hyderabad.

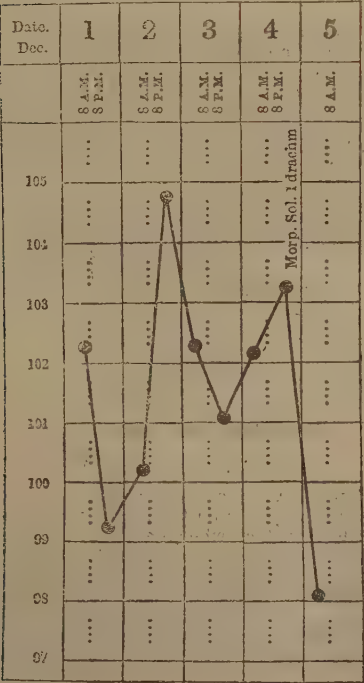
2. I was stongly prejudiced against opium, even as a remedy, when I came out to India in 1872. I regarded all opium eating and smoking as vice, and hardly dared to employ opium at all in diseases of children. The opinions I now hold are founded upon facts and circumstances which have come under my own observation.

3. My experience of opium as a remedy is probably the same as that of hundreds of other medical men. At first I was much astonished to find that opium in full medicinal doses does not necessarily produce sleep. I then discovered that, though it does not produce sleep in cases where it is intended to do so, its general effect is almost invariably beneficial. The third stage in my personal experience of opium consists in the employment of the drug in bowel complaints, such as diarrhoea, enteritis, dysentery, and cholera, in which diseases its advantages are universally acknowledged, and also as a prophylactic and curative agent in certain forms of malarial disease. The statement which has been put forward of late—that opium is of no use in malarious fever except to relieve the pains of the disease—is incorrect. Fact takes precedence of opinion in a question of this kind, and the following facts disprove it. Malarious remittent fever was unusually prevalent in Hyderabad during the last three months of 1893, and the clinical charts which are here reproduced form part of the record of two recent cases in which this disease was arrested by one of the alkaloids of opium:—

CASE I.—(Private).

Uncomplicated Malarious Remittent Fever.

Mrs. P., age 29.



In the first of these cases, the patient had been ill for five days, and in the second for three, before coming under my observation. Both were characterised by intolerable headache, which prevented sleep, uncontrolled vomiting, and the absence of any intermission of the fever. All the known remedies had been tried without relief. In each case a full dose of morphine was given at about 9 o'clock p.m. The effect was that the headache disappeared, refreshing sleep was obtained, and both patients woke up next morning free from fever.

4. Opium is employed as a domestic remedy by all classes of people in India; it is given to Indian children from the age of a month up to two years, by the poor, to keep them quiet, and by poor and rich alike as a prophylactic against the bowel complaints, fevers, and other diseases which are incidental to dentition. It is taken by adults in Hyderabad to protect them against cholera, of which they stand in great dread, as well as against fever, diarrhoea, and dysentery. Personally, I believe that opium does afford very efficient protection against bowel disorders, such as acute enteritis in children, and diarrhoea, dysentery, and cholera in adults. I have proved above that it exercises a curative action in malarious disease, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that it may have a prophylactic effect in the case of both bowel disorders and malaria, if only by protecting the system against chills.

5. In India, the opium habit (*adat*) is generally contracted on the advice of friends or of Hakims (*doctors*), much in the same way as the alcohol habit is in England. I may state at once that in Hyderabad the ordinary opium eater, whether male or female, is entirely above the suspicion of vice. Though the use of opium is frequently begun as a prophylactic after attacks of cold or bowel complaint, or as a remedy in painful diseases, it is taken by regular opium eaters and smokers as a stimulant or exhilarant, never as a narcotic. Among the higher classes it is very occasionally employed by young married men as an aphrodisiac. Its only alleged value in this respect is to

Medicinal
use of opium
by the
people.

The opium
habit.

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postpone or delay the orgasm. Opium eaters begin by taking a small quantity once or twice a day, and as soon as they become accustomed to it they increase the amount until they arrive at an average or habitual dose, which they seldom exceed. As a rule, opium eaters accustom themselves to a dose, which varies from two to eight grains, taken twice a day before their principal meals. But the regular dose may go far beyond this, and many opium eaters take from 30 to 40 grains of solid opium twice a day every day of their lives (*vide* Appendix A). The reason of this appears to be that when the opium habit is acquired the individual derives so much benefit from the drug that he increases the quantity under the impression that the more he takes the better he will be. A small number of people take the average or habitual dose three times a day, and a still smaller number take it whenever they feel inclined. The latter class are to a certain extent objects of ridicule and go by the name of "yad-aphim" (*yad* memory, and *aphim* opium). The ordinary mode of taking opium in Hyderabad is either alone as a pill or made into a pill with sweet almonds. A few people smoke it in the form of *madat* or *chandru*.

The effects
of the opium
habit.

6. I have had to treat patients for opium poisoning, and in two instances (one Native and one European)* for the effects of sudden discontinuance of large doses of opium; but I have never yet been called upon to treat, nor have I ever met with a diseased or depraved state of the constitution due to the opium habit; and during the time I have had charge of the Afzul Gunj and Residency Hospitals in Hyderabad 671,595 patients have passed through my hands. There is no indication that I know of whereby an opium eater can be recognised as such, and opium most assuredly does not produce emaciation. My experience and conclusions have led me irresistibly to the opinion that opium taken regularly, in no matter what dose, provided the habit has been fully acquired, has no deteriorating effect upon the physical or moral condition. On the contrary, I am firmly convinced that the habitual use of opium is beneficial. No doubt at first and sometimes afterwards it causes disagreeable constipation (*vide* Appendix A.) and therefore possibly drowsiness and malaise; but when once the opium habit is confirmed, and it is surprising how quickly this state is arrived at, these unpleasant results as a rule completely wear off. The constipating effect is no longer disagreeable, as the opium now merely prevents looseness and irregularity of the bowels, and this is unquestionably one of the actions of the drug which is most highly prized in India. But there is a great deal more than this to be said for the opium habit. Opium eaters assert, and I am persuaded they are right, that opium conduces to the regularity of all their functions:—regularity of meals, regularity of sleep, and of digestion; and that it keeps them cheerful, contented, happy, and well. The opium eater takes his pill, or pills, of opium half an hour or so before his early meal at 7 or 8 a.m., and again before his afternoon meal or dinner at 2 or 3 p.m.; the drug digests slowly with his food, and, instead of feeling drowsy or heavy after meals, as non-opium eaters often do, that is invariably the time when his mind is most active and his body most vigorous (*vide* Appendix A). The popular or prevailing notion that opium produces sleep, lethargy, or sloth in the habitual opium eater is an entire delusion (*vide* Appendix B), and such terms as "drowsy," "stupor," "heavy," "drugged," "narcotised," and "sleeping off the effects of the opium," etc., applied to the opium eater are altogether unmeaning and misleading. The opium eater can sleep at normal times like anybody else, but he probably sleeps less than people who do not take opium and he never takes opium as a hypnotic (*vide* Appendix A).

The effect of
sudden
discon-
tinuance of
opium.

7. The result of sudden complete cutting off of opium depends on the amount to which the individual has been accustomed. If the amount has been small and the health good, it is insignificant. The results of suddenly stopping opium which has been taken in large quantities may be stated as follows:—

- (a.) Opium delirium tremens.
- (b.) Pains all over the body.
- (c.) Disorders of digestion.
- (d.) Diarrhoea and bowel complaints.
- (e.) Coma and convulsions.

* The case of the European was that of a young man who arrived in Lahore, where he was not known, and the chemist refused to supply him with the enormous doses of laudanum, four ounces daily, to which he had been accustomed.

Opium delirium tremens is the name given to the condition of melancholia and moroseness, with loss of appetite and sleeplessness, which occur when the opium habit of large doses is suddenly checked. If the opium eater is suffering from very acute and high fever or inflammatory disease, the sudden discontinuance of his opium while in this state may be followed by coma and convulsions. The opium habit can be dropped suddenly with impunity under all circumstances if a dose of belladonna, proportioned to the amount of opium the patient has been in the habit of taking, is substituted for it at the accustomed times and continued in diminishing doses for a week or ten days after the stoppage of the opium.

Comparison
of the
effects of
opium and
alcohol.

8. There is no comparison between the effects of the opium habit and the habitual use of alcohol. The dietetic use of alcohol is of doubtful benefit, and even when employed in moderation it may lead to excess. The excessive use of alcohol means the tendency to drunkenness and chronic alcoholism, or the production of insidious effects on the general health, which destroy numerous lives in Europe every year, and would do the same in India if the alcohol habit were to become general. On the other hand, the use of opium is always beneficial; the largest habitual quantities of opium never produce degrading or disastrous results; and there is no such thing as excess if the opium habit has been fully acquired. Finally, my experience in Hyderabad, where habits of drinking are doing infinite harm, has taught me that the one chance for inebriates of escape from disgrace and ruin lies in the substitution of the opium habit for the abuse of alcohol. If this is so in India why not in England? Surely it would be much better to enquire fully into the assured advantages of the substitution of the opium habit for alcoholism, in England, than to attempt to interfere with the ancient custom of opium eating in India, about which the very least that can be said is that it has done more good than harm.

Is the
opium habit
to be recom-
mended?

9. I have no hesitation in recommending the habitual use of opium in European children during the period of dentition; and whereas formerly many children used to die in my practice from enteritis, which is the scourge of European infant life in India, now I rarely if ever lose a case from this disease. As regards adults, I believe it is likely that the habitual use of opium in Europe would save or prolong many of the lives which end in acute and chronic lung diseases, and that it would promote longevity and happiness just as it does in India. In the case of people in arduous and responsible positions in England, such as engine-drivers and railway signalmen, it would appear to be a legitimate subject for investigation whether the opium habit would not tend to keep their minds clear and on the alert while on duty, and prevent the drowsiness which, as is well known, so often leads to accidents and loss of life.

It is difficult to publish one's honest opinion on the advisability of recommending the opium habit without laying oneself open to misinterpretation. My deliberate opinion, formed, as stated above, by conviction and experience in the face of previously conceived and almost inveterate prejudice against the drug, is perfectly clear and definite, that, if stimulants are to be taken at all, the opium habit may be consistently recommended on the ground that opium is the only stimulant which does no harm whatever and at the same time may possibly do a great deal of good.

EDWARD LAWRIE,
Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel,
Residency Surgeon, Hyderabad (Deccan).

APPENDIX A.

INTERVIEWS WITH OPIUM EATERS.

(Two Hyderabad Gentlemen.)

(1.) Nawab, A. J., ætat. 68: hale, hearty old man. Has always enjoyed good health and was never ill but once, with dysentery when he was 30. Began to take opium at the age of 22. At that time he was very stout and he took it by advice of his friends to reduce his fat. Began with a two-grain dose, soon took two grains twice a day, and at the end of seven months gradually increased the amount, until at the age of 35 he had become habituated to 90 grains a day. Never took less than 90 grains a day after that until he was 65 years

old; and then, as he heard rumours that the sale of opium was likely to be restricted, he commenced reducing the dose and he now takes 70 grains a day, 25 before his morning meal and 45 before his afternoon meal. He states that from the time he began to take opium his general health improved and his corpulency decreased, so that at the age of 30 he was like other people. He has never taken opium as a hypnotic and has never suffered from sleepiness or laziness, and he does not as a rule sleep in the daytime, even in the hot weather. He goes to bed at 9.30, and gets up at 4.30, and this has always been his custom. The Nawab is a strictly religious Mahomedan and has never taken alcohol. When I asked him if he looked upon opium eating as in any sense wrong or a vice, the only reply he gave was, "I say my prayers five times a day." When asked if opium ever made him sleep he said that he had several times taken half as much again as his usual dose and that it had not made him sleepy. The only bad effect opium has ever had is that it made him constipated when he first began to take it. Now it does not do so.

(2.) M. Y. A., ætat. 51. Spare, wiry physique, and healthy appearance. Never ill and has only occasionally suffered from slight ailments. Says he began to take opium when he was 18 years old. He had wounded his hand and lost a large quantity of blood, and his friends advised him to take opium to obtain relief from pain and from the effects of the hæmorrhage. At the end of three months, when the wound had healed and he had acquired the opium habit, he began to increase the dose from two to four grains twice a day, until at the age of 40 he was taking 24 grains a day. Says he had no particular reason for increasing the dose after this, but ten years ago he went to Baghdad and then began to take more in order to prevent himself from feeling the cold. Now he takes 16 grains of opium before his morning meal and 32 before his afternoon meal. He does this regularly every day and his general health is excellent. Opium never acts as a narcotic. When I asked him how long he slept at night he replied "Never more than an hour." He meant by this, however, that he wakes up habitually every hour throughout the night, *i.e.*, that he is a very light sleeper. He goes to bed at nine and rises at four. Opium has never increased his tendency to sleep and he never suffers from lassitude and never drinks alcohol. He is always full of vigour in every way.

APPENDIX B.

The following extract is taken from notes of an inquiry into opium eating at the Jail, conducted by my Assistant, Dr. Mahomed Abdul Ghany:—

OPIUM EATING INQUIRY.

Central Jail, Hyderabad, Deccan.

- (1.) Number.—1.
- (2.) Name, age, and sex.—Nhunay Sab, æt. 22, male.
- (3.) Occupation.—Drummer.
- (4.) Amount of opium taken daily.—36 grains twice a day.
- (5.) Duration of opium taking.—8 years.
- (6.) Cause of addiction to opium taking.—"Drummers, to rise early in the morning, take opium."

The reason for the opium habit in this case is given in my assistant's own words, and at the time they were written he had no idea why the inquiry was being made. Their meaning is plain. Drummers are a class who have to get up very early in the morning, and in order to make sure of being able to do so they take opium. This confirms the statement put forward in paragraph 6, that the opium habit means alertness of all the faculties, and that it is of itself incompatible with laziness or sloth.

APPENDIX C.

Memorandum by Mrs. DORA FLOWERS, M.D., in medical charge of the Zenana Department of the Afzulgunj Hospital, Hyderabad (Deccan).

My experience of opium eating amongst the female population of Hyderabad is, that five women out of every ten are addicted to it. Opium is much more

consumed by the upper classes than by the poorer women. As a rule, women take to opium eating when verging on middle age, and I have seldom found it taken by women under 30. Almost invariably the reason given for the habit is that it was resorted to for the relief of dyspeptic and neuralgic troubles so common amongst women here. In most cases the advice of a Hakim or an experienced friend has induced them to begin eating it. As regards its effects, I have never seen it produce any repulsive symptoms, nor does it lead to vicious habits of any sort. In fact, it is not used by the women as an intoxicant, nor for sensual self-indulgence at all. Indeed, the majority of opium eaters are very pious ladies, much given to religious observances, who do not know what vice is. They are always half apologetic when mentioning the habit, but state that it gives them relief from feelings of illness, and enables them to perform household and other duties with more ease and comfort than they could do without it. The dose is generally increased up to a certain point, at which it remains fixed. I have known it consumed in from two-grain to ten-grain pills of the crude opium, which is that most generally used. I do not think opium eating amongst women here is to be reprobated, as it certainly gives them a strength, perhaps artificial, yet essential to the performance of their duties. It corresponds to the glass of Burgundy or claret that a delicate European lady takes to support her strength; and it is not so injurious, as the tendency to take alcohol often grows till it is taken in excess and produces all the repulsive and dreadful consequences of alcoholism and drunkenness. The opium eater never exhibits such symptoms. The cases of vice and moral degradation I have met with amongst the women of Hyderabad are always associated with the habit of drinking alcohol. This vice is met with here, and is attended with painful results. In fact, the increasing consumption of alcoholic liquors is leading many to moral degradation and poverty. The habit of giving opium to infants is extremely prevalent in Hyderabad. In the majority of cases it does no harm, in fact, I have been surprised to see how well children thrive on it; but I have come across two or three cases where an over-dose has been given and the child has been saved with difficulty. I have had two such cases, and have heard of death resulting in one or two others. Opium is the poison usually taken when a woman is tired of life and commits suicide, but drowning is just as frequently resorted to. The only objection I have ever had to the habit of eating opium is that it has appeared to me difficult to cure a confirmed opium eater of diarrhoea or dysentery when these supervene in spite of the daily dose, as they occasionally do. At the same time I have found these diseases far less prevalent amongst opium eaters than amongst those who do not partake habitually of the drug.

Précis of Evidence of the Ladies and Nurse of the Salar Jung Zenana.

There are about 200 ladies in the Zenana of the late Sir Salar Jung and his brother the late Nawab Munir-ul-Mulk Bahadur. Many of them are of advanced age, one is 95, and all are well preserved and in an average state of good health. Every one of them takes opium habitually, some began its use at the age of 10. They take it in quantities varying from two to 12 grains twice a day before their principal meals, early in the morning and about six in the evening. They do not take it to produce sleep, but as a stimulant to give them strength and energy. They also say that taking it prevents cold, bowel complaints, rheumatic pains in the joints, and cramps in the limbs. In the majority of the Begums it has no constipating effect. Mrs. Bourillon, who is employed as nurse to the infant son of the late Sir Salar Jung, and has lived in the Zenana for four years, knows all the Begums well. She states that to deprive them of opium, or to make it dearer or more difficult to procure, would in their opinion be to rob them of a reliable safeguard against ill-health.

Mrs. Bourillon volunteered the statement that she is herself an opium eater. She has taken opium habitually for the last six months. She had a severe cold with tightness of the chest, and she began to take it by the advice of the Begum Sahib. Since she has become accustomed to it, her general health and condition have improved in the most surprising manner. Formerly she used always to feel drowsy in the day-time, in fact, she could not do without her daily sleep. Now she

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never sleeps in the day, and has not the smallest inclination to do so. She used to take a glass of brandy and water every afternoon. Since she has taken opium she has ceased to feel any desire for this stimulant, and has therefore given it up. She does not suffer from constipation. The most satisfactory benefit she has derived from the use of opium is the effect it has had on her tendency to obesity. For a long time before she took to opium she suffered great distress of body and mind on account of increasing stoutness. She could take no walking exercise, and always felt fatigued. Now, after her morning pill of opium, she is equal to any amount of work and exertion, and is free from the feeling of lassitude in the day. She can walk long distances not only without fatigue, but with enjoyment. If anything, her stoutness is decreasing, but, whether this is so or not, it no longer gives her any trouble. She feels fit and well, which she had not done for a long time before she began to take opium.

Précis of the Evidence of Umtu Begum of the Salar Jung Zenana, aged 50 years, fat and healthy.

Has taken opium for 40 years, ever since she was 10. She was given opium as an infant, but it was stopped at the age of eight. When she was 10 years old it was given to her again on account of dysentery. She has taken it ever since, and now takes 16 grains in the morning and 16 in the evening. She goes to bed any time between 10 and 12 at night, rises at 7, takes opium at 8 or 9 o'clock before her morning meal, and again at 6 p.m. before her dinner. Sometimes she sleeps in the day, if she feels inclined, but not regularly. She never takes opium as a hypnotic. It strengthens her and enables her to get through her household work with ease. The opium keeps her bowels regular, and she has never had dysentery since she began to take it. She says people take opium for all kinds of complaints, but they employ it as a medicine, not with the idea of promoting intoxicating or pleasurable effects. She thinks that if opium were stopped, very many people would take to other forms of stimulants, or, if too respectable to do this, they would die; and that without opium no matter what medicines they got they would not be cured of any of their ailments. There is no disgrace or anything to be ashamed of in eating opium, such as there is in taking alcohol. She herself would take her opium pills before anybody; but if she took wine, which she does not, she would never take it before people. She has never seen any harm result from eating opium. When people take it to excess it does them no injury as long as they keep to the doses to which they have become accustomed, and she believes they only take the larger quantities, not from any vicious motive, but because they think it may do them good. Thinks the Queen ought to stop alcohol, because it destroys men's lives; but never opium, because it keeps them in health, happy, and contented. She is very anxious to know why the Queen wishes to put a stop to opium, and would like Her Majesty to be informed that opium does not impoverish those who use it, as the amount a man spends on opium is small, and does not run away with much of his pay; whereas if he drinks alcohol he may spend the whole of his pay or more on the quantity required to satisfy him for one day. Her own income is 60 rupees a month. Out of this she spends about five on opium, and the precise value she gets out of this expenditure is that it enables her to thoroughly enjoy the remaining 55 rupees.

The Begum finished by saying "Tell the Queen to cut down the trees" (meaning the toddy palm trees), "and to break all the bottles" (meaning wine bottles), "but never to stop our opium."

[The Begum's statement is given in her own words: it was made in Urdu, and translated by Mrs. Fellowes, M.D.]

Précis of the Evidence of B. A., stout and healthy looking.

B. A., a native of Hyderabad, began the use of opium, while on tour in the Deccan 21 years ago, on account of a severe attack of diarrhoea. He acquired the opium habit after recovering from the attack, and then found that it enabled him to walk and shoot all day long without getting tired.

He has taken opium off and on ever since with no other bad effect than constipation. He has never found any difficulty in giving it up when he wanted to do so, but has always commenced it again because he enjoys better health with it than without it. For example, when he tried to do without it he invariably suffered

from indigestion, which always disappeared when he began it again. R. A. paid a visit to England with the late Sir Salar Jung (the elder), in the year 1876. He did not suffer from the cold in Europe like others did who did not take opium, and he could always stand any amount of out-door exercise without fatigue. This was particularly shown when they stayed with the late Duke of Sutherland at Dunrobin. No one ever dreamed that he was an opium eater, and he used to astonish everybody by his endurance, and by the amount of walking he got through on shooting and other excursions. He returned to Hyderabad in the best of health. The same thing happened when he went a few years later to the Nilgherries. Those of his party who took opium did not suffer from the cold or from hill-diarrhoea and could take plenty of exercise. Those who did not take opium felt the cold extremely, and were constantly laid up with dysentery and diarrhoea.

R. A. states that whenever he has to undergo any unusual fatigue, such as stopping up all night on duty, or whenever he is ill, all he does is to increase his dose of opium, and this is attended with the happiest results. He said (and Dr. Lawrie can vouch for the truth of his assertion) "No one who knows me can say that I ever show signs of drowsiness or fatigue in the daytime, or that I am emaciated, or of a vicious disposition. I am never happier than when taking exercise, and if I want to undergo any unusual exertion all I have to do to enable me to go through it with ease is to increase my dose of opium."

[The above statement was made to Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrie, who knows R. A. well, and can confirm its accuracy. R. A. is a man of temperate appearance, and no one could tell that he eats opium. Dr. Lawrie knew R. A. intimately for five years before he discovered that he is an opium eater.]

Précis of Evidence of Nunnay Sab, aged 22 years, drummer.

This witness is the individual mentioned in Appendix B. of Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel Lawrie's Memorandum on Opium. He is brought before the Commission on Opium as an example of a young man who takes opium to excess. He is a spare youth of average physique, and has what would be called in England a "soft" look; he is not the least unhealthy in appearance.

He has taken opium for 12 years, since he was 10 years old. He began it because being a drummer, and having to rise very early in the mornings, his friends advised him to take opium as the surest means of enabling himself to do so. At first he took small doses, but he gradually accustomed himself to smoke *madak* as well as to eat opium, and now he smokes and eats as much of the drug as he can get. He eats 40 or 50 grains of solid opium two or three times a day, and smokes *madak* to the extent of about 200 grains in the 24 hours. He is never ill as long as he can get large quantities of the drug, and he is not drowsy or sleepy during the day; but he is an absolute slave to opium and is miserable without it. If by any chance he is short of money, and cannot procure the amount of opium he wants he begs about the city until he obtains enough to buy it. Dr. Lawrie was a little sceptical about the quantity he is stated to take. He therefore, at Dr. Lawrie's request, brought his opium and *madak* to the hospital, and ate and smoked before the class. He first ate 48 grains of crude opium, and he then sat down and smoked 30 grains of *madak*. He showed no more sign of any effect than an ordinary person would after smoking a cigarette. He was asked if eating and smoking such a quantity gave him no sensation of sleepiness or of intoxication, and he replied that he had not taken enough to produce any unusual sensations. He is willing to appear before the Commission, and eat and smoke as much as they like.

II.

EVIDENCE OF MR. DORABJI, Commissioner of Customs, His Highness the Nizam's Government.

In my opinion it is a matter of utter impossibility to expect that by prohibiting the consumption of opium any of those benefits which the Government anticipates will be derived. Thousands and thousands of people in India are addicted to the use of opium, and the habit will never be dropped by them. The habitual use of other intoxicating drugs can be broken off, but it is impossible to eradicate the acquired practice of consuming opium, and those who are slaves to this drug

endure the greatest agony if they are deprived of it. It is also a matter of some consideration that an inebriate if deprived of one intoxicant to which he has been addicted will, as a matter of course, have recourse to another. Let us suppose that opium is put a stop to, the result will be that the consumption of liquor will be increased and the latter is much more harmful in its effects than opium.

An examination of the criminal records will show that liquor often incites crime, but that the use of opium does not do so.

(Signed) DORAJI.

III.

EVIDENCE by NAWAB IMAD NAWAZ JUNG BAHADUR,
Abkari Commissioner.

1. I have been in the service of His Highness the Nizam's Government for the last 29 years, and have occupied various posts in the city as well as in the districts. In my opinion a wrong notion has spread abroad in Europe that opium has a poisonous effect on its consumer and that it renders him incapable of any work. In fact this is not the case; the people of this place do not call it a poison but an antidote of poisons. The use of opium produces many valuable effects. *Magzannul Adwiyah*, in which the nature and quality of every article have been minutely described and which is held to be a book of authority on Yunani medicine, has the following paragraph in praise of opium:—

"In pains of a most severe nature no other medicine than opium has a more soothing effect, and none intervenes so successfully between ailment and death. In diseases resulting from cold, diseases of the eye and the ear, in coughs and asthma produced by heat, and in old standing fevers of a malarious nature, opium is very useful. In diarrhoea and ulceration of the bowels, no other medicine is more effective; and when a patient is subject to grief and sorrow, and in cases of weakness of the heart, thirst and hunger during a famine, in severe cold seasons, on occasions of removing one's teeth, in colic and inflammations of the urinal canal, opium has a marvellous effect. In the diseases of the head such as neuralgic headache, brow-ague, tetanus, delirium and insanity, also in diseases of the eye such as eye-ache, eye-sore, &c., ulceration and inflammation of the ear, opium is equally useful. If given with other ingredients which may be found necessary, opium is also useful in reducing swellings, pain in the joints, gout, and red rash."

2. When taken in large quantities it has, no doubt, bad effects, as is the case with every other thing when taken to excess. If taken in small doses it is not only not injurious, but also strengthens the nervous system and improves the health and acts as a powerful preventative with respect to other diseases. Consul Gardiner says that the Chinese Protestant Christians, who do not use opium and are dissuaded from marrying early, largely succumb to the effects of old fevers. Chinese are of opinion that the use of opium prevents them from suffering from phthisis. Dr. Porter Smith, the great missionary doctor of China, has recorded as his opinion that a moderate use of opium is not dangerous to the health. Really the use of *Chandu* to a proper extent agrees very well with the constitution of mankind and reduces the severity of cough and consumption and checks the attacks of malarious fever.

3. The most important effect of opium is that it maintains the health and establishes the vital powers of man. In the province of Hyderabad there is not a child to whom opium will not have been administered until three years. Warlike races such as the Sikhs, Rajputs, Moguls, and Patans invariably use opium, but it does not interfere with their activity, vigour, and bravery to any extent. Especially the labouring classes acquire an incomprehensible power of endurance from the use of this drug. *Chandu* smoking is harmless so also is the drinking of opium dissolved in water. A moderate use of it improves the intellect and gives an additional tone to the organs of work. Opium consumption does not produce illness except when it is taken to excess—which, however, emaciates the body, and such cases are very rare. An opium-eater has generally a sanguine temperament, he does not quarrel with his neighbours, nor does he ill-treat his wife; but one subject to the effects of alcohol does all these ordinarily. The use of alcohol produces the diseases of the kidneys, lungs, and the heart, while opium protects one from such direful maladies. If it is used very carelessly, to an excess, it is undoubtedly injurious, but this is the mistake of the consumer and not the opium.

4. I am perfectly certain that if the use of opium be totally stopped in this country, the step would result in the loss of several lives, and it would be most difficult for weak and dilapidated persons to preserve their lives. Indeed, the use of a military force or some coercive measures of a serious nature would be necessary to stop the use of opium entirely. I have personal experiences of an incident which occurred the year before last, when on a certain day the opium contractor of the city had closed his shops. A large number of people evidently disaffected gathered round my bungalow and showed signs of a turbulence and seemed ready to sacrifice their lives; some of them had fallen prostrate from exhaustion and weakness as if they were suffering from years of sickness. I was obliged to take immediate steps to open the shops, by which the lives of several people were saved. Opium is for the people of this country as harmless and beneficial as wine is for the people of Italy or France or the beer to the people of England and Germany. Opium is used from an immemorial time in this country and the quantity consumed is so small that we may fairly presume that it is not in use at all. In the earliest days Arabs were the people who introduced opium in China and India with a view, no doubt, to prevent the consumption of alcoholic drinks, to which they were deadly opposed. Even now we see that in those countries where opium is largely used, the consumption of spirituous liquors is proportionately small. Opium is an antidote of the poisonous effects of alcohol, it not only replaces the habit of using spirits, but removes its bad effects also. The Nizam's Government never endeavoured to increase the consumption of opium, but on the other hand it tried to minimise its use as far as practicable by raising its selling price to a proper limit. The increase observed in the quantity consumed is more due to the increase of population than to anything else, and it must also be remembered that the quantity shown as consumed is not wholly used by men, a portion of it is also given as medicine to animals, especially to horses. As far as my experience goes, I can firmly assure the Commission that the use of opium among the people of this country is day by day on the decrease. Should the price of opium be raised so high as to render it inaccessible to the people, then as a necessary consequence the people will not be contented with only trying to smuggle it from other parts but will assuredly take to the use of other powerful and stupefying intoxicants such as *Ganja* and *Bhang*, the plant of which can be easily grown in one's own compound, or perhaps acquire the habit of drinking a more dangerous beverage such as the spirituous liquor is.

5. It must also be remembered that the cultivation of the poppy and manufacture of opium were going on from an immemorial time in this country, and that the local consumption was not in any way indebted to foreign imports, but since 1297 Hijri (1880 A.D.) this Government entered into a treaty with the Government of India. Ever since all the opium now consumed here is imported from British India. Should the Government of India now resolve to stop the supply to this province, it will become necessary for this Government to grow the poppy and make opium again locally. The average quantity of opium imported into this country for three years ending with Fasli 1300 is 47,887 lbs. and the amount realised thereon is Government Rs. 3,31,204, at the rate of 20 per cent. of Halli Sicca and the rate of consumption per head* per annum is about one dram. Even if the Government be prepared to award us the above sum as compensation it will not at all be advisable to stop its use here entirely, taking of course the well-being of the public into consideration. Should, however, the use of opium be forcibly stopped and the necessary compensation be not awarded, which is improbable, the step would have a serious effect on the finances of this State, which it would be impossible to replenish either by means of taxation or other measures.

6. In my opinion the measures now in force for the purpose of minimising the consumption of opium are quite sufficient and practicable for the present; and any step to entirely stop the use of opium would certainly involve loss of life, and the Government would be knowingly besmearing its hands with the innocent blood of the opium-eaters.

(Signed) IMAD NAWAZ JUNG.

Chudderghaut,
December 29, 1893,
25th. Bahman 1303 F.

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* The population is 11,300,000.

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IV.

LETTER to A. J. DUNLOP, Esq., Senior Member, Board of Revenue, Hyderabad State.

I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 7th Bahman 1303 Fasli, on the subject of the inquiry of the Royal Opium Commission and enclosing a translation of First Assistant Resident's letter No. 193, dated 6th December, calling for a written statement of the views entertained here on this subject.

In the Committee held on the 15th Azar 1303 Fasli, I have already expressed my general opinion that no restriction should be imposed on the use of opium, and in maintaining the same view now, I beg to say that the greatest harm will be done by preventing the use of this drug, and those who are addicted to its daily use will suffer to a very large extent in health.

The advantages derived from the use of opium when it is administered as a medicine, or is habitually consumed, need not be described. Opium, no doubt, is a poison, but the prevention of its use by those who are accustomed to it would prove fatal to them. A large number of people both in His Highness the Nizam's Dominions and in the British territories are given to the use of this drug, and it is the duty of both these Governments to see that the health of these people is not affected in any way.

From a revenue point of view, the Nizam's Government has suffered a loss by the prohibition of the opium cultivation. Although other crops such as cereals, &c. are sown in its place, they are not so profitable as an opium crop, because a single crop of the latter produces three such valuable products as (1) opium, (2) poppy seed, and (3) poppy heads.

In any case I am of opinion that neither the traffic in opium nor the use of the drug should be prohibited. If any prohibition is to be made on the grounds that that use of the drug leads to intoxication, then it becomes

incumbent on me to point out the evils of drink, and the injurious results which follow from the use of spirits.

Liquor is consumed to a large extent in England and other cold countries, but scientists and doctors have shown that it causes *delirium tremens*, burns and destroys the liver, spoils the teeth, impairs the eyesight, shatters the brain and constitution and produces many other injurious results, and consequently they have tried to restrict its use.

Many countries are still advocating the prevention of the consumption of liquor. In India drink is mostly used by way of imitation, without any regard to the climate and other circumstances of this country. The consequence is that such injurious results ensue as is beyond the power of pen to describe. It is therefore necessary and desirable that the use of liquor and not that of opium should be prohibited, as the former is entirely fraught with evil results.

(Signed) SHEO LALL MOTI LALL SAHOO.

TRANSLATION of EVIDENCE of SETH BHAGWANDAS,
BANKER of HYDERABAD, DECCAN.

The practice of consuming opium has become universal in this country. If the opium-eater cannot get his opium, he will become a wreck, that is to say he will become physically unfit for any work. His health is therefore dependent on his opium. In my opinion an order for the prohibition of opium could not be enforced. The climate of this country warrants the use of opium as a specific for good health. Opium-eaters suffer no ill effects from the climate. The effects of opium-eating are not so pernicious as those produced by liquor. There are many men who, if told to take liquor, will rather lose their lives than touch a drop, and at the same time, such men who are addicted to opium find it impossible to break off the habit.

(Signed) BHAGWANDAS.

APPENDIX XXVIII.

STATISTICS regarding the CONSUMPTION of OPIUM and the Revenue derived from OPIUM in the HYDERABAD ASSIGNED DISTRICTS (BERAR).

[Presented by Col. K. J. L. Mackenzie, C.I.E., Commissioner of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts. See Question 27,953.]

STATEMENT I.—DETAILS AS TO OPIUM REVENUE AND CONSUMPTION.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
Year.	Population.	Number of Shops.	Amount realized by Sale of Contract to vend in each Year.	Opium received during the Year.	Opium consumed during the Year.	Incidence of Revenue, Col. 4, on Total Population, Col. 2.	Consumption of Opium in Seers per 100 head of the Population, Col. 6 ÷ by Col. 2 (2 ÷ by 100).	Amount of Duty realised on Opium imported.	Remarks.
			Rs.	M. s. t.	M. s. t.	Rs. a. p.	Seers.	Rs.	
1870-71	2,227,654	516	1,66,820	—	—	—	—	—	The revenue shown in col. 4 is not for opium alone, but includes also revenue obtained from ganja and other drugs which it is customary to lump up with the opium farm. The main portion of the revenue, however, comes from opium.
1871-72	"	537	1,92,497	—	—	—	—	—	
1872-73	"	559	2,04,780	—	—	—	—	—	
1873-74	"	565	1,92,019	—	—	—	—	—	
1874-75	"	506	1,58,546	—	—	—	—	—	
1875-76	2,206,398	511	1,56,352	—	—	0 0 11	—	—	
1876-77	2,433,182	512	1,74,589	—	—	0 2 0	—	—	
1877-78	2,227,654	514	1,64,414	—	—	0 1 2	—	—	
1878-79	"	524	1,98,155	—	—	0 1 5	—	—	
1879-80	"	532	2,11,620	—	—	0 1 6	—	—	
1880-81	"	540	2,41,320	386 3 42	354 2 54	0 1 8	*5	—	
1881-82	2,451,196	550	2,23,260	443 16 72	442 9 64	0 1 5	*6	—	
1882-83	2,672,673	555	2,57,866	518 19 63	501 25 65	0 1 6	*8	—	
1883-84	"	579	3,47,300	437 31 43	465 11 62	0 2 0	*7	1,75,350	
1884-85	"	586	3,62,000	403 3 69	401 23 24	0 2 2	*6	1,61,350	
1885-86	"	585	2,94,800	395 29 78	434 10 41	0 1 9	*6	1,58,550	
1886-87	"	594	3,09,635	509 4 13	461 23 61	0 1 10	*6	2,03,700	
1887-88	"	601	3,10,745	456 18 65	464 15 42	0 1 10	*6	1,82,700	
1888-89	"	603	3,03,820	475 18 20	465 0 0	0 1 9	*7	1,90,400	
1889-90	"	604	2,99,905	511 2 70	515 22 61	0 1 9	*8	2,10,700	
1890-91	"	587	3,07,230	447 7 67	487 24 0	0 1 10	*7	2,01,950	
1891-92	"	585	3,00,800	483 15 4	472 17 73	0 1 10	*7	1,87,950	
1892-93	2,896,963	478	2,64,975	456 29 38	460 13 51	0 1 5	*6	1,82,350	

STATEMENT II.—CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM BY DISTRICTS FOR THE YEAR 1892-93.

APP. XXVII

Hyderabad
Assigned
Districts.

District.	Population according to last Census.	DETAILS OF POPULATION BY RACES.								Sale of Opium in 1892-93.	Consumption of Opium per head of the Population in Tolas.
		Hindus.	Mussulmans.	Forest Tribes.	Jains.	Sikhs.	Christians.	Parsis.	Others.		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
Ainraoti - -	655,645	584,178	47,522	17,391	5,660	29	629	235	1	Mds. s. t. 108 39 72	*5
Akola - - -	574,782	518,046	51,302	1,545	3,365	67	305	145	7	127 6 74	*7
Buldana - -	481,021	442,588	34,405	7	3,883	30	103	5	0	75 27 59	*5
Ellichpur - -	315,798	243,992	30,645	39,745	1,269	1	123	22	1	84 27 74	*8
Basin - - -	398 181	371,537	23,020	449	3,073	12	88	0	2	24 2 66	*2
Wun - - -	471,613	371,084	20,727	77,968	1,702	38	89	5	0	39 28 26	*3

APPENDIX XXIX.

APP. XXIX.

Central
Provinces.

MEMORANDUM ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE EXCISE REVENUE FROM OPIUM IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

(See Questions 28,101, 28,102, 28,103.)

revenue.

1. This Note describes the growth of the system of Opium Excise administration in the Central Provinces, and supplements the information regarding the existing arrangements there in force which has already been supplied to the Royal Commission by the Government of India.

I.—REVENUE AND SYSTEM OF CONTROL in the KHALSA.

sources of supply.

2. The district of Sambalpur has from the first been supplied with Government opium. This district lapsed to the British Government in 1849, and till the early part of 1861 was administered by an officer styled the Principal Assistant to the Governor-General's agent at Hazaribagh. Then for about a year the district was under a deputy commissioner subordinate to the commissioner of Orissa, and on the 30th April 1862 it was transferred to the Central Provinces. From 1852 up to 1882 licensed vendors were supplied from the Government Treasury with Bengal excise opium; since the latter year the district has received its annual stock from the Ghazipur Factory. The issue price has always been Rs. 22 per ser. The poppy has at no time since 1865-66 been cultivated within the district, and if there was any local cultivation in earlier years no statistics are now ascertainable.

3. In all districts except Sambalpur the regulation of the source of supply has been closely connected with the extent to which opium was grown locally, and the two subjects may therefore conveniently be dealt with together.

Monopolists of the right of retail vend were, up to the beginning of the year 1873-74, allowed to make their own arrangements for obtaining supplies of opium, subject to certain rules purporting to be framed under Act XXI of 1856.* Those rules prohibited the growth of opium without a license, and permitted licensed cultivators to sell their produce only to licensed retail vendors or to persons holding the written permission of the district officer or the tahsildar to purchase for export from the district or sub-division, as the case might be. Import from foreign territory was allowed under pass granted by the district officer, or by the tahsildar of the sub-division into which it was desired to bring opium, and there was no import duty.

4. Section 34 of Act XXI of 1856 required licensed vendors to sell only opium obtained from the Government stores, but also provided that the Government might exempt any district or districts from the operation of this rule. Accordingly by Home Department Notification No. 185, dated the 24th April 1868, all districts except Sambalpur were exempted from the operation of the section, and by Notification No. 186 of the same date sections 21, 22, 23, and 25 to 29 of Act XIII of 1857 were extended to all districts of the Central Provinces. The second notification was issued because Act XXI of 1856 (the Abkari Act) provided

only, so far as opium was concerned, for the collection of a revenue on the sale of the drug, and not for controlling cultivation of the poppy, so that so much of the rules referred to in the foregoing paragraph as prohibited cultivation without a license and made licenses obtainable only on payment of fees lacked a proper legal basis.

5. Act XXI of 1856 was repealed by Act X of 1871 (the Excise Act), and in October 1872 a new set of rules for regulating the cultivation, import, &c. of opium was issued. The duty on cultivation was raised to Re. 0-8-0 per acre, and district officers were required to arrange for the measurement of plots sown and for ascertaining the amount of outturn in each case. The right of licensed vendors to import from foreign territory remained unaltered, and cultivators were, as before, bound to sell only to licensed vendors or to persons licensed to purchase for export.

6. By the end of the year 1872, it had been brought home to the local administration that Sambalpur was yielding a higher revenue from opium than any district in the provinces except Nagpur, and that this must be due solely to the Government system of supply enabling a full excise to be levied on consumption. Raipur and Bilaspur being contiguous to Sambalpur, there seemed to be every probability that the Government system of supply would work well in them also, and it was extended to those two districts with effect from the 1st April 1873, local cultivation being at the same time prohibited by executive order. This measure had the result of raising the net* opium revenue of the Chhattisgarh Division, which comprises the districts of Sambalpur, Bilaspur, and Raipur, from Rs. 38,979 to Rs. 78,216 in a single year. In 1874-75 the net revenue of the Division further rose to Rs. 1,06,944, and from the 1st June 1875 the system was extended to the five districts of the Nagpur Division and to Seoni. In three (Chanda, Bhandara, and Balaghat) out of these six districts there was no cultivation, and an executive order formally prohibiting cultivation in them was issued; in the remaining three, where cultivation existed, arrangements were made that cultivators should either export their produce or sell it to Government, and that all produce should be weighed as gathered under official supervision.

7. Net revenue rose in the six districts to which the Government supply system was thus extended in June 1875 from Rs. 97,823 in 1874-75 to Rs. 1,17,619 in 1875-76. The reason why results were not so good in the case of these districts as they had been in Chhattisgarh was that much illicit opium was introduced into them from Betul and Chhindwara, the chief centres of local cultivation. In order to eliminate this source of danger to the revenue, the new system was extended, with effect from the 1st April 1876, both to those two districts and to Mandla. A boundary of jungle and hills was thus placed between the two systems instead of the previous border line, which was, for almost its entire length, unmarked by natural obstacles.

8. In March 1876 an order was issued that in all districts where cultivation of the poppy had not been prohibited the cultivators must dispose of their produce each year by the 15th May. This further restriction

* Rules under Act X of 1871 only issued in October 1872, *i.e.*, nearly at the end of the period referred to.

† Fees were payable at the following rates:—

For a license to sow with opium a plot under 3 acres - 8 annas.
Do. of 3 acres or above - 1 rupee.

* *i.e.*, after deducting the cost price of opium supplied by the Bengal Government.

APP. XXIV.
Central
Provinces.

was accompanied by increased strictness in measuring plots and ascertaining out-turn, and in paragraph 38 of the Excise Report for the year 1876-77 it was remarked that the result had been a decrease in cultivation in all districts under the Government system and also in Hoshangabad. On the other hand, in Jubbulpore, Nimar, and Saugor, where, as in Narsinghpur, Damoh and Hoshangabad, licensed vendors still made their own arrangements for obtaining opium for sale to consumers, cultivation showed a tendency to increase.

9. No more districts were brought under the Government supply system in 1877-78, but the net revenue continued to rise, and stood for the year at Rs. 3,84,349* against Rs. 3,58,629* in the preceding one, and from the 1st April 1878 the system was extended to three more districts (Jubbulpore, Damoh and Narsinghpur). By this time cultivation was almost entirely confined to the Jubbulpore and Betul districts. In Jubbulpore, however, cultivation suffered heavy loss in 1876-77 from hail, and many gave up cultivation of the poppy in consequence; while in Betul, in spite of numerous prosecutions, cultivators habitually kept back the greater part of their produce. In November 1878 it was decided that no more licences for local cultivation should be granted, and since then the poppy has not been grown in any part of the provinces.

10. The remaining three districts (Saugor, Hoshangabad and Nimar), in which farmers had previously been allowed to buy opium in the open market, were brought under the Government supply system from the 1st April 1879, and in the following June the Opium Act of 1878 was extended to the Central Provinces, ousting the operation of Act X of 1871 so far as it concerned opium. No rules permitting cultivation of the poppy have been framed under Section 5 of the Act of 1878, and local production is therefore punishable under Section 9.

11. In Appendix A to this Note are given statistics of the number of licences granted for the cultivation of the poppy, the area sown and the annual outturn in the several districts of the provinces from the year 1866-67 to 1877-78. The chief producing districts were Betul, Chhindwara, Jubbulpore, Nimar and Hoshangabad, the first three of these producing more than enough to meet the local (i.e., district) demand. From Betul opium was exported to Berar and to the Central Provinces districts lying to the south and east, while the Jubbulpore District supplied the northern and central districts, as well as parts of the Nerbudda Valley and the less distant parts of Chhattisgarh. Though there were thus some tracts where the local produce was in excess of the local demand, the provinces as a whole were, even when cultivation was least restricted, always largely dependent on imports from other parts of India, and there has never been a time when a system of supplying retail vendors, on payment of a direct duty, with locally produced opium only, was practicable.

12. In Betul and Chhindwara the prohibition of cultivation caused some discontent, and complaints are still occasionally heard. In Wardha the Settlement operations of 1892-93 have brought to light the fact that though the rents paid for land under opium were often very high, no reductions were made by landlords when cultivation of the poppy was stopped, and in several cases of this kind it has now been found necessary to reduce rents. The following quotations from reports by the Settlement Officer, Rai Bahadur Purshotam Das, will serve to make this point clear:—

(1) *Rent-rate Report* (Karanjia group, Arvi Tahsil).—A large portion of the rent enhancement provided for will be counterbalanced by reductions, which will be granted in cases of excessive payments of ordinary tenants and those made for opium cultivation.

(2) *Rent rate Report* (Arvi group, Arvi Tahsil).—The cultivation of opium has been prohibited since the introduction of the Excise Act, but the former high payments have since continued untouched. They undoubtedly press on certain lands, and have resulted in the indebtedness of their occupants.

(3) *Assessment Report* (Anji group).—The fields on which rents have been reduced are mostly those on which opium was grown at the former Settlement, and although the cultivation of opium was prohibited on the introduction of the Excise Act, the same high rents were realized by the malguzars.

Similar cases will no doubt come to notice when assessment work is taken up in the other districts where opium was formerly grown.

13. The system of requiring licensed vendors to supply themselves with opium purchased from Government justified itself, wherever introduced, by financial

results; and it is safe to say that, on the whole, the interests of the Local Administration and of the people were best served by the entire prohibition of cultivation. Deputy Commissioners, to whom the work of buying up the local crops in districts under the Government supply system was entrusted, found it impossible to prevent illicit retention of the produce, and cultivation being considerable in a few districts only, the continued protection in those districts of the interests which had been affected by its prohibition elsewhere would have involved more trouble to the executive than their importance warranted.

14. So long as local cultivation was permitted, the local produce was, as already stated, bought up by Deputy Commissioners on behalf of Government in all districts under the Government supply system, and was issued to licensed vendors at prices which varied from time to time.

Thus, in 1876-77, the following rates prevailed in respect of local opium:—

	Rs.
For Betul opium	- 18 per ser in Wardha.
" " "	- 19 " " in Mandla and Seoni.
" " "	- 20 " " in Raipur.
Local opium of other districts.	16 " " in the district where raised.

The opium purchased on behalf of Government outside the provinces and that supplied from Bengal and Ghazipur have always been issued at Rs. 22 per ser in the Khalsa, except in the Chanda district, where licensed vendors in parts near Berar and the territories of His Highness the Nizam were supplied at rates varying between Rs. 19 and Rs. 21 per ser from June 1875 to April 1880; the sole exception now existing is the Sironcha tahsil of that district, where the issue price was, in 1879, fixed at Rs. 20 per ser, and has since remained at that figure. From 1875-76 to 1877-78, both years included, local produce was supplemented by purchases made in the open market at Indore, through a commission agent specially appointed by Government, the opium thus obtained costing from Rs. 10-5-0 to Rs. 13-12-0 per ser delivered at Nagpur and being supplied to all districts except Sambalpur. In 1878-79 the Ghazipur Factory supplied Bengal opium to all districts under the Government system except Sambalpur, and by 1883 all districts without exception received their stocks from that factory. From 1883 to 1888, Malwa opium was received under the orders of the Government of India; since the latter year, opium produced in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and costing Rs. 7-4-0 per ser, has invariably been supplied.

15. In October 1880, Opium Rules framed under Act I of 1878 were issued. They have been slightly modified from time to time but the only change that need be noticed here is the distinction laid down in 1892 between opium and intoxicating drugs, and the reduction of the quantity of the latter which may legally be possessed by a private person from two tolas to one tola. A copy of the rules as they now stand forms Appendix B to this note.

16. In Appendix C will be found for each year in which a separate report on the operations of the Excise Department has issued—

- (1) the number of shops in the provinces licensed for the retail sale of opium and madak;
- (2) the sales to retail vendors of Government opium and confiscated opium in the Khalsa;
- (3) the amount of (a) direct duty, (b) licence fees realized on account of opium.

In the method of controlling retail sale, there has been scarcely any change since the provinces were first formed in 1861. It has always been the rule, and is the rule now, to sell annually to the highest bidder, provided he be a respectable man and solvent, and subject to his furnishing suitable security, the right to retail opium in a particular shop or group of shops; and at no time in the history of the provinces have the monopolists been bound down either to sell at a specified price or to guarantee any minimum, aggregate, annual sale. The price of the drug to consumers has been made as high as possible, not merely by subjecting the annual sale of monopolies to a strict competition, but also, as has already been shown, by obliging retail vendors to pay a fixed price of Rs. 22 per ser for their supplies. The result of the policy pursued by the Administration has been gradually to raise the retail price of the drug from 4 to 6 tolas per rupee—which ruled under the old system when no direct duty was levied—to 2 to 2½ tolas, which may now be said to be the normal price.

17. The policy followed in regard to licensing shops for the sale of crude opium may be stated as follows.

* These figures include profits on supplies of opium to Feudatory Chiefs and certain Zamindars—vide foot-note to Appendix C.

Rules and
the Opium
Act, 1878.

Retail sale

Opium
shops.

Except in districts which border on Native States, and into which there is reason to believe that foreign opium is smuggled, *permanent* shops are not numerous, because the drug is portable and keeps; but in order to give reasonable facilities to the rural population for obtaining supplies for medicinal purposes *temporary* shops are licensed for fair or market days only. Each temporary shop is, as a rule, sold and licensed along with the nearest permanent shop. In districts into which foreign opium is smuggled from Native States, it is impossible to obtain high fees for the privilege of vend at any place near the border, and there is the danger that the holder of a shop may sell smuggled opium under cover of his license: the plan followed in such cases is to establish shops near the border pretty freely, licensing them to respectable persons for what they will fetch, and watching closely the quantity of Government opium purchased for sale by the licensees. In the current year (1893-94) the total number of shops for the sale of crude opium is 1,374, of which 881 are permanent, and 493 temporary: each shop serves, on an average, 56 square miles and 7,312 persons.

18. The Administration has always, and especially since 1891-92, drawn a marked distinction between the smoking and the eating of opium. The former habit is condemned by respectable native opinion throughout the provinces, and the policy followed has been to check its extension, so far as this is practically possible. The only preparation of opium which can legally be smoked is that known as madak, and a detailed account of this preparation is given in Appendix D to this Note. †Chandu is very possibly made and smoked by stealth here and there in the Northern districts, but no licences have ever been issued for its manufacture or sale, and indulgence in it, except by occasional travellers, appears to be rare.

In 1890 it was determined to prohibit the consumption of madak on the premises of licensed vendors, and it was at the same time laid down that the number of shops for the sale of the drug was to be restricted as far as possible, and that no madak license was to be given except to a licensed opium vendor. The orders which issued to secure practical effect being given to this decision are reproduced as Appendix E. to this Note. The policy therein indicated has already led to a marked decrease in the number of madak shops, and though there has been no corresponding diminution in the quantity of crude opium consumed, it seems probable that there has been some falling off in consumption of this particular preparation. In the current year the number of opium shops licensed for the sale of madak is 131 only, as compared with 298 in 1890-91.

19. Appendix F shows, for the year 1892-93, the population of each district in the provinces, the total consumption of opium in it, and the average consumption per head. No particular castes can be singled out as specially addicted to the drug: it is eaten by persons of all classes and all ages, but smoking is for the most part confined to persons who are prohibited by religion or by caste custom from indulging in liquor.

II.—SMUGGLING OF OPIUM INTO THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

20. A few words may be added regarding smuggling, which was very general in the days when the local cultivation of the poppy was permitted, and when excise arrangements in Madras and in Berar were less strict than they are at present, but is now much less common.

Smuggling from the Madras side, from the Rewah State, and from Berar, was at one time prevalent; from Madras and Rewah it has now entirely ceased, and the retail price of opium in Berar has for some years been quite as high as it is in these provinces. But across the long line of frontier with Native States in the north and west, where the cultivation of the poppy is unrestricted, a great deal of smuggling still goes on, and is a constant difficulty in the way of efficient excise administration in the Hoshangabad, Nimar, Saugor, and Narsinghpur districts. Special measures have frequently been tried for the prevention of this illicit traffic, but so far with slight success. Neither special supervisors, patrol police, paid detectives, nor a system of liberal rewards, have yet had the effect of materially checking this traffic.

* Vide paragraph 88 on page 41 of the Central Provinces Excise Manual.

† The statement in paragraph 43 of the Government of India's "Note on opium produced and consumed in India," that in a few cases the licence to sell opium includes the right to sell madak and chandu as well is not quite accurate. The manufacture or sale of chandu is never licensed.

III.—OPIUM ARRANGEMENTS IN FEUDATORIES and ZAMINDARIES.

21. The preceding portion of this Note has dealt only with the arrangements in regard to opium which are in force in the Khalsa; but apart from the regularly settled area of British districts there are a number (15) of Feudatory States attached to these provinces, and numerous large estates (jagirs and zamindaris) the owners of which have hitherto had some degree of control over their local opium administration. The following is a brief description of the system in force in the Feudatory States.

The existing arrangements have been in force since 1880 in the case of the Chhattisgarh feudatories and Bastar, and since 1881 in the case of Makrai, in the Hoshangabad district. The feudatories of the Raipur and Bilaspur districts (with the sole exception of Bastar) are supplied with opium at Rs. 17 per ser, and those of the Sambalpur district at Rs. 22 per ser. The Bastar State is supplied with opium at Rs. 12-8-0 per ser, and Makrai in the Nerbudda Division at Rs. 10 per ser. All these States make their own arrangements for the retail sale of the drug, but they are not allowed to issue opium to their vendors at a less rate than Rs. 22 per ser, and the cultivation of the poppy is unknown throughout their area.

22. Besides the chiefs of Feudatory States there are several non-feudatory zamindars who have hitherto enjoyed excise rights in respect to opium, have made their own arrangements for the retail vend of the drug, and have enjoyed the revenue therefrom. These zamindars are supplied with Government opium at the following rates:—

Rs. 22 per ser in Raipur and Bilaspur.

" 14 " Hoshangabad and Chhindwara.

All these landholders are bound to prevent cultivation of the poppy in their estates, and to issue opium to their retail vendors at rates not less than that at which the Khalsa retail vendors purchase from the Treasury, viz., Rs. 22 per ser. The zamindars of Hoshangabad and Chhindwara are known as "Jagirdars," and in their case the interests of Government are specially safeguarded by requiring their retail vendors to purchase direct from the Government Treasury at Rs. 22 per ser, of which Rs. 14 are credited to Government, and the balance, Rs. 8, to the account of the jagirdar concerned. It may be added that the Government of India has recently expressed its disapproval of the control over Excise administration now exercised by the local zamindars; accordingly, these rights are now being gradually withdrawn, and their territories will, when this has been done, be treated as a part of the Khalsa for excise purposes.

23. The yearly issues of opium under these arrangements are as follows for the period 1881-82 to 1892-93:—

Year.	m.	s.	c.
1881-82	-	-	119 0 0
1882-83	-	-	100 15 8
1883-84	-	-	114 10 0
1884-85	-	-	118 17 8
1885-86	-	-	135 13 8
1886-87	-	-	126 35 8
1887-88	-	-	121 15 0
1888-89	-	-	125 31 0
1889-90	-	-	149 38 0
1890-91	-	-	136 34 8
1891-92	-	-	171 35 8
1892-93	-	-	155 29 8

Since 1888-89 there has been a marked increase in issues, most of which has occurred in the Chhattisgarh division. In 1887 the Chief Commissioner directed that the subject of excise arrangements in that division should be considered by the Commissioner and the Political agent. This was done, and though no new rules were issued, the fact that the attention of each chief and zamindar was specially drawn to the subject has tended to improve excise administration in their estates, and to put a stop to the illicit traffic in the drug which was previously common in these remote and little visited tracts. The appointment of Government diwans to assist the chiefs, and the gradual extension of the sphere of the Chhattisgarh political agent's duties to all the Feudatory States of the Chhattisgarh division have worked in the same direction.

H. V. DRAKE-BROCKMAN,
Officiating Commissioner of Excise,
Nagpur, Central Provinces.
24th February 1894.

APP. XXIX.
Central
Provinces.

APPENDIX A.

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of LICENSES GRANTED for the CULTIVATION of OPIUM, the AREA CULTIVATED, and the ANNUAL OUTPUT in the several DISTRICTS of the CENTRAL PROVINCES.

District.	1866-67.			1867-68.			1868-69.			1869-70.			1870-71.			1871-72.			1872-73.			1873-74.			1874-75.			1875-76.			1876-77.			1877-78.			
	No. of Licenses.	Area sown.	Produce in Maunds.	No. of Licenses.	Area sown.	Produce in Maunds.	No. of Licenses.	Area sown.	Produce in Maunds.	No. of Licenses.	Area sown.	Produce in Maunds.	No. of Licenses.	Area sown.	Produce in Maunds.	No. of Licenses.	Area sown.	Produce in Maunds.	No. of Licenses.	Area sown.	Produce in Maunds.	No. of Licenses.	Area sown.	Produce in Maunds.	No. of Licenses.	Area sown.	Produce in Maunds.	No. of Licenses.	Area sown.	Produce in Maunds.	No. of Licenses.	Area sown.	Produce in Maunds.				
Nagpur	164	181	14	206	257	10	245	335	3	177	238	12	103	120	15	121	153	19	169	126	9	98	63	6	166	140	11	148	97	3	89	44	2	9	4	1	
Wardha	608	1,128	—	523	879	—	730	1,342	80	444	639	55	219	367	15	403	776	97	336	617	32	224	162	12	446	327	24	95	55	6	35	30	4	—	—	—	
Chanda	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Bhandara	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Balaghat	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Mandla	203	34	1	385	49	2	238	50	1	197	73	3	89	32	—	78	23	—	39	14	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Seoni	133	178	27	162	194	10	170	230	13	213	277	14	89	112	6	118	91	5	119	112	5	164	162	6	132	153	7	168	141	6	21	51	3	—	—	—	
Chhindwara	732	1,268	—	656	1,191	—	777	1,392	—	955	1,457	45	532	1,198	60	743	1,720	86	686	732	23	534	552	21	665	641	13	972	1,055	27	69	65	1	—	—	—	
Betul	1,293	2,877	232	1,726	3,389	358	2,132	4,365	431	1,846	3,895	331	1,409	2,999	215	1,563	2,912	317	1,303	2,612	166	1,315	1,682	24	1,529	2,030	120	1,633	2,241	115	1,304	1,566	137	1,325	1,539	80	
Nimar	1,196	2,638	470	639	1,500	276	442	705	85	368	427	38	382	572	53	356	562	63	36	66	8	309	309	31	299	314	39	265	333	117	335	352	35	123	150	—	
Hoshangabad	223	396	7	305	514	21	337	518	22	270	437	23	325	522	23	340	614	34	338	732	41	174	214	24	304	326	25	191	206	10	33	116	29	48	57	3	
Narsinghur	41	35	4	46	37	2	27	26	1	29	37	2	25	33	2	51	75	4	57	73	4	21	17	1	23	21	1	50	36	2	19	13	1	4	7	—	
Jubbulpore	444	425	87	538	393	32	434	223	24	537	330	45	649	443	73	1,032	578	72	336	608	60	873	640	79	405	389	49	820	400	61	887	519	55	773	359	28	
Damoh	380	333	5	256	242	6	118	86	1	21	7	—	26	8	—	23	13	—	4	4	—	22	13	—	10	4	—	—	8	3	—	21	6	—	9	3	—
Saugor	—	—	—	24	24	1	41	44	1	32	48	6	67	81	3	98	133	4	99	146	4	73	53	5	100	73	4	107	84	4	148	99	8	115	51	1	
Raipur	1,507	2,450	14	971	1,660	10	760	1,026	6	515	780	14	342	395	14	338	180	5	133	86	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bilaspur	156	233	—	1,241	339	—	77	39	1	57	35	1	36	30	1	55	32	32	72	50	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sambalpur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
*Upper Godavari	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	7,085	12,266	861	7,789	10,969	728	6,523	10,356	674	5,711	8,808	639	4,296	6,922	490	5,339	7,872	738	4,787	5,983	351	3,806	3,648	209	4,139	4,423	299	4,460	4,903	351	2,913	2,367	275	2,406	2,170	113	

* This district was abolished on the 1st July 1873, a small portion being transferred to the Madras Presidency, and the remainder being constituted a sub-division of the Ch and a District and styled "Sironcha."

APPENDIX B.

OPIUM RULES IN FORCE IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

The following rules have been made by the Chief Commissioner under sections 5 and 13 of the Opium Act, and sanctioned by the Governor-General in Council.

Interpretation Clause.

In these rules—

- (1.) As regards officers serving in the Central provinces, "Commissioner" and "Deputy Commissioner" mean the Commissioner of Excise and the deputy commissioner of a district, including any assistant or extra-assistant commissioner duly authorised by a deputy commissioner to exercise all or any of the powers or duties conferred or imposed on a deputy commissioner by these rules. As regards officers serving in other presidencies or provinces, "Commissioner," "Deputy Commissioner," and "Collector" mean officers thus designated in the presidencies or provinces in which they serve.
- (2.) "Opium" means the inspissated juice of the poppy.
- "Intoxicating drugs" includes madak and chandu and every preparation and admixture thereof, and kafa, and all other intoxicating or narcotic preparation of opium and of the poppy, but does not include poppy-heads.
- "Poppy-heads" mean the dry capsules of the poppy.
- (3.) "Farmer" means a person who has obtained a farm from the deputy commissioner of a district of the Central Provinces, under Rule XXIX. or XXXIV.
- (4.) "Licensed vendor" means a person who has obtained a license for retail vend from the deputy commissioner of a district of the Central Provinces, under Rules XXIII., XXVII., or XXX.
- (5.) "Medical practitioner" means a medical practitioner to whom a license has been granted by a deputy commissioner under Rule VII.
- (6.) The sale of any quantity of opium exceeding two tolas, or of intoxicating drug exceeding one tola, or of poppy-heads exceeding one seer is a wholesale.
- (7.) The sale of any quantity of opium not exceeding two tolas, or of intoxicating drugs not exceeding one tola, or of poppy-heads not exceeding one seer is a retail.
- (8.) The words "import," "export," and "transport" have the respective meanings assigned to them in the Opium Act, 1878.
- (9.) "Transit" means the import, transport, and export of opium passing through the Central Provinces from one place to another outside such provinces without change of ownership.

Manufacture.

II. The manufacture of intoxicating drugs under a license from the deputy commissioner or a farmer is permitted.

Possession.

III. Any person may have in his possession—

- (a) two tolas of opium,
- (b) one tola of an intoxicating drug,
- (c) one seer of poppy-heads;

provided that such opium, intoxicating drug, or poppy-heads have been purchased from the Government, or from a farmer or a licensed vendor, or a medical practitioner.

IV. The possession of more than—

- (a) two tolas of opium,
- (b) one tola of an intoxicating drug,
- (c) one seer of poppy-heads,

by a farmer or licensed vendor at his licensed place (or places) of vendor in transport (under pass) thereto is permitted.

V. Medical servants of Government or, with the permission of the deputy commissioner, medical servants of any municipal committee or other public body may have in their possession opium and poppy-heads for *bonâ fide* Government purposes.

VI. With the sanction of the commissioner, the deputy commissioner may especially authorise the

possession by any person of a quantity of opium or intoxicating drugs not exceeding one seer.

VII. The deputy commissioner may grant to any medical practitioner residing within his district a license in Form I., hereto annexed, or in such other form as may be prescribed by the chief commissioner from time to time, for the possession and retail of opium, intoxicating drugs, and poppy-heads for medical purposes only; provided that such medical practitioner shall not have in his possession at one time more than one seer of opium, one seer of intoxicating drugs, and five seers of poppy-heads.

Transport.

VIII. When a farmer or licensed vendor desires to transport opium, intoxicating drugs, or poppy-heads, he shall obtain an entry in his shop pass-book by an excise officer for each consignment in such form as the commissioner may from time to time prescribe.

IX. The bulk of the consignment shall not be broken in transport.

X. Any revenue officer not inferior in grade to a Naib-Tahsildar, or any police officer not inferior in grade to a head-constable, may, at any time, examine a consignment in transport.

Import.

XI. The import of opium and poppy-heads on account of Government is permitted.

Export.

XII. The export of opium and poppy-heads on account of Government is permitted.

Transit.

XIII. When accompanied by a passport issued by the opium agent at Indore or his authorised assistants, certifying prepayment of the duty from time to time ordered by the Governor-General in Council to be levied at the scales, the transit of opium from the scales at Bhopal by road through the town of Hoshangabad to Itarsi, and thence by rail is permitted; and when accompanied by such passport the transit by rail of opium which has passed the scales established at places other than Bhopal is permitted.

XIV. The bulk of a consignment shall not be broken in transit.

XV. The destination of a consignment shall not be altered from that which has been specified in the passport.

XVI. Delivery of opium in transit shall not be taken from the railway company by the owner or consignee, or by any other person, without the written authority of the deputy commissioner.

XVII. Opium in transit may be detained and examined as to all particulars specified in the passport, or as to the prepayment of duty, or as to tampering in transit, or change of destination of the consignment, or as to the due observance of these rules at any station at which the chief commissioner may direct such detention or examination either generally or specially. The railway officials shall afford at all times all reasonable facilities to the Government official or officials authorised in writing by the deputy commissioner to make such general or special examinations, and on the requisition of such Government official or officials shall detain any consignment pending the order of the deputy commissioner, and shall be indemnified for acting on such requisition.

Sale, Wholesale.

XVIII. Opium in quantities of not less than half a ser, and poppy-heads in quantities of not less than five sers, shall be supplied on prepayment at such rates as the chief commissioner may from time to time direct from the deputy commissioner's office, or such other offices as the chief commissioner may direct, to a farmer or licensed vendor or medical practitioner, or to the committee of any public hospital or charitable dispensary.

XIX. Subject to the provisions of Rule VIII. regarding transport, a farmer or licensed vendor may sell any quantity of opium to another farmer or licensed vendor, and a quantity not exceeding one ser of opium or five sers of poppy-heads at one time to a medical practitioner.

APP. XXIX.

Central
Provinces.*Sale, Retail.*

XX. Opium or intoxicating drugs or poppy-heads may be retailed under licenses from the deputy commissioner or from a farmer, and in accordance with the conditions specified in each license.

XXI. No opium or poppy-heads shall be sold wholesale or retail which has not been bought from some Government officer or from a farmer or licensed vendor.

XXII. No larger quantities of opium than two tolas, or of intoxicating drugs than one tola, or of poppy-heads than one ser, shall be sold, except to a licensed vendor, farmer, or medical practitioner, or under a special order from a deputy commissioner.

XXIII. Licenses for the retail of opium or for the manufacture and retail of intoxicating drugs may be granted by the deputy commissioner, and the settlement of the vend of opium, and of the monopolies of manufacture and retail of intoxicating drugs, shall be made periodically under the instructions of the commissioner. The commissioner may from time to time restrict or increase the number of opium shops and of licenses allowed for the manufacture and retail of intoxicating drugs, and shall decide whether the shops or licenses shall be settled or contracted for separately or in groups.

XXIV. Licenses for the retail of opium shall be granted by the deputy commissioner to licensed vendors in Form II. hereto annexed.

XXV. Licenses for the manufacture and retail sale of intoxicating drugs shall be granted by the deputy commissioner in Form IV. hereto annexed.

XXVI. Whenever the deputy commissioner grants a license for the retail of opium or of intoxicating drugs, he shall demand such duty and shall impose such conditions on the license over and above those specified in the license as may from time to time be prescribed by the chief commissioner; and every person taking out such a license shall give such security for the performance of his engagement, or make such deposit in lieu of security as the deputy commissioner may require.

XXVII. Licenses for the retail of poppy-heads shall be granted by the deputy commissioner on such terms as the commissioner may prescribe.

XXVIII. Licenses for the retail of opium, intoxicating drugs, and poppy-heads shall be granted for one year only, unless the chief commissioner shall otherwise specially direct.

Farm of Duties leviable on Retail Vend.

XXIX. With the sanction of the commissioner, the deputy commissioner may let in farm the duties leviable on the retail of opium, and all or any intoxicating drugs for a term not exceeding two years in any district or part of a district, and with the sanction of the chief commissioner for a term not exceeding five years. The commissioner may prescribe rules—

- (a) for the invitation and acceptance of tenders for such farms;
- (b) for the requisition of security for the due fulfilment of the engagements entered into by the farmers; and
- (c) as to the form and conditions of such leases.

XXX. When the duties leviable on the retail of opium or any intoxicating drugs are let in farm, the farmer may make his own arrangements for the retail of opium or for the manufacture and retail of any intoxicating drug within the limits of his farm, and may grant licenses for the same in such form as may from time to time be prescribed for this purpose; provided that no opium except that supplied from the deputy commissioner or other officers appointed by the chief commissioner (Rule XVIII.) shall be sold or shall be used in the manufacture of intoxicating drugs. Such licenses shall be countersigned by the deputy commissioner, and when so countersigned shall have the same force as if they were granted by the deputy commissioner.

XXXI. Before entering into engagements for any such farm of the duties leviable on opium or on intoxicating drugs as aforesaid, the commissioner may make such reservations and restrictions with respect to the grant of licenses by the farmer as he thinks fit.

XXXII. Every farmer shall file in the deputy commissioner's office, in such form as may from time to

time be prescribed by the commissioner, a list of all licenses granted by him.

XXXIII. With the sanction of the chief commissioner obtained through the commissioner, the deputy commissioner may cancel any lease granted under Rule XXIX., or may, within the period of the lease, impose any new reservation and restriction on the farmer. If a lease be cancelled for any cause other than a breach of the conditions of the lease, or if any reservation or restriction with respect to the grant of licenses be imposed during the lease, the chief commissioner may award to the farmer compensation for any loss thereby caused to him.

XXXIV. The deputy commissioner may farm the duties leviable on the retail of poppy-heads on such terms as the commissioner shall from time to time prescribe.

Disposal of Opium on expiry of License.

XXXV. If any licensed vendor or farmer shall have in his possession on the expiry of his license or farm any opium, intoxicating drugs or poppy-heads which he is unable to dispose of to the satisfaction of the deputy commissioner, by private sale, to other licensed vendors or farmers, he shall surrender the same to the deputy commissioner, and the incoming licensed vendor or farmer, or if the expired license or farm is not renewed, any licensed vendor or farmer within the district, when required by the deputy commissioner, shall be bound to purchase the articles aforesaid to the extent of two months' supply, at such price and in such quantities as the deputy commissioner shall adjudge; provided that the price of opium thus adjudged shall in no case exceed the rate at which it can be procured from the Government; provided also that if such articles be declared to be unfit for use, the deputy commissioner shall cause them to be destroyed.

General.

XXXVI. Except where otherwise specially provided in the foregoing rules, the possession, transport, import, export, or sale of opium, intoxicating drugs, or poppy-heads by, or on behalf of, the Government shall be unrestricted.

Disposal of Things confiscated.

XXXVII. Opium confiscated under the Opium Act, 1878, shall be disposed of as may be directed by the commissioner, if certified after examination by the deputy commissioner to be fit for use; if declared by him to be unfit for use, it shall be immediately destroyed.

XXXVIII. If the opium so confiscated be added to the stores and prove of inferior quality, it may be issued to retail vendors at a special rate proportionate to its quality, but shall be subject in other respects to the same conditions as other opium.

XXXIX. Intoxicating drugs confiscated under the said Act shall be immediately destroyed.

XL. Poppy-heads confiscated under the said Act shall be disposed of as the deputy commissioner may direct.

XLI. All property, other than opium, intoxicating drugs, or poppy-heads, which is confiscated under the said Act, shall be sold under the orders of the magistrate or other officer by whom the confiscation was adjudged.

Rewards.

XLII. Any magistrate convicting an offender under Section 9, or any magistrate or other officer ordering under Section 12 the confiscation of opium, or any other articles liable to confiscation under the Act, may forthwith grant (in such proportion as he thinks fit) to any person or persons who have contributed to the conviction of the offender, or to the seizure of the opium or other article confiscated, as a reward,—

- (1) a sum not exceeding the amount of the fine (if any) imposed, plus the value of the opium and other articles confiscated; or
- (2) if no fine be imposed, or if in the opinion of the magistrate or other officer aforesaid the amount of fine imposed is an inadequate reward,

a sum not exceeding Rs. 100, plus the value of the opium and other articles confiscated, or with the sanction of the Commissioner of Excise, not exceeding

Rs. 500, plus the value of the opium and other articles confiscated.

XLIII. In any case in which in the opinion of the commissioner any person has performed any service of special merit in respect of the prevention or detection of opium smuggling, or of any offence against the Opium Act, 1878, the commissioner may grant to such person a reward not exceeding an amount of Rs. 500. The commissioner, or a deputy commissioner, with the sanction of the commissioner, may incur, at his discretion, expenditure not exceeding Rs. 500 in each case, for the employment of informers or for any other purpose connected with the prevention or detection of opium smuggling, or of any offence against the Opium Act, 1878.

The commissioner shall from time to time report the circumstances under which any reward may have been granted or expenditure may have been incurred under this rule.

Control and Appeal.

XLIV. All deputy commissioners shall, as regards any matter arising in the administration of these rules, be subject to the general control of the commissioner.

All executive orders of deputy commissioners under these rules shall be appealable to the commissioner, and an appeal from the orders of the commissioner shall lie to the chief commissioner; but the decision of the deputy commissioner as to the value of the opium which has been seized shall be final.

FORMS.

I.—SPECIAL LICENSE TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS UNDER RULE VII.

Special license is granted to _____, following the profession of _____ at _____, in the district of _____, for the retail of opium, intoxicating drugs, or poppy-heads, on the condition that the said _____ shall not have in his possession at one time more than one ser of opium, one ser of intoxicating drugs, and five sers of poppy-heads, and that such opium, intoxicating drugs, or poppy-heads shall be procured from the deputy commissioner's office, or a licensed vendor or farmer, and shall be used *bona fide* as medicine, or in medical preparations or prescriptions.

District _____

Dated _____

II.—LICENSE FOR RETAIL SALE OF OPIUM. (Granted by the Deputy Commissioner.)

District _____

No. of license in Register _____

Name of retailer _____

Locality of shop _____

Be it known that _____, resident of _____, District _____, is hereby authorised by the deputy commissioner of _____, to sell opium by retail and wholesale, under the provisions of Rules VIII. and XIX. of the Central Provinces' Opium Rules to another licensed vendor, or to a medical practitioner licensed under Rule VII. of those Rules, in his shop at _____, in _____, from the date of this license to the _____ day of _____, 18____, upon the following conditions:—

I. That he shall pay to Government a monthly duty of Rs. _____

II. That he shall sell no opium, but such as he may purchase from Government or a licensed vendor, and that he shall not received or have in his possession opium obtained otherwise; and that all opium purchased by him from the Treasury shall, after entry (under Rule VIII.) in the shop pass-book of the quantity of opium purchased, and of the time allowed for transport to the shop, be taken to the shop for which the pass is granted (and not to any other shop or place), and shall also be taken to the said shop within the time allowed in the pass-book.

III. That he shall not receive any wearing apparel or other goods in barter for opium, and that he shall not sell any opium on credit, nor allow any opium to be consumed on his premises.

IV. That he shall not open his shop, or make sales therein, before sunrise; that he shall not keep it open, or make sales therein, after* _____ and that he shall not harbour any person therein during during the night.

V. That he shall not permit persons of notoriously bad character to resort to his shop; that he shall prevent gaming and disorderly conduct therein; and that he shall give information to the nearest magistrate or police officer of any suspected person who may resort to his shop.

VI. That he shall have constantly fixed up, at the entrance of his shop, a sign-board bearing the following inscription, in legible characters, in the vernacular language:—

(Name of vendor.) _____

"Licensed to retail opium."

VII. That, if so required by the Deputy Commissioner, he shall keep up daily an account in this form, showing the receipts and deliveries of opium at his shop each day, and the balance in store:—

Date.	Question of Opium in Store from Yesterday.			Quantity of Opium received this Day, and whence received.			Total Quantity to be accounted for.			Quantity sold this day, with Name, Caste, and Residence of each Purchaser of half a tola or upwards.			Quantity left in Store.		
	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.

VIII. That he shall at once produce his license and accounts for inspection on demand of any officer of the departments of excise, police, customs, salt, opium, or revenue, superior in rank to a peon or constable; and that he shall not prevent any such officer, of whatever rank, from entering his shop at any hour of the day or night.

IX. That if the holder of this license does not intend to renew it on the expiry of the period for which it is granted, he shall give notice to the Deputy Commissioner that he contemplates its surrender, at least 15 days before the expiry of the period for which it is granted, i.e., before the _____ day of _____, 18____.

If such notice be not given, and if this license be not re-called by the deputy commissioner under the autho-

rity reserved to him in Clause X., this license, and any counterpart engagement for the due observance of these conditions that the license-holder may have entered into, shall remain in force as if this license and the engagement were formally renewed for a further term of one year, viz., to the _____ day of _____, 18____.

X. This license may be re-called by the deputy commissioner:—

(a.) For default of punctual payment of the duty stipulated to be paid in Clause I.;

(b.) For violation of any of the conditions specified in this license;

* Opium shops may not be kept open after 9 p.m.

* To be countersigned by the deputy commissioner.

purchased and of the time allowed for transport to the shop, be taken to the shop for which the pass is granted (and not to any other shop or place), and shall also be taken to the said shop within the time allowed in the pass-book.

III. That he shall not receive any wearing apparel, or other goods in barter for the drug, and that he shall not sell the drug on credit nor allow any of the drug to be consumed on his premises.

IV. That he shall not open his shop, or make sales therein, before sunrise; that he shall not keep it open, or make sales therein after* and that he shall not harbour any suspected persons therein.

V. That he shall not permit persons of notoriously bad character to resort to his shop; that he shall

prevent gaming and disorderly conduct therein; and that he shall give information to the nearest magistrate or police officer of any suspected person who may resort to his shop.

VI. That he shall have constantly fixed up at the entrance of his shop a sign board bearing the following inscription, in the vernacular language of the country :—

(Name of vendor.)

“ Licensed vendor of madak (or chandu).

VII. That, if so required by the deputy commissioner, he shall keep up daily the following account showing the receipts of opium in his shop, the quantity used in the manufacture of madak (or chandu), and the balance remaining in store at the end of the day :—

I.—OPIUM.

1.	2.			3.			4.			5.			6.		
Date.	Quantity of Opium remaining in Store Yesterday.			Quantity received To-day, and whence received.			Total Quantity of Opium to be accounted for.			Opium used in the preparation of Madak (or Chandu).			Quantity remaining in Store.		
	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.

II.—MADAK OR CHANDU.

1.	2.			3.			4.			5.			6.		
Date.	Quantity remaining in Store Yesterday.			Quantity manufactured out of Opium To-day.			Total Quantity of Madak or Chandu to be accounted for.			Madak or Chandu sold to day.			Quantity remaining in Store this Day.		
	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.	M.	S.	C.

VIII. That he shall at once produce his license and accounts for inspection, on the demand of any officer of the departments of excise, police, customs, salt, opium or revenue, superior in rank to a peon or constable; and he shall not prevent any officer, of whatever rank, from entering his shop at any hour of the day or night.

IX. That if the holder of this license does not intend to renew it on the expiry of the period for which it is granted, he shall give notice to the deputy commissioner that he contemplates its surrender, at least 15 days before the expiry of the term for which it is granted, i.e., before the day of 18 .

If such notice be not given, or if license be not recalled by the deputy commissioner under the authority reserved to him in Clause X., this license, and any counterpart engagement for the due observance of these conditions that the license-holder may have entered into, shall remain in force as if this license and the engagement were formally renewed for a further term of one year, viz., to the day of 18 .

X. This license may be recalled by the deputy commissioner—

- (a) for default of punctual payment of the duty stipulated to be paid in Clause I.;
- (b) for violation of any of the conditions specified in this license;
- (c) if the holder of this license be convicted of breach of the peace, or of any other criminal offence.

Should the license be recalled for any of these causes, the license-holder shall have no claim to any compensation whatever, or to any refund of any duty, or instalment of duty, already paid. But it shall be in the discretion of the deputy commissioner to make such compensation or refund, should he consider it necessary or advisable to do so.

Should the deputy commissioner desire to recall this license before the expiry of the period for which it has been granted, for any cause other than those above specified (a), (b), and (c), he shall give 15 days' previous notice, and remit a sum equal to the duty for 15 days, or, if notice be not given, shall make such further compensation, in default of notice, as the chief commissioner may direct.

XI. This license may be surrendered by the license-holder on his giving one month's previous notice to the deputy commissioner, and paying such fine, not exceeding the amount of the duty for six months or the loss caused to Government by the failure to carry out any condition imposed, as the deputy commissioner may adjudge.

Should the deputy commissioner be satisfied that the reason for resigning the license is adequate, he may, with the sanction of the chief commissioner, remit the fine.

XII. On the infringement of any of the above articles, or any of the conditions imposed by the Opium Act, 1878, or by the rules made thereunder, this license, and any other license or licenses that the holder may have obtained for the sale of opium, or for the manufacture or sale of madak or chandu, shall be forfeited.

* All madak shops must be closed at 9 p.m.

Central
Provinces.

(To be granted by a farmer.)

District.
No. in register.
Name of vendor.
Locality of shop.

Be it known that _____, resident of _____, Mauzah _____, District _____, is authorised by _____, the farmer of _____, to manufacture and sell by retail, madak (or chandu, as the case may be), in his shop at _____, from the date of this license to the _____ 189 _____, upon the following conditions:—

I. That he shall pay to the farmer a monthly duty of Rs.

II. That he shall purchase all the opium he may use in the manufacture of madak (or chandu, as the case may be) direct from the farmer, and not from any licensed opium vendor, and that all opium purchased by him from the former shall after entry (under Rule VIII.) in the shop pass-book of the quantity of opium purchased and of the time allowed for transport to the shop, be taken to the shop for which the

pass is granted (and not to any other shop or place), and shall also be taken to the said shop, within the time allowed in the pass-book.

III. That he shall not receive any wearing apparel or other goods in barter for the drug, and that he shall not sell the drug on credit, nor allow any of the drug to be consumed on his premises.

IV. That he shall not open his shop, or make sales therein before sunrise, that he shall not keep it open, or effect sales therein after _____, and that he shall not harbour any suspected person therein.

V. That he shall not permit persons of notoriously bad character to resort to his shop; that he shall not permit gaming and disorderly conduct therein; and that he shall give information to the nearest magistrate or police officer of any suspected person who may resort to his shop.

VI. That he shall have constantly fixed up at the entrance of his shop a sign board bearing the following inscription, in the vernacular language of the country:—

(Name of vendor.)

"Licensed vendor of madak (or chandu)."

VII. That, if so required by the deputy commissioner, he shall keep up daily the following account showing the receipts of opium in his shop, the quantity used in the manufacturing of madak (or chandu), and the balance remaining in store at the end of the day :

I.—ORPUM.

[illegible]

II.—MADAK OR CHANDU.

[illegible]

VIII. That he shall at once produce his license and accounts for inspection on demand of any officer of any of the departments of excise, police, customs, salt, opium, or revenue, superior in rank to a peon or constable empowered under section 14, Opium Act; and that he shall not prevent any such officer, of whatever rank, from entering his shop at any hour of the day or night.

IX. This license may be recalled by the farmer—

(a) for default of punctual payment of the duty stipulated to be paid in Clause I.;

and by the farmer or deputy commissioner—

(b) for violation of any of the conditions specified in this license;

(c) if the holder of this license be convicted of breach of the peace, or of any other criminal offence.

X. On the infringement of any of the above articles, or any of the conditions imposed by the Opium Act, 1878, or by the rules made thereunder, this license, and any other license or licenses that the holder may have taken out for the sale of opium, or for the manufacture or sale of madak or chandu, will be forfeited.

APPENDIX C.

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of SHOPS LICENSED for RETAIL SALE of OPIUM and MADAK, the QUANTITY of OPIUM issued, and the RECEIPTS from DUTY, and LICENSE FEES in the KHALSA.

1. Year.	2. Number of Shops for retail Sale of						3. Details of Opium used.				4.	5.	6.
	Number of Shops for retail Sale of						Details of Opium used.				Receipts from		
	Opium.			Madak.			Purchased by Government.		Con- fiscated.	Total issued.	License fees.	Duty, in- cluding Cost Price of Opium pur- chased by Government, and Sale Proceeds of confiscated Opium.	Total.
	Perma- nent.	Tempo- rary.	Total.	Perma- nent.	Tempo- rary.	Total.	Quantity.	Cost Price.	Quantity.	Quantity.			
							Mds. Srs.	Rs.	Mds. Srs.	Mds. Srs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1871-72	—	—	—	—	—	—	18 27	5,416	—	18 27	1,65,969	16,434	1,82,403
1872-73	990	—	990	—	—	—	15 22	4,509	—	15 22	1,79,989	13,684	1,93,673
1873-74	1,128	—	1,128	—	—	—	100 8	29,057	—	100 8	1,85,657	88,170	2,73,833
1874-75	1,746	—	1,746	—	—	—	114 19	33,198	—	114 19	2,15,057	1,00,738	3,15,795
1875-76	1,300	69	1,369	—	—	—	216 25	79,969	—	216 25	1,92,067	1,89,394	3,81,461
1876-77	1,104	106	1,210	—	—	—	289 35	1,11,454	0 4	289 39	2,11,167	2,47,296	4,58,463
1877-78	1,105	107	1,212	1,257	—	1,257	383 20	1,41,813	—	383 20	2,11,710	3,14,452	5,26,162
1878-79	1,217	107	1,324	1,304	—	1,304	510 3	1,60,008	—	510 3	2,08,286	4,34,155	6,42,391
1879-80	1,396	131	1,527	447	—	447	21 15	1,80,356	—	621 15	2,19,363	5,40,093	7,59,456
1880-81	1,313	155	1,468	467	—	467	674 35	1,95,721	1 14	676 9	2,47,015	8,87,555	8,35,170
1881-82	1,315	162	1,477	418	—	418	609 9	1,78,675	—	609 9	2,61,814	5,35,840	7,97,654
1882-83	1,104	340	1,444	360	10	370	637 28	1,84,917	0 29	638 15	2,87,722	5,61,503	8,49,225
1883-84	935	295	1,230	390	10	390	639 9	1,85,374	—	639 9	3,08,750	5,62,423	8,66,203
1884-85	916	386	1,301	288	18	306	617 38	1,79,205	10 16	628 14	3,10,159	5,51,214	8,61,373
1885-86	946	413	1,359	290	18	308	626 13	1,81,634	2 19	628 32	3,15,746	5,52,890	8,68,636
1886-87	967	453	1,410	280	18	298	606 33	1,75,983	6 6	612 39	3,02,789	5,38,440	8,41,229
1887-88	944	462	1,406	285	12	297	579 14	1,68,015	10 22	589 36	2,75,362	5,17,411	7,92,773
1888-89	1,004	260	1,264	291	14	305	609 2	1,76,628	10 24	619 26	2,73,035	5,43,533	8,16,568
1889-90	1,031	373	1,404	292	12	304	634 9	1,83,925	1 3	635 12	2,72,452	5,58,803	8,31,255
1890-91	1,032	416	1,448	285	13	298	623 0	1,80,670	6 6	629 6	2,78,419	5,52,158	8,30,577
1891-92	994	432	1,426	167	53	220	639 17	1,85,973	1 4	640 21	2,84,959	5,62,745	8,47,704
1892-93	973	508	1,481	172	10	182	630 15	1,82,777	4 23	634 38	2,88,812	5,56,973	8,45,785

* For the years 1877-78 to 1880-81 the statistics in columns 3, 5, and 6 include those of Feudatory States and of Zamindaris, the owners of which enjoy excise rights in respect to opium. Separate statistics for the Khalsa only are not now ascertainable.

APPENDIX D.

PREPARATION AND USE OF MADAK.

It is a fairly general tradition among madak smokers that the drug was introduced into these Provinces from Bengal about 60 years ago by one, Mir Salamat Ali, a Sadar Amin at Jubbulpore. There are no means, however, of confirming this statement, but it leads to the inference that the use of this confection is of comparatively recent introduction in the Central Provinces.

Madak is prepared in the following way :—

Take two tolas of pure opium, cut into small pieces with a knife, and put the pieces into as much water as a large breakfast cup will hold. Boil until the opium is thoroughly melted and mixed with the water. Strain the mixture through a thin cloth into a small brass bowl, squeezing the cloth to ensure that nothing of value is left in it. Pour the resulting liquid drop by drop through cotton wool placed on the edge of the bowl into another vessel. Boil the liquor thus doubly

strained until it becomes thick enough to adhere to the finger when inserted therein, i.e., until a consistency resembling that of freshly melted sealing wax is attained. Stir and allow to cool. Meanwhile strip leaves from a bough of babul, and dry them in the sun. Separate stalk and dust by shaking in a small sifting fan or basket used for cleaning grain taking the leaves so separated, and heat them in an earthen pot with a wide mouth until perfectly dry and black. Sprinkle with water to cool. Take about an ounce and half of the leaves thus prepared, and mix in with the opium syrup, using a piece of stick for the purpose. Make up the compound into balls, any number from 65 to 80.

Calcined babul leaves ready for mixing with opium syrup may be kept for months before use. Pan is sometimes used instead of babul leaves.

Madak balls are sold for one paisa each, and are smoked in a straight-stemmed pipe with a small brass-bound bowl. The pipe is termed in vernacular "Chungi."

APP. XXIX.

Central
Provinces.

APPENDIX E.

CIRCULAR No. 4.

From H. H. PRIEST, Esq., I.C.S., Officiating Commissioner of Excise, Central Provinces, to all DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS, Central Provinces.

SIR, Dated Nagpur, 5th September 1890.
In forwarding, for your information and guidance, copy of a letter from the secretary to the chief commissioner, containing the chief commissioner's orders regarding the proposal to close madak shops and prohibit the manufacture of madak, I have the honour to inform you that the instructions contained in that letter should have effect given to them from the 1st April 1891. From that date the consumption of opium, madak, ganja, foreign bhang, or majum on the premises of the licensed vendors of these drugs will be entirely prohibited, and a condition to this effect will be inserted

in all leases granted to such vendors. These orders should be promptly made known to all who are interested in the sale of drugs. When they come into force special care will have to be taken to prevent the illicit manufacture of madak, and for this end a watch must be maintained by both the police and excise officers upon all habitual assemblages of madak smokers, and the sources of supply should be quietly ascertained in all such cases. Attention is also invited to the instructions contained in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the secretariat letter, which should be very carefully complied with. From my own experience, I incline to think that it is possible to reduce considerably the number of madak shops in these Provinces, and deputy commissioners should carefully consider this point when submitting their annual proposals regarding the excise arrangements of their several districts in November next.

I have, &c.

H. H. PRIEST,
Officiating Commissioner
of Excise.

COPY of a LETTER No. 5106-500, dated the 14th August 1890, from L. K. LAURIE, Esq., I.C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, to the COMMISSIONER of Excise, Central Provinces.

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1767, dated the 8th instant, submitting the replies received by you from commissioners and deputy commissioners on the subject of your proposal to close madak shops and prohibit the manufacture of madak.

2. I am to say that after carefully considering the various arguments adduced, the chief commissioner is of opinion that, while there is much to be said in favour of the entire prohibition of the manufacture of madak, it is inadvisable, in view of the opinions expressed on the other side, to go as far as this at present. He thinks that the step which the facts and papers before him render justifiable and expedient, is to put a stop to the practice of allowing vendors of intoxicating drugs to maintain "taverns" for the consumption not only of madak, but of opium and ganja and all their pre-

parations. It should be a condition of all retail licenses hereafter granted for the sale of intoxicating drugs of any kind that the drug is not to be consumed on the premises. Persons who cannot do without their regular dose of a narcotic must carry home from the shops what they require and smoke, or swallow it in private. Gregariousness in habits of vice must no longer be encouraged by Government.

3. As a rule, I am to add, the opium and madak contracts should, in future, be sold together. The opium vendor should be also the madak vendor, and if he declines in any instance to combine the sale of the preparation with the sale of the drug from which it is prepared, the madak shop should be closed.

4. Finally, no new licenses to manufacture and sell madak should be given in places where there are no madak shops at present, even though there may be an opium shop. As an ordinary rule, madak-licenses should be granted only at large centres of population, where there is a considerable and permanent demand for the preparation.

APPENDIX F.

STATEMENT showing CONSUMPTION of OPIUM per HEAD of POPULATION in the BRITISH TERRITORIES of the CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Districts.	Year.	Population.					Sales of Opium.†				Consumption per Head.	
		Hindus.	Mohamed-ans.	Animistic.*	Others.	Total.						
							Mns.	S.	C.	T.	Mashas.	Rattis.
Nagpur	-	662,945	43,356	41,984.	9,577	757,862	73	13	13	0	3	5.7
Bhandara	-	639,994	13,100	89,179	577	742,850	41	11	2	0½	2	1.0
Chanda	-	520,333	11,200	165,079	998	597,610	19	27	3	2½	1	0.6
Wardha	-	347,443	15,003	35,735	2,668	400,854	49	19	13	4½	4	5.9
Balaghat	-	282,169	6,901	93,917	344	383,331	45	21	11	4	4	4.5
Jubbulpore	-	603,997	38,269	97,358	8,522	748,146	35	24	3	0	1	6.6
Saugor	-	536,332	26,898	9,960	11,553	591,743	20	7	8	0	1	2.4
Damoh	-	293,818	10,231	14,375	7,189	325,613	6	30	11	1	0	6.4
Seoni	-	197,006	15,006	157,327	1,428	370,767	36	25	9	4	3	6.4
Mandla	-	146,868	4,699	187,324	482	339,373	17	12	18	0½	1	7.7
Betul	-	197,774	5,122	119,088	1,212	323,196	15	26	0	0	1	6.9
Chhindwara	-	220,967	11,188	105,740	1,548	332,443	23	33	0	0	2	5.6
Hoshangabad	-	428,400	24,164	70,062	5,076	525,702	33	28	0	0	2	3.7
Narsinghpur	-	306,784	13,528	44,198	2,516	367,026	22	20	8	0	2	2.8
Nimar	-	223,230	27,501	601	2,854	253,486	18	23	8	0	2	6.5
Raipur	-	1,125,259	12,641	115,402	1,696	1,255,698	88	1	14	4½	2	5.5
Bilaspur	-	760,100	8,261	58,646	426	827,433	47	13	3	0½	2	1.6
Sambalpur	-	766,268	3,551	26,353	241	796,413	39	17	6	2	1	7.2
Total	-	8,260,392	290,619	1,432,328	63,207	10,046,540	634	38	1	4½	2	3.4

* The religion of the forest and hill tribes is recorded in the Census returns of 1891 as "Animistic."

† Includes 4 M. 22 S. 9 C. 4 T. confiscated opium.

APPENDIX XXX.

APP. XXX.
Central
Provinces.

ABSTRACTS OF EVIDENCE OF WITNESSES tendered for Examination from the CENTRAL PROVINCES, and not examined by the ROYAL COMMISSION.

[See Question 28, 103.]

Abstract of evidence to be given by the Rev. Israel Jacob, Missionary Priest of the Church of England and Chairman of the District Council, Chanda.

Question I. I have been a missionary for the past 20 years, the greater part of which I worked in Chanda, Central Provinces, and a few years at Indore, Central India, where abundance of poppy is grown and opium is manufactured and exported to other places.

My position and work have brought me into direct personal observation and acquaintance of several people of different status and position in society, who use opium in one form or another. I have taken an interest in the opium question, and discussed it with men of my own profession and intelligent native gentlemen of India. I have also read with attention what specialists have written on the subject.

Question II. My varied experience has led me to the deliberate opinion that opium eating, in moderate quantities, far from being harmful or injurious, is most beneficial to health at certain periods of life.

For instance, 95 per cent. of the population of Chanda use it as a prophylactic against infantile diseases. The administration of it to little infants is an absolute necessity with the labouring classes of people.

The suppression of opium manufacture, or laying further restriction on the sale of it, will be felt a great hardship by these people. Its use by the adult population is very limited.

Opium eating at the age of 50 is considered most efficacious in its effects in checking maladies of a certain nature incident to that stage of life.

Yes, my observation has led me to draw a distinction between the eating of opium and the smoking of it in the form of madak and chandu. The latter was observed to ruin the human system and to demoralize the consumer. The appearance of the madak smoker is generally emaciated, and he looks stupid, dull, and listless. Opium smoking therefore is, I consider, very demoralizing in its effects.

The public opinion is not adverse to its use either medicinally or as a mild stimulant in small doses.

If due regard is to be paid to the liberty of the ryot, I do not think it feasible, or at any rate advisable, to prohibit the growth of poppy and the production and sale of opium for any purpose.

The suppression of the sale of opium will, I fear, lead to serious and sad results.

Question V. Yes, I am acquainted with the present system in these Provinces for regulating the sale of opium. The system in vogue at present is the best, and I do not think any change or alteration is either called for or necessary.

Question VI. The people will, on no account, be willing to bear extra taxation to meet the loss of the revenue from opium to Government in any shape.

ADDENDA.

No. 1.—The consumption of opium in British India is comparatively very small. Its effects, morally and physically, are not perceived to be great, calling for any interference.

No. 2.—The use of opium *per se* is not an evil. It is not so deleterious an article as ganja or liquor. Therefore, its use need not be prohibited by law, more so as it is generally used as an article of necessity rather than of luxury.

No. 3.—Since opium is not an evil article *per se*, the revenue derived from it by Government is not an iniquitous one, and therefore it should not be surrendered.

No. 4.—Government have adopted wise and just measures to check the abuses of opium eating and smoking, and no further restrictions are necessary, except the closing of dens for madak smoking, where it is not so done already.

Abstract of evidence to be given by Rai Bahadur C. Narainswami, Pleader of Nagpur.

I had opportunities of informing myself on the use and effects of opium generally, and with special reference to the people in these Provinces and Berars. Question I.

Some of my servants were in the habit of eating and smoking opium, and I often watched their conditions.

During my practice as a pleader for the last 29 years in the Central Provinces and Berars, I have often come across persons in the habit of eating and smoking opium. I have also sometimes seen people smoking opium in Madakkhanas.

There are several forms in which opium is used. It is called—

Madak,	Arak,
Sadak,	Sith,
Chandu.	Posteen,
Kasumbha,	Burush, &c.,

according to the different modes in which it is manufactured. In these Provinces madak is used generally by low-caste Mahomedans, Kunbus, Marathas, and Koshtees. Many Marwarees and some Brahmans are in the habit of eating opium, and they, however, take special care to use nourishing food, such as milk, cream, sweetmeats, &c. after taking opium.

The effects of opium on persons habitually using it for pleasure (who generally indulge in large quantities, though commencing at first with small doses) and not as medicine, are to a great extent pernicious. The physical condition of persons always using opium is generally undermined. It gets gradually deteriorated. They lose all their energies. There is no lustre or bloom left on their features. They look pale and yellowish. Their vital and generative organs get affected. Their mind gets muddled and their brain weakened. They, in fact, become unfit for any active pursuit in life. By the use of this drug one's moral character is affected for the worse. When one gets to the habit of using opium he loses all control over himself and cannot do without it. In case of poor and lower classes who are habituated to the use of opium, they resort to the offences of theft, &c., when they have no money to buy it. The eating of opium is not so bad as that of smoking it. By smoking, one's constitution gets spoiled much sooner than by eating opium. When opium is taken in very moderate quantities, with nourishing food along with it, the poisonous effects of the drug are, in the majority of cases, minimized. Question II.

The use of opium is generally disliked. Habitual opium eating or smoking is looked upon by the public as a disgraceful practice, and a person who is a slave to this habit is looked down upon. Public opinion is adverse to the use of opium, except for medicinal purposes or in very small quantity. Question III.

There is no doubt a great possibility of smuggling, but this smuggling would not, I think, permit the importation of so much opium as to make the people use it in such large numbers and in such large quantities, as they are doing at present. There is, however, this danger that for want of opium, the people used to it may take to liquor, which will be worse. Question IV.

No poppy is grown, and no opium is manufactured in these Provinces, so there is no fear of any smuggling taking place in these Provinces, except by way of importation, which can easily be stopped by the same means which are now adopted for preventing the importation of smuggled opium.

I do not think that entire prohibition of the sale of opium, except for medical purposes, is unpracticable in these Provinces, where, as I have already stated, no poppy is grown and no opium is produced; but where its prohibition is impracticable, I think that if the manufacture in the form of madak and chandu be made Question V.

APP. XXX.
Central
Provinces.

penal and the licensing of the manufacture and the sale in the form of madak and chandu be entirely stopped, and the sale of opium only be allowed, the consumption would be greatly checked. There appears to be necessity of making any modifications in the present system of regulating the sale of opium.

Question IV.

I do not think the people would in any way be willing to bear any extra taxation on account of the loss of revenue by the prohibition or further restriction of the use of opium. As far as my experience goes, native opinion is decidedly opposed to fresh taxation in any shape or form.

Abstract of Evidence to be given by Rao Saheb Balwant Rao Bhuskatey, Jagirdar of Timorni and Honorary Extra-Assistant Commissioner, Nimar.

Question I.

Yes; I have had opportunities both, special and general, for informing myself on the subject of the use and effects of opium. I have a number of dependants, amongst whom opium eaters form a part. I have also come across people who are habituated to the use of the drug in question, but, in my experience, I have found that such opium consumers do not exclusively belong to a particular sect or class of people, and higher classes of people are not seen smoking opium. On tours to my Jagir villages, I have found that smoking is much resorted to by lower orders of people. In my visits to parts out of British India, I met with people taking opium in liquid form called Kusambba. It would not be out of place, were I to mention that this Kusambba is also used in some parts of British India, though to a very limited extent.

Question II.

As far as my experience goes, opium-eating of itself does not necessarily lead a man to immoral practices, but physically it does affect the human constitution to a greater or less degree according as the consumers get nourishing food or otherwise. There is undoubtedly a noticeable difference between eating and smoking

opium; smoking, even with a good diet, utterly impairs human health, while eating opium in small doses serves as a tonic, and the more so in old age.

Opium-eaters are not at all, in the opinion of the public, held in any low estimation; opium smokers, on the other hand are looked upon with great abhorrence, and are very much censured.

Question III.

I dare say that if the growth of poppy be entirely prohibited, it would be a death-blow to those who are already accustomed to it. I should even go the length of saying that some of them would succumb to death, for I have met with people who, trying to get rid of this practice, have fallen victims to death after suffering from several diseases as diarrhoea, &c., and others, in their turn could not but retain their long-continued habits. Prohibition will also encourage smuggling on all sides.

Question IV.

With regard to this question, my knowledge and information are limited, but I could suggest that smoking only should be entirely prohibited, except in the cases of those who are already addicted to it, they may be allowed this privilege for reasons stated in answers to the last question. And for these habitual smokers a place should be fixed wherein they should be allowed to smoke at particular times of the day, and with a limited number of pills. This would not be innovation to them, as they are already habituated to resort to such assemblies. I can confidentially say that this modification would not go to prohibit smuggling in its entirety, but it would be a kind of check to a certain extent, as these people would be ashamed to resort to these public-houses.

Question V.

People would never be willing to bear extra taxation for the prohibition or further restriction, as it has been already pointed out that eating is not censured by them, but, on the contrary, is held as a tonic, and in case of smoking where restriction is necessary, the resulting loss cannot be compensated by extra taxation for the aforesaid reasons or additional taxation, as the practice of smoking is in use in lower classes of people who are very poor.

Question VI.

The QUESTIONS referred to in the preceding ABSTRACTS are questions issued by the Local Administration, Central Provinces, to the Witnesses selected to give Evidence. These Questions are printed below.

List of Questions to be answered by Witnesses who have been selected to give Evidence before the Royal Opium Commission.

(1.) Have you had any special opportunities for informing yourself on the subject of the use and effects of opium either (a) generally, or (b) with reference to any particular locality or class of people?

If so, what have these opportunities been?

(2.) What opinion have you been led to form regarding the effects of opium on the moral and physical condition of the people who habitually use it? Have you been led by your experience to draw any distinction between the eating and the smoking of opium? If so, state what that distinction is.

(3.) What is the opinion of the natives with whom you are familiar regarding the use of opium? Is there any strong public opinion adverse to its use other than medicinally?

(4.) Do you think that, with reference to the habits of the people and the possibility of smuggling, it would be possible to entirely prohibit the growth of the poppy and the production and sale of opium, except for medical purposes?

(5.) Are you familiar with the present system in these Provinces for regulating the sale and manufacture of opium? If you consider that entire prohibition of sale, except for medical purposes, is impracticable, do you think that consumption could be checked by any modification of the existing Government system? If so, what modifications would you suggest in the present arrangements for (a) licensing the sale of opium, (b) licensing its manufacture and sale in the form of chandu and madak?

(6.) If prohibition or further restriction were to be decided on, and if the resulting loss of revenue were to make other taxation necessary, do you think that the people would be willing to bear such extra taxation?

ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM.

PROCEEDINGS.

VOL. V.

APPENDICES;

TOGETHER WITH

CORRESPONDENCE ON THE SUBJECT OF OPIUM

WITH THE

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS AND CHINA, &c.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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(b.) The spelling of foreign words has been left as in the original document.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

APP. I.
Bengal opium
system (1883).

CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OPIUM COMMISSION OF 1883.

No. 1218-52 O., dated 7th April 1884.

From A. P. MACDONNELL, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Finance and Commerce.

With reference to the correspondence ending with my letter No. 429 T.—R., dated the 25th June 1883, regarding the remission of outstanding advances in the Behar Opium Agency, and Mr. Bolton's letter, No. 2344-176 O., dated the 13th November 1883, submitting a copy of the Report of the late Opium Commission, I am directed to submit, for the consideration and orders of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Board of Revenue, No. 55 B., dated the 19th January

1884, containing an expression of their opinion on the subject of the general policy which should be followed by the Government in regard to the remission of outstanding balances of the Opium Department, and on the recommendations of the Opium Commission in the matter.

2. The Commission observe that until 1878 it had been customary to allow remissions of outstanding balances to opium cultivators, on proof of the destruction of their crops and of their inability to pay their debt to Government by the delivery of opium, and that this policy was altered in September of that year. They condemn this change as tending to reduce the extent of opium cultivation and to make it unpopular with the ryots, and advocate a reversion of the policy of wholesale remission on failure of crops. To bring home the benefit of the new policy to the people, they would remit all balances at present outstanding, and would refund all the collections that have been made on account of last year's crop.

3. After a careful consideration of the correspondence which preceded and followed the issue of the orders of the 5th September 1878, referred to by the Commission,* the Lieutenant-Governor finds that those orders

were not opposed to the ideas of the most experienced officers of the Opium Department. When, in 1878, Mr. D'Oyly, then officiating as Opium Agent of Behar, recommended, in opposition to the wishes of his sub-deputy agents, the remission of the entire outstanding balances of the Behar Agency for 1877-78, amounting to Rs. 6,59,112, the Board of Revenue supported him, on the ground that, if some such leniency were not shown, the orders which had been issued to reduce the price of opium from Rs. 5 to Rs. 4-8 a seer would injuriously affect cultivation; but the recommendation was negatived by Sir Ashley Eden, who, while enjoining leniency in recovering balances, thought the policy of total remission then advocated by the Board (and now by the Opium Commission) to be a mistaken and mischievous policy, for the reasons stated in the letter of the 5th September 1878.

4. The Commission, I am to observe, do not say much to weaken the arguments against the policy of entire remission of balances on failure of crops; while the present Board show good reasons in support of their position, that the collection of outstanding balances in 1878 had less to do with the falling off of cultivation than the Commission seem to suppose. Mr. Rivers Thompson himself fears that, if the Government were to support the views of the Commission, it would afford a direct incentive to slothful and careless cultivation and dishonest dealings. There can be little doubt, he thinks, that if an opium cultivator knew that a failure in his opium crop would not render him liable for the advances made to him, more advances would be taken and less careful cultivation practised than at present. Many opium cultivators would doubtless cultivate none the less carefully because they knew that they were protected from the worst effects of failure,

but many, again, would give up all attempt at improvement when the season seemed to be going against them. In a bad season, moreover, there would be no security that all the opium produced would be delivered to Government if the cultivators were protected from the results of short delivery. If the outturn of a field were much reduced, through blight or any other calamity, the inducement to deliver to the factory the whole of the produce would be much weakened, when it was no longer incumbent on the cultivator to make good the advances received by him.

5. For these reasons, the Lieutenant-Governor, as at present advised, cannot support the proposals of the Commission. The interests of the Government involved in the matter are so important and extensive that any principle of wholesale remission of outstanding balances seems to him unjustifiable. Even in land revenue cases the rule of suspension rather than of absolute remission of the demand has been enjoined both by the Secretary of State and the Government of India; and the same principle should, in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, regulate the action of the Government in dealing with opium transactions. In cases of proved hardship, where leniency of treatment is undoubtedly required, remissions should continue to be made as hitherto; and with the view to prompt disposal of such cases some procedure based on paragraph 664 of the Commission's report might be adopted. Improvements should also be introduced into the khatadari system, whereby the industry of one ryot shall cease to be taxed for the sloth of his neighbour.

No. 55B., dated 19th January 1884.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Government Order No. 2650-196 O., dated 11th December 1883, forwarding a copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Opium Commission, dated 22nd October 1883, and requesting an expression of the Board's opinion on the subject of the general policy followed by Government in regard to the remission of outstanding balances of the Opium Department.

2. In reply, I am to say that immediately on receipt of the orders of Government confidential instructions were issued to the opium agents to postpone pressing for the recovery of outstanding balances, and the Board now, in accordance with the orders of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, beg to submit their opinion on paragraphs 3 to 6 of the letter from the Secretary to the Opium Commission.

3. In the letter in question, the Board observe that the members of the Opium Commission express their conviction that the policy regarding the realisation of balances, which was announced in 1878-79, has caused and is causing serious injury to the interests of the Department, and that every day during which that policy is allowed to remain in force strengthens the feeling of dissatisfaction amongst the cultivators. They recommend that the Government should accept the principle that advances which from no fault of the cultivator cannot be covered by deliveries of opium shall be remitted and written off the accounts. It is also suggested that not only should the principle be announced as an expression of the future policy of Government, but that it should be extended with retrospective effect to the balance of the present season.

4. Before proceeding to consider the question of the policy to be followed in regard to the realisation or remission of outstanding balances, the Board would invite the attention of Government to certain statements and assumptions on the part of the Opium Commission regarding the results of the orders passed in 1878-79, which seem to be hardly borne out by facts.

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In paragraph 659 of their report, it is asserted that the Orders of 1879 "resulted in so alarming a forecast of "decrease of cultivation for the ensuing season that in "the early part of 1880 the need of an increase in the "price to be paid for crude opium (from Rs. 4-8 to "Rs. 5) began to be pressed upon Government." The Board are not aware on what evidence this statement is based; but if such were really the case, it seems remarkable that the Behar Agent should not have mentioned it in the reports which were submitted to Government, urging an increase in the price to be paid for crude opium. Mr. Lewis, the Officiating Agent, in a letter dated 16th July 1879, attributes the disinclination of the ryots to cultivate the poppy (1) to the lowering of the price paid by Government for the crude drug; (2) to the growing precariousness of the crop; and (3) to the increasing profit to be derived from other crops grown on similar lands. In a report, dated 16th January 1880, Mr. Mangles (for whom Mr. Lewis had been officiating) stated as his opinion "that whatever "other causes may have been at work tending to "diminish the extent of our poppy cultivation, the "collection of our outstanding balances has had little "or nothing to do with it." In the same letter the Agent added that, though several deputations of cultivators had waited on him in the different districts through which he had passed, in no single instance was the remission of balances asked for. The assertion of the Commission that the diminution of poppy cultivation in the year 1880-81 may be fairly ascribed to the exaction of the debt to Government incurred by the cultivators in 1877-78 is not borne out by the official reports of those who were in the best position to judge of the causes that chiefly influenced the action of the cultivators. Again, the Commission, in paragraph 661 of their report, state that the second consequence of this policy was that the price of crude opium had to be raised to Rs. 5 per seer throughout the Behar Agency in 1880-81, and throughout the Benares Agency in 1881-82. The Board must here again observe that the statement made by the Opium Commission is not borne out by any of the official reports submitted at the time. Mr. Mangles, in a letter dated 5th December 1879, whilst endorsing his predecessor's (Mr. Lewis') recommendation for an increase in the price to be paid for crude opium, added that the previous lowering of the Government price was received with disfavour, not only because the ryots' profits were thereby reduced, but because there was no certainty that the reduction would stop at Rs. 4-8, and that a further reduction seemed to the ryots to be not impossible. An element of uncertainty was thereby introduced into what had hitherto always been regarded as fixed and sure, and these reasons caused the cultivators to entertain in their minds the question whether the advantages to be derived from the cultivation of the poppy were such as to induce them to continue it. Mr. Mangles further pointed out that the unfortunate results of the past two seasons had done much to discourage the ryots in regard to the cultivation of the poppy, and that opium was no longer, as it had been in former years, the most lucrative crop that the ryot could cultivate; wheat, barley, and peas giving as good a return, and potatoes and sugar-cane a far better one. The necessity of an increase in the price paid by Government for opium was strongly pressed by the Agent, but nothing is to be found in his reports which can justify the statement that this necessity was considered by him to be in any way due to the Government orders of 1879 regarding the recovery of outstanding balances.

5. The views expressed by the Agent in the matter do not appear to have been completely shared by the Board, inasmuch as the latter, whilst admitting in their letter to Government, No. 182 B., dated 15th March 1880, that the discouragement which had been felt by the ryots was mainly due to the extensive failure of the crop, were of opinion that something might be due to the recovery of the unprecedented large sum of six lakhs of rupees on account of the balances of 1877-78. The Board accordingly recommended that a more definite and liberal policy should be adopted in regard to the recovery of advances where the crop had failed, but these views were not concurred in by his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, who directed that the policy laid down in 1879 should be adhered to. That the remission of outstanding balances amounting to more than six lakhs of rupees would be an exceedingly popular measure amongst the khattadars, if not with the assamees themselves (the fact of the remissions reaching these latter being in many cases open to doubt), the Board do not, of course,

question, but their official records fail to show that the reduction of the area under cultivation was due to the orders of 1878-79, or that, as stated by the Commission, they had the effect of compelling Government to raise the price of opium earlier than would have been otherwise necessary.

6. It is desirable to refer here briefly to the circumstances under which the orders of 5th September 1878 and 30th April 1879 were passed, and to state what was the policy laid down in those orders, a policy which the Opium Commission describe as unwise, unjust, and unworthy of Government.

The proposal before the Lieutenant-Governor Sir A. Eden at the time these orders were passed was that the entire outstanding balances of the Behar Agency for 1877-78, amounting to more than 6½ lakhs of rupees, should be remitted. The Lieutenant-Governor declined to accept without reserve the position that the cultivation of opium was to be a purely one-sided arrangement, under which, when the season was a good one, the cultivator was to gain; when it was unfavourable, the Government was to be the sole loser. He held that some consideration should be given to the ryot's capacity to repay a debt irrespective of his opium crop, which in many cases formed but a small portion of his assets, and that those who were able to repay the advance they had received should be made to do so, leniency and total remission being granted to petty cultivators who had suffered large loss of crops, and were unable to repay any portion of the advances they had received. Whilst desirous of making all possible concessions to the opium cultivators, such concessions must, the Lieutenant-Governor held, be consistent with the duty of Government to the payers of revenue at large. Sir A. Eden was of opinion that the position which Government should hold towards its opium cultivators should be similar to that held by a liberal and enlightened zemindar towards his tenants; that in bad seasons every possible leniency and consideration should be shown to the cultivators; but that before wholesale and indiscriminate remissions were made, the condition of the cultivators (many of whom are men of substance), and their ability to repay the advances made to them by the Opium Department, should be taken into consideration.

7. The members of the Opium Commission, in their enthusiasm in favour of the yeoman's service rendered to the State by the typical opium cultivator, Bishn Koeri, view with some scorn the idea that the ordinary tax-payer should grudge him the remission of the balances due from him for failure to complete the contract which he entered into when he received his advance on account of opium. Putting sentiment aside, it is desirable to consider the question from a practical point of view, to see whether there are sufficient grounds for the opinion advanced by the Opium Commission in paragraph 661 of their report, that unless the policy enunciated in the orders of 1879 is speedily reversed, or the price of crude opium is raised, it will be found that the prospects of the opium cultivation in the Behar Agency have been seriously, perhaps irretrievably, ruined.

8. The difference between what is laid down by the Commission in paragraph 663 of their report as the true principle to be observed in dealing with opium cultivators and the policy laid down by Sir A. Eden in the orders of April 1879 appears to the Board to be as follows: The Opium Commission are of opinion that, on proof of the inability of the ryot, owing to the failure or destruction of the crop, to make good his debt to Government, either whole or in part, by the delivery of opium, remission of advances should be allowed. Sir A. Eden, on the other hand, was of opinion that the remission of the advances should not depend merely on the failure of the opium crop, which often forms but a very small fraction of a well-to-do ryot's cultivation, but that his general ability to liquidate the debt should be taken into consideration, all pressure being avoided and the greatest tenderness shown to cases of real hardship.

9. It seems to the Board that the Opium Commission have not, in considering the question, had sufficient regard for the altered circumstances of the country, and the different position which the opium cultivator now occupies throughout a large extent of the area in which it is grown. Some few years ago the poppy cultivation was the most lucrative that a ryot could engage in. It was the only crop, except indigo, which was grown under a system of cash advances, the latter crop being notoriously unremunerative. The cultivator had the prestige and protection from zemindar and

planter which the fact of his being a ryot under advances from Government and the presence of gomastah and zilladar afforded him. There was but little competition in the demand for other crops, all of which, probably, went into the hands of the village mahajun, and he was well content, looking to the advantages it brought him, to give the best of his time and his labour and the largest share of the water from his well to his poppy cultivation. His chief fear was that he might lose his status as an opium ryot. Under such a state of things, the departmental officers might rest assured that if the cultivator did fail to give the requisite quantity of crude opium, it was owing to causes beyond his control, and not to any default on his part.

10. Now, however, there can be no such assurance. The railways and other means of communication which have been opened out, and the ever-growing demands of the commerce of the country, have completely changed the state of affairs. Opium has lost its place as the most lucrative crop a cultivator can grow. The anxiety is no longer so much on his part to keep his status as a Government cultivator, but on the part of the gomastah to retain him. Crops which pay him better compete in a year of short rainfall, like the present, with the poppy for their share of irrigation from his well. The liberal cash advance still forms an inducement to him to continue his poppy cultivation, but it seems to the Board that the only means by which Government can ensure that a full and proper share of attention shall be given to the opium crop is by making the ryot understand that the mere failure of his crop of poppy will not, as a matter of course, lead to the remission of his unliquidated debt, without regard to his general circumstances and ability to pay what he owes. The circumstances of the day appear to the Board more and more to require that the opium cultivation should be carried on on a proper business footing, and that the loose system under which, without detailed inquiry, wholesale remissions were made should be put a stop to. They concur in the following opinion expressed by Mr. Worsley, the Collector of Mozufferpore, in his report in connexion with the balances of 1877-78, and fully endorsed by the experienced Commissioner of the Division:—

“In my opinion any undue or sentimental leniency is always calculated to demoralise a ryot. If contracts annually made with ryots be fair, voluntary on their part, and likely to prove remunerative to them under ordinary conditions, I am satisfied that it is the worst possible policy (except in seasons of general distress) to release them from their obligations in the few or exceptional instances in which they suffer losses from such contracts. I have observed that the best ryots are those who hold lands on fair and equitable terms, and who are required by their landlords to pay their rents strictly and punctually.”

11. From paragraph 662 of the Commission's report it appears that they advocate the system under which large remissions are made in bad seasons in preference to that of paying a better price for the crop; and it is on this point that the Board find themselves at issue with their conclusions. The Board are of opinion that the time has gone by when the opium cultivation can

* Paragraph 662, Opium Commission's report.

be advantageously continued on the plan advocated by the Commission. The system* under which the cultivator looked to Government to cherish and protect him, must, the Board think, give place to a more business-like and practical system, under which the ryot will feel that he has entered into an agreement which entails some responsibility on him for its fulfilment. There are, it is hardly necessary to point out, many intermediate stages between a bumper crop and that in which blight, hail, or early hot winds either totally or partially destroy the poppy, in which the amount of produce must mainly depend on the exertions of the ryot, the degree of attention which he pays to his cultivation, and the share of the well or irrigation water that he gives the plant. Unless he is made to feel that his profits depend on his individual exertions, and that he will be a sufferer if his opium crop is neglected, the Board are of opinion that the temptation will be great for the ryot, whilst taking advantage of his position as an opium cultivator to obtain advances without interest, to neglect the interests of the Government, in favour of those of the harder taskmaster to whom he is under bond as to his potatoes or wheat crop. In cases of real hardship and general inability to repay the advance received, the Board would advocate the greatest liberality towards the opium cultivator, but they would have each case

treated singly and exceptionally, and the remission granted only after full inquiry.

12. One of the great disadvantages connected with the existing system of general remissions in bad years is the uncertainty and inequality of its operation. As pointed out by Mr. Worsley (Collector of Mozufferpore in 1879), if there is one thing more than another which makes ryots discontented it is to see wholesale remissions made to their fellow ryots after they themselves have had to pay up their own balances. Unless general remissions are made to all cultivators, it is very bad policy to remit the balances of a considerable section of the cultivators by one stroke of the pen.

13. In considering this question it must not be forgotten that in districts in which the khattadari system prevails, the extent to which the remission reaches the actual cultivator is always open to doubt. Practical experience hardly confirms, the Board are inclined to believe, the view expressed by the Commission in paragraph 249 of their report, that the confidence reposed in the khattadar is seldom abused. Mr. Kemble, the opium agent of Behar, in a letter dated 5th instant, on the subject of the balances of the season 1882-83, outstanding and realised, reports that in the opinion of the sub-deputy opium agent of Tirhoot the balances have been recovered from the actual cultivators, but are kept back by the khattadars. Further on in the same letter he again refers to the fraudulent practices of the khattadars and amlah as amongst the causes which have led to land in other districts going out of opium cultivation.

14. The Board are of opinion that much may be done to improve the popularity of the opium cultivation by the measures proposed by the Commission to remedy the admitted inadequacy of the present salaries of the kothi establishments. The Board are inclined to think that some of the recommendations of the Commission are on a somewhat unnecessarily liberal scale; but they have no doubt that the employment of better paid and more honest agency would make the cultivation of poppy more popular. The Board fully realise the probability that the adoption of the principles of 1879 instead of that recommended by the Commission will lead from time to time to the necessity of some increase in the price to be paid for crude opium as the competition with other and more remunerative crops becomes keener and keener; but they take leave to doubt whether in the long run the Government will be a loser by placing its dealings with opium cultivation on a proper commercial footing. At any rate the Board can see nothing in the adoption of such a policy which can justify the severe condemnation passed on it by the Commission of its being unwise, unjust, and unworthy of Government.

15. In conclusion, I am to state that the policy the Board would recommend may be briefly summarised as follows:—

- (i.) An adequate price to be paid for crude opium, to be settled from time to time with reference to the competition of other crops.
- (ii.) Wholesale remissions of unliquidated advances to be put a stop to at once; the ryot's general ability to pay, his previous season's opium crops, &c., being taken into consideration before remission is granted.
- (iii.) Remissions to be granted liberally in bad seasons in cases of real hardship, where found to be actually necessary, each case being treated as a special one, and remission only made after inquiry.
- (iv.) Adequate salaries to be paid to the native establishment, and the abolition of all illegal gratification strictly enforced.

No. 1701, dated 18th June 1884.

From J. F. FINLAY, Esq., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1218-520, dated 7th April 1884, forwarding copy of a letter from the Board of Revenue, No. 55B., dated 19th January 1884, and conveying an expression of the views of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the proposals of the late Opium Commission regarding the remission of outstanding balances of advances to opium cultivators, when a ryot is unable, owing to the failure or destruction of the poppy crop, to repay his

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debt to Government, either wholly or in part by the delivery of opium.

2. In reply, I am directed to say that the Governor-General in Council entirely concurs in the conclusions of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor as set forth in the closing paragraph of your letter.

3. His Excellency in Council thinks that on the occurrence of such a total failure as to lead to the destruction of a ryot's crop (the only case in which even under the old practice remission was to be allowed), it will be found the better course, in the interests both of the Government and of the cultivator, to arrange for suspension of demand extending over a period proportionate to the ryot's means, and the area on which the crop has been destroyed. Remission in part or in whole should be reserved for cases where a ryot is known to be so completely deprived of all resources as to make the payment of his arrears by instalments practically impossible. In cases of serious disaster, liberal suspensions and rare remissions will probably be found to be the best policy in dealing with opium transactions. Ordinarily, and where the damage done to the whole or part of a crop is not of a nature to be called destruction (where, in fact, it is only a question of a short crop or indifferent season), even suspension should be very cautiously allowed.

4. In conclusion, I am directed to say that the Governor-General in Council desires that arrangements may be made for the introduction of field books on the plan sketched in paragraph 664 of the Commission's report in order to facilitate the disposal of claims to remission of advances.

No. 980 T. R., dated 28th June 1884.

From A. P. MacDONNELL, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Finance and Commerce.

In continuation of my letter No. 1218—52 O., dated 7th April 1884, I am now desired by the Lieutenant-Governor to submit, for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council, the following observations on the Report of the Opium Commission, copies of which have already been forwarded to the Government of India.

2. The events connected with the damage which befel the Benares Provision Opium of 1880-1 are known to the Government of India, and need not be related here in any detail. It will suffice to say that, in order to ascertain the exact facts of the case, and apportion responsibility for the result, a committee of inquiry was appointed, composed of Messrs. Reynolds and Monro of the Civil Service, and Dr. Warden, chemical examiner to this Government. The report of that committee was submitted to the Government of India, with my letter No. 9 of 3rd January 1883, a further communication being at the same time promised. The Government of India, in acknowledging the receipt of the committee's report, expressed an opinion that possibly the time had come for a thorough examination and re-organisation of the establishments and system of working of both agencies. The opinion on these points of the Bengal Government was asked for, and generally on the scope and direction such an inquiry should take. Accordingly, in my letter No. 859—80 O. of 10th March 1883, a line of inquiry was sketched out by the Lieutenant-Governor and the Bengal members of the Commission nominated. Some demi-official correspondence followed, in which the Lieutenant-Governor was given to understand that his proposals were acceptable to the Government of India, and later on a formal expression of this approval and the orders of the Government of India appointing the Commission were received. Meanwhile the Commission had gone to work under authority of the Lieutenant-Governor's order No. 1,005 of the 22nd March, as it was desirable that they should visit the opium-producing districts during the weighing season. They were directed to prosecute their inquiry on the lines of my letter (above referred to) dated 10th March, to the Government of India; and as the subsequent detailed instructions were not inconsistent with the substance of that letter, the Commission's proceedings were in no way impeded. The Commission were at work for seven months. Their report was submitted on 20th October 1883; and though, perhaps, it is allowable to think it defective in some degree from a financial and statistical

point of view, it must still be pronounced a valuable and interesting record of research, industry, and observation.

3. In forwarding their report to this Government (in accordance with the instructions of the Government of India), the Commission, while requesting that their recommendations might be considered as a whole, represented that on one question, namely, the policy of recovering advances not covered by deliveries of opium, immediate orders were necessary. There had been a most serious failure in the opium crop in 1883, and the Commission were apprehensive that if the policy of recovering advances, insisted on by Sir Ashley Eden, were followed up, the interests of the opium revenue would be gravely prejudiced. The Commission referred to that portion of their Report (Chapter 22, Part II., and Chapter 4, Part III.) in which the question was discussed, and urgently pressed for the reversal of the existing policy of recovery when people became able to pay, and the adoption of the "principle that advances which (from no fault of the cultivator) cannot be covered by deliveries of opium shall be remitted and written off the accounts." In accordance, therefore, with the Commission's wish, that question was dealt with in the Lieutenant-Governor's letter No. 1218—52 O., dated 7th April 1884, to the Government of India. In that letter Mr. Rivers Thompson, without supporting a policy of total remission as urged by the Commission, advocated leniency in recovering advances, and remission in all hard cases. The Lieutenant-Governor has just received the orders of the Government of India, No. 1701 of the 18th instant, approving of his conclusions upon this point.

4. In now submitting the Commission's Report to the Government of India, the Lieutenant-Governor is obliged to say that he cannot deal finally with it. Indeed the Report is so voluminous, and the ground it traverses so varied and debated, that it would be hopeless to attempt to obtain a satisfactory solution to all the questions raised in a single letter. The numerous recommendations and reforms suggested involve, too, a very large additional expenditure; and as the charge is an Imperial one, it is only the Government of India who can decide whether this increased outlay should be accepted. It is, however, open to the Lieutenant-Governor to comment upon the changes proposed by the Commission from a general or departmental point of view.

A further difficulty is found in the fact that the Commission have not elaborated, in any precise form, an estimate of the cost which an acceptance of their proposals would entail. It would, of course, be possible for this Government to ascertain from other sources the total additional expenditure involved in the acceptance of the Commission's proposals. But this would be a waste of time and labour if the Government of India declined to consider the principal changes which the Commission would introduce; or if accepting them as regards the chief control of the department, they preferred to work out the details with the aid of a director-general. Therefore, in the present communication, the course the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to adopt is to review the main features of the Report, to ascertain what the policy of the Government of India is on those main features, and thus, having come to an understanding with the Government of India, to take up the Report in detail, and work the proposals out in communication with the local officers and the Board of Revenue, should it be resolved to maintain the superintendence which the Board now exercise over the Department.

5. The Commission's Report is divided into three parts. Part I. gives a historical summary of the Department from the earliest times of which we have any information up to the present day. Part II. reviews the existing condition of things in all branches of the Department; while Part III. sets forth the recommendations which the Commission make "for the purpose of placing this important Department of the public service on a satisfactory footing, and for rectifying such errors and supplying such deficiencies as our inquiries have shown to exist in its organisation and working." Each of these main divisions is sub-divided into minor divisions, but it is unnecessary here to enumerate the latter.

6. *Historical.*—The history of the opium monopoly is a history of small beginnings and great development. Less than a century ago it formed an insignificant portion of the East India Company's business. "Now the magnitude of the interests involved is indicated

" by the fact that more than 1,300,000 ryots cultivate the poppy every year under advances from Government; and even this number does not adequately express the truth, as a large share of the labour required for the production of the drug falls to the lot of the women and children of the ryot's family. " We should probably be within the mark in saying that the Opium Department calls into activity the energies of not less than four million persons of the agricultural classes. The cash paid to the cultivators for opium flower-leaves and trash amounts to " about 180 lakhs of rupees a year." The earliest authentic reference to opium cultivation is said by the Commission to occur in the *Ain-i-Akbari* (1590 A.D.), which states that opium was a staple crop throughout what is now the Benares Agency, in Malwa, and in the Punjab. The trade in opium in Mogul times was an Imperial monopoly, and " was farmed at a quit-rent." Until the British acquired sovereignty in Bengal and Behar, the Dutch were the chief foreign purchasers of opium, though 200 years ago, the first orders were given to make opium a part of the East India Company's investment.

7. During the political commotions of the first half of the eighteenth century, when the Mogul power was on the wane, the opium monopoly fell into abeyance, and the cultivation of the poppy seems, at all events in what is now the Behar Agency, to have been carried on by the ryots without license, on advances from Patna merchants, who, in their turn, disposed of the drug to the English and Dutch. The triumphs of Serajudowla, however, brought ruin on the English merchants, and as there was no competition the Dutch commanded the opium market. The price of opium accordingly fell so low that the native dealers could no longer make advances, and the production of the drug declined. This state of things prevailed when the victories of Clive enabled the English merchants to recover their lost position at Patna. They found the trade disorganised, and, in default of native dealers, the European merchants began to make advances direct to the cultivators. This, however, led to quarrels, which resulted in the re-establishment of the monopoly by Mr. Hastings in 1773, on the understanding that a certain quantity of opium was to be delivered annually to the Dutch, Danish, and French companies. Political complications subsequently led to the annulment of the understanding with the Dutch and the Danes, but that with the French is still in force.

8. From 1773 to 1781 the exclusive right to manufacture opium on account of the East India Company was sold annually; and it would seem from the Fifth Report of the House of Commons on the affairs of the East India Company (to which the Commission make no allusion) that under the first contract Behar opium was deliverable at Rs. 320 and Oudh opium at Rs. 350 per maund. Stipulations were inserted in those contracts against oppression of the cultivators, and the Provincial Council were enjoined to see that the stipulations were observed. From 1781, according to the Opium Commission, sale contracts were made for four years; and in 1785 the sales became competitive, various stipulations, designed in the interests of the cultivators, being at the same time insisted upon. According to the Fifth Report, however, competitive sales and contracts for four years were introduced simultaneously in 1785, while power was also taken to appoint inspectors to superintend the provision and manufacture of opium, and collectors were enjoined to protect the cultivators against the contractors. These competitive sales, according to the Commission, while for the time benefiting the revenue, left the contractors a smaller margin of profit, and consequently lowered the prices paid by them to the cultivators. Adulteration of the drug, and its depreciation in the market, ensued, and accordingly, say the Commission in 1797, with the object of "restoring and improving" the character of the opium, the contract system was done away with, and the agency system, which has lasted ever since, was introduced. Doubtless this improvement was a result of that scrutiny which Lord Cornwallis instituted in the opium as well as in all other Departments of the Administration—a scrutiny which brought to light the fact that the contract system had developed impositions in the nature of *abwabs* on cultivators "in the same manner" (to quote the Fifth Report) "as practised in the land rents." This portion of the Report then conveys a valuable lesson, and gives us some insight into what may be expected if the agitation against the opium monopoly should be successful. The early history of the question teaches us that the abolition of the monopoly would lead

to increased production and increased consumption among the people of India; that competition among exporters would follow, and, as a natural consequence, that the opium produced would be inferior. An inferior article would succumb in the competition with the Chinese drug, and thus the opium revenue, which now depends on the excellent quality and character of the drug, would tend to fall off and ultimately become extinct. The result would be a heavy loss to the people of India and increased taxation.

9. The agency system, under which the Department is at present administered, was thus established in 1797. Two agents were appointed, the Behar agent being purely an opium officer, while until 1835 the Benares agent had other duties to perform in addition to his function as opium agent. Until 1833 the agents were paid partly by fixed salaries, and partly by commission, which was abolished in that year. While it continued, the opium agent of Behar was perhaps the best paid civilian officer in the service, drawing from commission alone in some years nearly a lakh of rupees. The agents were at first assisted by independent deputy agents, but in 1822 the collectors of the opium districts were made deputy opium agents with a commission on the sale profits. In 1835, at Captain Jeremie's suggestion, an independent opium service of sub-deputy agents was constituted, and the active connexion of collectors with opium fell into abeyance. Since that time they have remained *ex-officio* deputy agents, but they now never interfere with the work of the Department.

10. It has been stated that Captain Jeremie was the originator of the separate opium service. To him is also due the introduction of a more scientific method of manufacture of the drug in both factories. For the first 25 years of the monopoly system, the factory testing and manufacture were superintended by the agent. In 1826 Captain Jeremie, quartermaster of a native regiment, who had made certain experiments in opium cultivation and manufacture, submitted proposals to Government, which ultimately led to his appointment as "first assistant to the agent" at Patna, which designation was, in 1839, changed to the "principal assistant." After Captain Jeremie's time the post was held by the civil surgeon of the station, in addition to his other duties. But from 1846 in Behar, and from 1859 in Benares, the post was made a separate one, the incumbent being placed wholly under the control of the agent.

11. Reverting to the connexion of the Department with the Government, it will be seen that when in 1797 the agency system was established, the control of the Opium Department was at that time vested in the Board of Trade, the President of which was *ex-officio* a Member of Council. The opium accounts, however, were always kept distinct from those of the Commercial Department, so that when by Regulation IV. of 1819, the "Board of Revenue in the Customs, Salt, and Opium Departments" was constituted, no difficulty was experienced in transferring the opium business to the new Board at Calcutta, which, consisting at first of three, was, from 1826, composed of two members. In 1834, on the creation of the Government of Agra, the Governor-General in Council declared it necessary to retain the management of the Benares Opium Agency by the Board of Customs, Salt, and Opium at Calcutta, "in order to secure that the whole concern, whether in Behar or Benares, may be conducted on one uniform system." By these orders the Benares Agency is still governed. To bring this portion of the history of the Department down to the present time, it need only be added that by Act XLIV. of 1850, the Customs, Salt, and Opium Board was merged in the Board of Revenue at Calcutta, the number of members in the latter Board being at the same time increased from two to three. In 1865, however, a vacancy in the Board of Revenue occurred, which was not filled up, and since then the Board in the Lower Provinces has consisted of two members only.

12. *Production.*—I am now to pass on from the history of the superior administrative machinery to say a few words on the production of the drug—the system of dealing with the producers, the grievances the latter had against the Government, and the grievances the Government had against them. At the beginning of the century, the poppy was cultivated on behalf of Government in Bengal proper as well as in Behar and the North-Western Provinces. The drug produced in the Bhagulpore Division, and in the districts of Rungpore, Dingapore, and Cooch Behar was, however, of inferior quality, and its production was prohibited by Regulation VI. of 1799. The local officers and the

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people opposed the enforcement of that Regulation, and a long struggle ensued which was terminated by the enactment of Regulation XIII. of 1816, which legalised the cultivation of opium in Bengal, under the supervision of the Commercial Resident of Rungpore. The opium produced was to be used for excise purposes only. But it soon turned out that nothing could be made of this Bengal opium, and the production of it was again abandoned in 1837, only to be revived in Monghyr and Bhagulpore between 1830 and 1834, and in numerous Bengal districts between the latter year and 1840.

13. The cause of this expansion of cultivation was probably due to the policy adopted in 1830 regarding "Malwa" opium produced in the Native States of Central India, where cultivation was unrestricted, the manufacturers skilful, and the quality of the drug exceptionally good. This "Malwa" opium was brought via Baroda and Cambay to Din and Damaun and thence exported to China, where it threatened the Bengal monopoly in the early years of this century. The Company's efforts having proved futile to restrict the cultivation in Central India, or to introduce the Bengal monopoly system, the trade was in 1830 thrown open. The supervision till then exercised over Malwa opium affairs by the Bengal Board of Customs, Salt, and Opium was withdrawn, and the pass system introduced, care being taken to fix the duty levied on the drug brought direct to Bombay for exportation to China at a favourable rate compared with the cost of transmission through Native States to Diu, Damaun, or Karachi. It was anticipated that this change of policy would cheapen the Malwa drug in the China market; and to counteract the effect that result would have on Bengal opium Government, in 1830, directed that an effort should be made to make up for the probable loss in price by increase in quantity. Accordingly, between 1830 and 1840, opium cultivation was largely extended throughout Benares, Behar, and Bengal; but in 1840 there was a collapse, largely due no doubt to the seizure of British merchants and the destruction of a large quantity of opium by the Chinese in 1839—events which led to war between England and China. The immediate effect of events in China on opium in India was the contraction of the area of operations in the North-Western Provinces, while opium cultivation in Bengal proper was finally abandoned. Since then, the number of districts which grow opium has been largely extended in the Benares Agency, but in Behar (with the exception of the re-introduction of cultivation into Chota Nagpur in 1869 and its abandonment again in 1877) there has been no change. From the statistics given on page 26 of the Report, it would appear that the average produce per bigha has generally decreased, with any very marked extension of the area under cultivation, and this is what might be expected from recourse being had to inferior soils.

14. *System of dealing with Producers.*—The main points of the system have not greatly changed during the century, and the principles of the first opium law (Regulation VII. of 1799) are not very different from those of the present Act (XIII. of 1857). Engagements were taken by the agent or his deputy for a specific area of cultivation. When the poppy was grown, an estimate of its yield was made, and a further engagement for the delivery of the estimated quantity of drug drawn up. The opium, when delivered, was weighed; if found too liquid, an additional quantity or *batta* for consistence fixed by arbitration was deducted from the price; if adulterated, it was confiscated; and if any of it was kept back, the cultivator was liable to fine. These were the lines worked upon in the beginning of the century, and with additions and modifications, notably under the head of *batta for consistence*, the same are followed to-day. The system was worked by *gomastas* and *zilladars* on behalf of the agents, while *sudder mahatoes* and *gyne mahatoes* were supposed to look after the cultivators' interests. The *zilladars* still exist, and perform much the same duties now as they did before. The *gomasta*, though still an important officer, has less to do now than formerly, while the *sudder mahatoes* have disappeared. The *gyne mahatoes*, on the other hand, has become the *khatadar* or *lombardar*, who plays a most important part in the economy of the Opium Department, as will subsequently appear.

15. This organisation in early times did not always work smoothly, and various complaints were from time to time made by the cultivators of the exactions to which they were subjected and the inconveniences to which they were exposed. It was urged by the ryots that the price of opium (which from 1820 to 1860 varied

between Rs. 3 and Rs. 4 the seer) was fixed too low; that nothing was allowed for cost of carriage to the weighing places, of which there were too few; that ryots were confined and sold up for arrears; that the various grades of under-officers extorted at weighment and other times an unlimited quantity of the drug under various pretences, and that when accounts were settled the gomastas levied perquisites. Redress did not always follow upon these complaints, the Board at first being somewhat apprehensive of interference with any custom that had grown up; and if it is said by the Commission that generally the history of the Department is one of improvement, of increasing supervision by European officers, of increasing checks upon the malpractices of subordinates, and of increasing security to the producers, it is more than may be said of every public department. The custom of taking *batta for consistence* opened perhaps the widest door to fraud, for, as till 1830 there was no fixed standard of consistence, the *batta* depended on personal caprice. A standard was, however, fixed in 1831, and since then the existing principle has prevailed in both agencies, viz., that for the deliveries below 70 deg. a proportionably decreased, and for deliveries above 70 deg. a proportionably increased, price should be given. But even in Benares, where weighments are elaborately conducted, instances in which subordinates have been effectually punished for defrauding the cultivators are extremely rare. This cannot be due to the absence of abuses, for admittedly such exist; but the consideration of these abuses, and the best methods of removing them, will be dealt with later on.

16. If the cultivators had thus many grievances against the Government, the Government also had grievances against the cultivators. Minor grievances were the practice of planting of other crops along with the poppy, and delay in bringing in the produce; but the chief grievances were illicit cultivation, "paper cultivation," or drawing advances for poppy land, yet growing other crops upon it, and illicit sale of the drug. It was illicit cultivation in Northern Bengal that led to the re-introduction of the opium system there under Regulation XIII. of 1816, but latterly it is said that both illicit cultivation and "paper cultivation" have ceased to trouble the Department. Illicit sale, however, still gives trouble, and the Commission's remarks on pages 44-45 show that no effort hitherto made to suppress it has been completely successful; while one at least of the methods adopted—the granting of large rewards to informers—greatly aggravated the evil it was devised to check.

17. *Manufacture and Disposal of the Drug.*—The chapter which deals with the history of the "manufacture and disposal" of the drug when delivered by the cultivators to the opium authorities also demands attention. It seems that from the earliest times the crude opium when received from the cultivators had been packed in earthen jars, each containing about a maund of the drug, and in this way forwarded to the factory. This mode of conveyance led to considerable evaporation, and experiments were therefore tried with leather bags, galvanized-iron vessels, and wooden boxes, with a view to the prevention of loss of weight—all proving unsuitable. The original method of transport in earthen jars was reverted to, and is still in force. At times loss is experienced by the breaking of the vessels in transit, and such loss used originally to fall on the cultivators. But the unfairness of this arrangement was perceived in 1831, and since then Government bears the loss.

18. On arrival at the sudder factory it was the custom formerly to keep the opium in the jars, and to cake from them direct. But so far back as 1830 wooden tanks were introduced. These proving unsuitable, were replaced by stone vats, which are still in use. In the manufacture of opium for the market two objects were always aimed at—(a) that the quality of the drug should be invariably good; (b) that the weight of pure opium per chest should be always the same. In order to secure the first object, it does not appear that in the early years of the century any definite rules were prescribed, but the practice must have been very appropriate to the end in view; for that practice, as described in general terms by the agent in 1820, is pretty much what it is to-day. As regards point (b), it may be said that before Captain Jeremie's time, consistence, scientifically ascertained and regulated, was unknown; but in 1832 it was determined that Patna should cake at 75 deg. and Benares at 70 deg., and these average standards have been since adhered to. Accordingly it has been since 1832 possible to regulate

the weight per chest. This is done with reference to the Chinese system of weights, which runs in taels, catties (16 taels), and piculs (100 catties). A chest of opium should contain 1 picul (133 lbs. 5 ozs. 5½ drs. avoirdupois) of pure opium, and as 40 balls are packed in a chest, each ball should contain 3 lbs. 5½ ozs. of the pure drug.

19. As has been observed, no great change in the system of manufacture has been introduced from the beginning of the century, though some improvements have no doubt been effected. There is, for instance, owing to mechanical appliances, less danger of variation in consistence, and owing to better chemical knowledge, less danger of adulteration now than formerly. But the greater scientific knowledge of to-day has been unable to improve, to any very material extent, on the empiricism of earlier times, either in the manufacture of the drug or in caking and packing. Numerous experiments have been tried under all three heads; but unless Captain Jeremie's invention of compartments in the chest be considered a great improvement, we are now pretty much where we were 60 years ago. Captain Jeremie's aim was, just as the Board's aim now is, to pack the cakes without dunnage; but he had, after all, to furnish his compartments with a bed of trash. It is unnecessary to summarise any further the Commission's remarks on this part of their Report; but that section of this chapter which deals with the three great disasters which befel the opium provision owing to preventable causes is interesting. History repeats itself, and in the recital points occur which recall the Benares disaster of 1880-81. With this the Commission do not deal, as when they wrote it was still *sub judice*.

20. The Commission close their interesting sketch of the origin and growth of the Department by exhibiting statistics of the general results of the monopoly from the establishment of the agency system in 1797 down to 1882. These statistics show that the highest price ever obtained for the drug was in March 1822, when it averaged Rs. 4,274-9-7 per chest; the lowest occurring in April 1839, when, under the panic caused by the news from China, the average per chest was only Rs. 365-1-11. The net profit to Government from opium grown on this side of India has risen since 1797 from less than five lakhs to more than five crores of rupees per annum. On the general uses of their review of the past history of the monopoly, the Commission make the following remarks, which are worthy of being quoted here:—

"The considerations suggested by this review of the past are not, we think, foreign to the questions which our instructions direct us to examine. There are economists who assert that the Government, without incurring a loss, might sever its connexion with the production of opium, and confine itself to the levy of an excise duty and a tax on exportation. It may be useful to remind these gentlemen of the evil days when, under the contract system of supply, the quality of the drug had fallen so low that Bengal opium was offered at Rs. 50 a chest without finding a purchaser. The history of the connexion of the Government of Bengal and the Calcutta Board of Revenue with the administration of the Department may be of service in determining what answer shall be given to the question whether that connexion should any longer be maintained. There are officers at the present day who advocate a general return to the system of remuneration by commission. Upon this point, the reasons which led such distinguished administrators as Lord William Bentinck and Lord Dalhousie to an opposite conclusion seem worthy of being reproduced. The difficulties with which the Department has to contend, the complaints made by the cultivators, the practices by which the law is violated or evaded, are substantially the same now in kind (though differing in degree) as they have been for many years past. We gladly recognise the fact that the record of the opium administration is in the main a record of progress and improvement. Much has been done to remedy such evils as experience has brought to light, and to make the cultivating license a source of profit to the ryot as well as to the Government. There is not the slightest ground for saying that the officers of the Department exercise any undue influence, or that the engagements entered into by the cultivators are not entirely voluntary. In most matters of detail such reforms as are still required will probably be most successfully carried out, by working upon the lines which have been laid down by the administrators of a former day. It has therefore appeared to us that a summary of the past history of the Department is a

useful introduction to the inquiry which we have been directed to undertake."

21. In the preceding remarks the existing constitution of the Opium Department has been to some extent described; but the narrative looked more to the genesis and history of the Department than to any other aspect. It was insufficient as a statement of existing facts with a view to determining whether improvements were necessary or not. Such a statement the Commission give in Part II. of their Report.

The Lieutenant-Governor does not, however, purpose to summarise Part II. here, because, in the first place, the existing state of things is generally known, and in the second place, such a summary would cause useless repetition. When stating and examining the Commission's recommendations, some description of the existing facts which the recommendations are intended to alter and improve will be necessary, and opportunity can be taken of that necessity to explain facts as fully as may be needed. In other words, instead of following the Commission through the various stages of their Report, I am to discuss Parts II. and III. together, thus saving time without any great sacrifice of clearness.

22. Before entering on the subject of the Commission's recommendations, I am to call attention to their desire (paragraph 602) that their proposals should be regarded as a whole, each portion of which is naturally dependent on the other; and to the fact that they guard themselves against being understood as recommending changes except as component parts of a complete plan. Having carefully examined all the proposals made in the Report, the Lieutenant-Governor, I am to say, is not prepared to follow the Commission in thinking that all or none of their proposals should be accepted. He thinks that some proposals may be adopted at once, while the introduction of others may with advantage be postponed. The Commission's proposals are not always very clearly put from a financial point of view; but as far as the Lieutenant-Governor can ascertain, the yearly increase of expenditure which they involve would be about eight lakhs of rupees, while the improvements in plant, &c., could hardly cost less than five lakhs more. Whether the Government of India, in consideration of a better system and prospective benefits, will incur such expenditure, rests at the threshold of the inquiry, and if to that question an affirmative answer be given, then it becomes a question for his Excellency the Governor-General in Council to decide whether this Government should not leave all action on this Report for the Director-General of Opium and the Government of India. The doubt on this point does not relieve the Lieutenant-Governor from the duty of submitting his general views on the whole question, and on the Commission's recommendations.

23. The first recommendation which the Commission make in Part III. of their Report has reference to the questions of general control and administration. Their instructions directed them to consider whether the Opium Department should continue to be administered by the Board of Revenue at Calcutta, acting under the orders of the Bengal Government; or whether the control and administration should be divided between the Governments of Bengal and the North-Western Provinces; or lastly, whether a single officer, acting under the orders of the Government of India alone, should be appointed to administer the Department. The Commission are strongly of the opinion that the third course should be adopted, and they justify their view as well by illustrating the imperfections and inadequacy of the existing system as by maintaining that a divided control, such as the second plan contemplates, would lead to even greater difficulties than are at present felt. To commence at the head. The Commission point out that, although the Government of India is alone financially interested in the success of the Opium Department, its connexion with the administration is slender. The power of the purse, of course, gives that Government an ultimate controlling voice; but so long as budget requirements are satisfied, it is discretionary with the Government of Bengal to consult the Government of India, or not to consult it. And in point of fact, the Government of India is not often consulted, though matters of exceptional importance are reported to it for information. Again, as far as the Government of Bengal is itself concerned, the Commission think that the control which it exercises is not a control over the actual work of the Department so much as a control over the Board's management of that work. The administration is mostly conducted by correspondence between the agents and the Board, the Government

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having no independent means of testing or forming an opinion on the matters reported. Therefore its control consists, the Commission say, of comments (mostly laudatory) upon the Board's administration, and of orders (generally affirmative) on the Board's remarks. This is particularly noticeable in the case of the Benares Agency, the districts comprising which lie outside the jurisdiction of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. And if the control of the Bengal Government be, in the Commission's opinion, shadowy, that exercised by the Board is hardly more real. Under the law, indeed, their powers are full, and in point of fact the Board are consulted on almost everything that is done. Still their knowledge of the wants and requirements of the Department is of a mere routine order, the reflex of subordinate officers' opinions, not a living opinion of their own. "In dealing," say the Commission, "with every other subject than opium, the Board's Report is an independent review of the administration of the year. The Board lay before Government their own summary of the facts, their own conclusions and recommendations, their own tabular statements of what has been accomplished, and of what remains to be done The scheme of the Opium Report is altogether different. The reports of the agents and their principal assistants are submitted at length, and form the bulk of the Report, the Board's share in it being confined to the preparation of a brief extract which is prefixed to the local reports and tables It may be added that this practice is not confined to the annual reports, but is the common procedure when the Government calls for information upon any point affecting the working of the Department." The Commission consider it thus apparent that the Board instil no energy of life into the actual work of the Department; while, as the controlling authority originates nothing, no advantage results from the control which the Government of Bengal exercises over the Board. And this view is, the Commission think, confirmed by the consideration that, owing to the enormous extension of cultivation in the Benares Agency, the Calcutta Board of Revenue is no longer the natural administrative head of the Department, nor is the Bengal Government any longer the Local Government with which the Department is chiefly concerned. Therefore, the Commission declare that a change is necessary. "We have," they say, "patiently investigated the past history and present working of this Department, and we are led by our inquiries to believe not merely that certain specific cases of disaster have been due to faulty administration, but that the general principles on which the existing system is based are unsuited to the circumstances of the present day. If a certain measure of success has been achieved, we are convinced that this result has been attained, not in consequence of the present constitution of the Department, but in spite of it." They therefore recommend the withdrawal of the control of the Department from the Bengal Government and Board of Revenue, and the appointment of an Opium Commissioner or Director-General of the Opium Department, who would act immediately under the orders of the Government of India. To the Director-General they would attach a secretary or personal assistant, who, after five years' tenure of his office, would be eligible for the post of opium agent. The latter should, in the Commission's opinion, be able and energetic covenanted civilians of from 13 to 15 years' service, whose pay should be fixed at Rs. 2,200, rising to Rs. 2,200 in order to retain them in the Department, and for the most successful among whom should be reserved the post of Director-General when vacancies occur.

Finally, the Commission propose to drop the deputy agent (the district collector) out of the sphere of the Department altogether; to style the sub-deputies in future deputy agents; to raise the number from 23 to 29 by the creation of six new appointments in the Benares Agency, and by the addition of three new appointments to the 47 appointments of the assistant class; to equalise the house allowances they receive; and, lastly, to place at the disposal of the Director-General the sum of Rs. 13,500 to be annually expended in bonuses to the most successful deputy and assistant agents in both agencies. These latter proposals are defended on the ground that the present staff in Benares is altogether inadequate for the work which is to be done there.

24. In the Commission's recommendation to increase the number of sub-deputy agents, the Lieutenant-

Governor thinks there is much reason, and he, on the whole, agrees in them; while in the recommendation to appoint a Director-General of Opium, acting under the orders of the Government of India, he entirely concurs. The recommendation, it will be seen, is not approved by the Board of Revenue, who, in their letter No. 3 B. of the 2nd January 1884, propose an alternative, which the Commission have not noticed. That letter (which is an imperfect commentary upon the Commission's Report, and might, of itself, be held to suggest that some reform is necessary in the constitution of the Department) is chiefly remarkable for a suggestion which, in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, is little calculated to improve matters. The suggestion is that, instead of having a Director-General of Opium, whose whole time would be given up to the work of the Department, and who would serve only one master, we should have the member of the Board in charge of the Opium Department placed under the control of the Governor-General in Council, and freed from the control of the Government of Bengal in all matters connected with opium. This suggestion affords, in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, no solution of the question. It would remove none of the difficulties which the Commission so forcibly dwell upon, unless the member is to be constantly on tour making inspections to the detriment of his many other duties; and to suppose that he can be constantly on tour, even in the present extent of opium cultivation in the Benares Division, is to suppose the impossible. There would be the disadvantage of a Bengal officer controlling details of administration in other Governments, and there would be the great objection of allowing this member of the Board to be the servant of two or more masters. In writing as they have done, the Board have, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks, unduly estimated the value of "the official traditions which have hitherto guided the working of the Department;" but the report which condemns these traditions has, in Mr. Rivers Thompson's opinion, all the greater force in that Mr. Reynolds, the president of the committee, speaks with the knowledge arising from personal experience acquired as member of the Board in charge of opium affairs. Mr. Reynolds' condemnation of the system carries conviction to the Lieutenant-Governor's mind, not only as it concerns the Board, but as it concerns the local Government also. In the Lieutenant-Governor's belief this Government can rarely do any substantial good in connexion with the Department, while the financial control is in the hands of the Government of India, and while it is dependent on the opium agents alone for all knowledge of facts and details. And if particular examples to enforce this belief are wanting, the report furnishes them. The history of the Patna saw-mills, given in paragraph 156 of the report, is an excellent illustration of how not to do it; while the history of the recent misfortunes in the Ghazipore Agency, by which Government lost several lakhs of rupees, no one being punished except an unfortunate mohurir, indicates the necessity of such a complete reform as shall bring the internal conduct of the agencies under a much closer and more direct personal supervision than now exists. For these reasons the Lieutenant-Governor would strongly support the recommendation that a Director-General be appointed to control the Opium Department, under the direct orders of the Government of India. It is perfectly clear to his mind, both from practical experience of the working of the Department and from this report, that the Department must be under the undivided control of one authority; and looking to the vast extent of cultivation extending into the territories of three Governments, there seems no room for doubt that the central authority should be that of the Government of India. The Lieutenant-Governor, further, sees no reason why the Director-General should not have the charge of the opium godown in Calcutta, and the conduct of the periodical sales (as noticed in paragraph 620 of the report). The courteous relations between him and the opium merchants (on which the Board lay stress) would, Mr. Rivers Thompson thinks, be soon established.

25. Turning from the Director-General (to whom the Lieutenant-Governor would allot a salary of Rs. 3,000 a month, with Rs. 300 as travelling allowance) to the agents, the Lieutenant-Governor must concur in the opinion that the Government of the North-Western Provinces should have the appointment of the Benares agent. Every consideration seems to justify this, and although the Civil Service of these provinces, which is not very fortunate now as regards promotion, will

suffer, the interests of the public service call for the change. Mr. Rivers Thompson, while agreeing so far with the Commission, must, however, differ as regards the salary which the agents should draw. He sees no reason for thinking that a higher pay than Rs. 1,500 rising to Rs. 2,250 is necessary. Such pay as this would practically mean the addition of an officer to the lowest grade of magistrates on the Bengal list, rising with the promotion of his contemporaries to the highest grade. This would secure continuity in administration in a special department, which has, in Mr. Rivers Thompson's opinion, more to recommend it than changes in the office every five years.

Finally, the Lieutenant-Governor does not think that a strong case is made out for a personal assistant of the covenanted civilian class to the Director-General. If help of the kind is wanted it can be got more cheaply from the uncovenanted service, as in the case of the Inland Revenue and Salt Departments. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, doubts whether such assistance would be required at all; if required, it should not, he thinks, be liable to the changes which the Commission recommend in paragraph 618 of their report.

26. While thus in general accord with the chief proposals of the Commission on this part of the subject, Mr. Rivers Thompson must confess that the want of anything like a precise and tabulated estimate of cost in the report renders it difficult for him to make recommendations with assurance of support from the Government of India. Failing such an estimate, he can only presume that the pay and travelling allowances of the Director-General, with the cost of his establishment, would be about Rs. 50,000 per annum, while the pay of his assistant, if allowed, would come to close on Rs. 8,000 more. The additional appointments in the deputy grades would probably be scattered over all classes, and possibly one appointment of the first class, two of the second, four of the third, and five of the fourth, at a cost of Rs. 8,300 per mensem, or Rs. 99,600 per annum, might be considered appropriate. The cost of three new assistants' appointments (one in each of the first, second, and third grades) would be Rs. 1,200 per mensem, or Rs. 14,400 yearly. Thus excluding house allowances and bonuses, but having regard to the saving that would be effected in the pay of the agents, the cost of the Commission's proposals would be about Rs. 1,50,000. With bonuses and house allowances the cost would be about Rs. 1,70,000, which, with costs of additional establishments, may mount up to nearly two lakhs of rupees. It is for the Government of India to say whether for prospective advantages it is prepared to incur such an increase of cost. If they are not prepared to accept the Commission's proposals as a whole on this head, the Lieutenant-Governor certainly thinks that, at all events, a very strong case is made out for an increase in the number of sub-deputies employed in the Benares Agency, and with reference to this point I am to request attention to a letter from the Board, No. 393 B., dated 14th June 1884 (copy sent herewith), in which an application is made to raise the number at once by three. The Board point out that this can be done without any immediate expense; but the Lieutenant-Governor has preferred to postpone orders until the views of the Government of India on the whole question were expressed.

27. *Agency and District Establishments.*—The Lieutenant-Governor sees no reason why the recommendations in regard to the agents' establishments should not be accepted in their entirety. At present the cost of the Behar Agency establishment is Rs. 1,632; but the Commission think that there is no need for the treasurer, nazir, and poddar, while the Persian and English office can be amalgamated. These alterations would lead to a saving, as the maximum cost on the new scale would never exceed Rs. 1,558 per mensem, the minimum of the scale being Rs. 1,128. It is, however, impossible to say what the saving would be compared with the present cost, as the Commission do not say whether the present establishment approximates to the maximum or minimum cost.

In regard to the Benares Agent's establishment, the Commission, in the first place, object to the agent's practice of detaching one of the gazetted assistants from his proper duties and employing him as a private secretary and aide-de-camp. They properly deprecate this practice, and the Lieutenant-Governor will at once order its discontinuance. Owing to this practice of employing an officer away from his proper duties, to the indefiniteness of the line, separating the agent's establishment from that of the factory, and to the custom of entertaining a large number of clerks at the

busy season of the year, the Commission find a difficulty in understanding what the existing strength of the Benares Agent's establishment is. This difficulty prevents them from making more than conjectural recommendations; but they think that an establishment, consisting of an accountant and head assistant, 18 clerks and menial servants, at a cost rising from Rs. 1,441 to Rs. 1,951 per month, should suffice. They insist on the necessity of making the head assistant responsible for all branches of the office, and doing away with the separate staff of menial servants attached to the so-called branches into which the present agent has divided his office. On these points the Lieutenant-Governor would accept the Commission's recommendations as far as conjectural recommendations can be accepted. If the Government of India also approve, the recommendations will have to be examined and verified before final orders issue.

28. The sub-agency establishments are next considered under the heads of (a) *sudder offices* (b) *hothee* establishments. There are at present 23 *sudder* sub-agency offices, a number which, as we have seen, it is proposed to raise to 29. The establishments maintained at these sub-agency head offices vary greatly, being in some places redundant, while the clerks are, as a rule, under-paid. The Commission, therefore, recommend a standard strength for a sub-deputy agent's *sudder* office in both agencies consisting of five clerks, a duffry, four peons, and a sweeper, at a monthly cost of Rs. 330 rising to Rs. 400. As far as can be gathered from the imperfect statement of the cost of existing establishments in Behar and Benares, contained in paragraphs 223-236 of the report, the cost of this standard scale of establishment would exceed the present average by nearly one-half. On this point, however, further information is necessary, and all that can here be said, with an approach to certainty, is that if the Commission's proposals are accepted the standard cost of the (29) sub-agency *sudder* office establishments would vary from a minimum of Rs. 9,670 per mensem, or Rs. 1,16,040 per annum, to a maximum of Rs. 11,600 per mensem, or Rs. 1,39,200 per annum.

29. It has been already observed that the Commission's report is defective in its treatment of the financial aspects and results of the proposals made in it, and this fact places this Government at a disadvantage in criticising those proposals. Still the Lieutenant-Governor feels some confidence in saying that the scale of pay proposed for the sub-agency establishments is too lavish, while the inadequate recognition in it of the progressive principle is a blemish. Having regard to the pay drawn by the ordinary district executive establishments, Mr. Rivers Thompson is disposed to think that the following scale, if adopted, instead of that proposed in paragraph 636 of the report, would be considered liberal by those affected by it:—

	Rs.	Rs.
Head clerk -	80 rising to	100
2nd " -	50	75
3rd " -	40	50
4th " -	30	40
5th " -	20	30
Duffry -	5	5
2 Peons -	12	12
2 " -	10	10
Sweeper -	3	3
Monthly -	250	325

This gives for 29 sub-agencies a minimum cost of Rs. 87,000 and a maximum of Rs. 1,13,100 per annum, and shows a yearly saving of Rs. 29,000 at the lower, and of Rs. 26,100 at the higher end of the scale, compared with the Commission's recommendations. It must be confessed, however, that in all this there is a good deal of guess-work. It is desirable that in this portion of the question actual figures worked out by the Board and local officers should be prepared before any well-considered recommendations can be made to the Government of India. All that can at present be safely said is that a standard scale of sub-agency establishment is desirable, if only to remove the variations which now exist (apparently without sufficient cause), and to admit of the easy interchange of officers between one agency and another when the interests of the service require it. Therefore the Lieutenant-Governor desires to submit the question in its present state to the Government of India. If they approve of the general idea, the details will be worked out afterwards.

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30. I am now to offer some remarks in connexion with the *kothee* establishments. It will be observed from Chapter III., Part II. of the report, that the unit of opium administration in the Behar Agency is called the *kothee*, and in the Benares Agency the *sub-division*. In Behar there are 42 *kothees*, each sub-agency containing from three to six *kothees* according to its size; while in Benares the 12 sub-agencies now in existence are sub-divided into 53 sub-divisions and two minor outposts. In Behar the usual *kothee* establishment consists of a gomasta, a mohurir, two mutsudis, and a staff of from 10 to 25 zilladars. The total pay drawn by these officers is about Rs. 75,000 per annum (paragraph 226); but all except the zilladars receive commission which, in good years, gives them about Rs. 60,000 more. The authorised pay and allowances of the *kothee* establishments in Behar, therefore, amount in the aggregate to about Rs. 1,35,000 yearly. Of course in such a bad year as 1883 the establishments suffer heavily in commission.

In Benares the sub-divisional staff consists of one gomasta, three mohurirs, and about 18 zilladars. The total cost of the sub-divisional establishments in Benares would therefore seem (from paragraph 229 of the report) to be Rs. 12,055 per mensem, or Rs. 1,44,660 per annum. The Benares staff receive no commission, and, as the figures show, are worse off than the Behar staff in good years. In bad years, however, their position is better, as they do not in any way depend on commission.

31. It is on the question of the *kothee* and sub-divisional establishments' pay that the Commission seem to the Lieutenant-Governor to make their strongest point. They very reasonably express the reconviction that these establishments are under-paid, and they declare their belief that, owing to this under-payment, "every seer of opium which a cultivator delivers pays toll to the amlah, and from every rupee which a cultivator receives a percentage is deducted for their benefit." They declare that it is equally the duty and the interest of the Government to see that its promise of Rs. 5 per seer of opium to the cultivator is well kept, and they point out that the only way of securing the fulfilment of the promise is by paying the amlah adequate salaries and by abolishing the practice of taking commission. The salaries which they consider adequate are stated in paragraph 642; and applying the scale therein given to the number of *kothees* and sub-divisions, and assuming that of the 1,595 zilladars (paragraph 645) employed, one-half would get the lower and the other half the higher scale of pay, we get Rs. 5,63,040 and Rs. 6,42,840 as the minimum and maximum cost respectively of the Commission's proposals on this head for both agencies. When it is remembered that, as shown above, the present authorised scale of pay and allowances for the *kothee* and sub-divisional establishments in both agencies comes (as far as can be made out from the report) to Rs. 2,79,660, the bold character of the Commission's proposal on this head will be apparent. Yet Mr. Rivers Thompson believes that the case is one which calls for liberal measures, and he is not at all prepared to say that the Commission's proposals would not be, in the long run, found prudent. As will appear later on, he does not, indeed, think that in Behar we are ready for introducing the reforms into the khattadari system which the Commission (paragraph 674 *et seq.*) recommend, and until we are ready the introduction of the proposed changes there must perforce be postponed. But it should be a postponement, not an abandonment. As far as the Lieutenant-Governor can estimate the gross cost of all the proposals in connexion with superior and inferior establishments, a sum of 6 lakhs yearly would cover them, and we get six lakhs of rupees for 500 chests of opium. One way of looking at the question then is: Should we by a wise liberality, by suppressing commissions, and by prohibiting all irregular impositions on the cultivators—in fact, by doing all we can to secure to the cultivator the full profits of his cultivation—get 700 chests of opium more than we now do? If so, we should, speaking broadly, cover our six lakhs plus the price we should pay the cultivators for the 700 chests. We should avoid all loss and and go far to strengthen the stability of the opium industry in this country. Mr. Rivers Thompson is strongly disposed to think that the chance of success is worth the price to be paid for it.

32. *Settlements, Advances, and Remissions.*—From the improvements suggested in the organisation of the Department, we now come to improvements in its working, beginning with settlements, and it is desirable that, before going further, a few brief words should be

said describing the existing state of things in this regard. The wording of the Opium Act (XIII. of 1857) seems to imply that settlements for cultivating the poppy should be entered into between the Government officer and the cultivator in person; but in practice this is never done, the settlements being in fact made with a sort of village foreman called a *khattadar* in Behar and a *lambardar* in Benares. The *khattadar* or *lambardar* is a substantial cultivator himself who possesses the confidence of the other ryots in his village, and represents them in Benares on all occasions except at the final settlement of the year's account, and in Behar on this occasion also. In return he gets the scrapings (*khurchan*) of the cultivators' opium pots at weightment time, and a fee varying from 12 annas to Rs. 2-8 per bigha of poppy cultivation, the receipt of which, though illegal, is overlooked by the Department. It is, then, with the *khattadar* or *lambardar* that the agreement to cultivate is made by the opium officer, and it is to him that the advance is given for distribution among the cultivators whom he represents. In the Benares Division the *lambardar's* application to engage for so much land is tested by an excellent system of maps and records of land fit for opium in the particular village; but in Behar no such test is available, inquiries by the zilladars, and comparison by the gomastas of the results of these inquiries with the records past years, insufficiently supplying its place. When the *lambardar's* application for leave to cultivate so much land is approved in Benares, and when the zilladar's lists are passed in Behar, a license is given to the *lambardar* or *khattadar*, as the case may be; a *kabuliyat* and security bond taken from him; and the advance given. In many Benares districts only one advance of Rs. 6 is given; but in some districts of that agency, and usually in Behar, Rs. 4 are advanced in September and Rs. 2 in the following January. A third advance on the ripening of the crops is also occasionally made in March. The practice is not invariable, and the Commission see no good in giving advances twice. The settlements are completed in September.

Advances for wells are made on a different system, and at no special time, but a bond pledging property for the repayment of the advance is always taken. On these well advances no interest is charged.

33. Such being the system already in force in this matter, it remains to be seen what modifications the Commission would introduce. In the first place, it is clear that at the present time there is no binding engagement at all entered into with the opium cultivator. The agreement with the *khattadar* or *lambardar* may bind him, but it cannot bind the ryot, whom the opium officer at settlement time never sees. The present rough-and-ready system has worked fairly well hitherto; but for obvious reasons we ought not to presume too much upon freedom from loss in the past. An effort should now be made to place the system on a legal footing, while preserving, as far as possible, the advantages of the *lambardari* and *khattadari* system. This the Commission hope to do by taking engagements in writing from the actual cultivators who may wish to attend, while enabling those who prefer staying away to engage through the *lambardar* duly authorised by a power of attorney in that behalf. There can be no doubt in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion that if this were practicable it would be a great improvement, for it would at once exempt the industry of a careful ryot from being taxed, as it now is, for the sloth of his careless neighbour. Each man's responsibility would be defined, and thus a stimulus to individual industry supplied. To the success of this plan, however, the possession by the opium officer of such a knowledge of the villages as the Benares opium maps and records (paragraph 251) give is, if not essential, at all events most desirable and necessary, and it may well be doubted whether without such maps the plan is really practicable. The Commission, however, seem undeterred by the ill-success which attended the experimental introduction of the system into Behar (paragraph 262), and they propose to make another effort in that direction. The Lieutenant-Governor has heard something of the effort which was made to introduce maps, &c. into the Sewan Sub-Agency in Behar in 1880, and it would appear that the ill-success of the scheme was in a measure due to that want of local information, village maps, *patwari's* papers, &c., which meets us at every turn of administration in Bengal. If there is to be a cadastral survey of Behar under the Tenancy Bill all this will disappear, and it will become as easy to work in Behar on the system in question as in Benares. Until, however, our opium officers can be furnished

with cadastral village maps, the Lieutenant-Governor is doubtful of the use of trying an experiment which, from the beginning, seems exposed to failure in Behar from causes which seem to have escaped the Commission's notice. The case furnishes an addition to the multitude of arguments which support the claims of this Government for an Agricultural Department.

34. In regard to advances, the Commission see in the practice of giving more than one advance, "no advantage commensurate with the inconvenience to Government in having to arrange for it, and to the cultivators in having to receive it." They accordingly recommend that ordinarily only one advance of Rs. 8 per bigha be given, besides Rs. 4 per maund for leaves, and Rs. 16 per 100 maunds of trash when contracts for these are given. This advance should, the Commission think, be made at time of settlements in August or September, a discretion being allowed to the deputy agent to make a further advance of Rs. 4 per bigha on special grounds. Settlements and advances should be made at each *kothee*, and not, as now, at the sub-agencies; and opium officers should be relieved of all treasury responsibilities by having the requisite funds disbursed by the collector at the *kothees* under special arrangements made for the purpose.

35. The proposals to relieve the opium officers of treasury responsibilities, and to hold settlements at the *kothees* within easy reach of the cultivators' villages, seem good; but the proposal to make only one advance runs counter to present practice or prejudice, and seems insufficiently supported by the Commission. No doubt the mere opinion of such a Commission is entitled to great weight, but it must not be forgotten that the opportuneness of the opium advances (which, be it remembered, bear no interest) has always been alleged as one of the reasons why the cultivation of the poppy is popular, and that this idea of opportuneness implied that advances were made at successive rent-paying seasons, thus saving the ryots from the mahajan, who charges heavy interest on his loans. It may, however, be that too much stress has been laid in local reports on this frequency of advances, and the fact that in Benares, where it seems only one advance is usually given, opium cultivation is no less popular than in Behar, would seem to show that there is no magic in giving several advances. The truth may lie between the extremes, and it may be unwise to lay down any general rule. In those districts where the *khareef*, being the chief crop, has to pay the largest rent kist, no doubt one payment in September would be convenient; but where, as in Behar, the largest kist is usually the *awghani*, it may be doubted whether, among an improvident people, one advance in September would be best calculated to preserve the popularity of the opium cultivation. After all the labour of making advances is not great, and as the lambardars take and distribute the money, the cultivators are not harassed. The Lieutenant-Governor understands that in this matter of distributing advance, it is not proposed to change the existing *khattadari* or *lambardari* system, the change to *assameewar* payments noted below being proposed in connexion with the payments on delivery of the drug only. In the matter of advances, then, it may be a wise policy to let well alone, or, at all events, to improve by degrees.

Weightments and Payment for the Drug.—In Chapter IX., Part II., the existing state of things is described, and attention called to the fact that cultivators have to travel sometimes enormous distances to have their opium weighed and their accounts adjusted. In the Behar Agency there are only 20 weightment centres, and in Benares 48; but though the proportion of weightment centres to sub-agencies or *kothees* is larger in the latter than in the former agency, the Benares cultivator, owing to the scattered nature of the cultivation in this agency, has a far longer distance to travel than his Behar neighbour. When he gets to the weightment centre, the Benares man is delayed longer than the Behar man, for in Behar weightments are conducted wholesale, from 12 to 20 scales being at work at one time, while in Benares only two sets of scales are used at a time. The reason of this difference is twofold—first, in Benares payments are made *assameewar*, each cultivator receiving the sum due to him under the direct supervision of the gazetted officer in charge, while in Behar payment is made *khattawar*, the total amount due to the ryots on a *khatta* being made over to the *khattadar* for distribution among them; secondly, that as a rule each set of two scales in Benares is placed in charge of a special European officer, whose duty it is to keep a "check register" in English of the weightments

of each plate, as a safeguard against fraud by the vernacular register writers, while in Behar no check of the kind is in force. In the *puruk*, too, or system of testing the opium and recording its character, the Benares system is more elaborate and careful than that in force in Behar; for while in the former agency the class of opium is, on being declared, entered on the lambardar's license, on the cultivator's miniature license, and on a "classification sheet" kept in English by the opium officer, in Behar no entry is made in the licenses, nor is the "classification sheet" written up till the day's *puruk* is done. The more careful and elaborate system in force in Benares on the points noted, regarding weightment and *puruk*, is due to the fact that in the Benares Agency payment is made to each cultivator in person for the opium he delivers. The Commission attach the greatest importance to the maintenance of this principle, and they strongly recommend its introduction into the Behar Agency. The recommendation, if carried into effect, would be tantamount to a revolution in the practice which has always obtained in Behar; but there cannot be any doubt that, if it can be effected, the change would be beneficial. The question is—can it be at once effected?

37. It will be remembered that in the Benares Agency the settlements are made on the basis of village maps and village records, which render the opium officer independent of his circle or village subordinates. On the other hand, in Behar the opium officer is entirely dependent on such subordinates, the settlements being made on the information supplied by the *khattadars* and *zilladars*. Without the *khattadars* or *zilladars* it would be, in the present state of our village agency in Behar, impossible to make any opium settlements at all. But as the proposal to make payments *assameewar* in Behar means depriving the *khattadar* of his perquisites, it is highly probable that the *khattadar* will be against us if we strive to change the existing system. If he be against us our settlements run a very great risk of breaking down so long as we are unable to supply from other sources the information he now supplies. Thus, as has been already observed, even in this question of opium administration, we come round to the necessity, which in Bengal so repeatedly arises, of having a general cadastral survey and record of holdings. In other words, until the Tenancy Bill is passed, and our survey so far completed that we can place in the hands of our opium sub-agents copies of village maps, with relevant information as to classification and proprietorship of fields, we cannot afford to break down the *khattadari* system in Behar, or make any general effort to introduce payments *assameewar*. The Lieutenant-Governor does not doubt the desirability of the change on principle; he only thinks the present circumstances inopportune for introducing it. In any case, it would have a better chance of success if gradually and tentatively introduced by a Director-General in personal communication with the agent and his subordinates.

38. On the question of providing greater facilities for weightments, and more careful supervision over the scales, the Commission recognise the propriety of delay, and of collecting exact knowledge as to the best sites for the *kothees*. This question of more numerous and more conveniently-placed weightment centres has already come before the Lieutenant-Governor, who has sanctioned the experimental establishment of some. The question, however, has a financial aspect, as these additional weightment centres cost money, and require increased establishments. This is a matter, however, on which the Commission themselves (paragraph 671) make no definite suggestions, and all that the Lieutenant-Governor need do is to approve the principle, leaving to the future its application in practice (should the Government of India accept it) as opportunity suits and funds are available.

39. There are some other points noticed in this chapter which may also be briefly mentioned here, although, if the Lieutenant-Governor is right regarding the impracticability of at once abolishing the *khattadari* system of payments in Behar, no immediate action can be taken on some of them. The proposals in paragraph 667, regarding *leaves* and *trash*, seem desirable; but these, like the preceding proposal, are matters to be worked out by local officers tentatively. Until weightment centres are conveniently placed, no doubt *transit* allowances would be a boon to the people; but this proposal seems to the Lieutenant-Governor more of a luxury than a necessity; and though it may be kept in mind, it need not be given great prominence. The subject of *miniature licenses* should, in Mr. Rivers

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Thompson's opinion, be again taken up, for it is an essential part of the scheme at which we should aim, and it can be pushed on, under present circumstances, in Behar as well as in Benares. On the abolition of *khurchan* and *khurcha* (paragraph 683), the Commission make urgent recommendations, and the Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt that the subject should receive immediate attention. The system, as described by the Commission, cannot be defended, and our efforts should, in Mr. Rivers Thompson's opinion, be directed to its abolition. With the increase of pay and recognised commission, the abolition of the system might be enforced in Behar as well as in Benares (paragraph 684). Finally, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that the recommendations in paragraphs 687-689 of the Report deserve favourable consideration.

40. *The Sudder Factories.*—In Chapter X., Part II., the Commission give a detailed description of the factories at Ghazeepur and Patna, and in Chapter VI., Part III., they sum up their recommendations for improving them in various ways. It would be useless to criticise these recommendations here, for no action can, in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, possibly be taken on any suggestion or proposal made in the chapter without subjecting it to careful discussion and examination at the hands of local officers and the Public Works Department. If the Government of India think the Commission's views worth following up, and are ready to incur the cost, of which no estimate is given, it will then be time for this Government to discuss them, or refer them to local officers in detail.

41. *Factory Establishments.*—Recent events having clearly shown the urgent necessity for reorganising the factory establishments, and defining the responsibility of the agents and principal assistants, the Commission were especially directed to take these questions into their consideration. The result is a chapter very carefully worked out, in which the Lieutenant-Governor finds nothing to dissent from. In the first place, the principle is correctly laid down that "with the agent" ought to rest the responsibility for the careful and "efficient management of the factory," and as corollaries to that principle it is stated that communication between the agents and principal assistants (factory superintendents as the Commission would, to better define their *status*, call them), should be free from official formality, and, if not conducted orally, should be by half-margin letters or memoranda. While thus entirely subordinate to the agent, the factory superintendent should be supreme within the factory; should, subject to the agent's *veto*, have the appointment of all officers employed in it at a pay of Rs. 150 and under; and should be consulted on the appointment of others. In all this the Lieutenant-Governor sees nothing to object to.

42. The next point discussed is the appointment of the principal assistant or superintendent himself, and on it the Commission's remarks seem to the Lieutenant-Governor convincing, and the scheme they propose well calculated to secure efficient men for the important post in question. Briefly, they point out, what experience has repeatedly shown, that we cannot rely on getting efficient principal assistants from the medical department, and they propose, therefore, to train up men for the post by announcing that it will be open to opium officers who qualify themselves at the Royal School of Chemistry, South Kensington, and who have passed through a workshop course. Men so qualified would be appointed assistant factory superintendents, and would become, in course of time, superintendents. This plan seems in every way excellent, calculated to produce the class of men we want, as well as to afford a stimulus and incentive to the work in members of the Opium Service. Everything, in Mr. Rivers Thompson's opinion, points to the necessity of having scientific knowledge for the post, and the Board's suggestion (paragraph 9 of their letter of the 2nd January 1884) to have a single chemist to attend to both agencies does not commend itself to his acceptance. Even with facilities for communication, he might be away when most wanted, and that would give rise to disputes and conflicts between both agencies. Each agency in this respect should be self-contained. Besides, as factory superintendent (on the Commission's lines) the chemist's presence at his own agency would be continuously required. The Commission's proposal has, indeed, the additional merit of fixing individual responsibility for the interior administration of the factory, which, now divided between the agent and his subordinates, leads to mischief.

43. Next, the Commission deal with the superior and inferior factory staff. At present the pay of the permanent staff at Ghazeepur seems to range from a minimum of Rs. 2,486-8 to Rs. 2,536-8 per month, while at Patna it is Rs. 1,719 per month. It is proposed to raise it at Ghazeepur to Rs. 2,763-3,063, and at Patna to Rs. 2,686-8-2,938-8 per mensem, at the same time doing away with the allowances and commission now received, and effecting minor savings. This cost, however, does not include the cost of police guards, which it is rightly proposed to introduce at Ghazeepur as at Patna, nor the cost of temporary establishments. If the Government of India sanction the general idea, the details will have to be worked out in more detail by means of proposition statements. The general scheme, however, seems to be good, and might be approved.

44. *Operations subsequent to Weighment.*—It was an instruction to the Commission to prepare a code of rules for the factory. This they have done, printing it in a separate volume, both for the sake of handiness and because it was not desirable to publish abroad the process of manufacture. It is, of course, impossible for the Lieutenant-Governor to criticise this code. Time and experience only can show how far it serves its purpose. Meanwhile it reduces to a concise and handy form the practice most approved in both factories, and as such may be accepted. Some of its provisions, however, contemplate the adoption of proposals made in the report, and therefore, until orders are passed on the report, it will be hardly possible to sanction the code.

45. One matter, however, which is dealt with in the code is also referred to in this chapter, namely, the method of clearing up the cultivators' accounts after assay of the drug in the factory, and it seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that a provisional approval may be accorded to the proposals on this head contained in paragraphs 765-768 of the report. The matter is technical, and the question of working it out in practice will have to be considered by the local officers.

46. In paragraph 770 an important point is raised in the proposal to impose on the Behar agent the duty of providing chests for both factories. The Commission treat the point rather briefly, and all that can be said on it here is that fuller discussion is needed before a decision is possible. When it is remembered that in the discussions connected with the recent damage to the Ghazeepur provision opium it was alleged that sal chests were unfit for Benares opium, the necessity for further consideration will be evident. It is indeed probable that sal wood is no more unfitted for Benares than for Patna opium; but apart from this consideration, if the supply of mango wood in Behar is decreasing, it seems very questionable whether the duty of providing Ghazeepur with chests should be imposed on Patna. The question needs, however, a more thorough examination than the Commission give it.

47. The only portion of the report which now remains for consideration is the last, opium laws and their administration; but before discussing that subject the Lieutenant-Governor wishes to call attention to the chapters of Part II., which have not indirectly come under notice in connexion with the Commission's recommendations. These are Chapters 23 (competition of other crops with opium poppy) and 24 (consumption of excise opium). It will be seen that the Commission are strongly of the opinion that opium has nothing to fear from the competition of other crops, and that, although handicapped by a bad system of administration, it even now more than holds its own. It seems clear enough that poppy need not fear competition with cereals; and from the estimates of comparative profits which are given, the advantage of poppy over tobacco, sugar-cane, and potatoes would appear to be established. With due deference, however, for the opinion of the Commission (paragraph 572), Mr. Rivers Thompson does not place entire faith in their estimates; that for sugar-cane (paragraph 571), for instance, is defective in making no allowance for the fibre which the crushed stem yields, nor for the sugar-cane leaves and refuse or uncrySTALLIZABLE extract of the cane, both of which make excellent food for cattle. The items of expenditure also are open to question. It is, however, unnecessary to enter at length on these points, for it is sufficient to know, and this knowledge is confirmed by district experience, that opium cultivation is popular. If the improvements recommended by the Commission be introduced, there is no doubt that its popularity will be increased, and that it will continue to compete on more than even terms with other crops.

48. The question of *consumption of excise opium* is mainly the question of illicit retention and sale of the drug. The Commission are strongly of opinion that the drug is very largely kept back, consumed, and exported by cultivators and others in the producing districts; and looking, as they do, on the question as one of paramount importance, the Commission recommend that an energetic policy should be announced by Government and resolutely maintained in regard to it. Their figures, and the conclusions they draw from them regarding illicit sale in the producing districts, may be open to criticism in detail; but, on the whole, they establish the probability that illicit sale and export does go on to a very great extent. The question of illicit consumption of the drug in the producing districts is not so free from doubt; and the Lieutenant-Governor understands that the inquiries of the Excise Commission, now sitting, tend to suggest the conclusion that in these opium-producing districts it is country spirits, and not opium, which is favoured by the people. In other words, those inquiries, instead of confirming, weaken the Opium Commission's conclusion. The point is one of great interest, and the Lieutenant-Governor has accordingly instructed the President of the Excise Commission to consider how far the results of his inquiries coincide with, or differ from, those of the Opium Commission on this matter of illicit consumption in the opium-growing districts.

49. The measures which the Commission propose for the suppression of illicit practices form, with the necessary modifications in the law, the subject of the last chapter.

In paragraphs 774 and 779 the Commission express a strong opinion that Act I. of 1878 need not be touched at all. Sections 14 and 15 (search and seizure) have, they say, been abused in some districts of Behar; but this can be met by executive order or by amendment of the rules.

Act XIII. of 1857 the Commission propose to "recast" rather than revise. Their proposals in respect of this Act fall into two classes:—

- (i.) Those alterations which would be necessitated by the reorganisation of the Department which the Commission advocate.
- (ii.) Alterations suggested by administrative experience of the working of the Act and independent of the departmental changes proposed by the Commission.

Paragraphs 254 to 259 and 647 to 650 point out the legal defects in the present system of giving advances, and to these reference has already been made with sufficient fullness. Section 8 of Act XIII. contemplates engagements *direct* with the cultivators, and only such direct engagements can be legally enforced by penalty under section 10. The Commission suggest arrangements for dealing direct with the cultivators, and they propose to amend section 10 so as to provide for—

- (a.) Complaint by sub-agent with written consent of agent.
- (b.) Trial by a magistrate, as in section 3 of the Opium Act of 1878.
- (c.) Maximum penalty of Rs. 50, or three times the advance, whichever might be the larger.
- (d.) Payment of costs of prosecution and unliquidated advance out of the fine.
- (e.) Double maximum punishment in case of second offence.
- (f.) Recovery of the penalty for which section 10 does not provide.

The Lieutenant-Governor can find no specific recommendation on this last point, but it would seem reasonable to prescribe simple imprisonment for the terms set forth in section 67 of the Penal Code, *i.e.* :—

Up to Rs. 50	-	-	2 months	} Maximum.
" 100	-	-	4 "	
Any other case	-	-	6 "	

Section 11 the Commission do not propose to alter.

In section 16 they would introduce the modern system of recovery as arrears of land revenue, but would allow no process to issue without the authority of the agent.

In section 18 the Commission would raise the penalty for illegal exactions of rent from three times to ten times the amount of the illegal cess or excess rent exacted, and would provide a "cheap and speedy" method of adjudication. Their recommendation in regard to illegal exaction of rent has been sufficiently met by section 86 of the revised Tenancy Bill. The question of providing a "cheap and easy method of adjudication" is a difficulty which is still unsolved. It

may well be doubted whether it is wise to cherish a belief in the possibility of devising a "cheap and speedy adjudication" of any *disputed* question relating to rent, and these questions would necessarily be disputed.

It is proposed to strike out entirely sections 24 and 25 as being liable to abuse. The proposal is in accordance with the general lines of policy laid down by the Commission for dealing with the cultivators. If those lines are approved, the repeal of these sections would follow.

In respect of section 29, the Commission propose that the provisions regarding imprisonment in the civil gaol should not extend to persons convicted of the illegal purchase of opium from a cultivator. It would be necessary then to insert in section 20 a provision corresponding to that suggested above for section 10.

50. The preceding are the points upon which the Lieutenant-Governor has thought it right to express his views to the Government of India. In conclusion he would again express his appreciation of the report as a whole, and his sense of the obligation under which the members of the Commission have placed the Government by their zealous and exhaustive inquiry into the condition of a very important department of the public service.

No. 3 B., dated 2nd January 1884.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

I AM directed to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Bolton's letter, No. 2501-187 O., dated 28th November, forwarding, for an expression of the views of the Board, a copy of the report on the working of the Opium Department, drawn up by the Commission, appointed by the Government of India, and to reply as follows.

2. It is not, the Board presume, the intention of the Government of Bengal, when asking whether the Board would wish to make any remarks in regard to the report, that they should enter on any detailed examination and discussion of the numerous proposals submitted by the Commission. The time, moreover, within which it has been directed that the Board's views should be expressed would preclude the possibility of their so doing. They will therefore only offer a few observations on some of the more important changes proposed by the Commission in Part III. under the heading of "Recommendations."

3. It would be unbecoming on the part of the Board to criticise minutely the reasons on which the Commission have based their proposal to remove the control of the Opium Department from the Board of Revenue, in whom it is now vested by law, and to place it under a Director-General, who would act immediately under the orders of the Government of India. But they may perhaps be permitted to make the following observations on this recommendation for the consideration of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. In the first place, with reference to the appointment of a Director-General, I am to remark that it is evidently intended that the appointment should be a highly paid one, and it is for the Government to decide whether the reasons for creating such an office are sufficiently cogent to warrant a large increase of expenditure in the administration of the Department at a time when the opium revenue is falling. The Board are inclined to doubt whether, unless he virtually supersedes to a great extent the agents in what are now recognised as their duties, the Director-General will have enough work to occupy his time throughout the year. If it is regarded as essential to shorten the chain of official communication between the agents and the Government of India, and to place the administration of the Opium Department immediately under the control of the Governor-General in Council, this object might, the Board would venture to suggest, be effected by placing the Board in respect of their duties in connexion with this Department in direct subordination to the Government of India. The Board do not think that this arrangement would present any administrative difficulty, and by its adoption the loss of touch, if it may be so expressed, with the local officers and administration, which would certainly result from placing the control in the hands

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of a Director-General, would, so far at least, as the province of Behar is concerned, be avoided.

4. In the next place, if the duties of the Board are as proposed by the Commission, to be confined to the functions of auctioneer and godown-keeper, and their connexion with the general control and direction of this important branch of the revenue is to be completely severed, the ill-effects of such a measure will, the Board are inclined to think, be felt in the complete cessation of the friendly unofficial communications which at present constantly take place between the Board and the leading opium purchasers and shippers in Calcutta in all matters connected with this Department. On questions concerning the manufacture and packing of the drug these gentlemen have hitherto been in frequent communication with the Board; they

are at all times most courteous in placing at the Board's* disposal any information which they may receive from their friends and correspondents in China, and at any time when unfounded rumours are spread abroad regarding the intentions of Government, they are able, in personal interview with the member or secretary, to ascertain at once what the intentions of Government are. With a Director-General stationed at Lucknow, or on tour within the limits of the opium districts, any such free intercommunication will be impossible, and the Board are of opinion that, looking to the special characteristics of the opium trade—for instance, our want of knowledge of the demand in China, or the speculative nature of the operation in this drug—the interests of Government are liable to suffer from disconnexion with the gentlemen engaged in the trade.

5. With reference to the scheme sketched by the Commission in paragraph 615 of their report, the Board desire to be allowed to point out that there is nothing very novel in the arrangement indicated of one of the members of the Board proceeding on tour to the agencies. For, with the exception of the appeals which it devolves upon the Board to hear, it is open to either member to arrange that all business requiring his orders be submitted to him while absent from the Presidency (as, in parallel case, official business follows the Lieutenant-Governor while on tour). There would indeed be no need for an acting officer to be appointed in Calcutta in the place of the temporarily absent member, who might without difficulty absent himself from the Presidency for a time sufficient to admit of his making a very complete inspection of both agencies. The Board do not quite understand what is meant by the visit degenerating into a mere cold-weather tour; or why this result should be more likely to occur in the case of a member of the Board proceeding on a tour of inspection than in the case of an inspector-general of gaols, or police, or registration. It is well known that for some time past Government have attached much value to cold-weather tours; and it would be easy for the Government to ensure that the inspection, conducted by the members of the Board, should be of a complete and searching description.

6. The emoluments suggested for opium agents in future are set out in paragraph 619, with the proposed conditions of tenure of the appointments. I am to observe that if the view propounded above in paragraph 3 be admitted, viz., that an energetic Director-General will virtually supersede the agents in many of their functions, and relieve them of much of their responsibility, then there seems to be no necessity to place the salaries of the two agents on so high a scale as that indicated. These officers will in fact be nothing more than assistants to the Director-General. The Commission have not explained the grounds on which they proposed to limit the term of their appointments to five years, and the Board see no object in prescribing such a limitation.

7. The proposal made in paragraph 618, to attach a covenanted civilian as personal assistant to the Director-General (should such an appointment be created), is, the Board are inclined to think, unnecessary, the number of covenanted civilians sent yearly to India is now, the Board apprehend, so small that one can ill be spared for such duties. Moreover, with the ample leisure which the Director-General will have at his disposal, the personal assistant should have no duties to perform which cannot well be carried out by an officer taken from the lower ranks of the subordinate executive service.

8. The subject of remissions and recovery of advances dealt with in Chapter IV. of Part III. of the Report, forms the subject of a separate correspondence. It is therefore not necessary to refer to it particularly in this letter.

9. The Board would venture with some diffidence to record their dissent from the proposals made by the Commission in paragraphs 720-729 of Chapter VII. of Part III. regarding the appointments of principal assistants at the factories. The Commission appear to recognise the necessity of having a thoroughly instructed chemist appointed to the post, which they would designate as that of "Superintendent of the—Factory;" but their recommendations seem to the Board quite inadequate to secure the services of an officer of even moderate scientific attainments. An army surgeon of some eight or ten years' service may not possess high attainments as a chemist, but his services are, it seems to the Board, preferable to those of an assistant agent of the Opium Department, who has after a nine months' course of study, obtained a certificate from the Royal School of Chemistry. Such an officer can, the Board venture to say, have but a smattering of the science of which he is presumed to have acquired a competent knowledge. It may be true, as stated by the Commission, that from the ranks of the medical service a highly scientific chemist is not ordinarily procurable; but the Board believe that among the members of that service will always be found some who have a natural inclination for that branch of science, and have devoted time and attention to its study. Such men, with the advantage that their medical training gives them, will, the Board are of opinion, discharge the scientific portion of the duties of principal assistant in a more efficient manner than a promoted assistant of the Opium Department. The Board are fully aware of the drawback which the want of experience of the working of an opium factory imposes on the medical officer; but this seems to be unavoidable, if scientific attainments are to be considered as an essential qualification. The Board would throw out the suggestion that perhaps it might be sufficient to have a medical officer possessed of scientific attainments as a chemist at only one of the factories, the similar post at the other factory being taken by a qualified assistant of the Opium Department. Communication between the factories by rail is now easy, and the medical officer could easily either pay frequent visits to the other factory, or cases requiring special inquiry could be sent to him.

10. In conclusion, I am to say the Board observe that the adoption of the recommendations made by the Commission will involve a very largely increased expenditure, but the report gives no estimate of the probable amount which their acceptance will entail. A large majority of them appear, if the Board may be allowed to express an opinion, to be well considered and worthy of introduction. The changes advocated in Chapter III., paragraph 632 *et seq.*, require, the Board think, a full and complete scrutiny. The salaries proposed for some at least of the establishments appear at first sight to be on a somewhat unusually liberal scale.

No. 398 B., dated 14th June 1884.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 150 T. R., dated 30th April, communicating the consent of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the Board of Revenue taking into consideration and submitting suggestions for giving effect to the recommendations made by the late Opium Commission on certain minor matters connected with the administration of the Opium Department.

2. I am accordingly to submit, for the consideration and orders of Government, a proposal submitted by the opium agent, Benares, for the formation of three new sub-agencies in the Benares Opium Agency. The proposal in question was submitted by the opium agent some months ago, but was referred to the late Opium Commission, and kept in abeyance pending their report.

3. The Opium Commission, in paragraph 629 of their report, consider the proposals of the Benares agent, stated in their paragraph 627, insufficient to meet the requirements of the Benares Agency. They are of opinion that the scheme proposed by the agent for the Oudh districts may be adopted, though even then the charge of the Fyzabad sub-deputy agent will be inconveniently large. But in the North-Western Provinces they consider that, as a rule, not more than two revenue districts should be assigned to an opium sub-agency, and they recommend that the Benares Agency should be divided into 18 sub-agencies.

4. The large increase recommended by the Opium Commission must, the Board presume, await the orders of Government of their report. Mr. Carnac has, however, pointed out that three new sub-agencies can be formed at once without increase of expenditure, and it is for the formation of these new sub-agencies that the orders of Government are now requested.

5. The opium agent in submitting his proposal recommended that the three new sub-agencies should be formed as follows :—

- (1.) By severing the Etawah sub-division from the Cawnpore Sub-Agency and the Mainpuri sub-division from the Fatehgarh Sub-Agency, and forming them into a new sub-agency, to be called the Etawah Sub-Agency.
- (2.) By separating the Sitapur, Hardui, and Kheri sub-divisions from the Lucknow Sub-Agency, and forming them into a new sub-agency, to be called the Sitapur Sub-Agency.
- (3.) By separating the Rai Bareilly and the Saloun sub-divisions from the Sultanpur Sub-Agency, and forming them into a new sub-agency, to be called the Rai Bareilly Sub-Agency. The agent, in submitting his proposals, gives the following reasons for his selection of the sub-divisions which it is proposed to transfer to form the new divisions. *

Etawah, the agent states, is an extensive and important district, with nearly 20,000 bighas under poppy cultivation, and an outturn of over 2,500 maunds of opium, and is in charge of an assistant subordinate to the sub-deputy agent at Cawnpore. In Etawah there is room for extension of cultivation, where an experienced officer could do much good. After the severance of the Etawah sub-division from the Cawnpore Sub-Agency, the sub-deputy agent of Cawnpore will still have charge of the sub-divisions of Humipur, Jaloun, and a portion of Jhansi, which is, the agent thinks, a charge of sufficient magnitude for one officer. The agent also states that Fatehgarh, which is a heavy district, should be relieved of Mainpuri; if the Lucknow division be relieved of Sitapur, Hardui, and Kheri, the agent thinks that the remaining portion will still be a charge of adequate extent for one officer.

Rai Bareilly and Saloun have a cultivation of 30,800 bighas, with an outturn of 5,142 maunds, and are under the charge of an assistant sub-deputy agent.

6. Maps showing the existing and proposed sub-agencies of the Benares Opium Agency are enclosed, together with a statement showing the area of cultivation and the outturn of opium in each sub-division. From this statement it will be seen that the total cultivation and outturn of the existing sub-agencies of

Cawnpore, Fatehgarh, Lucknow, and Sultanpur will be affected as follows by the formation of the three new sub-agencies of Etawah, Sitapur, and Rai Bareilly. The total cultivation of the Cawnpore Sub-Agency amounts to 34,369 B—9b, and of the Fatehgarh Sub-Agency to 45,972 B—16b, and the total outturn to 3,838 maunds 31 seers 3 chittacks, and 6,237 maunds 33 seers 8½ chittacks respectively. When, however, Etawah and Mainpuri have been separated from these sub-agencies, their cultivation and outturn will be reduced to 1,420 B—10b and 1,302 maunds 15 seers 3 chittacks and 32,411 B—3b and 4,193 maunds 12 seers 8 chittacks respectively, while the total cultivation of the new sub-agency of Etawah will be 33,510 B—12b, and the total outturn 4,580 maunds 36 seers 6½ chittacks. The total cultivation of the Lucknow Sub-Agency will be reduced from 52,245 B—17b to 28,946 B—7b, and the total outturn from 6,586 maunds 8 seers 11½ chittacks to 3,970 maunds 18 seers 2½ chittacks by the formation of the new sub-agency of Sitapur, which will have a total cultivation of 23,299 B—10b, and a total outturn of 2,615 maunds 30 seers 8½ chittacks.

The total cultivation and outturn of the Sultanpur Sub-Agency will be reduced from 51,596 B—12b to 20,774 B—14b, and from 8,225 maunds 7 seers 3 chittacks to 3,083 maunds 1 seer 6½ chittacks respectively, giving the new sub-agency of Rai Bareilly a total cultivation of 30,821 B—18 b, and a total outturn of 5,142 maunds 5 seers 12½ chittacks.

7. In respect of the establishments necessary for the working of the three new sub-agencies, the agent reports that they can be provided for without increased expenditure to the State by the redistribution and transfer of staff from the old to the new sub-agencies. He accordingly proposes (as will be seen from the proposition on statement which has been submitted through the Accountant-General, Bengal, for verification of the present scale of establishment) to transfer one mohurrir from Cawnpore and one mohurrir, one clerk, and one peon from Fatehgarh for the Etawah Sub-Agency; one clerk, two mohurrirs, and one peon from Lucknow for the Sitapur Sub-Agency; and two mohurrirs, two burkundzes, and one peon from Sultanpur for the Rai Bareilly Sub-Agency. The existing establishments of the sub-divisions of Etawah, Mainpuri, Satipur, Hardui, Kheri, Rai Bareilly, and Saloun are unaffected by the transfers above mentioned. These transfers, it will be seen, are to be used for the purpose of forming new sudder offices of the three new sub-agencies. The agent states, that though these establishments for the sudder offices are smaller than those usually sanctioned for large divisions, yet they will be sufficient for the present for the requirements of the new sub-agencies.

8. It will be observed that the increased expenditure on account of the cost of the sudder office establishments of the sub-deputy agents of the three new sub-agencies will amount to Rs. 312,* of which amount Rs. 232 will be met by a corresponding reduction in the other sub-agencies of the Benares Agency, which will be affected by the changes indicated in the proposition statement. The balance of Rs. 80 will, the agent reports, be met from the saving of the pay of the treasurers of the Fyzabad, Lucknow, and Basti sub-agencies. The agent states that the Fyzabad and Lucknow sub-agencies have been without treasurers for some time, and the treasurer of the Basti Sub-Agency, who has attained the age of 55 years, will retire, and that, as under the existing system no inconvenience will be felt by the abolition of these appointments, they will not be filled up.

9. With regard to the appointments to be created by the formation of the three new sub-agencies, the agent's proposal is that three of the assistant sub-deputy opium agencies of the first grade on Rs. 500 a month should be transformed into sub-deputy opium agencies of the fifth grade on Rs. 500 a month. The effect of this change would be to entail no additional charge on the State, while the independence of their position would both conduce to the officers taking greater interest in their work and be an administrative convenience. Instead of four sub-deputy opium agents of the fifth grade and four assistant sub-deputy opium agents of the first grade there would thus be seven sub-deputies of the fifth grade and one assistant of the first grade, each in receipt of Rs. 500 a month.

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10. Under these circumstances I am to request that the sanction of Government may be given to the Benares agent's proposals for the formation of

three new sub-agencies being carried out on an early date.

Existing Divisions and Sub-Divisions.				Proposed Divisions and Sub-Divisions.			
Division.	Sub-Division.	Area under Cultivation in 1881-82.	Outturn.	Division.	Sub-Division.	Cultivation.	Outturn.
		B. B. D.	M. S. C.			B. B. D.	M. S. C.
GHAZIPUR -	Ghazipur -	7,645 4 0	799 12 6½	GHAZIPUR -	Ghazipur -	7,645 4 0	799 12 6½
	Ballia -	6,859 1 0	786 39 9½		Ballia -	6,859 1 0	786 39 9½
	Zamaneah -	7,091 0 0	1,077 8 5½		Zamaneah -	7,091 0 0	1,077 8 5½
	Benares -	900 5 0	86 22 11½		Benares -	900 5 0	86 22 11½
	Sayyedpur -	5,880 15 0	595 26 4½		Sayyedpur -	5,880 15 0	595 26 4½
	Chandauli -	4,930 19 0	749 22 4½		Chandauli -	4,930 19 0	749 22 4½
	Mirzapur -	6,088 12 0	672 12 4½		Mirzapur -	6,088 12 0	672 12 4½
		39,395 16 0	4,767 23 14			39,395 16 0	4,767 23 14
AZIMGURH -	Azamgurh -	4,073 0 0	550 34 1	AZAMGURH -	Azamgurh -	4,073 0 0	550 34 1
	Ghosi -	5,095 8 0	794 5 0½		Ghosi -	5,095 8 0	794 5 0½
	Nagra -	4,632 0 0	661 34 5½		Nagra -	4,632 0 0	661 34 5½
	Jaunpur -	2,492 3 0	232 23 2½		Jaunpur -	2,492 3 0	232 23 2½
		16,292 11 0	2,239 16 9½			16,292 11 0	2,239 16 9½
GORUCKHPUR -	Goruckhpur -	6,881 0 0	767 5 1½	GORUCKHPUR -	Goruckhpur -	6,881 0 0	767 5 1½
	Patherwah -	8,606 10 0	721 38 14½		Patherwah -	8,606 10 0	721 38 14½
	Bhagulpur -	9,329 16 0	1,295 10 0½		Bhagulpur -	9,329 16 0	1,295 10 0½
	Golah -	7,635 0 0	1,221 14 4½		Golah -	7,635 0 0	1,221 14 4½
		32,452 6 0	4,005 28 5			32,452 6 0	4,005 28 5
BASTI -	Basti -	12,732 12 0	1,510 25 12½	BASTI -	Basti -	12,732 12 0	1,510 25 12½
	Amorah -	10,192 6 0	1,291 33 4½		Almorah -	10,192 6 0	1,291 33 4½
	Bansi -	3,002 12 0	268 27 6½		Bansi -	3,002 12 0	268 27 6½
	Domeriaganj -	5,206 2 0	446 31 15½		Domeriaganj -	5,206 2 0	446 31 15½
	Khalilabad -	5,545 12 0	591 29 14½		Khalilabad -	5,545 12 0	591 29 14½
		36,679 4 0	4,109 28 4½			36,679 4 0	4,109 28 4½
ALLAHABAD -	Allahabad -	4,265 12 0	675 5 0½	ALLAHABAD -	Allahabad -	4,265 12 0	675 5 0½
	Fatehpur -	9,079 7 0	1,415 10 13½		Fatehpur -	9,079 7 0	1,415 10 13½
	Sarsa -	4,855 18 0	1,087 23 8½		Sarsa -	4,855 18 0	1,087 23 8½
	Banda -	1,561 18 0	181 11 0½		Banda -	1,561 18 0	181 11 0½
		19,762 15 0	3,359 10 7½			19,762 15 0	3,359 10 7½
CAWNPORE -	Cawnpore -	3,524 10 0	337 31 8½	CAWNPORE -	Cawnpore -	3,524 10 0	337 31 8½
	Rura -	6,478 1 0	617 7 14½		Rura -	6,478 1 0	617 7 14½
	Hamirpur -	1,199 0 0	66 26 4½		Hamirpur -	1,199 0 0	66 26 4½
	Jaloun -	3,218 19 0	280 30 1½		Jaloun -	3,218 19 0	280 30 1½
		14,420 10 0	1,302 15 13			14,420 10 0	1,302 15 13
FATEHGARH -	Fatehgarh -	7,848 15 0	937 15 11½	FATEHGARH -	Fatehgarh -	7,848 15 0	937 15 11½
	Bhojpur -	10,140 10 0	1,394 32 3½		Bhojpur -	10,140 10 0	1,394 32 3½
	Aukin -	14,421 18 0	1,861 4 9		Aukin -	14,421 18 0	1,861 4 9
	Mainpuri -	13,561 13 0	2,044 21 0½		Mainpuri -	13,561 13 0	2,044 21 0½
		45,972 16 0	6,237 33 8½			45,972 16 0	6,237 33 8½
						33,510 12 0	4,580 36 6½

Existing Divisions and Sub-Divisions.				Proposed Divisions and Sub-Divisions.			
Division.	Sub-Division.	Area under Cultivation in 1881-82.	Outturn.	Division.	Sub-Division.	Cultivation.	Outturn.
BAREILLY	Bareilly -	B. B. D. 2,928 5 0	M. S. C. 283 14 6½	BAREILLY	Bareilly -	B. B. D. 2,928 5 0	M. S. C. 283 14 6½
	Shahjehanpur -	12,705 5 0	1,509 0 1½		Shahjehanpur -	12,705 5 0	1,509 0 1½
	Budaon -	10,379 10 0	1,297 37 6½		Budaon -	10,379 0 0	1,297 37 6½
	Moradabad -	329 0 1	18 38 4½		Moradabad -	329 0 1	18 38 4½
ALIGURH		26,342 0 1	3,109 10 2½	ALIGURH		26,342 0 1	3,109 10 2½
	Aligurh -	300 4 0	15 37 6½		Aligurh -	300 4 0	15 37 6½
	Agra -	347 2 0	16 36 15½		Agra -	347 2 0	16 36 15½
	Muthra -	532 15 0	8 0 1½		Muthra -	532 15 0	8 0 1½
	Etah -	3,719 7 0	504 28 12		Etah -	3,719 7 0	504 28 12
		4,899 8 0	545 23 3½			4,899 8 0	545 23 3½
LUCKNOW	Lucknow or Unao	14,097 8 0	1,904 32 11½	LUCKNOW	Lucknow cum Unao, Barbanki -	14,097 8 0	1,904 32 11½
	Sitapur -	10,324 0 0	942 19 12½			14,848 19 0	2,065 25 7½
	Hardui -	9,998 9 0	1,485 9 8½			28,946 7 0	3,970 18 2½
	Barabanki -	14,848 19 0	2,065 25 7½	SITAPUR	Sitapur -	10,324 0 0	942 19 12½
	Kheri -	2,977 1 0	188 1 4		Hardui -	9,998 9 0	1,485 9 8½
FAIZABAD		52,345 17 0	6,586 8 11½		Kheri -	2,977 1 0	188 1 4
	Faizabad -	12,298 3 0	1,961 3 14½	FAIZABAD	Faizabad -	12,298 3 0	1,961 3 14½
	Gondah -	17,627 3 0	1,774 17 10½		Gondah -	17,627 3 0	1,774 17 10½
	Bahraich -	8,544 0 0	689 4 0½		Bahraich -	8,544 0 0	689 4 0½
		38,469 6 0	4,424 25 9½	SULTANPUR		38,469 6 0	4,424 25 9½
SULTANPUR	Sultanpur -	8,211 15 0	1,185 34 2½		Sultanpur -	8,211 15 0	1,185 34 2½
	Partabgarh -	12,562 19 0	1,897 7 4½		Partabgarh -	12,562 19 0	1,897 7 4½
	Rai Bareilly -	20,193 18 0	3,329 21 4½	RAI BAREILLY	Rai Bareilly -	20,193 18 0	3,329 21 4½
	Saloun -	10,628 0 0	1,812 24 8½		Saloun -	10,628 0 0	1,812 24 8½
		51,596 12 0	8,225 7 3			30,821 18 0	5,142 5 19½

No. 51, dated 17th February 1885.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

We have the honour to address your Lordship in regard to the proposals submitted by the Commission appointed in 1883 to inquire into the organisation of the Bengal Opium Department and into the working of the Patna and Ghazipur Opium Agencies.

2. The instructions given to the Commission are contained in our resolution in the Department of Finance and Commerce, No. 713, dated 4th May 1883, a copy of which was forwarded with our Despatch, No. 44, dated 27th June 1884. Your Lordship, in Despatch No. 81 (Revenue), dated 25th September 1884, referred with approval to our proceedings on the subject.

3. We now forward a copy of the report of the Commission, with copies of the letters containing the views of the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, and the Government of Bengal on the proposals submitted by the Commission.

4. The report of the Commission is divided into four parts:—

Part I. explains the origin and progress of the Opium Department in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces;

Part II. reviews the existing condition of the Department;

Part III. contains the recommendations of the Commission; and

Part IV., which is separately printed as a code, lays down rules for the working of the Patna and Ghazipur opium factories.

The Commission have dealt in a careful and exhaustive manner with the various questions referred for their consideration, and have submitted in Part III. of the report their suggestions for the improvement of the organisation and working of the Opium Department.

5. The most important recommendation made by the Commission is the proposal to withdraw the control of the Opium Department from the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, and to place the Department under the control of a single officer directly subordinate to the Government of India.

It is to this proposal that we desire immediately to confine ourselves in our present communication to your Lordship. The general revision of the Opium Act recommended by the Commission as well as other matters of importance cannot be completely dealt with until the question of the control of the Department is decided.

6. Some of the minor measures recommended by the Commission may be advantageously considered, and perhaps introduced without waiting till the important general question of the future control of the Department is settled, and the Government of Bengal has therefore been requested to have these measures

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considered in detail in view to the sanction and introduction of such of them as need not be postponed. The more important reforms recommended are of a nature to render it advisable that they should be gradually introduced after the appointment of the new head of the Department. A copy of our letter to the Government of Bengal is annexed. We do not at present ask for your Lordship's orders on any of these questions.

7. The recommendations of the Commission regarding the control of the Opium Department will be found in Chapter II. of Part III. of the Report. The Commission recommend that the Board of Revenue and the Government of Bengal should be relieved of the control of the Department so far as concerns the growth and manufacture of opium, and that this control should be entrusted to an officer to be styled the Director-General of the Opium Department, who will work directly under the Government of India in the Financial Department. Their reasons are fully set forth in paragraphs 605 to 617 of the report, and we need not repeat them. The Government of Bengal concurs in the conclusions of the Commission on this point. This change was also recommended by a Committee which considered the question in 1871. We are of opinion that the proposed transfer of control would result in increased efficiency, and we solicit your Lordship's sanction to the proposal.

8. The control of the Department is vested by law in the Board of Revenue, Bengal, and the Act XIII. of 1857 does not give Government any power to transfer that control to any other authority. It will therefore be necessary to amend Act XIII. of 1857 so as to give this power to the Government of India, and we request your Lordship's sanction to the necessary legislation on the subject.

9. The control of the operations connected with the growth and manufacture of opium need not necessarily, in our opinion, be in the same hands as the arrangements for the storage and sale of opium. As to the latter, the Commission recommend that the Board of Revenue should continue to discharge the duties connected with the custody and sale of opium in Calcutta. The Government of Bengal considers that these duties also might be transferred to the Director-General. We are of opinion that it is very desirable that these duties should be performed by some authority permanently located in Calcutta. The Board of Revenue has satisfactorily discharged this duty hitherto, and neither the new Director-General nor any other authority has such facilities as the Board of Revenue for the proper performance of the work. We do not consider that the withdrawal of the control of the totally distinct operations connected with the growth and manufacture of opium in any way gives ground for supposing that the Board will conduct the duties of the custody and sale of opium in Calcutta less satisfactorily than they have conducted them in the past. It is, moreover, of great importance that merchants concerned in the opium trade, who have no direct concern with the growth and manufacture of opium, but who are intimately and essentially concerned in the sale, should not be disturbed in their present relations with the local authorities.

10. We are therefore of opinion that the chests of opium when packed at the two agencies should be consigned, as at present, to the Board of Revenue, Calcutta, and that the Board should continue to undertake the custody and sale of the opium.

11. With regard to the office of the Director-General of the Opium Department, we are of opinion that his status and salary should be such as to place him on an equality with Commissioners of Revenue in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces. Accordingly we consider the proposals of the Bengal Government as to the pay and allowances of the Director-General to be appropriate.

12. The appointment of a Director-General will effect an important change in the position of the two agents at Patna and Ghazipur. These officers have now a higher standing and greater responsibilities than they will have when the Director-General assumes charge of his duties. The Director-General will himself, to some extent, share in the performance of duties, such as the inspection and control of operations in the Provinces, which are now left entirely to the agents, and which they will under the new system undertake only under the orders of the Director-General, and to such an extent as the Director-General may consider necessary. It is essential that, as their work will be controlled by that officer, the agents should be distinctly subordinate to the Director-General, who will be responsible for all

that takes place in the two agencies. We accordingly propose to alter the designation of these two officers from "Agent" to "Deputy Director-General," and to assign to the junior officer a salary of Rs. 1,500, rising to Rs. 1,800, and to the senior a salary of Rs. 2,250. These officers would, when Government considered it desirable, or circumstances render it necessary, revert to the ordinary line of service in the Province to which they belong.

13. Our present reference to your Lordship is limited to the points above explained, the settlement of which we consider necessary before we can take up for disposal the many other important recommendations.

14. The several recommendations of the Commission will, undoubtedly, if adopted, involve an increase of expenditure. But till we have considered and come to a final decision on each of the recommendations, we cannot state what increased expenditure may be found necessary. The increased expenditure involved in the particular proposals which we now submit for sanction may be estimated as follows:—

<i>Present Cost.</i>		Rs.
Two Agents on Rs. 2,500 — 100 — 3,000		
= 2,800 × 12 × 2	- - -	67,200
<i>Proposed Cost.</i>		Rs.
One Director-General on Rs. 3,000 -		3,600
Travelling allowance, Rs. 300 - -		3,600
Establishment - - -		5,000
One Deputy Director-General on Rs. 2,250 × 12 =		27,000
One Deputy Director-General on Rs. 1,500 — 60 — 1,800 = 1,700		
× 12 =	- - -	20,400
		<u>92,000</u>
Increase - - -		24,800

But from this amount a deduction can no doubt be effected by reduction of the establishment of the Board of Revenue in consequence of the transfer of the control of the Opium Department from the Board. On the other hand, the salaries of the present agents will not be reduced at once, unless the present incumbents revert to the ordinary line on the introduction of the new organisation.

15. Finally, in asking your Lordship's sanction to the proposals now made, we would desire to guard against any possible misapprehension of the effect of our proposals by pointing out that they do not contemplate any change in the nature of the connexion between Government and the Opium Department, or involve any extension of the operations of the Department. Whatever the merits of the questions from time to time raised as to the monopoly of opium cultivation and sale by the Government of India, it is desirable that in this, as in other branches of administration, efficiency should be aimed at. The proposals we now lay before your Lordship have for their sole object the improvement of existing administrative machinery, and are not open to objection on any important ground of principle.

No. 843, dated 17th February 1885.

From J. F. FINLAY, Esq., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 980 T. R., dated 28th June 1884, containing the views of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on the proposals submitted by the Commission appointed in 1883 to inquire into the organisation and system of working and administration of the Opium Department in Bengal and the North-

*No. 3 B., dated 2nd January 1884.
No. 398 B., dated 14th June 1884.
Western Provinces, and forwarding copies of two letters* from the Board of Revenue bearing on the report of the Commission.

2. In reply I am directed to enclose, for your information, a copy of a Despatch addressed to the Secretary of State, and with reference to paragraph 6 thereof I am to request that, with the permission of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, such of the minor recommendations of the Commission as have the approval of his Honour, and which his Honour considers may be

advantageously taken up without waiting for the introduction of the changes recommended in the Despatch, may be considered in detail in consultation with the Board of Revenue and the local officers. As each proposal is matured, the recommendations of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor should be separately submitted to the Government of India if the sanction of the Government of India is necessary.

3. The following are the matters which, in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council, it will be desirable to deal with as suggested in the preceding paragraph. References to the paragraphs of the report and of the letter under reply which deal with the matters included in the list are given:—

- (a.) The formation of additional sub-agencies and the grant of certain allowances to deputy and assistant agents:—
 - paragraphs 621–630 of the report;
 - paragraphs 24 and 26 of the letter under reply.
 Letter from this Department No. 2620, dated 4th August 1884, sanctioning the formation of three new sub-agencies without increase of expense.
- (b.) The establishments of the agents—
 - paragraphs 633–635 of the report;
 - paragraph 27 of the letter under reply.
- (c.) The establishments of deputy agents and of assistants in charge of sub-divisions—
 - paragraphs 636–637 of the report;
 - paragraphs 28–29 of the letter under reply.
- (d.) The Mofussil or Kothee establishments—
 - paragraphs 638–641 of the report;
 - paragraphs 30 and 31 of the letter under reply.
- (e.) The provision of greater facilities for weighments and the establishment of new weighment centres—
 - paragraphs 668–670 of the report;
 - paragraph 38 of the letter.
- (f.) The delivery of and payment for leaves and trash—
 - paragraph 667 of the report;
 - paragraph 39 of the letter.
- (g.) Miniature licenses—
 - paragraph 679 of the report;
 - paragraph 39 of the letter.
- (h.) The abolition of kurchan and kurcha—
 - paragraphs 683–684 of the report;
 - paragraph 39 of the letter.
- (i.) Payment to cultivators at time of weighment—
 - paragraphs 687–689 of the report;
 - paragraph 39 of the letter.
- (j.) The factory buildings at Ghazipore and Patna—
 - paragraphs 690–715 of the report;
 - paragraph 40 of the letter.
- (k.) The factory establishments—
 - paragraphs 716–759 of the report;
 - paragraphs 41–43 of the letter.
- (l.) Supply of chests from Behar for both agencies—
 - paragraph 770 of the report;
 - paragraph 46 of the letter.

4. The measures which his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor may ultimately decide to introduce in connexion with some of the matters noted in the preceding paragraph will no doubt be within his competence without reference to the Government of India. In that event, and if his Honour does not consider a reference to the Government of India to be necessary or desirable, orders may, of course, be issued by the Government of Bengal without a previous reference to the Government of India.

5. I am also to say that the Governor-General in Council concurs with the Government of Bengal in thinking that the appointment of a personal assistant to the Director-General will not be necessary.

6. In conclusion, the Governor-General in Council desires me to express his high sense of the value of the report of the Commission, and to request that you will convey to the president and members of the Commission the thanks of the Government of India for the careful and exhaustive inquiry which they have made into the whole subject.

No. 47, dated 18th June 1885.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA to the
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I HAVE considered in Council the letter of your Excellency's Government in the Department of Finance and Commerce, No. 51, dated 17th February last, with accompanying report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the organisation of the Bengal Opium Department.

2. In this letter you confine yourself to the proposal of that Commission to withdraw the Department in question from the control of the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, acting under the orders of the Local Government, and to substitute the supervision of a single officer directly subordinate to your Excellency's Government, a proposal which, with some modification, you recommend for my sanction.

3. Had it been shown that the present means of control is really inefficient, and that a more effective system can be devised, I should not have been prepared to deny that, having regard to the importance of the opium revenue, it would be desirable as well on administrative as economical grounds to re-organise the whole working of the Department, even should the measures introduced involve some additional expense in the first instance. I can find, however, no evidence that the system now in force has failed, at any rate to such an extent as to justify the radical change which is proposed in your despatch under review.

4. The administration of the Opium Department has been in the hands of the Board of Opium and Revenue ever since 1797, during which time the net receipts have increased from 25 lakhs a year to a sum considerably in excess of five crores of rupees. It is, indeed, admitted in the report of the Commission appointed by your Excellency's Government in 1883 to inquire into the circumstances under which a considerable loss had recently been incurred by the use of damp chests by the Benares agent, that the Department has yielded great financial results, and there are grounds for believing that it has been exceptionally popular with the agricultural community with which it has been brought into contact. It would be difficult in fact to find any large quasi-commercial undertaking which has been carried on for so long a time with more remarkable and uniform success, there having apparently been but five cases of loss, all arising from the same cause, viz., damping of cakes, in the period of nearly a century during which the Department has been on its present footing.

5. It must not, too, be overlooked that the Committee to which allusion has been made, while censuring the Benares agent for his neglect in not preventing the use of damp chests, attached no blame to the action of the Board of Revenue as a controlling authority, a decision which seems to have commended itself to your Excellency's Government, for I observe that in the course of the correspondence you have more than once acknowledged the ability with which the Department has been administered, and disavowed any intention of imputing want of efficiency to the system on which it is conducted. Experience, too, has shown that there is no department of the Government in India in which change of system is more dangerous, the most trivial alterations having at times produced great mischief.

6. The proposal to which your Excellency now asks my sanction is practically to substitute for the control of the Opium Department by the Local Government and Board of Revenue, which costs nothing, the supervision of a Director-General, under the immediate orders of the Government of India, at an annual charge of Rs. 44,000. It is true that it is contemplated that this large additional expenditure will, in part, be made up by a reduction in the salaries of the opium agents, who are the executive officers responsible for the working of the Department; but even allowing for a saving by this means, the wisdom of which is open to question, there would still remain a net sum of Rs. 24,800 per annum to be defrayed consequent on the changes now contemplated.

7. After a careful consideration of all the circumstances of the case, I regret that I am unable to sanction the proposals of your Excellency's Government. It is scarcely necessary to remind you that a similar scheme was suggested in 1871, but, on the strong representation of Sir G. Campbell, abandoned as inexpedient. I am unable to find in the circumstances of the present time any reasons which would lessen the weight of the arguments then employed.

8. Nor can I see any grounds for considering that the system now in force has failed, or that the measures which are contemplated would be likely to prove more effective, at any rate to a degree commensurate with the cost which they would entail.

9. It is also, I think, a matter for question whether, in the absence of the strongest reasons for such a course, there is not serious objection to centralising in the hands of your Excellency's Government the direct administration of a Department which involves a

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considerable degree of minute and detailed supervision, as well as immediate contact with large commercial and agricultural interests.

10. It must not be overlooked that the proposed changes would necessarily tend to lower the position of the superior officers on whom the executive working of the agencies really depends, and would have the effect of substituting for the present class of agents younger officers of less general experience and shorter training.

11. In any case, I am of opinion that, before substituting untried measures, involving a considerable outlay of money, for the present system which has worked well and successfully, and with which so little fault has been found for nearly 100 years, a further trial should be made of the existing form of control. As suggested in the alternative proposal of the Commission, it might be advisable that the Member of the Board of Revenue in charge of the Opium Department should be instructed to visit each agency once in every half-year, for the purpose of conferring with the agent and with the principal subordinates of the establishment, but it will probably not be considered necessary that he should spend so much time in his visits as the Commission appear to contemplate. It is also worthy of consideration whether in future, on the occurrence of a vacancy, the Benares agent should not be selected by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in communication with the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces, from the list of officers serving under the latter authority.

12. The disposal of the other recommendations of the Commission is in the hands of your Excellency's Government, but they will probably need some modification consequent on the orders now conveyed to you.

No. 2565, dated 20th August 1885.

From J. F. FINLAY, Esq., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Financial Department.

IN continuation of my letter No. 843 of 17th February 1885, I am directed to forward a copy of the Despatch No. 47, dated 18th June 1885, received from the Secretary of State in reply to the despatch from the Government of India, of which a copy was forwarded with that letter.

2. In my letter of 17th February 1885, his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was requested to consider in detail such of the minor recommendations of the Opium Commission as his Honour thought might be advantageously taken up without waiting for the sanction to the changes recommended to the Secretary of State in the despatch of 17th February 1885, and to sanction, or recommend for the sanction of the Government of India, such measures as might appear to be desirable. A list of some of the matters, which it was thought might be appropriately considered without further delay, was given in my letter of 17th February.

3. It will be seen that the Secretary of State has refused to sanction the changes recommended by the Government of India. The control of the Department will therefore continue, as at present, in the hands of the Board of Revenue and the Government of Bengal, and the position and salary of the two opium agents will remain unchanged.

4. In reference to the remarks made in paragraph 11 of the despatch above quoted, I am directed to request that the Member of the Board of Revenue in charge of opium be instructed to visit each agency at least once a year for such period as his Honour may consider necessary, in order that he may have an opportunity of conferring with the agents and the principal subordinates of the staff of the Department.

5. I am also to say that the Government of India has decided that in future the appointment of the Benares agent shall except with the previous sanction of the Government of India, be filled by the Government of Bengal from the covenanted civilians serving in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. In selecting officers for this appointment, his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor will, of course, consult and act in accord with the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. A copy of a letter addressed to the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh on the subject is enclosed.

6. The various recommendations of the Opium Commission regarding the working of the Department should now be taken into consideration, and dealt with

in due course. In addition to the matters mentioned in paragraph 3 of my letter No. 843, dated 17th February 1885, the following appear to require attention:—

Settlement and advances (paragraphs 254 to 259, 647 to 656, and 665 of the Commission's Report; paragraphs 32 to 35 of the letter from the Government of Bengal, dated 28th June 1884).

Weights and payment for the drug (paragraphs 672 to 678 of the Report; paragraphs 36 and 37 of the letter).

Application of the iodine test (paragraphs 680 to 685 of the Report).

[This matter has not been separately noticed in the letter.]

Adjustment of cultivators' accounts (paragraphs 765 to 768 of the Report; paragraph 45 of the letter).

Amendment of the opium laws, and remarks and suggestions as to their administration (paragraphs 621, 673, and 774 to 790 of the Report; paragraph 49 of the letter).

Code of rules for the working of the factories (paragraph 671 of the Report; paragraph 44 of the letter).

No. 2600—1,300, dated the 18th December 1886.

From P. NOLAN, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Finance and Commerce.

THE views of the Lieutenant-Governor on the general proposals made by the Commission appointed in 1883 to inquire into the administration of the Opium Department in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces were submitted for the consideration of the Government of India, in Mr. Mac Donnell's letter, No. 980 T. R., dated 28th June 1884. With Mr. Finlay's letter No. 843, dated 17th February 1885, the Government of India forwarded a copy of a despatch to the Secretary of State, supporting the Lieutenant-Governor's recommendation that a single officer, acting under the orders of the Government of India, should be appointed to administer the Opium Department. At the same time the Lieutenant-Governor was asked to consider in detail such of the minor suggestions of the Opium Commission as might be advantageously taken up without waiting for orders on the changes recommended to the Secretary of State, and to sanction, or recommend for the sanction of the Government of India, such measures as might appear to be desirable. A list of some of the matters recommended for immediate consideration was given in Mr. Finlay's letter of 17th February 1885. The Secretary of State in his Despatch No. 47, dated 18th June 1885, declined to sanction the change of organisation recommended by this Government and the Government of India; and in Mr. Finlay's letter No. 2565, dated 20th August 1885, it was stated that the control of the Department would, therefore, continue in the hands of the Board of Revenue and the Government of Bengal, the position and salary of the opium agents remaining unchanged.

The Government of India, however, desired that the other proposals made by the Opium Commission should be taken into consideration and dealt with in due course; and a supplementary list was given of matters which they considered to require attention. The subject was referred to the Board of Revenue, and copies of the reports received* are annexed. Some of the minor recommendations of the Commission have already been disposed of by this Government; but as regards the points on which the orders of the Government of India are required, the Lieutenant-Governor has preferred to take them up as a whole, rather than deal with them one by one, and he has therefore reserved his proposals for the present letter.

2. In the fourth paragraph of the letter of this Government, dated the 28th June 1884, it is stated that the recommendations of the Commission involve a very large additional expenditure, and, the charge

* Board's No. 385B., dated 10th May 1886.

Board's No. 37B., dated 12th January 1885, with enclosures.

Board's No. 305B., dated 1st May 1885, with enclosures.

Board's No. 78B., dated 31st January 1885, with enclosures.

Board's No. 653B., dated 23rd September 1884.

Board's No. 173B., dated 5th March 1885.

Board's No. 143B., dated 9th January 1886.

Board's No. 594B., dated 17th July 1886.

Board's No. 720B., dated 3rd November 1884.

Board's No. 955B., dated 24th November 1886.

being Imperial, it is for the Government of India to decide whether the increased outlay should be accepted. The financial pressure at present felt in all departments, and the steps which are being taken in some for the reduction of expenditure, render the time somewhat inopportune for the consideration of proposals which, though designed in the long run to improve the revenue, must have the immediate effect of increasing the cost of administration. A succession of good seasons has, moreover, changed the situation as it affects the cultivators, who are now fully prepared to supply opium on the present terms in a quantity even beyond the requirements of the Department. The following remarks are offered in the desire to complete the examination of the recommendations made by the Commission appointed by the Government of India, and on the supposition that the Governor-General in Council, is not unwilling to incur some initial expense in the hope of preserving and increasing the large receipts from this branch of the revenue. If it is considered that funds are not now available for the purpose, the proposed changes, which are almost all in the direction of increasing establishments, will have to be deferred to a more suitable season.

3. It is stated in paragraph 622 of the report of the Commission to be an open secret that the officers of the opium service are out of heart throughout on account of

House rent allowances the slowness of promotion. While considering it unnecessary to re-open the question of salaries, which was discussed and determined in 1882, the Commissioners were of opinion that, at a comparatively small cost to Government, the condition of opium officers might be improved, and the head of the department placed in a position to reward merit, by equalising the house rent allowances of opium district officers, and permitting the award of a few bonus allowances yearly. In describing the existing state of things in the matter of house rent, the report explains that of 61 district officers employed under the two agencies, 16 have offices provided by Government, and live in private houses, of which they pay the entire rent; 45 live in houses belonging to or rented by Government, and of these latter, 28 pay rent, averaging Rs. 18-5 a month, and 17 pay no rent at all. The Commissioners recommended that, in order to remove those anomalies, officers for whom separate offices are provided by Government, but who are obliged to live in private houses, should be allowed Rs. 20 a month, if the officer is a sub-deputy opium agent, and Rs. 15 a month if he is an assistant; that to officers housed in buildings, which are the property of Government, no rent be charged; and that to officers for whom no separate office is given an allowance out of which they must provide sufficient office accommodation be made, to a sub-deputy agent of Rs. 30 per mensem, and to an assistant of Rs. 20 per mensem. These suggestions have been considered by the opium agents and the Board of Revenue, and I am to request a reference to their remarks on the subject contained in paragraphs 2 to 5 of the Board's letter No. 385B., dated 10th May 1886. The agents observe that the grant of fixed allowances for house-rent will not improve matters, as at some stations such charges are very high, while at others a good bungalow can be obtained at a low rate. They therefore suggest, as the only way to meet the difficulty, that houses should be provided by Government, and the officers charged rent at a uniform rate. The Board concur in this suggestion, and recommend that the rent payable by a sub-deputy agent should be fixed at Rs. 30, and that payable by an assistant at Rs. 10 per mensem. Neither the Opium Commission nor the Board have made any calculation of the cost of their respective proposals, but from an estimate made in this office from the best materials available it would appear that the whole annual cost to be incurred by Government in giving effect to the recommendation of the Commission would be about ten thousand rupees, which capitalised at 20 years' purchase would represent a sum of two lakhs, while the expense of building houses, as proposed by the Board, would be about one lakh, against which there would be a set-off in the form of an annual rent of Rs. 3,840. It will thus be seen that the Board's proposals, though involving an initial expenditure of Rs. 96,000, would in the end prove less costly than those of the Opium Commission; and as they are more likely to secure the desired result, viz., equalisation of house rent, the Lieutenant-Governor would recommend them for adoption to the Government of India, so far as they relate to the provision of houses where none are at present supplied, and the rates of rent to be charged to

the occupiers. As regards the Government houses now occupied by opium officers, it appears to the Lieutenant-Governor that to place matters on the same footing throughout, a rentcharge should be made. If the Government of India is not prepared at present to incur the expenditure involved in providing 16 additional houses, the Lieutenant-Governor would suggest the adoption of the Opium Commission's proposal to allow Rs. 20 a month to every sub-deputy opium agent, and Rs. 15 to every assistant at present unprovided with a house. These gentlemen are employed at the head-quarters of districts, where it is improbable that they can obtain accommodation for less than Rs. 50 and Rs. 25 a month respectively, and the grant of the allowances proposed would place them approximately on a level with their colleagues paying Rs. 26 and Rs. 10 as rent for the Government houses occupied by them. In some cases, no doubt, the allowance granted will not represent the whole difference between the rent paid and the rent they would have to pay for Government houses; but such inequalities can only be redressed by adoption of the Board's suggestion to build additional houses and charge uniform rates of rent.

4. As regards bonus allowances, the Opium Commission recommended that Rs. 13,500 should be annually distributed as follows:—

	Rs.
To five deputy agents, Rs. 1,000 each	- 5,000
To six assistant agents, Rs. 500 „	- 3,000
To ditto ditto Rs. 250 „	- 1,500
To deserving lumberdars and zilladars,	
Rs. 2,000 in each agency	- - - 4,000
Total	- 13,500

The Behar agent is not in favour of these proposals, and the Benares agent states that he apprehends great difficulty in giving satisfactory effect to the scheme, so far as the European officers of the Department are concerned. The Board concur in the views expressed by the agents on the proposal to grant bonuses to the superior officers of the Department, and support, in preference, Mr. Rivett-Carnac's alternative suggestion to add to the existing establishment a grade of sub-deputy agents on Rs. 1,000 a month. The Lieutenant-Governor's views on this point will be stated in the next paragraph of this letter in connexion with the recommendation to increase the number of sub-agencies. Sir Rivers Thompson agrees with the Board that bonus allowances would be undesirable in the case of sub-deputy or assistant sub-deputy opium agents. The grant of such allowances to the inferior executive officers, viz., lumberdars and zilladars, stands on a different footing. The Board and the Benares opium agent are in favour of the suggestion, to which there seems to be no objection in principle; and, in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, a maximum outlay of Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000 a year for this purpose might be advantageously incurred.

5. The Opium Commissioners were not disposed to remodelling of opium districts recommend the establishment and increase of the district staff. ment of any new sub-agency in Behar. In Benares they proposed to increase the number of sub-agencies from 12 to 18 by a rearrangement of the existing divisions, as shown in paragraph 629 of their report; and they considered a staff of less than 18 sub-deputy agents insufficient for the large extent of country which the Benares agent is required to superintend. They also recommended that the number of assistants should be raised from 47*

* This number has since been reduced to 43 (vide paragraph 6 of this letter). to 50, and that of these, 35 should be attached to the Benares agency and 15 to Behar. For the reasons given in paragraph 8 of the Board's letter No. 385B., dated 10th May 1886, the Benares agent does not consider the Opium Commission's scheme to be sufficient. He proposes to increase the number of sub-agencies to 26, with 26 sub-deputy agents and 27 assistant sub-deputy agents, besides an additional officer of the latter class as his personal assistant. Statements showing the distribution of the sub-agencies and the area of cultivation in each agency, as proposed by the Opium Commission, and by the agent, are enclosed with the Board's letter No. 387B., dated 10th May 1886. The Board support the proposals of the Opium Commission for the Benares agency, remarking that it may be assumed that the Commission have gone carefully into the whole question, and satisfied themselves as to the sufficiency of the staff they propose

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They support also the Commission's proposals regarding the number of assistants to be employed in each agency. These conclusions have the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor, subject to the qualification indicated in the second paragraph of this letter, and I am now to proceed to discuss the means by which they can best be carried out.

6. Of the six additional sub-agencies recommended, three have already been sanctioned by the Government of India in Mr. Finlay's letter No. 2620, dated 4th August 1884, and the Board now submit proposals for officering the remaining three, and for effecting the desired increase in the number of assistants. The grades of sub-deputy and assistant sub-deputy opium agents were rearranged under the orders of the Secretary of State in 1882. According to this arrangement, the numbers and salaries were as follows:—

Sub-deputy Opium Agents (23).

	Rs.
Two 1st grade on - - - - -	900
Five 2nd " - - - - -	800
Six 3rd " - - - - -	700
Six 4th " - - - - -	600
Four 5th " - - - - -	500

Assistants (47).

	Rs.
Four 1st grade on - - - - -	500
Ten 2nd " - - - - -	400
Twelve 3rd " - - - - -	300
Fifteen 4th " - - - - -	250
Six probationary grade on - - - - -	200

Three out of the four assistant sub-deputy opium agents of the first grade on Rs. 500 a month were made sub-deputy agents of the fifth grade on the same pay under the orders of the Government of India in the Financial Department, No. 2620, dated 4th August 1884, in order to provide officers for the three new sub-agencies of Mainpuri (the name now assigned to the proposed Etawah Division), Sitapur, and Rai Bareilly. There are, therefore, seven instead of four sub-deputy agents of the fifth grade, and one assistant sub-deputy agent of the first grade, each on Rs. 500 a month. Under the orders of the Government of India in the Financial Department, No. 214, dated 14th April 1885, one appointment in the third grade of assistant sub-deputy opium agents was abolished, and in its place the appointment of an assistant opium examiner at the Ghazipore Factory on a salary of Rs. 250, rising to Rs. 350 a month, was sanctioned. Accordingly, there are at present 26 deputy agents and 43 assistant sub-deputy agents of various grades employed in the two agencies. To give effect to the Commissioners' proposal to increase the number of sub-agencies in Benares the Board of Revenue recommend—

- The creation of a grade of two sub-deputy agents, Rs. 1,000 a month.
- The addition of a sub-deputy agent in the grade of Rs. 900.
- The abolition of the single appointment in the first grade of assistant sub-deputy agent at Rs. 500.
- The addition of eight appointments of assistant sub-deputy agents—one in the grade of Rs. 400, four in the grade of Rs. 300, and three in the grade of Rs. 250.

The Lieutenant-Governor desires to support the recommendations of the Board, on the ground that if the number of assistants is raised, a corresponding increase should be made in the superior appointments. The financial effects of these proposals will best be seen by placing side by side statements of the expenditure involved in the Board's scheme, and of that to be incurred in any alternative plan of increasing the number of appointments to the required extent. A reference to page 1 of the enclosed proposition statement will show the number of officers now in each grade, and the number proposed under the revised scheme. It will perhaps be conceded that the new appointments in the grades of assistant sub-deputy agents could not be otherwise distributed without unduly swelling the number in one grade, and if so, it is only necessary to consider the appointment of the three new sub-deputy opium agents. If the creation of the extra grade on Rs. 1,000 were disallowed, these appointment might be distributed as follows:—One in the first grade on Rs. 900, one in the fourth grade on Rs. 600, and one in the fifth grade on Rs. 500. The number in each grade would then stand as follows:—Three in the first, five in the second, six in the third, seven in the fourth, and eight

in the fifth; and the cost would compare thus with that proposed by the Board:—

As recommended by the Board.			According to the Alternative Scheme.		
Number of Appointments.	Monthly Rate.	Annual Cost.	Number of Appointments.	Monthly Rate.	Annual Cost.
Two - -	Rs. 1,000	Rs. 24,000	One - -	Rs. 900	Rs. 10,800
One - -	900	10,800	One - -	600	7,200
	Total -	34,800	One - -	500	6,000
				Total -	24,000

7. The cost involved in the changes now recommended amounts to Rs. 57,000 per annum. To this will have to be added the expense of the office establishments for the three sub-deputy agents and for two assistants to be placed in charge of two sub-divisions in the Benares Agency. As will be seen below the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to fix a scale of office establishment at a mean cost of Rs. 306-4 per mensem for a sub-deputy agent, and a scale costing Rs. 62 a month for an assistant. The total cost of office establishments for the three sub-deputy agents and two assistants will therefore amount to Rs. 1,042-12 per mensem, or Rs. 12,513 per annum.

8. The Commission suggested in paragraph 630 of the report that the number of assistants should be raised from 47 to 50, that 35 of these should be attached to Benares and 15 to Behar, that until he has passed his examinations an officer should be considered as a probationer only, and should not be placed in charge of a sub-division until he has passed and also been in the service for three years. The Board support these recommendations in paragraph 12 of their letter No. 385B., dated 10th May 1886, and the Lieutenant-Governor is disposed to concur.

9. The revision of the Behar agent's office establishment, resulting in a saving of Rs. 1,968 a year, was sanctioned by the Government of India in a letter from the Financial Department, No. 4390, dated the 6th November 1884. The present cost of the Benares Agent's office establishment amounts to Rs. 2,189-8 per month, inclusive of the pay of his personal assistant. The Opium Commission, in paragraphs 634 and 635 of their report, proposed to abolish the post of personal assistant, and to recast the office establishment on the scale of Rs. 1,441 rising to Rs. 1,951 a month. Their proposals, however, were admittedly tentative, owing, it was said, to the difficulty of obtaining data in consequence of the indefiniteness of the line which separates the establishment of the agent from that of the factory, and the practice of entertaining a large number of temporary clerks at busy seasons of the year. In his letter* No. 164-2,064, dated 23rd July 1884, Mr. Rivett-Carnac proposed a scale of establishment for his office, costing Rs. 2,325-8 per mensem, including Rs. 300, the pay of a personal assistant, whom he would retain. He also included in his scheme the Treasury staff shown by the Commission in the Factory establishment, but which has hitherto always been considered part of the agent's office. On the retirement recently of Mr. W. A. Byrne, Head Accountant, Benares Opium Agency, Mr. Rivett-Carnac has, with the approval of the Board of Revenue,† prepared a scheme for a further revision of his office establishment, resulting in a saving on the present scale of Rs. 19-8 per mensem, or Rs. 234 per annum, which saving will be increased to Rs. 69-8 per mensem, or to Rs. 834 per annum, on the retirement of one of the clerks to whom it is proposed to give a personal allowance of Rs. 50 per month. The Lieutenant-Governor desires to support these proposals, which have been included in the proposition statement submitted with this letter. In paragraph 27 of Mr. McDonnell's letter No. 980, dated 28th June 1884, the Lieutenant-Governor agreed with the Opium Commission in thinking that the employment of a personal assistant should be prohibited, but it now appears that this recommendation was made under a misapprehension as to the true nature of the duties entrusted to

* Enclosed in Board's letter No. 37B., dated 12th January 1885.

† Stated in their letter No. 955B., dated 24th November 1886. Copy with enclosure annexed.

that officer, who has been employed since the year 1857, and, under the circumstances stated by Mr. Rivett-Carnac, in his letter of 23rd July 1884, Sir Rivers Thompson thinks that a good case is made out in support of the retention of a personal assistant. His Honour, however, concurs in the Board's suggestion that the agent be allowed the services of an officer as personal assistant only on the distinct understanding that the number of sanctioned assistants will not be increased on that account, and that no officer is to be appointed to that post who is in receipt of a salary of more than Rs. 300 per mensem.

10. In Behar the standard scale of a sub-deputy

Office establishments of sub-deputy opium agents and of assistants in charge of sub-divisions.

	Rs.
1 Native assistant on	- 40 plus commission.
1 Clerk on	- 40
1 Do. on	- 20
1 Mohurir on	- 15
1 Ditto on	- 10
1 Ditto on	- 8
1 Naib nazir on	- 6
1 Poddar on	- 10
1 Chaprassi on	- 5
2 Chaprassis at Rs. 4 each	- 8
Sweeper	- 2-8
Total	164-8 per mensem.

opium agent's office establishment is as noted on the margin; and there are only two cases in which even a slight deviation is permitted from the standard. The native assistant performs the duties of sheristadar and treasurer, and is required to give security to the amount of Rs. 5,000.

His fixed salary is Rs. 40, but he also receives a commission on the opium produced in his sub-agency at a rate which the Commission estimated at ten annas per maund, with a maximum of Rs. 1,500 per annum. His maximum pay is therefore Rs. 165 per month, but the actual amount varies according to the yield of the season, and according to the productiveness of the sub-agency in which he is employed. None of the other officers receive any commission. The Opium Commissioners stated that it was unnecessary that the native assistant in Behar should be required to perform the duties of treasurer, and they remarked that he was properly the head clerk and sheristadar, and should be so designated. They also thought that the posts of naib nazir and poddar in Behar might be abolished. In the Benares Agency, the establishments are paid by salaries alone. A

	Rs.
Head clerk	- 50
2nd do.	- 30
3rd do.	- 20
Sheristadar	- 60
1st Mohurir	- 20
2nd ditto	- 16
3rd ditto	- 12
1 Treasurer	- 20
1 Duffry	- 5
1 Jemadar	- 8
4 Burkundazes, at Rs. 5 each	- 20
3 Peons on Rs. 5 each	- 15
1 Sweeper	- 3
Total	- 279

Goruckpore, and Fatehgurh; and the Commissioners considered that he was not wanted in those places. The Commissioners think also that the jemadar is not required; that the staff of peons and burkundazes is in excess of the real requirements of the offices; and that, while the staff of clerical employes is numerically more than sufficient, the salaries are inadequate to secure the services of competent and respectable men. The Commissioners recommended the following establishment as the standard strength of a sub-deputy opium agent's sudder office in both agencies :-

	Rs.	Rs.
Head clerk and sheristadar	- 100	rising to 150
Second "	- 70	
Third "	- 60	
Fourth "	- 50	
Fifth "	- 20	rising to 40
Duffry	- 5	
Two peons (each)	- 6	
Two "	- 5	
Sweeper	- 3	
Total	- 330	rising to 400

The mean cost of this establishment is Rs. 332-8 per mensem. For an assistant employed at the head-quarters of the division, the Commissioners recommended no separate establishment beyond one peon on Rs. 6 a month. For an assistant in charge of a sub-division, a single clerk only is at present provided, who in Behar is paid Rs. 20; in Benares Rs. 12 only per

mensem. The Commission would allow, in such cases, the establishment noted below :-

	Rs.	Rs.
1 Clerk on	- 50	
1 " "	- 20	rising to 40
1 Peon "	- 6	
1 " "	- 5	
Total	- 81	rising to 101

The mean cost of this establishment is Rs. 96 per mensem.

11. The views of the Benares Agent on these proposals are contained in his letter, No. 163-2063, dated 22nd July 1884, a copy of which is enclosed with the Board's letter No. 78B, dated 31st January 1885. Mr. Rivett-Carnac concurs generally in the opinions expressed by the Opium Commissioners on the subject. He admits that the scheme submitted by them entails a great increase of expenditure, and that it would not be difficult to suggest small reductions; but this would be with the certain prospect of reducing the results aimed at by the Commission. He adds that if Government is unwilling to give so much as the Commission have recommended, he will do his best to arrange his proposals accordingly, on being informed of the amount which Government may be disposed to sanction. The Board say that they were at first inclined to consider the proposed scale of salaries too high, but that, on a full consideration of the matter, they have accepted the Opium Commission's proposals.

The total cost of the sudder office and sub-divisional

Sudder Office Establishments.

	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
* Benares	3,134 0 0 per mensem	
Behar	1,835 8 0	4,969 8 0

Sub-divisional Establishments.

	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Benares	442 0 0 per mensem	
Behar	46 8 0	488 8 0
Total	- 5,478 0 0	
+ Benares	5,737 8 0	
Behar	4,207 8 0	
Total	- 9,945 0 0	
† Benares	2,496 0 0	
Behar	192 0 0	
Total	- 2,688 0 0	

therefore come to Rs. 12,633 per mensem, or Rs. 151,596 per annum. Adding the cost of the establishments required for the three additional sub-agencies, which it is proposed to establish in Benares, the total cost of office establishments for the 29 sub-deputy agents, and 30 assistants in charge of sub-divisions would, on the scales proposed by the Commission, be Rs. 13,972-8 per mensem, or Rs. 167,670 per annum. The Commission's proposals would therefore entail an increase of Rs. 8,494-8 per mensem, or Rs. 1,01,934 per annum.

12. In paragraph 29 of Mr. MacDonnell's letter No. 980 T. R., dated 25th June 1884, the Lieutenant-Governor observed that a standard scale of sub-agency establishment is desirable, if only to remove the variations which now exist (apparently without sufficient cause), and to admit of the easy interchange of officers between one agency and another when the interests of the service require it. He thought, however, that the scale proposed by the Opium Commission was too lavish, and that the inadequate recognition in it of the progressive principle was a blemish. He was of opinion that the following scale would be considered liberal by those affected by it :-

	Rs.	Rs.
Head clerk	- 80	rising to 100
Second "	- 50	" 75
Third "	- 40	" 50
Fourth "	- 30	" 40
Fifth "	- 20	" 30
Duffry	- 5	" 5
Two peons	- 12	" 12
Ditto	- 10	" 10
Sweeper	- 3	" 3
Monthly	- 250	325

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The mean cost of this establishment is Rs. 306-4 per mensem. From the Benares agent's willingness to accept a smaller increase than that recommended by the Commission, and from the Board's doubts on the point, it seems to the Lieutenant-Governor that he was right in deprecating an unreserved acceptance of the Commission's full proposals. The scale noted above, which was drawn up with reference to the ordinary sub-divisional establishments in these provinces, seems to be fair, and I am desired to recommend it for the favourable consideration and orders of the Government of India. With regard to the cost of the office establishment of assistants in independent charge of sub-divisions, I am to say that Sir Rivers Thompson thinks that the addition of an English clerk on Rs. 30, rising to Rs. 50, to the existing scale of one mohurir and one peon would be sufficient. The total cost of office establishments for the 29 sub-deputy agents and 30 assistants in charge of sub-divisions will, therefore, if the Lieutenant-Governor's views are accepted, amount to Rs. 10,741-4

Sub-deputy agent's establishments (Rs. 306-4 x 29) -	Rs. a.	per mensem, or Rs.
Assistant's establishments (Rs. 62 x 30) =	1,860 0	"
Total -	10,741 4	"

Rs. 10,741-4 x 12 = Rs. 128,895 per annum.

fitions, and a yearly increase of Rs. 63,159 on the cost of the existing establishments. From this increase, however, must be deducted the amount of commission paid annually to the "native assistants" in Behar, which it is proposed to abolish.

3. The duties of the gomashas and the system on which they are remunerated are detailed in Part II., Chapter III. of the Opium Commission's Report; and the exact strength of the establishment now maintained at each kothee in the two agencies is shown in the proposition statements accompanying this letter. The total annual cost of the present establishments is in Behar about Rs. 1,41,300, of which Rs. 81,300 represent salaries, and about Rs. 60,000 commission, and in Benares Rs. 1,44,444, no part of which is commission. (These totals correct the totals shown in Mr. MacDonnell's letter of the 28th June 1884, paragraph 30.) The Behar gomashas receive Rs. 30 as salary, but his commission brings up his average earnings from Rs. 70 to Rs. 100 a month, and the mohurir and mutsuddi receive in salary and commission from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 a month, and from Rs. 12 to Rs. 18 a month respectively. In Benares the gomashas receive from Rs. 50 to Rs. 80, and the mohurirs from Rs. 10 to Rs. 16 a month.

14. In the report of the Opium Commission a conviction is expressed that these establishments are underpaid, and that, owing to this underpayment, "every seer of opium which a cultivator delivers pays 'toll to the amlah, and from every rupee which a cultivator receives a percentage is deducted for their benefit.'" The Commissioners considered that it was equally the duty and the interest of the Government to see that its promise of Rs. 5 per seer of opium to the cultivator was well kept, and they pointed out that the only way of securing the fulfilment of the promise was by paying the amlah adequate salaries, and by abolishing the practice of taking commission, which now obtains in Behar. They recommended that the strength and cost of a kothee establishment should be fixed upon the following scale:—

Gomashas -	Rs.
First mohurir -	150 or Rs. 200
Second " -	70
Third " -	60
Fourth " -	50
Zilladars -	20 rising to Rs. 40
Three peons (each) -	7 or Rs. 8
	6

The Commissioners considered that there should be two grades of gomashas, the lower grade of Rs. 150 and the higher grade of Rs. 200, and that the numbers of the two grades should be about equal. They proposed that the security required from a gomashas, which at present varies from Rs. 1,250 to Rs. 2,000, should be fixed at Rs. 1,500. They also recommended that the three naib gomashas who are now in charge of the outposts of Shahabad, Lucknow, and Hissampur in the Benares Agency should be replaced by mohurirs.

They were strongly of opinion that a staff of four mohurirs was required for each kothee, and that if this staff were given there would be less necessity for the engagement of temporary hands at the time of weighments. As to the mohurirs' salaries, the Commissioners considered that Rs. 20 rising to Rs. 40 in five years should be the minimum pay. They did not propose increments of salary for any but the lowest grade, as higher pay would be obtainable by promotion. The Commissioners thought it unnecessary to require security from mohurirs, as in their opinion such officers ought not to be entrusted with public money. As regards zilladars, they recommended that there should be two grades, the lower on Rs. 7 and the higher grade on Rs. 8, and that the appointment of 44 sudder zilladars on Rs. 10 in the Benares Agency should be discontinued. The total cost of the kothee establishments in the two agencies, as recommended by the Opium Commission, would amount to Rs. 50,710 per mensem, or Rs. 6,08,520 per annum, against Rs. 2,25,744 which is the total annual cost of the establishments at present employed. The Board of Revenue support the Commission's proposals, and point out that the gomashas in some good sub-agencies, such as Nowada, Gya, Tehta, Belkhana, and others in the Behar Agency, where the practice of part payment by commission still obtains, draw with commission on an average from Rs. 102 to Rs. 164 a month. The Board remark that as the object of the proposed increase of salaries is to improve the status of these officers generally, and to fix a scale of salaries adequate to the responsible duties which devolve on them, the proposed scale cannot be considered excessive. They add that should the scale of salaries proposed by the Commission receive the sanction of Government, the existing practice of payment by commission will be discontinued in all departments.

15. The proposal to raise the pay of the kothee staff is the most important in the Opium Commission's Report. In paragraph 31 of Mr. MacDonnell's letter No. 980 T. R., dated 28th June 1884, the Lieutenant-Governor stated his conviction that the case is one which calls for liberal measures; but having regard to the financial exigencies of the present time, he recognises that it would be inopportune to press for the immediate introduction of so large and expensive a reform. Impressed, however, with a sense of the desirability of abolishing the system of part remuneration by commission, and of placing the establishments in both agencies on a better footing, Sir Rivers Thompson suggests, for the consideration of his Excellency the Governor-General in Council, the following modifications in the scale proposed by the Commission:—

(1.) That there should be three grades of gomashas—

	Rs.	Rs.
1st grade, 150 rising to	200	
2nd " 100	"	150
3rd " 50	"	100

(2.) That of the 94 gomashas in the two agencies—25 should be in the 1st grade.

30	"	"	2nd	"
39	"	"	3rd	"

(3.) That there should be four grades of mohurirs—

	Rs.	Rs.
1st grade, 50 rising to	75	
2nd " 40	"	50
3rd " 30	"	40
4th " 20	"	30

the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th mohurirs in each kothee being in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades respectively.

(4.) That the pay of zilladars be re-arranged on the scales suggested by the Commission, i.e., two grades on Rs. 7 and Rs. 8, instead of four on Rs. 5, Rs. 6, Rs. 7, and (in the Benares Agency alone) Rs. 10.

The total cost on account of the salaries of gomashas and mohurirs in all the kothees in the two agencies, in accordance with the Commission's and the Lieutenant-Governor's proposals, would amount respectively to Rs. 36,870* and Rs. 29,520-12½ per mensem. The proposal of the Lieutenant-Governor will, therefore, if accepted, result in a saving of Rs. 7,349-4 per mensem, or Rs. 88,191 per annum, compared with the Commission's recommendations, and the total increase

*Gomashas	Rs. a. p.	Governor's proposals, would amount respectively to
Mohurirs	16,400 0 0	Rs. 36,870* and Rs. 29,520-12½
Total	20,470 0 0	per mensem. The proposal of the Lieutenant-Governor will, therefore, if accepted, result in a saving of Rs. 7,349-4 per mensem, or Rs. 88,191 per annum, compared with the Commission's recommendations, and the total increase
+Gomashas	12,225 0 0	
Mohurirs	17,295 12 0	
Total	29,520 12 0	

will be Rs. 2,94,381 per annum instead of Rs. 3,82,776. Sir Rivers Thompson agrees with the Commission in thinking that the security required from a gomashtha should be fixed at Rs. 1,500, and that no security should be taken from mohurirs.

16. The present system of settlements is described in paragraphs 254 to 259 of the Opium Commission's Report. The wording of the Opium Act (XIII. of 1857) seems to imply that settlements for cultivating the poppy should be entered into between the Government officers and the cultivator in person; but in practice this is never done, the settlements being, in fact, made with a middleman, called a khattadar in Behar and a lumberdar in Benares. In Benares a system of maps and other records of land supplies in each village a test to the lumberdar's application, but in Behar, unfortunately, no such records are available. In paragraph 33 of Mr. MacDonnell's letter, dated 28th June 1884, the Lieutenant-Governor expressed his opinion that an effort should now be made to place the system on a legal footing, while preserving its special advantages; but he, at the same time, expressed a doubt whether, without such detailed local knowledge as can be obtained only by reference to correct maps and records, any scheme for dealing directly with the ryots would be really practicable. The cadastral survey of Behar, which would have supplied such records, has now been suspended under the orders of the Secretary of State; and under the circumstances the Lieutenant-Governor is not disposed to recommend a radical change, the success of which could only be assured under conditions which do not exist.

17. Chapter V., Part II. of the Opium Commission's Report describes the system of advances now in force, and recommendations on the subject are given in paragraphs 651 and 652 of the report. It is suggested that only one advance should ordinarily be made, on the ground of inconvenience to Government, and harassment to the cultivators in arranging for frequent payments. In the Benares Agency this is already the practice, while in Behar two are always given, and sometimes three. The Board, concurring with the Behar agent, deprecate any alterations of the present system for reasons stated in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the letter of the 23rd September 1884. The office letter of the 28th June 1884, paragraph 35, expressed the doubts of the Lieutenant-Governor whether any change would be advisable; and as, if his recommendation to adhere to the khattadari system be approved, the argument of harassment to the cultivator in frequent payments and receipts disappears, Sir Rivers Thompson is still inclined to adhere to the views previously expressed by him, and to recommend a continuance of the present practice in the matter of the number of advances given.

18. Besides the advances referred to above which are regularly given every year, special advances are made on the application of the cultivators for the construction and repair of wells. The rules under which well advances (which are termed "extraordinary") are now given are sketched in paragraph 267 of the Opium Commission's Report. The Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Board of Revenue in supporting the Commission's suggestion in paragraph 665 that, as a rule, "extraordinary" advances should be made for the construction of wells only, and that they should require the sanction of the agents, but that the Board of Revenue should have a discretion to make extraordinary advances for other purposes.

19. In paragraph 652 of the report it is recommended that opium officers' treasuries should be abolished; that settlements and advances should be made at each kothee, and not, as now, at the sub-agencies; that when the kothee are at places where a treasury or sub-treasury exists, as would be the case in most instances, the opium officer should draw each day the amount which he proposes to spend before evening; that when the kothee is not at the head-quarters, or at a sub-division of a district, the sub-deputy agent should draw from the nearest sub-divisional or head-quarters treasury; and that there should be no guard beyond that of the kothee peons except where payments are made elsewhere than at places where treasuries exist, when a police guard should be supplied. The Board of Revenue were at first in favour of adopting these proposals, but, on receipt of fuller information on the subject from the agents (as contained in the Board's letter No. 283 B., dated 15th April 1885 a copy of which is enclosed) they are strongly of opinion that the abolition

of opium officers' treasuries would seriously interfere with the working of the departments. As the facts stated by the Board indicate the necessity of frequently keeping large balances in the hands of the sub-deputy opium agents at the close of the day the Lieutenant-Governor concurs in thinking it undesirable to alter the existing practice.

20. The form of field register of measurements suggested by the Opium Commission in paragraph 623 of their report will be brought into use in both agencies; but the Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Board that the question of the use of chains or poles is one that may be left to the agents for decision.

21. The proposals made in paragraph 654 to introduce into Behar the system of opium maps in use in the Benares Agency, and to supply sub-deputy agents with copies of the Revenue field registers and maps, cannot now be fully carried out. The abandonment of the cadastral survey leaves Behar still without maps and records of the kind required; and though opium maps have been prepared and are used by the sub-deputy agents as described in paragraph 9 of the Board's letter of the 23rd September 1884, they are clearly insufficient for the purposes contemplated in paragraph 251 of the Commission's Report. The district authorities will be directed to allow sub-deputy opium agents and their assistants free access to such maps and village records as exist, and to supply them with copies when required, but the Lieutenant-Governor does not anticipate that practical benefit will result from this arrangement.

22. The Lieutenant-Governor unites with the Board of Revenue in recommending, in the case of discovery of unlicensed cultivation, the adoption of the procedure set out in paragraph 655 of the Opium Commission's Report. The rules regarding such cultivation are laid down in paragraph 17A, page 23, of the Opium Manual, and do not differ materially from the Commission's recommendations.

23. With reference to paragraph 656 of the report, I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor has approved the Board's action in directing the discontinuance of the preparation of taidads in the Behar Agency.

24. Orders on the subject of the remission of the outstanding balances treated in paragraphs 657 to 664 of the report were passed by the Government of India in Mr. Finlay's letter No. 1708, dated 18th June 1884, and they have been communicated to the Board of Revenue for information and guidance.

25. In paragraph 667, the Commission stated that the rates paid for leaves were not sufficient, but those paid for trash were generally complained of in Behar, though in Benares the lumberdars were not dissatisfied. In Benares the lumberdars' contracts bind them to deliver the trash at the factory at a nominal rate of 10 annas a maund, but in consequence of the present system of classing the trash more highly than its quality justifies, the price paid at Ghazipore in reality more nearly approaches 12 a maund. In Behar four annas a maund is paid for trash, and very nearly four annas a maund more is allowed for its conveyance from the village to the sub-agency head-quarters. The price for delivery at the sub-agency is, therefore, eight annas per maund. The Commission recommended that trash delivered at the factory should be paid for at the rate of 12 annas a maund in both agencies, and that six annas a maund should be paid for trash delivered at the sub-agency head-quarters under the system which prevails at present in Behar, the conveyance charges from the village to the sub-agency being paid as now by Government. The Board, in recommending these enhanced rates for the sanction of Government, state that the average extra expenditure involved would amount in Behar to Rs. 2,726-14, and in Benares to Rs. 3,609-6. The Lieutenant-Governor desires me to support the Board's recommendation that the proposals of the Opium Commission to raise the price of trash be sanctioned.

26. In paragraphs 669 to 671 the Commission adverted to the difficulty felt in the Benares Agency arranging for the weighing of opium at places convenient to the officers of the Opium Department and the cultivators, owing to the objections raised by the civil and military authorities to the congregation of ryots within or near civil and military stations. The subject is one which can be dealt with only in detail, as new weighing stations are established. On such occasions the Lieutenant-

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Governor will always be ready to support the Opium Department by drawing the attention of the Government of the North-Western Provinces to any unreasonable objections raised by local officers. The Commissioners further recommended that some additional kothees should be provided on a standard plan, probably two or three in Behar, and a greater number in the Benares Agency, adding that this need not be done immediately. The opium agent of Benares, on being consulted by the Board of Revenue on the subject, has stated that the Commission's recommendations follow his own views, but has not specified how many kothees will be required, and where they should be located. The Behar agent lays much stress on the need of having more weighing sheds, and of thus lessening the great distances which some ryots have to travel over to get their opium weighed. He recommended the construction of 13 more weighing sheds. The Board, who generally approved the recommendations of the Commission, promised a further report as to the number of weighing sheds really required, and have stated in a more recent communication that they are still in correspondence with opium agents on these proposals. The Lieutenant-Governor has always been in favour of increasing the number of weighment sheds, particularly by opening a station at every existing kothee, and I am to say that on the receipt of the Board's further report definite proposals on the subject will be submitted to the Government of India.

27. In paragraph 672 the Commissioners stated that no arrangements can be made which would bring the weighments close to the home of every cultivator. They therefore proposed that the practice which prevails in some of the Benares districts, of granting an allowance of the ryots for travelling expenses when conveying opium to the weighing stations, should be made general throughout both agencies, and should be extended to all ryots living at a distance of more than 10 miles from the weighing stations. An allowance of one pice per seer of opium for every 5 miles or fraction thereof beyond the first 10 miles travelled by the ryots would, the Commission considered, be sufficient, and its grant would be a popular measure involving no great expense to the State. They also recommended that cultivators, when taking their opium to the weighment stations, should be deemed to be travelling on public duty, and should be exempted from the payment of tolls at public ferries and bridges. The Board have entered fully into this question in their letter of the 5th March 1885 (enclosed), to which I am to invite a reference. The Board's argument against the grant of travelling allowances to cultivators in the Behar Agency seem to the Lieutenant-Governor to be valid. Until the *assamiwar* system can be introduced into Behar (and its introduction is at present impossible) such small payments would no doubt be absorbed by the *amlah*, and *khattadars* and the cultivators would derive little or no benefit from the proposed concession. In regard to Benares, the extension of such allowances would no doubt be popular, but it is not urgently needed. The present season, moreover, is not opportune for introducing such changes, inasmuch as more opium than is required can be obtained without increasing the cost to Government. The Lieutenant-Governor recommends that upon these points, and also in regard to the suggested exemption from tolls, matters should remain as they are at present in each agency.

28. The recommendation made in paragraph 673 of the report that the Benares rules regarding the summoning of *lumpers*, issue of attendance tickets, and the determination of the order of weighing the *lumpers*, should be introduced in the Behar Agency also, has been adopted, and the orders necessary for the purpose of giving effect to the suggestion have been issued by the Board.

29. In paragraph 674 the Commissioners recommended that the procedure to be adopted at opium weighments should be based entirely upon the principle that each individual cultivator is to be paid for the opium he delivers. They attached the greatest importance to the maintenance of this principle. Weighments and payments. "By the system of *khattadar* payments as now prevalent in Behar," they said, "the law is evaded, and the skilful and industrious culti-

vator is discouraged." "There is no reform," in their opinion, "more imperatively called for, and more likely to be beneficial, than the general introduction of a system of *assamiwar* payments." It is obvious that if the assistance of the middlemen is to be dispensed with, an increased establishment will be necessary for the classification and weighment of opium, and for paying the cultivators, and the Commissioners recommended that this should be sanctioned. The Benares agent has accepted the scheme as following the system introduced by himself, and has proposed to try it tentatively in one or two divisions during the current year, and to report the result of a practical trial. The Behar agent, as stated in paragraph 16 of the Board's letter of the 5th March 1885, has reported that both he himself and all the officers of his agency attach the greatest importance to the principle of *assamiwar* payment at the time of delivery of opium; but the *khattadari* system has become so firmly established in Behar that great caution is required in introducing the proposed reform. He proposes that, as a preliminary measure, *khattadars* should be compelled to settle their accounts with cultivators in the presence of the opium *gomashtha*. The Board are opposed to this suggestion, considering that the system recommended by the Commission should be introduced in its entirety, or not at all. This important question was discussed by the Lieutenant-Governor in paragraphs 36 and 37 of Mr. MacDonnell's letter of the 28th June 1884, and Sir Rivers Thompson still adheres to the views then recorded. The more exact and direct system of Benares is right, and of the desirability of introducing it into Behar there can be no doubt; but in the absence of village maps and records, and with the defective village agency available, it would be impossible to get rid of the *khattadari* arrangements of Behar in a day without serious risks. The proposals of the Commission include an increase in the cost of establishments, for which there would be no immediate return. There is also much force in the objection made by the Board to the tentative measures advocated by the Behar agent, that it would be impracticable to maintain the system of dealing through middlemen in the matter of advances, while abandoning it in regard to payments. The want of a proper cadastral survey of districts in the Lower Provinces of Bengal affects good administration in this, as in many other departments. If the cadastral survey of Behar is ever resumed it will then be advisable to make an attempt to assimilate the Behar system to that of the Benares Agency, but till then the Lieutenant-Governor is reluctantly compelled to recommend the postponement of the scheme. Meanwhile it is expedient to await the result of the experiment which is being tried in the Benares Agency, before deciding whether the proposed system is in its details the best which can be adopted, where circumstances permit, of direct dealings with the cultivators.

30. The Commissioners in paragraph 677 of their Report recommended that these establishments should be more judiciously selected and more adequately paid; that the native *purkhea* (examiner), who has responsible duties, should be trained and nominated by the factory superintendent, appointed by the agent, and sent out from head-quarters to each sub-agency at the beginning of the weighments. The Commissioners would raise the pay of the temporary *mohurs* from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15, and of the *dandidars* from Rs. 6 to Rs. 7, and would give the head *karkhannias* three annas a day, and the other *karkhannias* two and a half annas each. The Benares agent has submitted to the Board a statement showing the increase of cost involved in these proposals to be Rs. 3,648-2-2 per annum, and, as this increase is small, the Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Board in recommending the proposals of the Commission so far as they concern the Benares Agency. The Board have promised to submit a further report on the subject with regard to the Behar Agency.

31. The recommendation contained in paragraph 678 of the report, that only *tagaras* of uniform weight and size should be used has been accepted by the Board, and both agents have been requested to see that it is carried out.

32. With reference to the Commissioner's proposal (made in Chapter IV, and paragraph 679) to introduce into Behar the miniature licenses in use in Benares, the Behar agent has reported that previous attempts made in this direction have proved failures, and that

so long as the *khattadari* system continues the procedure recommended by the Commission will have no chance of success. The Board propose to issue orders for the introduction of the system of miniature licenses, but only if the assamiwar system meets with the approval of Government. The point was discussed in paragraph 33 of the letter of 28th June 1884, and it is only necessary to state here that in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor the adoption of miniature licenses, as well as assamiwar weighments and payments, should be postponed until the cadastral survey of Behar can be completed.

33. In paragraph 680 the Commission, to meet the growing evil of adulteration, especially in Behar, proposed that a tester on Re. 15 a month should be annually appointed by the agent, and sent to each sub-agency for the weighment season, to assist in determining the presence of alloy by the application of tincture of iodine to a solution of a few grains of opium taken from each plate. This test is carried out throughout the Benares Agency, but in Behar in the Patna Sub-Agency only. There are now 26 sub-agencies, and in paragraph 4 the Lieutenant-Governor has recommended the establishment of three more in Benares. The cost of 29 testers would, therefore, amount to Rs. 435 a month, or, say, for about three months Rs. 1,305. The Lieutenant-Governor approves the Board's proposal to carry out the recommendations made by the Commission in this matter.

34. In paragraph 681 the Commission suggested that opium of inferior quality should be sent with separate challans. At present opium is classified according to consistence, not quality; and inferior opium, unless actually adulterated, is sent to the factory under the same challan with good opium. It is passed at the weighment station according to its consistence, but is liable to the imposition of a penalty by the opium examiner at the sudder factory. This procedure appeared to the Commission to be opposed to the spirit of the law, Act XIII. of 1857, section 12 of which gives the cultivator a right to object, if he pleases, to the classification of his opium by the district officer. The Commission considered that when opium has been passed as good by the district officer the examiner at the sudder factory should have no power to impose a penalty upon it as being of inferior quality. In such a case the cultivator receives no notice; the proceedings of the examiner are conducted in his absence, and he gets no intimation of them till the final adjustment of his account, when inquiry is impossible and remonstrance useless. This the cultivator naturally looks upon as a hardship. The Commission, therefore, recommended that a separate challan form should be used for opium, which the testing officer at the weighment station may class as inferior, notice being given to the cultivator at the time in the same manner as is done in the case of suspected opium. Opium sent in from the district as inferior should be liable to such penalty as the opium examiner may adjudge; but no opium passed as good by the testing officer should be subjected to any penalty at the sudder factory. When opium is found at the factory liable to penalty, the Commission propose that a notice should be sent to the district officer, and through him to the cultivator concerned. The Board have directed the agents to adopt the recommendation to send in inferior opium with separate challans; but it does not appear that they have finally accepted the whole of the Commission's suggestions under this head. The Lieutenant-Governor has requested the Board to favour him with a report on the working of the new system when it has been in operation for a year.

35. The Commission's suggestion (in paragraph 682) to cause the surface of the opium in each jar to be smoothed, to prevent the upper layer drying up in a temporary state and becoming unfit for manufacture into a provision cake, has been adopted in both agencies.

36. *Khurcha*, which is confined to Behar, is a cess paid by the cultivators to the *khattadars*, and eventually it is shared between the *khattadars* and the *kothee amlah*. The rate varies from annas 12 to Rs. 2-8 per bigha, and the whole sum is supposed not to fall short of 4 lakhs of rupees. *Kurchan*, or the first scrapings of the cultivators' plates, is a recognised perquisite of the *lumberdar*. The maximum

rate allowed is 14 chittacks per maund of opium. In Behar the *khattadar* who gets *khurcha* is comparatively indifferent about the *khurchan*, and receives much less on this account than the *lumberdar* in Benares. The latter, who gets no *khurcha*, that cess being unknown in the Benares Agency, insists upon his scrapings, and in some divisions his main remuneration is derived from this source. In 1881-82 the *khattadars* in Behar received about Rs. 50,000, or Rs. 2 each, on account of *khurchan*, while the Benares *lumberdars* received about Rs. 1,80,000, or Rs. 6 each, in this way. The *lumberdars* in both agencies receive from Government a commission of Rs. 1 a maund for all good opium delivered by their assamis, the aggregate annual amount of which averages about Re. 1,00,000. In the Benares Agency *khurchan* appears to be regarded as a grievance by the cultivators, and the Commission received numerous complaints in regard to it, but the Behar ryots acquiesce in both cesses, and preferred no objection before the Commission. The Opium Commission recommended that the levy of both *khurcha* and *khurchan* be forbidden, and that the commission paid by Government to the *lumberdars* should be raised from Rs. 1 to Rs. 4 a maund. The amount of commission drawn annually by the *lumberdars* being estimated at an average a lakh of rupees, the adoption of this proposal would entail an additional cost of three lakhs a year on Government. The Opium Commission insist strongly on the necessity of the reform, which they say could be carried out without difficulty in the Benares Agency, though in Behar the suppression of *khurcha* could only be effected by resolute determination on the part of Government and its officers. In paragraph 39 of his letter of 28th June 1884, Sir Rivers Thompson remarked that the system, as described by the Commission, cannot be defended, and that our efforts should be directed to its abolition. It appears, however, that the ryots, even after the deduction of the dues of the middlemen, get a fair price for their opium, and at present at least more of the drug than is required can be got on the terms now offered. It would, therefore, be a mere waste of public money to give away three lakhs of rupees without receiving some equivalent. The opportunity of the next revision made in the price of opium may be taken to fix it with reference to the proposed abolition of *khurcha* and *khurchan*, and the proposed change can then be introduced without actual loss.

37. No change in the present practice will be made in respect of the second application of the iodine test, discussed by the Commission in paragraph 605 of their report. Their recommendations in the matter of jars and baskets (contained in paragraph 686) have been commended to the attention of both agents; and the suggestion made in paragraph 287, that payments should be made in whole rupees, has received the support of the Board at the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor.

38. In paragraph 688 the Commission remark that the rates of payment at weighment time should follow the purrucking or testing officer's classification. The present rule is to pay at the rate of Rs. 5 per seer for opium of Class I. and above. There are three classes above Class I., and the Commission recommend that opium of Class I. should be paid for at the time of weighment at Rs. 5, that four annas a seer should be added or deducted for each class above or below Class I. The Board, after consulting the opium agents, are of opinion that no change should be made until the strength of the European establishment can be materially increased. They add that when this is done the question might be reconsidered. The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the Board's view on this point.

39. In paragraph 689 the Commission suggest that the stamp duty chargeable on the receipts given by opium cultivators or their representatives for money received from Government may be remitted by an order under section 8 of the Opium Act I. of 1879. The Board of Revenue point out that by notifications issued by the Government of India, from time to time, the following instruments have been exempted from stamp duty:—

- (1.) Agreements by ryots for poppy cultivation;
- (2.) Bonds executed by the sureties of *lumberdars* and *khattadars* for advances; and
- (3.) Security bonds from *gomashas* and other native employés for personal attendance.

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The Board now recommend that the lumberdars and khattadars (the representatives of the ryots) should be exempted from the payment of stamp duty on receipts given by them. The Lieutenant-Governor desires to support this recommendation.

40. The recommendations of the Opium Commission in paragraphs 690 to 715 of their report, regarding the factory buildings at Ghazipore and Patna, have been considered by this Government in communication with the Board of Revenue and the agents. The work recommended by the Commission at the Patna Factory, with the exception of extension of the reservoir supply, as to which the Public Works Department of this Government have made further revised proposals, have been sanctioned, and most of them have already been carried out. With regard to the works recommended for the Ghazipore Factory, I am to say that administrative sanction has been accorded to them, and the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh have been requested to issue the necessary orders for their execution as soon as funds can be provided by the Government of India.

41. It is stated in the report that the responsibility for the careful and efficient management of the factory ought to rest with the agent, and as corollaries to this principle it is recommended that communication between the agents and principal assistants (factory superintendents as the Commissioners would call them) should be free from official formality, and if not conducted orally, should be by half-margin letters or memoranda. While thus entirely subordinate to the agent, the factory superintendent should be supreme within the factory; should, subject to the agent's veto, have the appointment of all officers employed in it at a pay of Rs. 150 and under, and should be consulted on the appointment of others. The Board of Revenue, after consulting the agents, recommend that the proposals of the Opium Commissioners in paragraphs 718 and 719 of their report may be sanctioned, "Board" being substituted for "Director-General." The Lieutenant-Governor, in paragraph 41 of the letter of the 28th June 1884, expressed his entire concurrence in these recommendations. The Board have already instructed the agents to desist from correspondence with the principal assistant by official letters, and to adopt the form of communication recommended by the Commission. The agents have also been told that in addressing the Board copies of notes or letters from the principal assistants should not be submitted, but the purport of all communications from these officers should be embodied in one complete report from the agents, except in cases in which the principal assistant reports in the capacity of opium examiner, and in such cases the Board have directed that the statements submitted and the views expressed by the principal assistant should be forwarded with any remarks the agent may have to offer.

42. In paragraphs 720 to 729 of their report, the Opium Commissioners express their views in regard to the qualifications that should be expected from the officer appointed to the post of factory superintendent, and the means to be adopted to secure qualified candidates for the appointment. The Lieutenant-Governor, in paragraph 42 of the letter of the 28th June 1884, has given his entire support to the proposals made under this head by the Commission.

43. In paragraphs 730 and 731, the Commissioners recommended that the posts of assistant factory superintendent (as they would call the "head assistant" at both factories) should be filled from the junior ranks of the opium service, and that the pay of the appointments should be Rs. 450 for the junior and Rs. 500 for the senior man; that candidates for the appointment should be required to produce a satisfactory certificate of a six months' workshop course, and of having passed an examination in chemistry of a standard to be from time to time laid down; that the assistant factory superintendent being considered completely subordinate to the factory superintendent under whom he is serving, all communications between the two officers should be by word of mouth or by half-margin order book or notes; and that the assistant factory superintendent should be from time to time transferred from one factory to the other. The views

of the agents and the Board of Revenue on these proposals are detailed at length in the Board's letter of the 9th January 1886, to which a reference is solicited. The Board give a general support to the Commission's proposals. In the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion the changes proposed form a necessary corollary to the suggestions made in connexion with the appointment of factory superintendent. The appointment of assistant junior superintendent should be made by the Board, subject to the control of this Government, who should also determine the standard of chemical knowledge to be required.

44. At Ghazipore the office establishment of the principal assistant is at present divided into a correspondence branch and an audit department. The Commissioners, in paragraph 733 of the report, expressed their opinion that there are objections to drawing any definite line of this kind between departments of the same office, and they therefore proposed to abolish the distinction now maintained at Ghazipore, and to organise, at both factories, an establishment sufficient for the entire office work, which properly devolves upon the factory superintendent, including the audit of the cultivators' accounts. They considered that the salaries of several of the clerks and mohurirs might be raised, especially those of the head auditor and the head mohurir, who, they remarked, have important and responsible duties to perform. A statement showing the office establishment which they recommend for each of the factory superintendents is given in paragraph 734 of their report. There is at present no separate audit office in the Behar Agency, and the Board agree with the agent in holding that none is required. For the office establishment of the principal assistant at this agency the Board submit a proposition statement prepared by the agent, showing a total cost of Rs. 522 as compared with the Rs. 615 rising to Rs. 715 recommended by the Commission. The proposals are submitted for the orders of the Government of India, with the proposition statement annexed; but the Lieutenant-Governor cannot support them. There seems no special reason why the salaries of the officers specified should be raised, and an addition made to the ministerial staff, at a time when the tendency is to the reduction of the cost of administration.

45. The *assamuiwar* system of payment for opium in force in the Benares Agency no doubt renders the audit of mofussil accounts a matter of greater importance and difficulty than it is in Behar, and the Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Board and Mr. Rivett-Carnac in thinking it undesirable to amalgamate the audit office at Ghazipore with the principal assistant's office, and give the head auditor other duties of a general nature to perform. As to the other details of the proposed changes in office establishment, which resolve themselves into a general increase of salaries, Sir Rivers Thompson considers that the proposal of the opium agent (endorsed by the Board) to raise the cost of the establishment from Rs. 488 (not, as stated by the Commission in paragraph 734 of their report, Rs. 559) to Rs. 800 is not sustained by adequate reasons, and that no increase is required in the present scale.

46. At the Patna Factory there are an assistant opium examiner on Rs. 300 and a laboratory superintendent on Rs. 150. At Ghazipore the appointment of an assistant opium examiner on Rs. 250 rising to Rs. 350 a month was sanctioned by the Government of India in the Financial Department's orders, No. 214, dated 14th April 1885. The Commission recommended that the salary of the assistant opium examiner at each factory should be fixed at Rs. 250, rising by annual increments of Rs. 20 to Rs. 350; and that failing a competent candidate from the ranks of the Opium Department, the appointment should be thrown open to persons of good character and physique. In Benares there is no permanent officer to assist the assistant opium examiner in the laboratory work; and the Commission suggested that the number of permanent factory assistants should be increased by one, and that at both factories the assistant best qualified for the duty should be selected to act as laboratory superintendent, and should continue to do so until he attains the rank of second factory superintendent, on a pay of Rs. 175 a month. As regards the pay and position of the rest of the factory assistants, the Commission recommended the abolition of the house-rent allowances, and (at Patna) of the commission on the outturn of chests, by which the present salaries are

supplemented. A statement, showing the existing establishment and the changes recommended by the Commission, is given in paragraph 739 of the report. About one-half of the proposed increase in expenditure in Patna will be covered by savings to be effected in the cost of extra establishment (which in 1881-82 amounted to Rs. 2,644), plus a further annual saving of some Rs. 700 owing to the proposed abolition of the commission now allowed to the factory employés. The Lieutenant-Governor sees no objection to the substitution of fixed for occasional establishments, or of increased salaries for charges in the form of commission; but it is not apparent why the occurrence of such a change should be taken for augmenting the total cost to Government. He is not, therefore, able to support these recommendations in their present form.

47. It is stated in paragraph 741 of the report of the Commission that the subordinate native establishment (purkheas, sirdars, &c.), at the Patna Factory requires thorough revision, both as regards strength and rates of pay. The establishments as at present sanctioned, and as recommended by the Commissioners, are shown in paragraph 741 of the report. The total yearly cost of the establishment recommended by them will come to Rs. 6,318 as against Rs. 2,928, the present cost; but against this increase must be set a saving in temporary establishments estimated at Rs. 883. If the scale proposed by the Commission is accepted, the net annual increase in expenditure will amount to Rs. [6,318—(2,928+883)=] 2,505. The Board of Revenue, after consulting the Behar agent, support the Commission's proposals, with the following modifications:—(1) that the first and second purkhea and the head sirdar should receive progressive salaries of Rs. 25 to Rs. 50, Rs. 15 to Rs. 30, and Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 respectively, instead of the fixed salaries of Rs. 50, Rs. 30, and Rs. 30 recommended by the Commission; and (2) that in place of the compounder recommended by the Commission, a selected assistant hospital compounder, deputed from the regular medical staff, be employed. The Lieutenant-Governor does not consider that the necessity for any increase in the cost of establishment has been established, and the proposals of the Commission, which include the raising of the pay of the two purkheas fourfold, seem to be extravagant.

48. The Commission would reduce the salaries of the two purkheas at the Ghazipore Factory from Rs. 70 and Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 and Rs. 40, respectively; and they think Rs. 45 an unnecessarily high salary for the head sirdar, for whom they would fix pay of Rs. 35. There are 54 sirdars on the permanent staff at Ghazipore, a number which, for the reasons given in paragraph 746, the Commission would reduce to 45. The existing subordinate establishment at Ghazipore, and that proposed by the Commission are shown in paragraph 747 of the Commission's Report, the total monthly cost of the former being Rs. 705-8, that of the latter Rs. 610. The Benares agent, while concurring in the Commission's recommendations, suggests a regrading of the factory sirdars at an extra cost of Rs. 17 per month compared with the Commission's proposals. He also recommends that the laboratory stoker, who is employed all the year round in cleaning the factory boiler, should be brought on the permanent establishment on Rs. 7 a month. The Board of Revenue have accepted the modifications proposed by the agent, and they are approved by the Lieutenant-Governor.

49. The present establishments are described in paragraphs 346, 357, and 358 of the Opium Commission's Report. The Commission recommended that the strength of the Ghazipore corps should be raised from 24 to 48 men, at an increased monthly cost of Rs. 24; that at Patna an allowance of Rs. 30 a month should be made to one of the factory assistants for taking charge of the fire-brigade; that the monthly allowance to the Patna corps should be increased from Rs. 1-4 to Rs. 1-8 per man, at a monthly cost of Rs. 12; and that the allowance of Rs. 2 to the khalasie should be withdrawn, and the pay of each of the two mates increased from Rs. 5 to Rs. 6. The Behar agent recommends that the proposals of the Commission be carried out. The steam-engines, the agent states, should remain in charge of the superintendent of the saw-mills, who is the only person at present competent to keep the machinery in working order, and

a man should be employed on a salary of Rs. 12 to work them. The only uniform required will be a coloured *toppee* and a badge to be worn on the arm, the cost of which is estimated by Mr. Kemble at Rs. 1 per man, or Rs. 50 per annum. The Benares agent is strongly in favour of the Commission's recommendations. The Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Board of Revenue in recommending that the proposed increase in the fire-brigade establishment in both factories may be sanctioned, as also the annual expenditure of Rs. 50 for the uniforms required for the fire-brigade at the Patna Factory. The increased establishment now recommended has been included in the proposition statement submitted.

50. The Opium Commissioners recommended the substitution of a police guard for the burkundaz guard at the Ghazipore Factory; and the agent concurs in their views. He has submitted a proposition statement, showing the cost of the proposed police guard, the strength of which, he says, has been fixed by the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, North-Western Provinces, on visiting the factory and seeing the number of sentries required. The statement shows that 77 men are to be employed at a total yearly cost of Rs. 7,338. With regard to the question of searching, the agent states that as the Police Department hold that a police sentry armed with a musket cannot satisfactorily conduct the search of persons leaving the factory, he recommends that a special establishment be employed for the purpose. This establishment will consist of one duffadar searcher and five searchers, and its total yearly cost, including clothing charges, will be Rs. 550. The present establishment costs Rs. 5,652 a year, so the total increase per annum will be Rs. 2,236, the details of which are shown in the appended proposition statement. The Lieutenant-Governor has no objection to the substitution of a police guard for the present burkundaz establishment, but considers that the cost of protecting the factory should not exceed the present limit of expenditure.

51. The Commission recommend considerable increases to the wages of cake-makers at both factories. The Board of Revenue, however, and both agents, are opposed to any increase in the rates at present paid for cake-making; but the Board support a suggestion made by the Behar agent that an increased rate of five annas per 100 cakes, or 320 cakes per rupee, in place of the present rate of 520 cakes per rupee, should be given for the repair of cakes at the Patna factory. At this rate the extra cost is estimated at Rs. 1,252 per annum. The Lieutenant-Governor supports the Board's recommendations.

52. The Commission considered the salaries of the officers employed in the saw-mill to be sufficient, but they refrained from submitting any definite recommendations on the subject, as arrangements were at the time in progress for the extension of the mill. This extension has since been completed, and the Behar agent has now submitted his scheme for increasing the strength of the establishment at an additional cost of Rs. 353 per mensem, or Rs. 4,236 per annum. It is proposed—

- (1.) To raise the salary of Mr. Girling, the superintendent and engineer of the saw-mill, from Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per mensem;
- (2.) To employ an assistant engineer on Rs. 125 in lieu of one assistant to engineer on Rs. 50, and one boiler-maker or second assistant to engineer on Rs. 40 per mensem; and
- (3.) To increase the number of circular sawyers, &c. in consequence of extension of the saw-mill.

With regard to Mr. Girling's pay I am to say that the Opium Commission, in paragraph 759, while considering a salary of Rs. 400 sufficient for the post of superintendent, observed that should it be thought desirable to reward the good service which the present superintendent has rendered, such recognition should be made in the form of a personal allowance. The Behar agent now strongly recommends that an addition of Rs. 100 be made to Mr. Girling's salary from 1st January 1886. Mr. Girling was appointed as engineer to the Patna Factory on the 1st June 1869 on a salary of Rs. 300 per mensem; and when the Saw-mill and Chests Departments were amalgamated, his salary was raised to Rs. 400 per month from 15th February 1878 under sanction of the Government of India in their Financial

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Department letter, No. 3303, dated 26th September 1877. The Board now recommend that this salary may either be raised to Rs. 500 per mensem, or that a personal allowance of Rs. 100 a month be granted to him. The Lieutenant-Governor thinks that Mr. Girling's long and meritorious service in a responsible post justifies this increase. He approves the other proposals of the Behar agent regarding the increase of the saw-mill establishment.

53. With regard to the code of rules for the working of the factories referred to in paragraph 761 of the report, I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor can only repeat the remark made in paragraph 44 of Mr. MacDonnell's letter of the 28th June 1884, that it may be provisionally accepted, but that until orders have been passed on the report, it will not be possible to formally sanction the code.

54. The question of purchasing Malwa opium for excise purpose (*vide* paragraph 762 of the report) has formed the subject of a separate correspondence with the Government of India, and the Lieutenant-Governor has, in my letter, No. 1433 T. R., dated 22nd October 1886, recommended the discontinuance of the scheme. The orders of the Government of India on this recommendation are now awaited.

55. After consulting the agents, the Board of Revenue have issued the necessary instructions for carrying out the following recommendations of the Commission:—

(1.) That the form of challan register in use in the Benares Agency should, in a modified form, be introduced in Behar.

* Prescribed in Part IV. of the Commission's report.

(2.) That in Behar the assay of the challan jars and the calculation of damdetta contents of each jar should, as in Benares, be based upon the re-classification of the jars at the factory.

(3.) That the Behar system of ascertaining the value of each cultivator's opium should be followed in Benares.

(4.) That the accounts of the cultivators should be audited at agency head-quarters, as is now done in the Benares Agency.

The Board have also directed the Behar agent to have a set of tables showing the value of different quantities of opium at different rates per seer drawn up for use in his agency, as recommended by the Commission, and to introduce the system of adjusting the accounts of each jar separately into the Behar Agency.

56. The Commission recommended in paragraph 770 of the report that the supply of chests for both agencies should be left in the hands of the Behar agent. In paragraph 46 of this Government letter of 28th June 1884, it was pointed out that the question needs a more thorough examination than the Commission gave it; but the Board of Revenue have treated the subject as briefly as the Opium Commission did. The Board have been asked to submit a full report on the subject after consulting the two agents, and a copy of the report, when received, will be submitted to the Government of India with an expression of the Lieutenant-Governor's views thereon. It may be said that, so far as the correspondence has been carried at present, no case has been made out for a change in the existing practice.

57. The Commission recommended that the reserve should never be raised to an amount greater than would supply the sales of six months, and that the proper quantity would be represented by the number of chests required for the sales of three months, or calculating according to the number of chests to be offered for sale in 1884, 12,000. The Government of India in letter No. 1534, dated 30th June 1885, concurring with the Government of Bengal, had previously prescribed six months' supply, or 60,000 chests having been sold in the previous year 30,000 chests as the *minimum* number of provision chests to be kept in reserve; and the question has not since been re-opened. The Board of Revenue have consistently advocated the maintenance of "a substantial reserve," but have left the question of its amount to be decided by Government with reference to financial considera-

tions. The Lieutenant-Governor recognises the fact that it is impossible to prescribe any definite number of chests as the number to be kept in reserve. The quantity of opium available for sale must depend in great measure on the year's poppy crop, which varies with good and bad seasons; and further elements of uncertainty are introduced by fluctuations in the Chinese market, and, perhaps, by the conditions of the Imperial finances, which may render it desirable to put into the market a larger quantity of the drug in one year than in another. Sir Rivers Thompson, however, considers that both in order to avoid the necessary locking up of capital, and with a view to save the opium from the deterioration caused by storage for more than one rainy season in Calcutta, the principle laid down by the Opium Commission should be accepted, that the reserve should never be less than a three months' supply, or ordinarily exceed a six months' supply.

58. The Commission proposes that arrangement should, as in paragraph 771 of the report, be made with the French Government to surrender, on equitable terms, the right which it enjoys of requiring 300 chests of provision opium to be annually reserved for it. This recommendation has already been carried out, and a convention entered into for the payment to the French authorities at Chandernagore of Rs. 3,000 per annum for five years, commencing from the 1st January 1884.

59. The Commission's recommendations on this subject will be considered in detail as soon as the report which has been called for from the Board of Revenue is received.

60. With reference to paragraph 4 of Mr. Finlay's letter, No. 2565, dated 20th August 1885, on the subject of the member of the Board of Revenue in charge of the Opium Department visiting each agency at least once a year, in order that he may have an opportunity of conferring with the agents and the principal subordinates on the staff of the Department, I am to state that it does not seem to the Lieutenant-Governor desirable that a definite time should be fixed for the periodical visits of the members to the agencies. The Board, however, have been desired to give timely notice to Government on each occasion of the member's intended visit, in order that such communications and instructions may be addressed to him as circumstances may require.

61. I am to add a brief summary of the total cost of the changes suggested in the foregoing paragraphs:—

- Summary.
- (a.) Building of houses for 16 sub-deputy and assistant sub-deputy opium agents (paragraph 3); initial expenditure Rs. 96,000; Rs. 3,840 recoverable annually as house-rent.
 - (b.) Bonus to zilladars and lumberdars (paragraph 4), Rs. 4,000 a year.
 - (c.) Appointment of additional sub-deputy and assistant sub-deputy opium agents (paragraphs 5, 6, and 7), annual cost Rs. 57,000.
 - (d.) Establishment for five additional officers (paragraph 7), annual cost Rs. 12,513.
 - (e.) Increase in establishments of sub-deputy opium agents and their assistants (paragraph 12), Rs. 63,159, subject to a deduction on account of withdrawal of the "native assistants' " commission, the amount of which has not been precisely estimated.
 - (f.) Revision of salaries of the kothee establishments (paragraph 15), increase of Rs. 2,94,381 per annum.
 - (g.) Enhanced rates for trash (paragraph 25), annual cost Rs. 6,336-4.
 - (h.) Increased pay to temporary native establishments at weighments (paragraph 30); in Benares Rs. 3,648-2-2 annually; in Behar not yet estimated.
 - (i.) Employment of iodine testers (paragraph 33), annual cost Rs. 1,305.
 - (j.) Factory buildings at Patna and Ghazipore (paragraph 49). Most of the additions and alterations required in the Patna factory have already been carried out, and administrative sanction has been accorded to all the changes recommended for Ghazipore, which are being proceeded with as funds are made available. The total cost involved is—

	Rs.		Rs.
Ghazipore	2,20,858	Patna	83,176

- (k.) Increase to fire-brigade establishment (paragraph 49), Rs. 986 annually.
- (l.) Increased rates for repair of cakes (paragraph 51), Rs. 1,252 per annum.
- m.) Increase in saw-mill establishment rendered necessary by the extension of the mill (paragraph 52), annual cost Rs. 4,236.

Rs.
* (a) 96,000
(j) 2,20,858
53,176
4,00,034

Annually recurring increases.

Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
4,000 0 0 (b)	1,305 0 0 (i)
57,000 0 0 (c)	986 0 0 (k)
12,518 0 0 (d)	1,252 0 0 (l)
63,159 0 0 (e)	4,236 0 0 (m)
2,94,381 0 0 (f)	
6,336 4 0 (g)	4,48,816 6 2
\$3,048 2 2 (h)	

† Behar agent's office	-	Rs. 1,968
Benares agent's office	-	234
Subordinate native staff at Ghazipore	-	858
Rents recoverable from officers occupying Government houses	-	3,840
		6,900

§ Something will have to be added for increased pay of temporary establishment in Behar.

establishments and the subordinate native staff at Ghazipore, and on account of rent recoverable from officers occupying Government houses

I have, &c.

(Signed) P. NOLAN,

Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 385 B., dated 10th May 1886.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

With reference to Government order No. 150 T. R., dated 30th April 1884, communicating the consent of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the Board, taking into consideration and submitting suggestions for giving effect to the recommendations made by the Opium Commission on certain minor matters connected with the administration of the Opium Department, and in continuation of paragraph 3 of the Board's letter No. 25B, dated 13th January last, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to submit, for the orders of Government, the following suggestions in connexion with the Commission's proposals in paragraphs 622 to 624, 629, and 630 of their report.

2. In paragraph 622 of their report the Opium Commission recommend that—

- (1) The house-rent allowances to opium district officers be equalised.
- (2) The Director-General be permitted to award a few bonus allowances yearly.

With regard to (1), the Commission recommended in paragraph 623 of their report that to officers for whom separate offices are provided by Government, but who are obliged to live in private houses apart from their offices, should be allowed—

- Rs. 20 a month, if the officer is a deputy agent;
- Rs. 15 a month, if he is an assistant agent;

that to officers housed in buildings which are the property of Government no rent be charged; and that to officers for whom no separate office is provided, an allowance, out of which they must provide sufficient office accommodation, be made, to a deputy agent of Rs. 30 per mensem, and to an assistant agent of Rs. 20 per mensem. As regards bonus allowances the Commission recommended, in paragraph 624 of their report, that Rs. 13,500 should be placed annually at the disposal of

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the Director-General, to be distributed by him with the advice and counsel of the agents as follows:—

	Rs.
To 5 deputy agents, Rs. 1,000 each	- 5,000
To 6 assistant agents, Rs. 500 each	- 3,000
To 6 ditto, Rs. 250 each	- 1,500
To deserving lumbarbars and zilladars, Rs. 2,000 in each agency	- 4,000
Total	- 13,500

Both opium agents were asked to consider these recommendations, and to furnish the Board with any remarks they might have to offer.

3. The Behar agent is strongly in favour of equalising the house-rent allowances for opium officers, both for sub-deputy agents and for assistants. He reports that in the Behar Agency no officer receives any house-rent allowance; officers living at the head-quarters of districts have, as a rule, to provide their own houses. At Arrah, and up to the present time at Mozafferpore, the sub-deputy agents living as single men have been allowed to reside in a portion of the opium building, paying about Rs. 30 per mensem as rent; but at other opium stations, which may be also the head-quarters of civil districts, no suitable accommodation is available in the opium buildings, and the opium officers, being married men, have to pay a high rent for their houses. At opium stations which are not head-quarters of civil districts, such as Alleegunge, Tehta, Burhurwa, and Hajeeepore, commodious bungalows are provided by Government at a rent of Rs. 30 per mensem. This distinction, the agent says, is invidious. If he wishes to move the sub-deputy agent from Alleegunge, where he occupies an excellent bungalow with commodious out-offices and a very large garden, the property of Government, at an almost nominal rent, to, say Bankipore, where he would have to pay at least Rs. 80 for a small ill-situated house, he naturally makes objections. The agent does not think that the proposal made by the Commission will improve matters. He is of opinion that the fairest and most liberal plan would be to have a bungalow for the sub-deputy and a smaller one for the assistant attached to the opium offices at every head-quarter; and where this cannot be done, he suggests that Government should hire a house in the station. In either case the sub-deputy should pay, as at present, a rent of Rs. 30, and the assistant of Rs. 10 per mensem.

4. The Benares agent is of opinion that any step to equalise house rent will be a move in the right direction, as the charge on this account is now very unequal at different places. He thinks, however, that the proposals of the Commission will hardly constitute an improvement, as at some stations house rent is very high, while at others a good bungalow can be obtained at a very low rate. He says that to give sub-deputies Rs. 20 a month all round towards house rent would suit an officer stationed at Sitapore, but would be no concession to a sub-deputy stationed at Allahabad. The best plan, Mr. Carnac thinks, would be to provide, as at present, a suitable house for office and residence, the rent being paid by the Opium Department, the sub-deputy being charged Rs. 25, and the assistant Rs. 10 per mensem towards the rent. Mr. Carnac adds that the accommodation available for assistants in some places is hardly worth the Rs. 10 now paid, and the rooms would have to be improved.

5. From the above it will be seen that the proposals of the Commission in paragraph 623 of their report will not meet the difficulty by equalising the house-rent allowances of opium offices. The only way this could be done appears to be that suggested by both agents, viz., that houses should be provided and the officers charged rent at an equal rate; and the Board recommend that this suggestion be sanctioned in preference to the proposals of the Opium Commission; the rent payable by a sub-deputy they would fix at Rs. 30, and that by an assistant at Rs. 10 per mensem. The Board consider that such an arrangement is desirable for the improvement of the present state of affairs, and in the interests of the public service.

6. The Behar agent is not in favour of the Commission's proposals to grant bonus allowances. He is of opinion that the distribution of bonus allowances to a few specially selected officers is certain to lead to jealousy, heart-burning, and discontent, and will render the service generally more out of heart than it is at present. The agent thinks that the members of the service will be well satisfied if they feel that, if they

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work honestly, they will be duly advanced to the higher grades in their time, and that the controlling authorities will be able to secure discipline and get good enough work out of their subordinates by keeping back promotion from those who are lazy and inefficient. The agent does not think that the gift of a bonus yearly of a few hundred rupees will either strengthen the hands of the Board or the agent, secure better work from the sub-deputies, or put any heart into the Department generally. Much more satisfaction, he thinks, would be created by increasing the pay of the higher grades, so as to place the officers in the Opium Department more on an equality with those in the police. The agent adds that even the officer who is entrusted with the allotment of the bonus be ever so well-intentioned, he must be more or less influenced by favouritism. Possibly, if he was a personal friend of the man generally considered the best sub-deputy, he would hesitate to allot the bonus to him. Anyhow, the allotment of such a bonus would be a difficult and invidious duty.

7. The Benares agent states that he apprehends great difficulty in giving satisfactory effect to the scheme so far as the European officers of the Department are concerned. The money might, he thinks, be more profitably spent in creating a higher grade. He is in favour of providing one or two appointments in his agency of Rs. 1,000, or even Rs. 1,200 a month, the promotion to which would not depend upon seniority, but for which officers would be selected in recognition of real good work. He says that this would not only mean increased salary, but increased pension, and many officers in the Department would be induced to work steadily for this goal from an early period of their career. Mr. Carnac is in favour of granting rewards to lumbardars and zilladars. The Board, I am to state, agree in the objections urged by the agents against the Commission's proposal to grant bonuses to the superior officers of the Opium Department, but they advocate the proposal to grant rewards to lumbardars and zilladars. Whilst admitting the objections to again re-adjusting the salaries of the several grades of sub-deputy opium agents, the Board would ask Government to make a grade of two officers on Rs. 1,000 a month, to be divided between the two agencies. The proposition statement submitted with reference to the Commission's proposals to increase the number of sub-agencies has been prepared in accordance with this recommendation. The Board think it necessary at present to discuss the mode in which selections for promotion to the vacancies in this grade should be made. They leave this matter to the consideration of Government, should the proposal receive the sanction of the Secretary of State.

8. The Board also requested the Benares agent to report on the recommendations of the Opium Commission contained in paragraph 629 of their report, to increase the number of sub-agencies in the Benares Agency. The agent reports that, though the Commission's proposals, if adopted, would be an improvement in the position of the agency, as it at present exists, he does not think that their scheme, large as it is, is sufficient. Mr. Carnac remarks :—

"In laying the subject before the Commission, and in reporting for the information of the Board and the Government, I have over and over again presented the disadvantages under which we labour in this agency as compared with Behar. It appears necessary to state briefly again here the position of the two agencies, without noticing which the insufficiency of the present proposals would be hardly apparent.

"The system obtaining in Behar, and in which I believe the agency was originally started, is somewhat as follows :—A sub-deputy opium agent is entrusted with a circle of cultivation of such a size as can conveniently be overlooked. This officer settles with the cultivators, receives and weighs their opium, assisted by the native staff. If the cultivation of a district is very considerable, the district is divided among two officers. Generally, however, a charge is conterminous with the district. In Behar the sub-deputy agent is a district officer who is responsible for the work in his district, and by whom the settlements and weighments are conducted. The sub-deputy has an assistant attached to his division, but this officer is an assistant properly so-called, that is to say, he is entrusted with no independent work; he assists the sub-deputy working under his eye, and performing such duty as may be assigned to him. He has thus an opportunity of learning his work and gaining experience before he is placed in independent

charge. In the Benares Agency, however, the system is quite different. In the beginning, I understand, the sub-deputy had his circle and his assistant. By degrees however, as the agents desired to increase the cultivation, and to obtain results as cheaply as possible, the assistants were pushed into out-districts, and by degrees became sub-deputies on their own account, with the salary and title of assistant. Matters have improved of late years, but when I first joined the agency the sub-deputy, besides having a circle of his own, conterminous with the revenue district, would also have four so-called assistants under him, each in charge of the opium in a revenue district. Besides the pay and name already noticed, the only difference between the sub-deputy and assistant was that the assistant corresponded through the sub-deputy with the agent, and that the sub-deputy was supposed to exercise a general control over his semi-independent assistants. This control consisted, and still consists, in the sub-deputy opium agent marching during the cold weather through the assistant's charge, and inspecting his work. But as a sub-deputy has a circle of his own his hands are quite full during the weighments and the settlements, so that during these all-important times, when control is most necessary, the assistants are quite independent, and perform the work of sub-deputy opium agents.

"All this is bad enough, and the objection is fully recognised by the Commission. But a special disadvantage of the system has perhaps not been fully brought out. The staff of this agency is so strictly limited that even with the four probationers there is absolutely no margin to veer and haul upon. The assistants here do not pass through several years of apprenticeship under the instruction of the sub-deputy opium agent as in Behar. If the season is sickly, and several officers have to go on leave, it may be necessary to place an inexperienced assistant in charge of the weighments, and to expect a young man, who has worked perhaps not six months in the Department, to undertake duties which in Behar would be entrusted to a full-blown sub-deputy, with an assistant to help him. The system in this agency, bad as it is, has more by good luck than anything else worked without any disaster. But the insufficiency of the staff in this agency, and the great risk at which the work is carried on, has necessarily impressed itself on the Commission. Their recommendations, though they go some way, do not, I would submit, go far enough. It sounds well enough to have two districts grouped together under a sub-deputy with the assistant to help him. If these two districts would be thoroughly worked by a sub-deputy, with an assistant in training under him, the proposal would be good enough; but the area of a district is quite as much, indeed a great deal more, than an officer can supervise. If two districts are joined together, it must then come to this, that as regards the supervision, the assistant will be nearly independent. As regards the settlement and the weighments, the Commission seem hopeful that the sub-deputy with one assistant will generally be able to supervise these, and by the increase in the rapidity of the weighments it is hoped that the sub-deputy and his assistant will be able to weigh first in one district, and then go into the other, and that the cultivators and every one will be satisfied.

"Regarding this, however, I am not so sanguine. In some of the smaller districts this would be possible, but in most of the others the difficulties would be very great. Take, for instance, the first in the list, Ghazipur and Ballia. If the sub-deputy and assistant were to commence to weigh at Ballia, and then go on to Ghazipur, or *vice-versa*, the cultivators in one or other of these districts would be kept waiting at least a fortnight, and the discontent would be very great, to say nothing of the risk of delay inducing the cultivators to part with the drug illicitly. If the districts weigh separately, the assistant is a sub-deputy in everything but name, and if the present system is retained, he will be pitch-forked into a semi-independent charge before he has had any training."

9. The agent states further that if full and satisfactory arrangements are to be made, and if the Benares Agency is to be placed on the same footing as the Behar Agency, the proper plan would be to place all the larger districts in charge of sub-deputy opium agents. To some of these an assistant would be given; others would not require a second officer; while in some cases, where the cultivation is small, two districts might be formed into one sub-agency. A statement is submitted herewith, showing the distribution of the sub-agencies as proposed by the agent,

and the area of cultivation in each, from which it will be seen that, according to Mr. Carnac's proposals, there will be 26 sub-agencies, with 26 sub-deputy opium agents, and 27 assistant sub-deputy opium agents. It will also be seen from this statement that the area of cultivation in the proposed sub-agencies of Ballia, Hamirpur, and Agra, will be comparatively small. Besides the 27 assistants above referred to, the agent proposes to employ an additional assistant as his personal assistant. A second statement showing the distribution of the sub-agencies, and the area of cultivation in each as proposed by the Opium Commission, is also submitted. I am to state that the Board, after carefully considering the question, would support the proposals of the Opium Commission, as it may be assumed that they have gone carefully into the whole question, and satisfied themselves as to the sufficiency of the staff they propose. The Board's views on the subject of the appointment of a personal assistant to the Benares agent have already been expressed in paragraph 3 of their letter, No. 37B., of 12th January 1885, to which I am to invite attention.

10. The attention of both agents was also drawn to paragraph 630 of the Opium Commission's report, regarding the increase in the number of assistants to be employed, and they were requested to favour the Board with their opinions on the proposals contained therein. A reference to the paragraph quoted above will show that the Commission's proposals are that there should be 35 assistants attached to the Benares Agency, and 15 to the Behar Agency; that appointments to the grade of assistants should be made by Government, but till he has passed his examinations, an officer should rank as a probationer only; that the agent should see that a probationer has proper opportunities for qualifying himself to conduct settlements, &c.; and that it should be made a rule that an assistant is not to be placed in charge of a sub-division, unless he has been at least three years in the Department, and has passed his examinations in all subjects, and then only when the agent has certified him to be competent to undertake the duties.

11. The Behar agent reports that he is most decidedly in favour of allowing a permanent assistant to each sub-deputy agent. He states that if the districts are properly looked after, there is work for more than one assistant, e.g., in Gya and Shahabad. In Patna there has hitherto been no assistant; but from the experience he has gained, the agent is satisfied that one European officer cannot properly supervise this large and important district. The agent is of opinion that if the 15 assistants are allowed to Behar, there should be no necessity for employing temporary extra hands at weighments—a system which he does not approve.

12. The Benares agent thinks it necessary to place assistants under sub-deputies to learn the work and gain experience before they are given the work of weighments and settlements. He agrees with the Opium Commission that until an officer has passed his examinations he should rank as a probationer only; but he advocates that it should also be insisted on that all candidates for the Opium Department should pass through the test of extra assistants during the weighments, during which period, he says, an excellent opportunity is afforded of judging the young man's merits. He states that the number of candidates is large, and from the best workers among the extra assistants a good selection might be made. Mr. Carnac is of opinion that no assistant should be placed in semi-independent charge until he has had an opportunity of learning his work under a competent sub-deputy opium agent; but he thinks that the three years' probation is quite impossible, when there are no spare officers in training, and when the number of officers is only the same as the number of posts to be filled, so that when a vacancy takes place it must be filled from outside. This difficulty, it is said, is enhanced by the system of competitive examination for admission into the Opium Department recently ordered by Government. I am to state that the Board would support the proposals of the Opium Commission, contained in paragraph 630 of their report, regarding the number of assistants to be employed in each agency.

13. The agent's proposal that candidates for the Opium Department should pass through the test of extra assistants during the weighments is, I am to say, inconsistent with the existing rules according to which candidates for appointment to the Department have to pass a preliminary examination at Calcutta, and is therefore admissible.

14. A proposition statement prepared in accordance with the proposals contained in paragraphs 629 and 630 of the Opium Commission's report, and paragraph 7 *supra* has been submitted through the Accountant-General of Bengal for verification of the present scale of establishment.

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DISTRIBUTION OF THE SUB-AGENCIES PROPOSED BY THE
OPIUM AGENT, BENARES.

No	Division.	Sub-Division.	Cultivation.	Remarks.		
				Total.	Sub-Deputy.	Assistant.
1	Ghazipore -	Ghazipore -	6,228	19,125	1	2
		Syedpore -	5,048			
		Zamaniah -	7,849			
2	Bulliah -	Bulliah -	6,392	6,392	1	—
3	Benares -	Benares -	1,031	14,409	1	1
		Chandowli -	6,183			
		Mirzapore -	7,195			
4	Azamgarh -	Azamgarh -	5,210	20,654	1	2
		Ghoosi -	6,535			
		Nugrah -	5,647			
		Jaunpore -	3,262			
5	Gorakpore -	Gorakpore -	7,046	30,229	1	2
		Paterwah -	7,853			
		Bhagulpore -	8,975			
		Golah -	5,950			
6	Busti -	Busti -	13,944	40,259	1	2
		Bansi -	3,353			
		Domariagunj -	5,694			
		Khullilaba -	5,917			
7	Allahabad -	Allahabad -	6,293	11,943	1	1
		Sarsa -	5,650			
8	Fatehpore -	Fatehpore -	11,374	12,873	1	1
		Bandah -	1,499			
9	Cawnpore -	Cawnpore -	2,746	22,870	1	1
		Aukin -	14,714			
		Rurah -	5,410			
10	Hamirpore -	Hamirpore -	1,017	4,193	1	1
		Jalore -	3,176			
11	Manipuri -	Manipuri -	16,786	16,786	1	1
12	Etawah -	Etawah -	20,805	20,805	1	—
13	Bareilly -	Shahjehanpore -	10,216	26,894	1	1
		Bareilly -	16,678			
14	Mooradabad -	Mooradabad -	902	21,436	1	1
		Budaon -	20,534			

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No	Division.	Sub-Division.	Cultivation.	Total.	Remarks.	
					Sub-Deputy.	Assistant.
15	Aligarh -	{ Aligarh - -	Bighas. 1,604	8,417	1	1
		{ Etah - - -	6,813			
16	Agra - -	{ Agra - - -	2,548	3,048	1	1
		{ Muthra - -	500			
17	Sitapore -	{ Sitapore - -	14,831	19,479	1	1
		{ Kheri - - -	4,648			
18	Hardoi - -	Hardoi - - -	14,401	14,401	1	—
19	Lucknow -	{ Lucknow - -	—	21,924	1	1
		{ Unao - - -	21,924			
20	Barabanki -	Barabanki -	21,707	21,707	1	1
21	Fyzabad -	Fyzabad - -	Bighas. 17,152	17,152	1	—
22	Gondah -	{ Gondah - - -	22,081			
		{ Bahraitch - -	7,354	29,435	1	1
23	Sultanpore -	Sultanpore -	12,436	12,436	1	—
24	Pertabgarh -	Pertabgarh -	20,031	20,031	1	1
25	Rai Bareilly -	{ Rai Bareilly -	21,232	41,066	1	2
		{ Salone - - -	13,834			
26	Fatehgarh -	{ Fatehgarh - -	9,866	22,408	1	2
		{ Bhozpore - -	12,542			
Grand total -			—	5,00,972	26	27

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SUB-AGENCIES PROPOSED BY THE OPIUM COMMISSION.

Division.	Sub-Division.	Actual Area of Land under Poppy Cultivation.	Remarks.	
			Sub-Deputy.	Assistants.
Ghazipore - -	Ghazipore - -	Bighas. 6,228	1	3
	Syedpore - -	5,048		
	Zamaneeah - -	7,849		
	Balliah - - -	6,392		
		25,517		
Gorakhpore -	Gorakhpore -	7,046	1	3
	Golah - - -	6,950		
	Bhagulpore -	8,975		
	Patherwah - -	7,858		
		30,829		
Basti - - -	Best - - -	13,044	1	4
	Bansi - - -	3,358		
	Doomerisgunj -	5,894		
	Khalilabad -	5,917		
	Amorah - - -	11,346		
		40,259		
Azamgarh -	Azamgarh - -	5,210	1	3
	Nugra - - -	5,647		
	Ghosee - - -	6,535		
	Jaunpore - -	3,262		
		20,654		
Benares - -	Benares - - -	1,031	1	2
	Chandouli - -	6,183		
	Mirzapore - -	7,195		
		14,409		
Allahabad -	Allahabad - -	Bighas. 6,293	1	1
	Sarsa - - -	5,650		
		11,943		
Fatehpore -	Fatehpore - -	11,374	1	1
	Banda - - -	1,499		
		12,873		
Cawnpore -	Cawnpore - -	2,746	1	3
	Rura - - -	5,410		
	Jalour - - -	3,176		
	Hamirpote - -	1,017		
		12,349		
Etawah - -	Etawah - - -	20,805	1	1
	Agra - - -	2,548		
		23,353		
Farukhabad -	Fatehgarh - -	9,866	1	3
	Bohjpore - -	12,542		
	Aukir - - -	14,714		
	Mainpury - -	16,786		
		53,908		
Aligarh - -	Aligarh - - -	1,604	1	1
	Etah - - -	6,813		
		8,417		
Moradabad -	Moradabad - -	902	1	1
	Budaon - - -	20,534		
		21,436		

Division.	Sub-Division.	Actual Area of Land under Poppy Cultivation.	Remarks.	
			Sub-Division.	Assistants.
Bareilly	Bareilly	Bighas. 10,216		
	Shahjehanpore	16,078		
		26,894	1	1
Sitapore	Sitapore	14,831		
	Hardoi	14,401		
	Kheeri	4,648		
		33,880	1	2
Lucknow	Lucknow	21,924		
	Unao			
	Bara Banki	21,707		
		43,631	1	2
Rai Bareilly	Rai Bareilly	27,232		
	Salone	13,834		
		41,066	1	1
Sultanpore	Sultanpore	12,436		
	Partabgarh	20,031		
		32,467	1	1
Fyzabad	Fyzabad	17,152		
	Gonda	22,081		
	Bahraich	7,354		
		46,587	1	2
	Total	500,472	18	35

No. 37 B., dated 12th January 1885.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

UNDER the sanction conveyed in Government order, No. 150 T. R., dated 30th April 1884, to the Board's taking into consideration and submitting suggestions for giving effect to the recommendations made by the late Opium Commission on certain minor matters connected with the administration of the Opium Department, the Board called upon the opium agent, Benares, to report whether the proposals made by the Commission in paragraphs 634 and 635 of their report in regard to his office establishment could be carried out at once, and, if so, to submit a proposition statement in the usual form.

2. The Benares agent has submitted a report,* a copy of which is herewith submitted for the information and orders of Government, from which it will be seen that Mr. Carnac's views on the subject are not in accord with the recommendations of the Commission, and it is not easy for the Board, who can have no knowledge of the detail working of the Benares agent's office, to decide between the two. The question, moreover, is not made clearer by the hesitating manner in which the Commission's proposals are put forward. In paragraph 634 the Commission state that it is somewhat difficult to understand the existing strength and cost of the establishment of the Benares agent, and in paragraph 635 they only submit a provisional estimate. On the other hand, it would not, the Board consider, be unreasonable under the circumstances to concede

that the agent must know better than anyone what his requirements are, and the Board are therefore inclined to accept Mr. Carnac's proposals. The agent has, accordingly, under the Board's orders, prepared and submitted a proposition statement (forwarded through the Accountant-General for verification of the present scale of establishment), showing the establishment according to the scale proposed by him, and from which it will be seen that there will be an annual increase in the cost, amounting to Rs. 1,632, and I am to request the sanction of Government thereto.

3. As regards the question of allowing a personal assistant to the Benares agent, I am to say that the Board are inclined to think that Mr. Carnac has made out a good case in support of the retention of this appointment. The Benares agent has a larger number of officers to deal with in his agency, and his travelling over a wider area necessitates a longer absence from head-quarters than in the Behar Agency. If, therefore, his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to allow the Benares agent the services of an officer as personal assistant, the Board would suggest that it should be on the distinct understanding that the number of sanctioned assistants will not be increased on that account, and that no officer is to be appointed to that post who is in receipt of a salary of more than Rs. 300 per mensem. This will, the Board consider, ensure at least an occasional change in the personnel of the appointment.

4. The Board also agree with the Benares agent in the view expressed in paragraph 7 of his letter, that the Treasury office should be part of his own office, and they have accordingly included it in the proposition statement.

No. 164—2064, dated 23rd July 1884.

From H. RIVETT-CARNAC, Esq., C.I.E., Opium Agent of Benares, to the SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, Lower Provinces.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 182 B., dated 19th ultimo, calling for a proposition statement of my office establishment if the proposals regarding the establishment made by the Commission can be carried out at once.

2. In my opinion it is impossible to carry out the proposed changes at once, or indeed at all, owing to reasons to be detailed further on.

3. The remarks of the Commission in regard to my office appear to have been based on a misapprehension. During the whole period of the Commission's stay here they did not go through any single branch of my office, and the subject was never discussed with me. Had this been done, it might have been possible to have saved the Commission from some of the misconceptions into which they have fallen.

4. It does not appear to me that the great difference between the work of this agency and Behar has received sufficient notice. The Benares agent has to deal with work in 39 districts with 50 European sub-deputy and assistant sub-deputy agents, exclusive of those at the factory. Nearly all the assistants are in semi-independent charge, and each submitting reports on important subjects. The Behar agent has to deal with nine districts and 22 officers, while of the assistants one only is, I believe, in semi-independent charge. The difference will be understood when it is explained that in each district questions continually arise regarding weighments, settlements, buildings, &c. The personal work in regard to promotions, leave, transfers, &c., is increased by the number of the officers. The large number of the sub-divisions, necessitating accounts, travelling allowance, bills, &c., and the dealings with 39 treasuries, make account work very heavy, and nearly all these subjects have continually to come up before the agent. The agent himself, having an enormous area to supervise, has to be absent from Ghazipore for a great part of the year, and cannot remain in the centre of the ring fence of his cultivation as the Behar agent can. For all these reasons he certainly requires a stronger office establishment than Behar; and a personal assistant is also necessary. It is believed that no head of a department, with the number of European officers with which the Benares agent has to communicate, is without a personal assistant. Having been here a long time, and knowing

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the districts and officers personally, I may not require a personal assistant drawn from the line of the Department so much as an opium agent newly appointed might. But an agent who is not drawn from the body of the Department, and who has no knowledge or experience of the weighments, the settlements, and their complicated forms and procedure, should certainly have some officer at hand who has served in every branch, and knows each detail of the district work thoroughly. Apart from this, the large body of European officers of the Department can communicate more easily on many points with the personal assistant, one of themselves, than they can with the agent, and a good personal assistant can do much to advise and inform the agent on points that might otherwise not come to his notice.

5. The Commission labour under an entire mistake in regarding the appointment of personal assistant as having been created by myself. The mistake appears to have originated from one of the Commission having once been stationed at Ghazipore, and having had an idea that no personal assistant then existed. As a fact, however, Mr. Paterson, an assistant in the line, was the personal assistant when I joined in 1875, and had been acting in that capacity from several years previously, and the sub-deputies and assistants named in

the margin have all at different times served in the agent's office as head assistant or personal assistant, be the post called what it may. Had the Commission inquired on the subject, it would have been found that in reality the appointment dates back to 1837, or nearly 50 years ago, as the

names given will show. The Commission, too, are quite mistaken in supposing that I have unfairly deprived the district of the services of a good officer. Of the personal assistants of my time, Mr. Patterson, on going to the districts, was succeeded by Mr. Luard, with whom I went fully into the question of settlements, resulting in the drawing up of the detailed rules, maps, registers, &c., which have since been adopted in both agencies. Then came Mr. Bryson, who accompanied me through the districts of the Aligarh Division, was shown by me on the spot what was required, and there and then sent to start the new Aligarh Division. His successor, Mr. Hastings, in like manner accompanied me to Sultanpore, was set to work, and assisted me in unravelling the Sultanpore frauds, was employed on special duty in prosecuting the case, and then sent to form the new division there. Subsequently, on his return to me as personal assistant, he was thoroughly instructed in the details of the Malwa scheme, which he has since successfully worked, and in connexion with which he has constantly been absent from my office. Although it may be said that good men have been selected by me and instructed so as to take up urgent and special work, the results of which have fully justified my action, it cannot fairly be said that I have unnecessarily taken away good men from the districts to assist me in my personal work. The remark about my having appointed an officer who is a sort of private secretary and aide-de-camp is deserving of notice on account of its inaccuracy. The personal assistant is undoubtedly a sort of secretary to the agent, but the appointment was created years before I came here as opium agent, and has been utilised with advantage. As to the aide-de-camp, there are, perhaps, few officers who require less than myself that such duties, if to be performed at all, should be undertaken by the personal assistant, inasmuch as I have attached to me an officer of the Army, as Adjutant of the Volunteers, who could most efficiently perform the duties of aide-de-camp, if required.

6. For these reasons I would propose to retain the personal assistant, more in the interests of my successor than of myself.

7. The office certainly cannot be reconstituted as proposed with the head accountant in charge of both accounts and correspondence offices. In Behar, where work is much less heavy, and the system has been in force for many years, the arrangement may work well enough. But the head accountant here is an officer of 28 years' service, who has never done anything but purely account work, and has no sort of knowledge of

the correspondence and records, without which he will be of little use as head of the office. On his retirement some arrangement might be possible. But the heavy account work of this agency would always necessitate an experienced and well-paid officer in special charge of that branch. The agent's office is in reality weak and ill-paid, and insufficient for the growing wants of the agency. It stands now on the same footing as when reconstituted more than 25 years ago, when this agency was a sort of outlying work of Patna, yielding but 20,000 maunds with 160,000 bighas of cultivation, and employing 10 officers. Now we have grown above 50,000 maunds of opium with a cultivation of more than 400,000 bighas scattered over 39 districts, while this year we have reached 68,000 maunds. There are therefore, I consider, good grounds and excellent reasons for strengthening the office by endeavouring to attract men of a better stamp than we can at present obtain with the very small salaries which we offer. With this object I would propose, for the consideration of the Board and the Government, the scheme shown in the annexed statement A, in lieu of that suggested by the Commission. The increase in expenditure, which it exhibits over the latter, is due mainly to what I have above said in regard to the retention of the personal assistantship. If my proposal in regard to the latter be accepted, it will be necessary to continue the present arrangement of having two distinct offices, and consequently two separate superintendents. Even if the offices were to be rolled into one, the necessity for two superintendents would remain, and, in fact, would be even greater than under the proposed arrangements, for the work of the two branches is so distinct and complex that one man, even under the orders of the head of the office, could hardly be expected to properly supervise both. Moreover, the Treasury staff, which has been included by the Commission in the factory establishment, has hitherto always been considered part of the agent's office, and I have accordingly, for purposes of comparison, included it in the scheme. The salaries I have proposed for the clerks in the office are, on the whole, rather lower than those recommended by the Commission; but I do not think they will be insufficient to attract the services of good men, especially if the hope be held out to them of rising in time to a well-paid superintendentship, instead of as would be the case if the Commission's recommendations were adopted to a head clerkship only. In regard to the pay of the superintendent, I do not think the rate proposed by me is too high. The work of a superintendent in an office like this is extremely onerous, and requires a man of both ability and education to perform it satisfactorily. Indeed, on him a very great part of the heavy work falls. It being also the highest post a member of the ministerial staff can hope to attain to, it is highly desirable to attach to it a salary which may induce good men to enter the office.

8. The present sanctioned expenditure of the office (including the Treasury) is Rs. 2,202. The cost of the establishment, according to the scheme proposed by me, will rise from Rs. 2,063 to Rs. 2,413, or a mean cost of Rs. 2,238. The additional expenditure will accordingly be purely nominal, while it will be seen that if the Commission's proposals be

Sanctioned Amount for the several Branches of the Benares Opium Agent's Office as it stood in the year 1856.

AGENT'S OFFICE.		Rs.
Correspondence Branch—		
English Department -	846	
Vernacular ditto -	—	
Accounts Branch -	937	
Treasury -	158	
Total sanctioned -	2,091	

accepted, the cost will actually be considerably below that at present sanctioned. Moreover, it will be seen from the figures given in the margin that for the past 30 years there has been practically a very slight increase in the cost of the office, so that I trust that at a time when it is proposed to increase largely the expenditure on account of the other establishments of the agency, the very slight additional charge proposed by me in regard to my own office may not be considered unreasonable.

9. I have in my No. 163—2063 of this day's date spoken strongly as to the necessity of increasing the pay of the Native officers of the district establishments. What I have said in regard to them applies equally to my own office staff.

10. As the increased expenditure proposed by me is small, I would ask whether it would not be possible to bring the revised scale of pay into operation without delay. It is obvious that the sooner a change, which is

sure to bring with it such a decided increase in efficiency, is introduced the better; and although the heavy additional expenditure involved in the Commission's proposals in regard to the district establishments may retard the introduction of the improved scale of pay into the districts, this consideration does not affect the scheme I have now proposed.

No. 78 B., dated 31st January 1885.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

With reference to the proposals of the Opium Commission, described at length in paragraphs 636 to 645 of their report, for the revision of kothee establishments and establishments of sub-deputy and assistant sub-deputy opium agents, I am directed to submit herewith, for the consideration and orders of Government, a copy of a letter noted in the margin, from the opium agent, Benares, setting forth his views on the subject. A copy of a proposition statement in the prescribed form, showing the proposed scale compared with the present sanctioned scale of establishments in the Benares Agency, has been forwarded to the Accountant-General of Bengal for verification of the present scale and submission to Government. The proposals for the revision of establishments in the Behar Agency will be submitted later, as soon as revised statements, which some mistakes and discrepancies rendered necessary, are received from the agent.

No. 163—2063, dated 22nd July 1884.

2. The Board were at first inclined to consider the proposed scale of salaries too high, but on a full consideration of the matter they have accepted the Opium Commission's proposals. In recommending these proposals for the sanction of Government, I am to point out that the gomasta in some good sub-agencies, such as Nowada, Gya, Tehta, Belkhana, and others in the Behar Agency, where the practice of part payment by commission still obtains, draw, with commission, on an average from Rs. 102 to Rs. 164 a month. As the object of the proposed increase of salaries is to improve the status of these officers generally, and to fix a scale of salaries adequate to the responsible duties which devolve on them, the proposed scale cannot be considered excessive.

3. As regards the sub-deputy agent's clerks, I am to observe that the salaries proposed for them exceed by Rs. 10 only those fixed for the clerks of district officers, and that as pointed out by Mr. Carnac, the prospects of clerks in the Opium Department are not nearly so good as those of officers of the same class in district offices.

4. Should the scale of salaries proposed by the Commission receive the sanction of Government, the existing practice of payment by commission will be discontinued in all departments.

No. 163—2063, dated 22nd July 1884.

From H. RIVETT-CARNAC, Esq., C.I.E., Benares Opium Agent, to the SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, Lower Provinces.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 181 B., dated 19th ultimo, calling for a report on the recommendations of the Commission regarding the office establishments of the sub-deputy and assistant sub-deputy opium agents of this agency.

2. In reply, I would commence by stating that I concur generally with the opinions expressed by the Commission on the subject, with the members of which the position was discussed by me. The insufficiency of the salaries allowed to the ministerial staff of this agency has been long and universally acknowledged, and the Board are aware that both my predecessor and myself have, on several occasions, made strong representations on the subject.

3. The scheme submitted by the Commission entails a great increase of expenditure. But that such increase will ensure efficiency, I have no doubt. It is quite true that the work has long been carried on at a much lower cost, and that sufficiently successful results might perhaps still be obtained without any great increase. Still if the subject is to be thoroughly considered and the

Department placed on a sound footing, I agree with the remarks of the Commission that "half the benefit will not accrue by spending half the money." It would not be difficult to suggest a little cutting down here and a small reduction there. But this would be with the certain prospect of reducing the results aimed at by the Commission. The amounts entered show, I believe, what is really required. If the Government say that so much cannot be given, and that only a certain sum can be granted, then on learning that sum I will do my best to arrange my proposals accordingly.

4. As regards the salaries proposed for the clerks noted in the margin, and to which my special attention has been drawn by the Board, I would desire to state that after comparing the proposals

Sub-Deputy Opium Agent's Office.	
	Rs.
2nd clerk	70
3rd "	60
4th "	50
5th "	20, rising to Rs. 40.

with the salaries drawn by clerks in other departments, I am not inclined to recommend any alteration in the Commission's recommendations.

The junior clerks on the establishment of the district officers in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh draw at the rate of Rs. 60, Rs. 50, and Rs. 40. It would therefore appear that the Commission recommend in the case of the second clerk of the sub-deputy agent's office only Rs. 10 in excess of what a clerk of the same grade receives in the district office. But, as a fact, the clerks of the Revenue, Judicial, and Civil Courts are much better off than those of this Department. The clerk in the district office commences at Rs. 40 it is true, but he has not only one head clerkship in the office to look to. He may rise to the head clerkship of any one of the departments in the office; and, if a good man, he has before him the chance of a tehsildarship, or even a deputy collectorship, besides a prospect of being selected for a post in the office of the Commissioner or Board of Revenue, or secretariat. For the collector under whom he serves and who knows his merits, may become commissioner, or secretary, or member of the Board of Revenue, and may remember a really useful man. The chances of a clerk employed in the office of a sub-deputy opium agent are quite different.

6. Now, too, that deputy collectors are being selected from amongst the ministerial officers, the prospects of this class of officers have very considerably improved. But even if a clerk could not rise to a gazetted appointment, there is such a large number of higher appointments in the establishments of the district administration in the North-Western Provinces and Oudh that his promotion must necessarily be very much more rapid than a clerk in the Opium Department can expect. If the scheme proposed by the Commission be sanctioned in its entirety, there will be only 18 head clerkships on Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 and a few better paid appointments in the offices at Ghazipur to which a qualified junior clerk could aspire. This limited number cannot bear any comparison with the number of higher appointments in the district administration for which the clerical establishment is considered eligible.

7. The Opium Department, as at present constituted, is not at all popular in these provinces. No native of any education would think of seeking employment as a clerk. We, as a rule, get third-rate men with very little education. Considering that the standard of qualification is constantly rising, and having regard to the fact that knowledge of the English language, not only of copying English word, is becoming essential in every office of importance, I am of opinion that the pay in the lower grades should be fixed at the rates proposed by the Commission to induce men of education and of good family to enter the Department.

8. I have no knowledge how the rates proposed compare with those sanctioned for the offices in Bengal. But it must be remembered that the circumstances of these provinces differ from those in Bengal, and that the salaries paid here, and not those of Bengal, must be the standard of comparison.

9. I hardly understand that I am called upon to remark upon the allusions made by the Commission to the prevalence of "dustoori" among all grades. It is an undoubted evil, and every endeavour has been and is made to check it. Although endeavours should not be relaxed, I must state my conviction that the evil will never be thoroughly eradicated until the character of the people of India is entirely changed by the advance of education, and until the climate on which that character to some extent depends, also undergoes a change.

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No. 653 B., dated Calcutta, the 23rd September 1884

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

WITH reference to Government Order, No. 150 R., dated 30th April 1884, communicating the consent of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the Board's taking into consideration and submitting suggestions for giving effect to the recommendations made by the late Opium Commission on certain minor matters connected with the administration of the Opium Department, I am directed to state that the Board have obtained the opinions of the opium agents, Behar and Benares, in regard to the recommendations contained in Chapter IV. of the Commission's report, and to submit the following for the consideration and orders of Government.

2. In paragraphs 647 to 650 of their report, the Opium Commission discuss the present system of settlements and advances in the Behar and Benares opium agencies, and give their opinions as to the best means of securing valid engagements between the cultivators and the Government, and the measures that should be taken to compel the cultivators to keep to their engagements. To carry out the Commission's proposals fresh legislation will, the Board observe, be necessary, and under these circumstances the subject does not appear to be one which can be disposed of at once.

3. Again in paragraph 651 the Commission recommended that ordinarily one advance only should be given of not more than Rs. 8 per bigah plus, in cases where leaf and trash contracts are given, Rs. 4 a maund for leaves and Rs. 16 a hundred maunds for trash, and that the advance should be made in August or September at the time of settlements; that no further advance should be made without special application for it, though the Commission thought it might be left to the discretion of the sub-deputy opium agents to make a further ordinary advance of Rs. 4 per bigah on special application being made to them if they consider the circumstances of the case make it advisable that it should be granted. The opium agents were asked to submit their opinions on the proposals made by the Commission, and were requested to consider the fact that in a bad season the system advocated by the Commission would be likely to cause heavy outstanding balances.

4. The Benares agent has now reported that the Commission's recommendations represent the procedure followed in the Benares Agency, and that they are in accord with his own views on the subject. Save under exceptional circumstances, Mr. Carnac states, one advance only is given. In exceptional cases, when the season is bad or the cultivation is uncertain, a small first advance is given, followed by a second advance; but when this is done officers are enjoined to make inquiries on the spot and to make payments at central points in camp. The agent adds that as a rule there is little chance, save in an altogether extraordinary season, of balances accruing on the advance of Rs. 8 per bigah. The advance represents an outturn of a little over $1\frac{1}{2}$ seer per bigah, and if the sowings are in any way near the engagements, the low average of 4 seers per bigah far more than covers the advance.

5. The Behar agent is not, however, in favour of the recommendations made by the Opium Commission. He states that under the present system for irrigated lands a first advance of Rs. 5 is made and a second advance of Rs. 3 as soon as the condition of the crop is ascertained. He is of opinion that, if Rs. 8 per bigah is given as the first advance, there will certainly accrue heavy balances at the end of the year which will not be easily realised, and that there will be no inducement to the cultivator to take pains with his cultivation, for he will have received the whole advance, and the balances will probably be double the amount which has at present to be realised. The tendency for speculative cultivation will, the agent thinks, be increased, and the present system of check over the cultivation will be lost. The present advance is said to be quite sufficient to induce the cultivator to undertake poppy cultivation, and no increase is therefore required. For non-irrigated land the agent states that an advance is made of Rs. 3-8 a bigah and a second advance is made only when the crop has received several waterings. In some districts the outturn is said to be very small, and in many places in Chumparun insufficient to cover an advance of Rs. 3. The agent also reports that some khattadars, who were consulted on the advisability of an advance of Rs. 8,

expressed their unwillingness to take such a sum, as they considered it might lead to great difficulties.

6. In respect of the Commission's proposal that poppy leaves should be paid for at Rs. 4 a maund, the agent reports that the price at present paid in some districts is Rs. 5 per maund, and that to reduce it to Rs. 4 would probably tend to diminish the outturn. Under the circumstances therefore, and in view of the opinion expressed by the Behar agent, the Board presume the Opium Commission's recommendations in paragraph 651 of their report can hardly be given effect to, so far as concerns the Behar Agency, and they are of opinion that it would be wiser to adhere to the present plan.

7. In paragraph 652 the Commission record their recommendations with regard to the manner in which the money for advances to the cultivators should be provided and the places where and the time at which the advances should be made. The Board, I am to say, see no objection to the proposal to abolish the opium officers' treasuries, and they would also recommend that the other proposals in this paragraph may be introduced by reading "the Board" for "the Director-General."

8. In paragraph 653 the Commission submit their views in regard to the manner in which the opium measurements should be conducted. The Board are of opinion that the question whether chains should be used instead of poles, as suggested by the Commission, is one that may be left to the agents to settle, and they would also recommend that the form of field register, as proposed by the Commission, may be adopted in both the agencies.

9. With reference to the Commission's proposals in paragraph 654, I am to say that the Board would support the recommendation that sub-deputy agents should be furnished with copies of the revenue field registers and field maps. The plan of not employing temporary surveyors will, however, depend entirely on the orders passed by Government on the proposal to increase the Kothee establishments. With regard to the proposal to introduce village opium maps into the Behar Agency, the agent who was asked to report on the subject writes as follows:—

"The plan adopted in the Benares Agency of mapping each pergunnah separately was found to be unsuited to the circumstances of this agency, where lands of pergunnahs are so mixed; accordingly instructions were first issued for the preparation of village maps; this too was found inconvenient. Next, instructions were issued in accordance with Government orders of the year 1880, to prepare block maps showing extent of cultivation in each khatta in colours on a scale of 1 inch for every 50 bigahs; the villages comprised in the block were then serially numbered and zillahdari beats were shown. Registers in the prescribed form were also opened in connexion with these maps. The block maps are retained in the office of the sub-deputy. Zillahdari maps are yearly supplied to the agent's office, together with the register which shows by comparison the area of cultivation of each zillah, the outturn, the number of licenses, and the average per bigah."

From the above it will be seen that a system of opium-maps and field-registers has already been introduced into the Behar Agency, and the Board presume that no further action is required in connexion with this matter.

10. I am to say that the Board would also recommend, in the case of the discovery of unlicensed cultivation, the adoption of the procedure set out in paragraph 655 of the Opium Commission's Report. The rules regarding such cultivation are laid down in paragraph 17A, page 23, of the "Opium Manual," and do not differ materially from the Commission's recommendations.

11. With reference to paragraph 656 of the Report, I am to say that, in view of the opinion expressed by the Commission therein, the Board have directed the discontinuance of the preparation of taidads in the Behar Agency, and the Board trust that their action may be approved by the Government.

12. Paragraphs 657 to 664 of the Commission's Report treat of the subject of the remission of outstanding balances. This matter has already formed the subject of a separate correspondence with Government, and the Board's views have been fully expressed in their letter No. 55b., dated 19th January last, to Government. The orders of the Government of India are now awaited on the subject.

13. In regard to paragraph 665, I am to say that the Board would recommend the suggestion of the Commission, that, as a rule, extraordinary advances should

be made for the construction of wells only, and that they should require the sanction of the agents; but that they would leave to the Director-General a discretion to make extraordinary advances for other purposes than wells, "the Board" being read for the Director-General. Extraordinary advances, the Behar agent reports, are never made for any other purpose than the construction of wells. The Benares agent also states that only in special cases, such as after a famine or bad cattle disease, would he authorise the sub-deputy agents to submit special applications, and would consider such cases, and sanction advances according to circumstances.

No. 173 B., dated Calcutta, the 5th March 1885.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

With reference to Government Order No. 150 T. R., dated 30th April last, communicating the consent of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the Board taking into consideration and submitting suggestions for giving effect to the recommendations made by the late Opium Commission on certain minor matters connected with the administration of the Opium Department, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to submit, for the orders of Government, the following suggestions in connexion with the Commission's proposals in Chapter V. of their Report.

2. In paragraph 667 of their Report the Opium Commission recommended that trash should be paid for at the rate of 12 annas a maund in both agencies, and that an attempt should be made in Behar to obtain contracts for the delivery of trash at the factory. For trash delivered at the sub-agency head-quarters under the system which prevails at present in Behar, the Commission thought that six annas per maund would be a fair price, the conveyance charges from the village to the sub-agency being paid as now by Government. Both opium agents were asked to consider the Opium Commission's recommendations, and to furnish the Board with their opinion whether the increased rate is necessary.

3. The Benares agent has reported that his principal assistant does not consider the enhanced rate recommended by the Opium Commission necessary; the agent, however, looking to the fact that the trash contracts are no longer popular, and to the great importance of the trash supply, is in favour of the concession. The Behar agent reports that everywhere it is admitted there is at present a difficulty in getting trash for the following reasons:—

- (a) because it forms a valuable manure for the fields, and the cultivators are loath to part with it;
- (b) because the cultivator is insufficiently paid for its cartage;
- (c) because deductions are made for impurities, which materially lessen the amount which is paid to the cultivators;
- (d) because some khattadars take the trash from the cultivators and regard it as their perquisite, appropriating all the payments; therefore the cultivator takes no interest in preserving it;
- (e) because payments are deferred, and such deferred payments seldom reach the cultivators;
- (f) because the cost of three pies per maund per koss allowed for carriage is too low.

The opinion of the majority of the sub-deputy opium agents is that if the cultivators were better paid they would supply the trash readily; the officers are unanimous against the employment of contractors, who, it is said, to protect themselves against deduction for impurities, would be led to pay low prices, and thus leave themselves a wider margin between the price paid to the cultivator and that received from Government. It is also said that contractors could only buy through khattadars, who would benefit as well as the contractors, but the cultivator would be in the same position as at present.

4. The agent states that at present difficulty is experienced in procuring trash, and that after a careful consideration of the matter, the best course seems to be that the sub-deputies nearest to the head-quarters should arrange for the largest quantities, that they should make advances to the khattadars for trash, and contract for the delivery of good trash at six annas a

maund for good, and four annas a maund for inferior quality, plus the charges of carriage to be fixed by each sub-deputy agent, the trash to be weighed and examined at the nearest weighing-shed and passed by the sub-deputy opium agent. The agent recommends that this course should be followed, and that it should be widely proclaimed that the khattadars are authorised to buy trash. I am to state that the average extra expenditure, if the increased price were given, would amount in Behar to Rs. 2,726-14, and in Benares to Rs. 3,609-6; and to recommend that the proposals of the Opium Commission to raise the price of trash may be sanctioned.

5. The suggestion in the latter part of paragraph 668 of the Commission's Report, that care should be taken at every step of the successive processes of weighing to guard against the possibility of fraud or mistake, to protect the assamee from illegal exaction, and to satisfy him that he is being fairly and equitably dealt with, is, I am happy to say, a matter that can be dealt with by the opium agents.

6. With regard to the Commission's proposals contained in paragraphs 669 to 671 of their Report, I am to state that the Benares agent reports that they follow his own views and recommendations. He does not, however, state how many kothees will be required, and where they should be located. The Behar agent reports that the want of weighing-sheds is the great want within the Behar Agency; that the distances which some of the cultivators have to travel to get their opium weighed is great, and the exertion required in their journeys renders the cultivation unpopular; and he recommends the construction of 13 new weighing-sheds. I am to state that the Board approve generally of the Commission's recommendations to provide additional weighing-sheds in both agencies, and have requested the Benares agent to state how many new sheds will be required, and where they should be erected; and as the suggestion made by the Behar agent for 13 more weighing-sheds appears to the Board extravagant and quite beyond the Commission's suggestions at the beginning of paragraph 671 of their Report, that officer has also been called upon to consider the point again, and to submit further recommendations as to the number of weighing-sheds required by him. A further report will be submitted on receipt of this information.

7. The Board would invite the attention of Government to the remarks of the Opium Commission in paragraph 669 of their Report regarding the treatment of the Opium Department in respect of the establishment of weighing-stations by both the civil and the military authorities, and to the remedy proposed in paragraph 670 of their Report.

8. In paragraph 672 of their Report the Commission recommend (1) the payment of transit allowances under certain conditions to the opium cultivators, and (2) the exemption of cultivators, taking opium to weight stations, from payment of tolls at public ferries and bridges. I am to state that both agents were consulted with regard to these proposals, and a report on the subject was called for. It was, however, at the same time pointed out to the agent that the Board were of opinion that if the second of the above proposals was carried out, it would be likely to cause considerable friction between district officers and the Opium Department. The measure, the Board thought, was certain from its very nature to be viewed with dislike by district magistrates, leading, as it must, to a reduction in the priors offered by contractors at the annual bids. Complaints from the contractors and the opium cultivators would, it was considered, be of constant occurrence, resulting in making the Opium Department extremely unpopular with district officers. It was suggested by the Board that it would be much simpler to let the charge in question be added to the transit allowance account. The bridges and ferries that cultivators travelling upon any of the main roads in a district would have to pass over must, the Board were of opinion, be well known to the local opium officers, and the mere addition of tolls to the payment to be made on account of transit allowance would cause no delay or difficulty. The agents were requested to consider the above remarks in furnishing the reports called for in connexion with the Commission's recommendations.

9. The Board have now received the reports called for from the agents. With regard to the payment of transit allowances to the cultivators, the Behar agent states that such a measure would lead to complications and disputes, and would only be popular with the amlah. The payments, Mr. Kemble reports, would be

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in such infinitesimal sums that they would never reach the assamees. The exclusion of fractions of a seer in the accounts would, moreover, be misunderstood by the cultivators, and would lead to complications and jealousies, and would be a bar to a large number of small cultivators who stand most in need of assistance, receiving any allowance. The plunder by the amlah, already excessive, would, the agent thinks, be increased. To make the scheme of any practical use, he is of opinion that steps should be taken to see that an allowance, however small, proportionate to the distance travelled, was paid to each cultivator. This would, however, involve most minute calculations, and is not recommended by the agent. Mr. Kemble is also of opinion that the modified scheme proposed by the Commission will in no way tend to make the cultivation of poppy more popular with the ryots. The extra allowance, it is stated, might reach the hands of the khattadars, but it would never reach the individual cultivators. No change in this direction, the agent thinks, is necessary. Travelling allowances have never been asked for nor expected, and the want of them has never been considered a grievance. Mr. Kemble is of opinion that when the cultivation of poppy ceases to be popular, and falls off in consequence, there is only one remedy which can be of any use, and that is raising the price paid to the cultivators for the crude drug. Mr. Kemble also is not in favour of the Commission's recommendation to exempt cultivators from payment of tolls at public ferries and bridges. The concession, he states, though it would lead to fewer complications than the payment of transit allowances, would be very distasteful to the local committees, and might be considered illegal, if the scheme for local self-government be fully carried out. The exemption, moreover, of all poppy cultivators from payment of tolls would no doubt very considerably reduce the receipts of the local funds.

10. The Benares agent states that the transit allowance will be very popular with the cultivators, and will equalise the position of men in all divisions. The cost of the scheme is estimated by the agent at Rs. 65,000, or an average of Re. 1-4 per maund of produce. This calculation is, however, only a rough one; a correct estimate cannot be arrived at unless the deliveries and distances for each single district are worked out. Mr. Carnac has also furnished the Board with figures, from which it appears that in the seven sub-agencies in which transit allowances are now paid the amount disbursed last year on this account amounted to Rs. 31,108-4-7, or an average of Re. 1-0-9 per maund, being 3 annas 3 pie less than the estimated rate according to the Commission's proposals. This proposed increase may, on the whole, the agent states, be considered sufficient to insure the object aimed at by the Commission, and would be popular among those cultivators to whom the grant of transit allowances has not hitherto been accorded. But if the rule is introduced limiting payments on this account to those who reside beyond a radius of 10 miles from the weighing-shed, a considerable number of cultivators in the Ghazipore Division will, the agent states, be deprived of the allowance. The Ghazipore cultivators, it is said, have from time immemorial drawn a small allowance, even when carrying their opium only a mile from their houses; and it would be, the agent thinks, undesirable to change a system that has so long prevailed, causing, as it must, much discontent among a valuable and influential class of cultivators. Mr. Carnac is also of opinion that even in the case of these cultivators who have not hitherto enjoyed this allowance, the strict adoption of the 10-mile rule would have its drawbacks, and that instead of the good effect of the Commission's recommendation being universal, the proposed change might cause no inconsiderable heartburning and discontent. The agent accordingly recommends that if the system of transit allowances is extended to all districts, it should also be extended to all cultivators; those living near the place of weighing receiving an allowance at a low rate, calculated in proportion to the rate proposed for those living at 10 and 15 miles from the opium centre. The rates proposed by the agent are as follows:—

		Rs. a. p.	Per maund
1 to 5 miles	1 pie per seer	- - 0 3 4	"
6 to 10	"	- - 0 6 8	"
11 to 15	"	- - 0 10 0	"
16 to 20	"	- - 1 4 0	"
21 to 25	"	- - 1 14 0	"
26 to 30	1 anna	- - 2 8 0	"
31 to 35	1 anna and 3 pie per seer	3 2 0	"
36 to 40	"	3 12 0	"
41 to 45	"	4 6 0	"

According to the above, the average rate would be Rs. 2 per maund, and the approximate cost, calculated on 52,000* maunds, Rs. 1,04,000. The actual increased cost would, however, amount to about Rs. 74,000, as about Rs. 30,000 are stated to be the annual amount now paid on account of transit allowances to the cultivators.

The Benares agent also states that the exemption of cultivators from tolls is desirable, and has his strong support. The scheme, he thinks, if introduced, will remove all difficulty.

11. It will be seen from the above that the two agents hold directly opposed views in regard to the desirability of carrying out the recommendations made in paragraph 672 of the Opium Commission's Report, and the Board, I am to say, can see no reason why one hard-and-fast rule should be made applicable to the cultivators in both provinces, considering what a marked distinction there is in the system of cultivation in the two agencies. In the Behar Agency, where opium is cultivated under the khattadari system, the agent is of opinion that the proposed allowance, amounting to 2 pie per seer, would not make any sensible addition to the actual profits of the cultivator. It is the kind of allowance from which the amlah would be certain to take their pickings, and the small balance would probably never get beyond the khattadar, who would consider it a legitimate addition to his perquisites. In the Benares Agency the circumstances are different. In some divisions a transit allowance is already given, and the system is found to work well. The cultivation is assameewar, and there is no difficulty experienced in giving each cultivator the amount he is entitled to according to the distance travelled by him. Taking into consideration the views expressed by the agents, and the difference of system in the two agencies, the Board are disposed to recommend that the system of granting transit allowances should be extended to the whole of the Benares Agency, but with the modification proposed by Mr. Carnac. The withdrawal of the allowance from those cultivators whose homes are within a radius of 10 miles from the weighing-shed in districts where a transit allowance has been drawn from time immemorial, without reference to the distance the cultivator might have had to travel, would, the Board have little doubt, be a cause of much discontent, and they would therefore recommend for the entire Benares Agency the adoption of the scale of rates proposed by the agent and quoted in paragraph 10 of this letter.

12. For the Behar Agency the Board would accept the agent's view, that no such allowance as that recommended by the Opium Commission is necessary. It may, the Board think, be fairly assumed that the allowance, if granted, would never reach the actual cultivator, and would therefore not affect any view he may entertain as to the profitable character of opium cultivation. Assuming that the allowance is not likely to go beyond the pocket of the khattadar, it seems unnecessary to add to his unrecognised profits, which, as stated by the Commission, already include a cess of 12 annas to Rs. 2-8 per bigah of cultivation.

13. As regards the exemption of cultivators taking opium to weighing stations from the payment of tolls at public ferries and bridges, I am to state that the Board are not prepared to recommend any concession of the kind. Such a measure could not, the Board think, be insisted on without an alteration in the existing Acts, which do not give the Government power to grant any such concession. The exemption would seriously affect the receipts at many ferries, and would be an exceedingly unpopular measure with local officers and with local committees. Its enforcement would moreover lead to constant disputes certain to produce friction between the district and departmental officers, which would be very undesirable. If it is considered desirable to make good to the opium cultivators the charges incurred as tolls at ferries, it should, the Board think, be arranged for by adding the charge to the transit allowance; but the Board are inclined to doubt whether the concession is one really called for or that would be much appreciated by the cultivator, and they do not therefore support the Commission's proposals on this point.

14. As the Behar agent is in favour of their introduction, he has been directed to introduce into the Behar Agency the rules in force in the Benares Agency for operations preliminary to weighments as recommended by the Opium Commission in paragraph 673 of their report.

15. In paragraph 674 of their report the Commission suggest that each individual cultivator should be paid for the opium he delivers, and in paragraph 676 they recommend that three European officers, two permanent and one temporary, should be employed at each place of weighment for the reasons stated by the Commission. They also recommend the temporary employment of three clerks on Rs. 50 each, and that the weighments and payments should be made *kothee* by *kothee* in succession. The opium agents were requested to furnish the Board with their remarks on the Commission's recommendations. The Benares agent states that the recommendations follow the system introduced by himself. The proposals, he says, include a considerable increase of establishment, to which he gladly subscribes, as the work at weighments at present is very heavy; and he proposes to try the new rules tentatively in one or two divisions next year, and to report further after giving them a practical trial.

16. The Behar agent reports that all the officers of the agency attach the greatest importance to the principle that each individual cultivator should at the time of delivery be paid for the opium which he delivers. The *assameewar* principle is acknowledged to be the best that can be devised, but the *khattadari* system has become so firmly established that he feels the need of great caution in proposing a procedure which in practice might break down. He states that a reform is imperatively called for, but the question is how it may best be effected. The proposal of the Commission, it is said, strikes at the root of the present system. The agent states that the proposal of the Commission to increase the rate of commission payable to *khattadars* will prevent a change in their relation to *zemindars* and to Government; but if payments are suddenly made *assameewar*, it is feared the *khattadars* will no longer have the power to realise balances that may become due to Government, or the money due to themselves. In certain cases, it is said, payment would have to be made to the *khattadars*; for many cultivators, such as the widows, the aged, and the indebted entrust their opium to the *khattadar*, who delivers it and receives payment on account. In the final settlements too the *khattadar* is the receiver of all balances due to the cultivator; he ascertains the result of the final *purruck* at this go-down, and conveys the information to the village, so that even if the payment were made separately to each *assamee*, yet practically some of the money would still pass through the *khattadar's* hands. Again, the *assamees* of the Behar Agency are said to have become so accustomed to trusting the *khattadars* in every matter of account that it is doubtful if they would all willingly receive payment independently of the *khattadars*, without some preliminary introduction to a new system. The Commission's proposals, the agent writes, might be introduced gradually in the following manner. As each pot passes the scales, and the quantity of opium weighed out and the amount due, less the previous advance, is entered in the register, a payment order might be given to each *assamee* delivering the opium; when the weighments of each *khatta* are completed, the *mutsuddee* would total the payments for the *khatta* and enter it in his register of totals. The account would also then be stamped "paid" by the European assistant, and taken to the treasurer, who would pay the amount to the *khattadar*. Each *khattadar* would be instructed to bring his account, together with all his cultivators and their pay order tickets, before the *gomashta* of his *kothee*, who should be held responsible that the disbursement of separate payments is made by the *khattadar* in his presence to each *assamee* after settlement of account.

17. I am to state that the Board are of opinion that there will be considerable difficulty at first in introducing the *assameewar* system, but when introduced it will assuredly become popular, as the evils of the *khattadari* system are patent to everybody in Behar. The Board do not see how the payments can be made *assameewar* and the settlements and advances for cultivation *khattadari* at the same time. If this were done, the contingency of certain payments having still to be made through the *khattadar* would continue to exist, and a double system of the kind could not succeed. The proposal of the Behar agent for gradually introducing the Commission's proposals would not, the Board are afraid, secure the desired result. The *khattadar* and his *assamees* have probably innumerable debtor and creditor accounts to adjust, separate from the opium account, and it can scarcely be directed that all these should be gone into and adjusted in the presence, and on the responsibility of, the opium *gomashta*; and the

khattadar with a personal demand on an *assamee* is not likely to let the latter secure the full amount of his due for opium, on the chance of future recovery of his own claims upon the man. The Board are therefore of opinion that if there is to be a change, that change will have to be in its entirety and immediate throughout the present system, and I am to request the orders of Government upon the subject.

18. With regard to the proposals of the opium Commission, contained in paragraph 676 of the report, the Behar agent states that it would not be possible for one treasurer to make separate payments so as to keep pace with the weighments, and he shows that it would occupy nearly three days to pay for the weighments of a single day. The agent also states that the agency officers unanimously express the opinion that the whole work of weighment will be delayed if the Commission's recommendation to work only six scales and confine the weighments to 1,500 pots a day is adopted. This delay, it is feared, will tempt the cultivators to sell their opium to smugglers, or they would lose it by theft; each day's delay would also raise the consistence, and thereby be a loss to Government, and retard the settlement of accounts. The agent would rather employ more supervising agency and facilitate the work. It is said that it is feared that any sudden change in the number of scales would lead to discontent among the cultivators, who have been accustomed to a more rapid system of working. The agent thinks that when more weighment sheds have been constructed, and each shed is placed in charge of a competent assistant, and all are working at the same time, it will be possible to reduce the number of pot weighments; till then he recommends that one European assistant be employed for every six scales, and that the weighments, instead of being held at each *kothee* in succession as recommended by the Commission, should be made simultaneously, each *kothee* being visited by the sub-deputy to determine doubtful cases of *purruck*, and to decide all disputes. The agent also proposes to have a clerk on Rs. 25 for each scale, instead of a clerk on Rs. 50 for every two scales as proposed by the Opium Commission, for the following reasons:—

- (1.) The noise and hubbub at the weighments are distracting, and the *mohurrir* often becomes confused if his attention is occupied with two scales.
- (2.) If a mistake occurs at one scale, the work of both scales will be stopped till it is rectified, for the clerk must attend to the mistake.
- (3.) The work of a scale is often stopped because the *assamee* who has previously weighed his opium with a *kutchu* weight cannot understand why the weighment should be less with a *pucca*-weight, and it takes a few minutes to explain it to him.

19. With regard to the employment of European assistants to conduct the weighments, I am to state that the opium agent of Behar has been requested to report how many extra assistants would be required for weighments as compared with the present number. The Board are, however, of opinion that with more weighment-sheds there would be no difficulty whatever for the sub-deputy opium agent to make arrangements by notice beforehand for the dates on which weighments would be taken up at the several *kothees* and weighing-sheds separately in turn. The sub-deputy opium agent and his assistants could all attend each weighment-shed together. The agent has also been requested to report how many extra assistants will be required if this plan were adopted. With regard to the agent's proposal to employ a clerk on Rs. 25 per month for each scale instead of a clerk on Rs. 50 per month for every two scales as proposed by the Opium Commission, I am to state that the Board see no objection to this change; and I am to recommend that the proposals contained in paragraph 676 of the Commission's report may be introduced throughout both agencies at once before the ensuing weighments.

20. In paragraph 677 of their report the Opium Commission recommend that the pay of the native temporary establishment employed at weighments should be increased, and the members of the establishment more judiciously selected; also that the native *purkha* should be appointed by the agent. With reference to these recommendations, the agents were asked to submit a statement showing the number of temporary *mohurrirs*, *dandidars*, and *karkhannias* employed during the weighments at each place of weighment, and the period for which they are employed, together with the pay drawn by them, as well as the increased cost that would have to be incurred if the Commission's proposals were

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adopted. The Benares agent has submitted a statement which shows that the increased cost that would have to be incurred if the Commission's proposals were adopted is estimated to amount to Rs. 3,648-2-2 only per annum, and as the increase is small, the Board recommend that the proposals of the Commission, so far as they concern the Benares Agency, may be sanctioned. As the statement submitted by the Behar agent does not give the information required, he has been requested to submit a proper statement, and a further report on this point will be submitted to Government.

21. With reference to the recommendation contained in paragraph 678 of the Commission's report that the tagars should be of uniform size and weight, I am to state that both agents have been desired by the Board to have the Commission's recommendations carefully and strictly carried out during the next weighments. The Benares agent states that effect has already been given to the Opium Commission's views. In fact, it has been the rule in the agency to check and examine the tagars in use, and to return them to the Ghazipore factory when necessary. He adds that care will be taken that all are in thorough order by the next year. The Behar agent reports that steps have been taken to carry out the recommendations of the Opium Commission.

22. The Commission recommend, in paragraph 679 of their report, that particulars of the opium should be entered in the miniature license at the time of weighments, and that the classification sheet in the Behar Agency should be written up in the manner now in use in the Benares Agency. The Board drew the Behar agent's attention to paragraph 649 of the Commissioner's report, and inquired whether there is any objection to the introduction into the Behar Agency of miniature licenses such as are in use in the Benares Agency, and if not, what steps are necessary to give effect to the Commission's recommendations. That officer reports that the system of miniature licenses was tried in the Behar Agency under two selected officers. The result of the experiment was that the ryots disliked the arrangement, left the license in the hands of the khattadars, and regarded it as a hardship that they should have to keep the licenses which they could neither read nor understand. He states that an attempt was made to measure the field and check the licenses, with the result that the cultivators could not be found when it was attempted to fill up the miniature licenses with the weight of the opium, and the delay was so great that the work fell rapidly into arrears. It was found that so long as the arrangements for cultivation were made khattadari, the proposed miniature license procedure would not answer. The agent states that under the khattadari system the proposal will not work. The khattadar is really the means of keeping up the cultivation, and many would not undertake the cultivation unless under the influence of the khattadar. The agent adds that the present system is one to which the cultivators cling; and as they have no care for the legal aspect and are quite indifferent to valid engagements, they will take readily to a paper procedure, which has no pecuniary value for them, but which necessitates some trouble and exertion. The agent points out that the miniature licenses were introduced into the Benares Agency to put a stop to unauthorised cultivation, as it was found that the total area under poppy cultivation was very often in excess of the area for which licenses had been granted, and fields were found under cultivation which were not even mentioned in the licenses; and he states that there is no evidence that illicit cultivation is carried on in Behar, but he admits that more direct relation with the cultivator is desirable.

23. Mr. Motcalf, while officiating as agent, reported that a valid contract might be entered into in the following manner:—

* *Form of Ticket.*
(Obverse.)
Season—
Number of license—
Sub-Deputy Opium Agent.
(Reverse.)
Name of cultivator
First advance
Second advance
Weight of opium delivered
Consistency
Value
Pay the sum of Rs.
Assistant Sub-Deputy Opium Agent.

Dated.

The khattadar shall present a petition (on a lithographed* form to be supplied by the agency free) from each cultivator, on whose behalf he is acting, asking for a license; the khattadar shall fill up the area to be cultivated, and the probable outturn of opium. The form of petition shall on the reverse contain a form of license which shall be ratified by the sub-deputy, and

may be filed in his office. This plan, he stated, will save clerical labour, and be intelligible to the cultivator. A ticket in the form given on the margin, bearing a serial number to correspond with the number on the license, shall be given to each cultivator, the ticket to be produced at the weighment, and the quantity of opium weighed and the price to be paid shall be entered on the back, which shall then be stamped "pay" by the assistant in charge of the weighments.

24. I am to state that it seems to the Board essential that there should be a valid engagement with the cultivator as required by law; it also seems necessary, if assameewar payments are to be introduced, that the system of miniature licenses should be simultaneously adopted. The Board would attach more weight to the views of the Opium Commission than to those of the officiating agent, and they accordingly propose, if the suggested assameewar system meets with the approval of the Government, to issue orders for the introduction of the system of miniature licenses into the Behar Agency.

35. In paragraph 680 of their report the Commission recommend that iodine test should be applied in all the sub-agencies, and that a tester on Rs. 15 a month should be annually appointed by the agent to each sub-agency during the weighment season. It will be seen from paragraph 301 of the Commission's report that this test is carried out as a general rule throughout the Benares Agency, but in Behar, in the Patna Sub-Agency only. There are now 26 sub-agencies; the cost of the testers would therefore amount to Rs. 390 a month, or, say, for about three months, Rs. 1,170. As this amount is not large, and as the Board can sanction the employment of temporary establishments, they propose, with the approval of Government, to direct the opium agents to carry out the recommendations made by the Commission.

26. The agents were also asked by the Board if they had any objection to the adoption of the Commission's proposal, contained in paragraph 681 of their report, that inferior opium should be separately challaned. As the agents have no objection to the proposal, the Benares agent thinking it on the contrary a good one, the Board have directed them to adopt the Commission's recommendation.

27. The Board have also directed the agents to carry out the suggestion in paragraph 682 of the Commission's report, that the surface of the opium in the jar should be smoothed. The Benares agent has informed the Board that orders were issued before the past weighments on this subject, and the practice is observed in the agency; and the Behar agent has stated that steps have been taken to carry out these orders.

28. In paragraphs 683 and 684 of their report the Opium Commission recommend that the receipts of khurcha or of khurchan by the lumberdars should be entirely stopped, and the commission paid to them by Government should be raised from Rs. 1 to Rs. 4 per maund. With regard to this recommendation, I am to state that the maximum amount of khurchan allowed to lumberdars was fixed by the Board in 1875 at 14 chittacks per maund of opium. The levy of khurchan from the cultivators by the lumberdars is said to be distasteful to the former; and the cost to Government on account of the commission of Rs. 1 per maund is said to amount to Rs. 1,00,000 a year. The enhanced rate of commission now recommended will therefore entail an additional cost of Rs. 3,00,000 a year on Government. As this recommendation involves considerable increase of expenditure, the Board would await the orders of the Government of India on the Commission's report before making any recommendation on this matter.

29. From paragraph 856 of their report it will be seen that the Opium Commission are of opinion that if the recommendations in paragraph 680 of their report are carried out, there is no necessity for the second iodine test at the factory, and they recommended that it should be discontinued. The Board, however, doubt the advisability of this measure, and would not at present take any steps in the matter.

30. With reference to paragraph 686 of the Commission's report, I am to state that both opium agents were directed by the Board to take steps at once for giving effect to the Commission's recommendations on the subject of the jars and baskets used for conveying opium from the weighment stations to the sudder factory. The Benares agent states that the subject has received attention on various occasions, and specimen jars and baskets have been supplied to the divisions, and new sets will again be forwarded. He also states

that annually the condition of jars and baskets supplied by each sub-division is reported on by the principal assistant, and the subject is reviewed by the agent. The Behar agent reports that steps have been taken to carry out the Board's orders.

31. In paragraph 687 of their report the Commission recommend that payment in full at weighment time should not be made, but that whole rupees should be paid, the balance in annas and pies being kept in hand until the final adjustments. The question of paying

* Board to Government, No. 392 B., dated 9th August 1873.

Board to Government, No. 400 B., dated 12th August 1873.

Government order No. 2,234, dated 28th August 1873.

the cultivators in full for their opium at weighment time has, I am to point out, already formed the subject of correspondence* between the Government and the Board.

The Board approve the Commission's suggestion and would recommend its adoption.

32. The Opium Commission in paragraph 688 of their report recommend that payment for opium at weighment time should be made according to the purrkhing officer's classification; and that opium of Class I. (awal) should be paid for at weighments at the rate of Rs. 5, and that 4 annas a seer should be added or deducted for each class above or below Class I. The Benares agent reports that after fully considering the matter and consulting some of the sub-deputy opium agents, he is of opinion that where the officers are experienced the proposal may be carried out without difficulty or anxiety; where, however, an officer is inexperienced, which under the present system of appointing comparatively inexperienced assistants to weigh opium is often the case, there might be a danger of his over-purrkhing, and thus causing considerable balances within his charge; and the cultivator, once paid at high rate for his opium, would be very discontented at having to refund because it was found out at the factory that the assistant had over-estimated the consistence of the drug. Mr. Carnac states that if the Commission's suggestion regarding the increase of the European staff were adopted, this danger would be removed, as the purrkh would then be done by the sub-deputy opium agent. The Behar agent reports the present practice is to pay Rs. 5 a seer at the weighing-shed for all consistencies above 69°, the more accurate test of consistency being determined at the sudder factory. He does not think it safe to make the sub-deputy agents purrkh the final test; for instances are numerous where opium condemned at the weighments is found to be thoroughly good at the factory, and opium passed by the sub-deputy agents is found at the factory to be adulterated. It is also said that the ryots have greater faith in the factory purrkh than in the classification of the weighing officer, and sometimes cultivators take their opium direct to the factory to be tested, and that there would be a universal feeling of dissatisfaction if the weighing-shed purrkh were to be final. The agent shows that the rates proposed to be paid are higher than the rates sanctioned for the several degrees of consistency, and states that if opium paid for at Rs. 5-12 is found to be worth only Rs. 10-6, there must be a greater or less amount of balances to recover, and this could not be done easily. He states that calculations show it would be safer for the present to pay Rs. 5-2 instead of Rs. 5-4 recommended by the Commission for Class IXI. (73°, 74°, and 75°), Rs. 5-6 for Class IXI. (76°, 77°, and 78°) instead of Rs. 5-8; and Rs. 5-8 for Class IXI. (79°, 80°, and 81°) instead of Rs. 5-12, and recommends that these rates may be adopted. It has been pointed out to the agent that the object of the Commission is not to make the sub-deputy opium agent's purrkh final, but to ensure the payment at weighments being closer than it now is to the real value of the opium. I am to state that the Board are of opinion that it would not do to have different systems of payment for opium at weighment time in different districts, and I am to suggest that no change should be made until the strength of the European establishment is materially increased. Then the question might be reconsidered.

33. In paragraph 689 of their report the Opium Commission state that it would be politic for the Government to pass an order under section 8, Act I. of 1879, remitting the stamp duty chargeable upon receipts given by opium cultivators, or their representatives, for money paid to them on account of

No. 1298, dated 17th Feb. 1870.

No. 503, dated 22nd Jan. 1875.

No. 2,147, dated 29th March 1878.

Government. I am to request a reference to the Government of India notifications cited on the margin,

from which it will be seen that the following instruments have already been exempted from stamp duty:—

- (1) agreements made by ryots in opium-producing districts for the cultivation of the poppy for Government;
- (2) bonds executed by the sureties of middlemen (lumberdars and khattadars) taking advances for the cultivation of the poppy for Government within the limits of the Benares and Patna Agencies;
- (3) security bonds (hazir-zamini) executed to secure the personal attendance of gomashas and other native employes of the Opium Department;

and I am to state that the Board would recommend that lumberdars and khattadars in the Benares and Behar Agencies should also be exempted from the payment of stamp duty on receipts given by them.

No. 14 B., dated 9th January 1886.

From C. A. SAMUELS, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

WITH reference to Government Order, No. 159 T. R., dated 30th April 1884, communicating the consent of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the Board taking into consideration and submitting suggestions for giving effect to the recommendations made by the late Opium Commission on certain minor matters connected with the administration of the Opium Department, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to submit, for the orders of Government, the following suggestions in connexion with the Commission's proposals in Chapter VII. of their report.

2. In paragraph 718 of their report the Opium Commission recommend that the responsibility for the careful and efficient management of the opium factories should rest with the opium agents, and that the officer in charge of the factories and answerable for its efficient working should be answerable, not to the head of the Opium Department, but to the agent, and should in no sense be in independent charge of the factory. Both opium agents were asked to consider the Opium Commission's recommendations, and to furnish the Board with any remarks they have to offer.

3. The Behar agent states that the recommendations of the Opium Commission as to relations between the agent and principal assistant, as expressed in paragraph 718, are entirely in accordance with his own views. The only modification he would recommend is in the proposal (in paragraph 719) to vest the factory superintendent with power to appoint factory employes drawing salaries of Rs. 50 and upwards. The agent is of opinion that temporary assistants employed during the weighments should be appointed by the agent. At present, he states, the practice has been to appoint old pensioners and relations of the officers on the permanent staff. Such appointments, it is said, are in some ways objectionable, and the agent should be allowed a voice in the selection. He would limit the power of the factory superintendent to appoint employes drawing salaries up to Rs. 50. Beyond that the appointment should be made by the agent. The Board have pointed out to the agent that the recommendations of the Opium Commission have apparently been misunderstood. What they recommend is that the factory superintendent should appoint and have power of punishing departmentally and of dismissing all employes drawing less than Rs. 10 per mensem; and that as regards such men, his orders should be final. The Commission go on to say that—

"Subject to the concurrence of the agent, whose veto should be final, we would allow the factory superintendent to appoint all factory employes drawing Rs. 10 per mensem and upwards to Rs. 150."

From this it will be seen that the agent will be "allowed a voice in the selection" of temporary and other assistants drawing salaries from Rs. 50 to 150, though they may, in the first instance, be appointed by the factory superintendent.

4. The Benares agent states that he has always admitted that inasmuch as the agent is in command he must accept the responsibility when things go wrong, in the same way as he receives credit when all goes right. He quite agrees that the principal assistant is responsible to the agent, and not to the Board. He sees no objection to the change in the style of his office, and he is quite in favour of the powers recommended in paragraph 719 of the Commission's report,

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by which the principal assistant will appoint, dismiss, and punish. The agent is also in favour of confining the duties of the principal assistant exclusively to factory work. But he says that if it is intended by the Commission in these proposals to make the responsibility of the agent for the management of the factory more direct than heretofore, he demurs. It appears to him that the Commission's recommendations have the opposite tendency. When it is considered that the agent has a territory extending over a length of 500 miles, and including 53 sub-divisions, with enormous native establishments to supervise, it is physically impossible for him to keep "daily touch" of a factory situated at the very end of his charge, and at the same time to superintend the work of extension of cultivation, &c., in the districts. That the agent is responsible for the proper working of the factory is admitted. He is equally responsible for the working of every one of the sub-divisions. But no one man can, he states, possibly undertake all the details himself. He must trust largely to the officers in immediate charge, and by constant inspection satisfy himself that all are working up to the mark. For the management of the factory, he says, it is necessary to obtain a really good man, and to assist him, supervise him, and trust him. If the agent, who must be continually absent from Ghazipore, is suddenly to come back, and is to attempt to take everything into his own hands, he will assuredly disgust the principal assistant, and throw out the whole of the work. For these reasons Mr. Carnac is of opinion that the principal assistant's position towards the agent should be the same, or nearly the same, as that of the sub-deputies to their chief; or to take another example, the officer in charge of the factory would stand in the same position to the agent as, say, the superintendent of the Cawnpore factory does to the Inspector-General of Ordnance.

5. I am to state that, taking all the circumstances into consideration, the Board recommend that the recommendations of the Opium Commission in paragraphs 718 and 719 of their report may be sanctioned, "Board" being substituted for "Director-General."

6. With regard to the recommendation of the Commission in paragraph 719 of their report, that no communication between the agent and the chief factory officer by official letter should be permitted, that when the agent is at head-quarters all communications between him and the factory officer should be by word-of-mouth, or by half-margin order book, and that when the agent is absent from head-quarters they should be by half-margin notes, I am to state that the Board have requested the agents to desist from correspondence with the principal assistant by official letters and adopt the form of communication described in paragraph 719 of the Commission's report. They have also been told that in addressing the Board copies of notes or letters from the principal assistants should not be submitted, but the purport of all communications from these officers should be embodied in one complete report from the agents, except in cases in which the principal assistant's reports in the capacity of opium examiner, and in such cases the Board have directed that the statements submitted and the views expressed by the principal assistant should be forwarded to the Board with any remarks the agent may have to offer.

7. In paragraphs 720 to 729 of their report the Opium Commission express their views in regard to the qualifications that should be expected from the officer appointed to the post of factory superintendent (principal assistant). On this subject I am to refer to paragraph 9 of the Board's letter, No. 3 B., dated 2nd January 1884, in which the Board have already recorded their opinion.

8. The agents were also requested to furnish the Board with their opinion on the recommendations made by the Commission in paragraphs 730 and 731 of their report in regard to the appointment of assistant factory superintendent, and the pay to be drawn by those officers. The Behar agent states that there is a feeling at present prevailing among the gazetted officers of the Behar Agency that the duties of the head assistant at the factory are below the position of a gentleman, and this feeling is shown by a disinclination on the part of assistant sub-deputy opium agents to accept the appointment on the occasion of any vacancy. He says that the appointment, owing to the absence of proper house accommodation and local circumstances, is no doubt attended with much inconvenience. The officer finds himself isolated and with no companions about him; the duties are irksome, and require

activity, good temper, and patience. The officer draws no travelling allowance, and has no cold-weather camping. All these disadvantages cause the post to be shunned. He recommends that every gazetted officer on joining the Department should go through a course in the laboratory and in the factory; that officers who have evinced during their early training the quality of good temper with their subordinates and skill in chemical manipulation should be selected when vacancies occur for the post of head assistant, receiving a salary above their graded pay, and on the completion of two years' service at the factory should revert to district work, receiving promotion to officiating sub-deputyships; that the officer should be selected, not by the test examination only, but for known characteristics, such as patience under irritation, forbearance with native stupidity and wickedness, power of dealing with large bodies of natives, considerable bodily activity and aptitude in investigating cases and detecting rascality, and that he should be entirely subordinate to the factory superintendent as at present. As regards the question of pay, the agent is of opinion that the head assistant should receive Rs. 500 the first year and Rs. 600 the second year, besides free quarters; and as there is no house available near the factory, he proposes to provide suitable house accommodation.

9. The Benares agent states that the question of the appointment of assistant factory superintendent somewhat hangs together with that of the appointment of medical officers to the post of principal assistants. Unless the appointment is reserved for officers of the Opium Department, he doubts whether any assistant would care for the drudgery of factory work, and he is by no means in favour of laying down a rule that no medical man, however well qualified, can be appointed to the management of the factory, should he be willing to undertake the duties. With respect to the pay of the first factory assistant, the agent states that he understands that Rs. 750 a month is reserved for a medical officer, who shall be placed in training for the post of superintendent (principal assistant).

10. I am to observe that the Board do not agree with the Behar agent on the following points:—

- I.—That the factory assistant superintendent appointed from the gazetted staff should hold the appointment for only two years.
- II.—That every gazetted officer on joining the Department should go through a course in the laboratory and in the factory.

With regard to the first point, the agent has accurately described the requisites for an assistant superintendent. So far as chemical knowledge is concerned, that which an opium officer has shown to possess by the test of the departmental examination should be sufficient to make him eligible for appointment to the post. Practical knowledge will be gained by him in the course of his duties under the further instruction of the superintendent, and it is this practical knowledge which will, with the other qualifications, render him an efficient assistant to the superintendent in the onerous duties the latter officer has to perform. By removing an assistant superintendent at the end of two years he will be taken away just at the time when he is becoming really useful and of service to the factory, and the burden of beginning over again the instruction of a new assistant will be thrown on the superintendent. An assistant superintendent to be of use should be conversant with all the routine of the factory administration and with the subordinates he has to deal with. Continual changes in the appointment will, the Board think, act very injuriously on the administration of the factory, for of necessity the superintendent, who is the hardest worked man in the place, must depend much upon and entrust much to his assistant. If a good man can be got as an assistant, there seems to be every reason why he should be retained as such as long as is conducive to efficiency. The Board do not see either that the training of the assistant superintendent at the factory will in itself alone secure an officer more efficient in his duties as district officer, and there seems no necessity why he should on that account be deputed to district work against his wish, merely on the face of the proposed two years' rule. One of the results of adopting the agent's proposals would also be to put the assistant after two years' service at the factory over the head of his contemporaries for the rest of his service. This the Board think would be unfair.

11. As regards the second point, I am to observe that the Board understand that some years ago the plan that

every gazetted officer on joining the Department should go through a factory course was in existence, and it was abandoned after a time, as it was found that the young officers merely idled their time and did no good. They were of no particular use at the factory, except perhaps during the weighments, but they gained no practical knowledge of their future duties in the mofussil. The Board were of opinion that if this plan were followed again, the sub-deputy opium agents would lose the services of these young officers in the district for the period they remained at the factory, and when the latter joined their appointments in the mofussil they would be not more useful to the district officers than if they had joined at once on first appointment; both agents were therefore consulted on this point. The Behar agent reports that on the institution of departmental examinations the system of keeping young officers at the factory on the supposition that they there gained a practical knowledge of chemistry was very properly given up. The Benares agent states that in former days young assistants were attached to the factory on first joining the Department, and spent part of their time there. The system had, however, altered considerably before Mr. Carnac joined the agency. He states that the extension of the work of the Department has long since absorbed the reserve of assistants which used to be available at the factory, and no assistants are now in training for semi-independent charges. The system has been to place as a rule the last comer in charge of a sub-division, which weighed at head-quarters, and thereby in some measure to reduce the young officers' responsibilities. It has been the practice, the agent states, to bring inexperienced officers down to Ghazipore after the weighments of their sub-divisions, and during that slack time to instruct them and to examine them in the

*The testing and classifying of opium.

in testing for impurities. Mr. Carnac proposes to adhere to the present system; and should the Department hereafter be increased as proposed by the Commission, and some spare assistants be available, he would attach them to the districts and not to the factory. These officers would as now come down to the factory for a short time after the payments, and go through a course of purrucking, &c., and Mr. Carnac proposes to add to this short course some instructions in the system of keeping the agency vernacular accounts.

12. I am to state that the Board would recommend no change from the present practice beyond those put forward by the Opium Commission in paragraphs 730 and 731 of their report. The Board, however, would observe that there are no workshops to grant certificates, and that there is no Director-General.

13. The Board also requested the agents to submit any remarks they may have to offer on the proposals contained in paragraphs 733 to 735 of the Opium Commission's report in regard to the revision of the factory office establishment.

The Behar agent (Mr. Metcalf) reported that there is no objection to the proposal made in paragraph 733 of the Opium Commission's report that the factory superintendent should be left entirely free to employ the members of his office establishment in any manner which he may think proper, but the proposal to place under him the establishment for the audit of the cultivators' accounts in the sudder factory is open to strong objections for the following reasons:—(a) the principal assistant has not the leisure to attend to this work; and (b) in practice it is found that the sudder factory and the sub-deputy opium agents are often at variance owing to mistakes arising out of the receipt of opium, which affect the cultivators' accounts and have eventually to be adjusted by the agent after personal inquiry into challans. Mr. Kemble, however, after visiting Ghazipore, and inquiring into the working of the audit office there, reports that if such an office is to be employed at Bankipore it will be necessary to build a new bungalow and to engage a new staff of clerks, and he doubts if the benefits to be gained are worth the expenditure. He states that from what he heard and saw at Ghazipore he learnt that all that the audit office does is to ensure that the accounts of all the assamees are properly kept, and that the sub-deputy agent has testified to the final payments of each assamee. As far as Mr. Kemble can see, the first duty can be as efficiently carried out by a sub-deputy agent, who is a gazetted European officer, as by the head auditor; and if the sub-deputy cannot be trusted to sign his papers correctly he is not fit for the post. During the months of August, September, and October this examination and auditing of the assamees' papers is all that the sub-deputies have

to do. Mr. Kemble has looked into this part of the work of the officers subordinate to him, and has no reason to be dissatisfied with it, and he feels sure that if any sub-deputy agent for any reason failed to pay each *khattadar* his due, the agent would hear of his shortcomings long before the auditor detected them. Mr. Kemble remarks that if a clever sub-deputy were inclined to be dishonest, he doubts whether the audit office could detect him. So far as the sub-deputies' accounts go, Mr. Kemble is not convinced of the necessity for any further check than that already exercised in his office, and he is of opinion that an audit office in the Behar Agency would be a piece of useless extravagance. Looking to these objections, and the expense which, giving effect to the recommendations for an audit office in Behar would entail, the Board would not recommend its adoption. The Behar agent also dissented from the opinion of the Opium Commission as to the strength and cost of the establishment that would be necessary for the office of the principal assistant. The Board approved the agent's recommendation, and a proposition statement prepared accordingly (which has been forwarded to the Accountant-General for verification of the present scale of establishment) is submitted for the sanction of Government.

14. The Benares agent reports that he understands from the Commission's recommendations that it is proposed to amalgamate the existing audit department of the agency with the other offices of the factory under the principal assistants and organise an establishment sufficient for the entire office work, which properly devolves upon the factory superintendent, including the audit of the cultivators' accounts. This recommendation is, the agent believes, based on a misapprehension. The audit of the cultivators' accounts, he states, is not a part of the factory superintendent's duties, and in this view Dr. Weir agrees. He says that the audit office has never been a part of the factory establishment properly so called. It is true that the head auditor's office is at the factory, and that for a part of the year, i.e., whilst opium is coming in from the districts, the calculations of *damdetta*, a work devolving on the principal assistant, are worked out by the audit office under the orders of the principal assistant. During the rest of the year, however, the duties of the audit office have no connexion with the factory whatsoever, save when the factory accounts are audited under the orders of the agent. The agent states that the head auditor's duties include the checking of outstanding balances, advances for wells, the vernacular accounts of the sub-deputies, and also the store accounts of the factory. He is, however, of opinion that the head auditor's duties should be confined to accounts and audit under the arrangements as they now exist, and that it is undesirable to entrust to him the superintendence of all the factory offices, and practically to impose upon the factory superintendent the responsibility for the audit of the whole of the cultivators' accounts. The agent says the proposal to place the audit office under the principal assistant is open to the following objections:—(a) If the offices are amalgamated, the present head auditor, instead of confining his attention to audit and accounts, which give him ample employment, may be required to assist in many duties connected with the factory; and (b) not only will his attention be diverted from his most important duties, but he might by degrees acquire an undue influence at the factory. The Benares agent also differed with the Opium Commission with regard to the details of the establishment to be employed in the office of the principal assistant and in the audit office. The Board having agreed with the agent and approved his proposals, a proposition statement (which has been forwarded to the Accountant-General for verification of the present scale of establishment) has been prepared accordingly, and is submitted for the sanction of Government.

15. With regard to the proposal contained in paragraphs 736 to 740 of the Commission's report in connexion with the revision of the factory assistants' establishments, the Behar agent states that no objection can be urged against the proposed salaries for factory assistants, and he has no objection to make to the proposal that the laboratory superintendent should be selected from the factory assistants, and considers the proposal a good one. The agent suggests that the post of assistant opium examiner should be held by a duly qualified assistant surgeon selected from amongst the candidates who may have distinguished himself in chemistry during his medical course, and he states that he has carefully considered if there would be any advantage in selecting an officer from the regular staff

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of assistant sub-deputy opium agents ; but, after weighing the considerations he would support the Commission's proposals. The Benares agent, however, recommends that a thoroughly qualified European should be selected for this appointment as the duties of assay registrar, which will be performed by him, are very delicate, onerous, and responsible. The appointment of opium examiner at the Ghazipore factory has already been sanctioned by Government of India—*vide* enclosure to Government order No. 181 T. R., dated 23rd April 1885, and I am now to submit (through the Accountant-General for verification of the present establishment) proposition statement of the factory assistants' establishments at both the Goolzarbagha and the Ghazipore factories.

16. Paragraphs 741 to 744 of the Opium Commission's report contain their recommendations regarding the revision of the subordinate native establishment at the Patna factory. On this subject the agent reports that the only modifications he would propose to the Commission's recommendations are (1) that the first and second *purkheda* and the head sirdar should receive progressive salaries of Rs. 25 to Rs. 50, Rs. 15 to Rs. 30, and Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 respectively, instead of the fixed salaries of Rs. 50 and Rs. 30 recommended by the Commission, as he is of opinion that a progressive salary will encourage the men to conduct themselves properly; (2) that in place of the compounder, recommended by the Commission, a selected assistant hospital compounder deputed from the regular medical staff be employed, as if this is done the place could easily be filled in case of sickness; and (3) that the salaries of the blacksmith and carpenter should be Rs. 15 rising to Rs. 20, instead of Rs. 10 and Rs. 8 respectively, as recommended by the Commission, as the demand for good workmen is said to be so great that there is a difficulty in securing, and a still greater difficulty in retaining, their services. The agent states that the Commission's recommendations regarding the re-organisation of the staff of factory sirdars are excellent, and he strongly recommends them for adoption. The Board agree with the agent that the pay of the first and second *purkheda* and the head sirdar should be progressive instead of fixed. They also would support his recommendation with regard to the appointment of an assistant hospital compounder. The Board, however, doubt the necessity of raising the pay of the blacksmith and carpenter from Rs. 10 and Rs. 8 respectively to Rs. 15 rising to Rs. 20, and a proposition statement, prepared in accordance with these views, is submitted (through Accountant-General) for the sanction of Government.

17. The recommendations of the Opium Commission regarding the subordinate native establishment at the Ghazipore factory are contained in paragraphs 745 to 747 of their report. The Benares agent states that the recommendations of the Commission will, on the whole, be found to work well. He is of opinion, however, that the proposals regarding the staff of factory sirdars require some slight change. The pay proposed for the sirdars of the last two grades is, he thinks, inadequate for the following reasons:—(i) The sweeper is to receive Rs. 5, the cooly-mate Rs. 6; it will therefore hardly do to pay the sirdars, who have to assist in the godowns, and whose position in the factory is responsible, at the same rate as the sweeper and a lower rate than the cooly-mate, and (ii) the sirdars are selected from the cake-makers. Under the Commission's recommendations a cake-maker may now make as much as Rs. 12 a month; it will therefore be no promotion to a cake-maker to be appointed a sirdar, and there will be a difficulty in getting good men. He therefore recommends that the lowest pay of the sirdars should be fixed at Rs. 6 a month, and he would regrade the sirdars as shown below, at an extra cost of Rs. 17 per month, compared with the Commission's recommendations:—

	Rs. a.		Rs.
1 Head sirdar at	35 0	- - -	35
1 Sirdar "	15 0	- - -	15
8 Sirdars "	10 0	- - -	80
4 Ditto "	9 8	- - -	38
4 Ditto "	9 0	- - -	36
4 Ditto "	8 8	- - -	34
4 Ditto "	8 0	- - -	32
4 Ditto "	7 8	- - -	30
4 Ditto "	7 0	- - -	28
4 Ditto "	6 8	- - -	26
8 Ditto "	6 0	- - -	24

46 Total - - - 402

He also states that in the Commission's recommendations the laboratory stoker has been omitted. This man, it is said, is employed all the year round in cleaning the factory boiler, and he considers that he should be brought on the permanent establishment on Rs. 7 per month. The modifications proposed by the agent were approved by the Board, and a proposition statement prepared accordingly is submitted (through the Accountant-General) for the sanction of Government.

18. The agents were also asked to report on the recommendations of the Opium Commission, contained in paragraph 748 of their report, regarding the fire-brigade establishments at the opium factories. The Behar agent recommends that the proposals of the Opium Commission may be carried out. He also recommends that the fire-brigade be placed in charge of the first factory assistant, and the monthly allowance of Rs. 30 be paid him to look after the manual engines and to drill the firemen. The steam fire-engines the agent states should remain in charge of the superintendent of the saw mills, who is the only person at present competent to keep the machinery in working order. He also recommends that a man may be employed on a salary of Rs. 12 to work the steam engines. With regard to the uniform recommended in paragraph 357 of the Commission's report, the agent states that the only uniform required will be a coloured topee and a badge to be worn on the arm, and he estimates the cost at Re. 1 per man, or Rs. 50 per annum. The Benares agent states that the increase in the fire-brigade establishment was urged during the sittings of the Commission at Ghazipore, and was warmly supported by both Dr. Weir and himself. The proposed increase in the fire-brigade establishment in both factories has been included in the proposition statement submitted, and the Board recommend that it may be sanctioned, as also the annual expenditure of Rs. 50 for the uniforms required for the fire-brigade at the Patna factory.

19. The Board also referred the Benares agent to paragraphs 749 to 752 of the Commission's report in which they recommend the substitution of a police guard for the burkandaz guard at the Ghazipore factory, and he was requested to submit any remarks he may have to offer on the proposal, and to report the strength and cost of the guard that would be necessary. The agent was also desired to ascertain from the Inspector-General of Police, North-Western Provinces, whether that officer still has objections to the police searching the workpeople leaving the factory. Mr. Carnac states that the Commission have adopted his views. He is of opinion that a well-disciplined police guard ought to be preferable for the purposes of watch and ward to a permanent resident burkandaz guard. It is said that the burkandaz guard, under the orders of the principal assistant, is undoubtedly more easily managed and convenient, but these men are continuously employed on one duty, have greater opportunities of combining together and conniving or assisting at irregularities than a police guard could have. The agent says that if the number of sentries is sufficient, and the sentries are respectable, they should be able to check any irregularities. There may be, he says, some friction between the police guard and the factory native establishment, but this is not to be deplored if it tends to check irregularities. Mr. Carnac has submitted a proposition statement, which is forwarded (through the Accountant-General for verification of the present establishment) for the sanction of Government, showing the cost of the proposed police guard, the strength of which, he says, has been fixed by the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, North-Western Provinces, on visiting the factory and seeing the number of sentries required. The statement shows that 77 men are to be employed at a total yearly cost of Rs. 7,338. The agent states that the guard will be on the same footing as those of central gaols, with the exception that the relief will be left to the discretion of the District Superintendent of Police. The relief will generally be one-third of the guard monthly, and this constant change will, it is said, be a check on the possible collusion of the guard and the factory employes. It is proposed to relieve the present burkandaz gradually, so that the police may learn the work from the burkandazes. The Deputy Inspector-General of Police was, it is said, much pleased with the physique and drill of the burkandaz guard, which he considered superior to that of the police; and in the event of the scheme being sanctioned, the present burkandaz guard will be transferred bodily to the police reserve.

20. With regard to the question of searching, the agent states that the Police Department hold that a police sentry armed with a musket cannot satisfactorily conduct the search of persons leaving the factory. He therefore recommends that a special establishment be employed for the purpose. This establishment will consist of one duffadar searcher and five searchers, and its total yearly cost, including clothing charges, will be Rs. 550. This establishment also has been included in the proposition statement submitted to Government for sanction. Besides the police guard and searchers, it will be necessary to employ temporary men at certain seasons of the year, such as the weighments, when the factory is crowded to overflowing. The agent says that the Police Department recommend that these men should be employed as required by the agent and the principal assistant, and should be placed under the orders of the sub-inspector of the guard at the factory. The agent concurs with this opinion, and states that the number of temporary men employed vary with the varying demands of the season. In 1875, from January to July the average number of posts supplied by temporary men was 8½ths, while during the same months in 1885 the average was 4½ths only.

21. The recommendations of the Opium Commission to increase the wages of the cake-makers at the factories are contained in paragraphs* 753 to 758 of their report. The attention of both agents was drawn to this subject, and they were requested to submit any remarks they may have to offer, together with an estimate of what the extra cost under the scale proposed by the Commission is likely to be. The Behar agent points out that in the Commission's report no distinction has been made between the cost of manufacture and of repairing. He states that at the present rates the cake-makers are very well paid, and he does not recommend the increased rate of one anna for six cakes, or 96 cakes per rupee, proposed by the Commission. He says that the caking rate now paid has only very recently been raised, and there seems no necessity for a further immediate increase. It is said that the workmen are quite satisfied with the present rate of 128 cakes per rupee, and ask for no increase. A cake-maker can earn Rs. 12 monthly, and this rate is found sufficient to secure the best workmen, and need not therefore be increased. With regard to the repairing of cakes, the agent states that at the present rate of 520 cakes per rupee the men can earn three annas a day only, and this is found insufficient to attract the best men, and only inferior men present themselves for employment, and he recommends that the rate be raised to five annas per 100 cakes (or 320 per rupee), which is the out-turn per day permitted.

The Benares agent reports that the arguments that higher salaries should be paid to cake-makers at Ghazipore than at Patna, since Patna is the school and home of cake-makers, cannot stand nowadays, as three only of the Ghazipore cake-makers are Patna men, all the rest being residents of Ghazipore. With the proposed increase of pay for cake-makers, the agent says it will be difficult to find cake-makers willing to be promoted downwards to the lower grades of sirdar, as a cake-maker of the lowest grade would earn in six months Rs. 60, while a sirdar of the lowest grade would have to work 12 months to earn the same amount. Under the circumstances represented by the agents, I am to state that the Board do not support the proposals of the Opium Commission to increase the wages of the cake-makers at the Patna and Ghazipore factories. They would, however, recommend an increased rate of five annas per 100 cakes being given for the repair of cakes at the Patna factory. At this rate the extra cost is estimated at Rs. 1,252 per annum.

22. With regard to the recommendations in paragraph 759 of the Opium Commission's report in connexion with the saw-mill establishments at the Patna factory, I am to state that the Behar agent has been requested to refer to these proposals when submitting any scheme for the revision of this portion of the factory establishment rendered necessary owing to the recent extension of the saw-mill. This matter will be dealt with separately by the Board on receipt of the agent's report.

No. 594 B., dated 17th July 1886.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

In continuation of paragraph 22 of the Board's letter 14 B., dated 9th January last, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to submit for the orders of Government the following suggestions in connexion with the saw-mill establishment at the Patna factory, together with a proposition statement (which has been forwarded to the Accountant-General for verification of the present scale of establishment).

2. In paragraph 759 of their report the Opium Commission expressed their views with regard to the saw-mill establishment as follows:—

"The salaries of the saw-mill establishment have been stated in paragraph 501, and we have there remarked that we consider the pay to be insufficient. The present superintendent of the saw-mill has held the appointment for 14 years, and has received no increase of pay since 1878, when his salary was raised from Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 on the amalgamation of the saw-mill and chest departments. As residence in the saw-mill compound is compulsory, we think that house-rent should not be charged to the superintendent; but we consider that a salary of Rs. 400 is sufficient for the appointment. Should it be thought desirable to recognise the good service which the present superintendent has rendered, such recognition should, in our opinion, be made in the form of a personal allowance. The salary of the store keeper should, in our opinion, be raised from Rs. 20 to Rs. 35. The pay of the sawyers appears to us to be inadequate; but when the arrangements now in progress for the extension of the mill are completed it will be necessary to revise the entire establishment, and we therefore refrain from submitting, in this report, any definite recommendations on the subject. We are not at present in a position to say what the strength of the establishment should be; but we have no doubt that such salaries as Rs. 7 and Rs. 6 are insufficient for skilled workmen, such as sawyers and saw-fitters."

3. The Behar agent has now submitted his scheme for increasing the strength of the saw-mill establishment at an additional cost of Rs. 353 per mensem, or Rs. 4,236 per annum. The proposition statement shows that it is proposed to raise the salary of Mr. Girling, the superintendent and engineer of the saw-mill, from Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per mensem. On this question Mr. Kemble submitted the following remarks:—

"Though I have given over charge of my office to Mr. D'Oyly, I take the liberty before leaving for England of bringing to the notice of the Board the very excellent work done by Mr. Girling, the superintendent of the saw-mill, in fitting up and bringing into work the new boilers, engines, and machinery which have arrived from England during the past year.

"The officers of the Public Works Department built for us the chimney, the engine-house, and the reservoirs; the stone beds for the machinery, which are sunk about 20 feet into the earth, and the masonry beds for the three enormous boilers, each weighing about 13 tons, were built up by Mr. Girling. These large masses of ironwork were carried from the railway station and placed in position, and all the complicated fittings of the most recent invention were put together by him with his own hands or under his immediate superintendence during the hottest and most trying months of the year.

"The general work done by him during the year has been also satisfactory; he has to carry out most responsible duties in examining and passing timber and chests to the value of many thousand rupees. The late Commission, in paragraph 759 of their report, and my predecessor have recommended that his salary should be increased, and I have waited till the new machinery was in working order for making a formal recommendation to the same effect. I trust that, Board will support my proposal that an addition of Rs. 100 be made to his salary from 1st January 1886."

4. Mr. Girling was appointed as engineer to the Patna factory on the 1st June 1869 on a salary of

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Rs. 300 per mensem. His salary was raised to 400 per month from 15th February 1878 under sanction of the Government of India in their Financial Department letter, No. 3303, dated 26th September 1877. Considering the strong recommendation made by the agent in favour of increasing Mr. Girling's salary, the Board would recommend that his salary may either be raised to Rs. 500 per mensem, or that a personal allowance of Rs. 100 a month be granted to him; and on this point I am to request that early orders may be passed.

5. The proposition statement also shows that it is proposed to employ an assistant engineer on Rs. 125 in lieu of one assistant to engineer on Rs. 50, and one boiler-maker or second assistant to engineer on Rs. 40 per mensem, and to increase the number of circular sawyers, &c., to be employed. This is rendered necessary by the recent extension of the saw-mill.

6. In conclusion, I am to request that the pay of the dufftries in the vernacular department of the Patna factory office shown under the proposed scale in the proposition statement submitted to Government with the Board's letter No. 14 B., dated 9th January last, may be corrected from Rs. 6 and Rs. 5, total Rs. 11, to Rs. 8 and Rs. 5, total Rs. 13, and that the necessary corrections may be made in the totals of the statement.

No. 720 B., dated 3rd November 1884.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

WITH reference to Government Order, No. 150 T. R., dated 30th April last, communicating the consent of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the Board's taking into consideration, and submitting suggestions for giving effect to, the recommendations made by the late Opium Commission on certain minor matters connected with the administration of the Opium Department, I am directed by the Board of Revenue to submit, for the orders of Government, the following suggestions in connexion with the Commission's proposals in Chapter VIII. of their report.

2. In paragraph 762 of their report the Opium Commission consider that it would be advantageous to purchase a certain amount of Malwa opium for excise manufacture, but they are of opinion that no attempt to manufacture excise opium at Indore, Ajmere, or Jubbulpore should be made. The Commission also think that the supply of excise opium to Local Governments should be regulated by the terms of the contracts periodically made under the system of provincial finance, and that the quantity of excise opium to be supplied at cost price should be determined, and supplies in excess of those limits should be paid for at the market value of opium for provision purposes. As the question of the purchase of Malwa opium for excise manufacture has formed the subject of separate correspondence, it is hardly necessary to go over the same ground in connexion with the report of the Opium Commission. The question of manufacturing excise opium at Indore, Ajmere, or Jubbulpore has also been before Government and the Board, and it will be seen from paragraph 10 of their letter No. 38 B., dated 14th January 1884, that it was not supported by the Board. As the Opium Commission is not in favour of the scheme, no further allusion to it is required. The Commission's proposals regarding the supply of excise opium to local governments are, the Board consider, matters for Government to decide.

3. In paragraph 765 the Commission recommended,

* Prescribed in Part IV. of the Commission's report.

for reasons given in that paragraph, that the form of challan register in use in the Benares Agency should in a modified form be introduced in Behar. I am to state that the Behar agent was consulted in the matter, and as he states that the introduction of the register will be a decided improvement on the present practice followed in the Behar Agency, the Board have directed the agent to issue the necessary instructions for its introduction during the ensuing weighments.

4. The next proposals of the Commission are contained in paragraph 768 of their report. In it they

recommend (1) that the accounts of each cultivator should be separately adjusted; (2) that the Benares form of challan register should (with some modifications) be adopted; (3) that the assay of the challan jars and the calculation of the damdetta contents of each jar should be based upon the re-classification of the jars at the factory; (4) that the Behar system of ascertaining the value of each cultivator's opium should be followed; (5) that no compensation should be allowed for loss by dryage in transit; and (6) that the accounts of the cultivators should be audited at the agency head-quarters, as is now done in the Benares Agency. The first of these recommendations will be dealt with in connexion with Chapter V. of the Opium Commission's report. The second has been noticed in paragraph 3 above. The reasons for the third recommendation are given in paragraph 434 of the Commission's report, and from the footnote at page 295 of the report it will be seen that it has been provided for in the code of rules prepared by the Commission. As the Behar agent reports that he has no objection to the assay of the challan jars and the calculation of the damdetta contents of each jar being based upon the re-classification of the jars at the opium factory, he has been directed by the Board to introduce this system into the Behar Agency. The reasons for the fourth recommendation are given by the Opium Commission in paragraph 766 of their report, and as the Benares agent has no objection to the introduction of the Behar system of ascertaining the value of each cultivator's opium into the Benares Agency, he has been directed to introduce it during the ensuing weighments.

5. The fifth recommendation of the Commission is that no compensation should be allowed for loss by dryage in transit. The question of loss by dryage is, it will be seen, discussed in paragraph 767 of the Commission's report, and apparently no compensation is now given. The recommendation does not therefore appear to call for any notice.

6. With regard to the sixth recommendation, I am to state that the Behar agent was asked if he had any objection to the accounts of the cultivators being audited at the agency head-quarters, and as he reports that he has no objection, and that at present it is felt that there is no sufficient audit of such accounts, and that the introduction of the Commission's proposal will be a decided improvement on the present practice followed in the Behar Agency, he has been directed by the Board to introduce the system during the next weighments. The Behar agent has also been requested to have a set of tables showing the value of different quantities of opium at different rates per seer drawn up for use in his agency, as recommended by the Opium Commission, and to introduce the system of adjusting the accounts of each jar separately into the Behar Agency during the ensuing weighments. The suggestions which relate to the different forms of registers contained in paragraph 768 of the Opium Commission's report have apparently been adopted in the code of rules, and do not, the Board are of opinion, require further notice in this letter.

7. In paragraph 769 of their report the Opium Commission recommend that no change should be made in the form, size, or composition of the provision opium cake. Several experiments in the manner of manufacturing and packing provision opium have recently been made, and a report on the subject was submitted to Government in Board's letter No. 177 B., dated 21st March 1884, in the last paragraph of which it was said that the Board's opinion is in favour of keeping to the existing system of both manufacture and packing, and that the existing system is shown by all that has passed to be equal, if not superior, to any of the suggestions made by scientific experts. As the Board are still of the same opinion, they consider that no further action is necessary on this paragraph of the Commission's report.

8. The recommendation that the supply of chests for both agencies should be left in the hands of the Behar agent, made in paragraph 770 of the Opium Commission's report, has been in force for some years, and the Board consider that no further orders are at present called for. The Behar agent's attention has been drawn to this paragraph.

9. In paragraph 771 of their report the Commission express an opinion that it is expedient to maintain a reserve, but recommend that the reserve should never be raised to an amount greater than would supply the sales of six months, and the proper quantity would be

represented by the number of chests required for the sales of three months, or 12,000. The Government of India in their letter No. 1,534, dated 30th June 1880, prescribed 30,000 as the minimum number of provision opium chests to be kept in reserve, while it will be seen that the maximum reserve recommended by the Commission is six months' sale, or say 24,000 to 25,000 chests. The point was again put before Government in the Board's letter No. 463 B., dated 15th July last, when discussing the question of the number of chests to be sold in 1885, and the Government of India replied in their letter No. 2,446, dated 25th July 1884 (a copy of which was received with the Government order No. 1,506-65 O., dated 30th idem), that the addition of 15,000 chests to the reserve would be sufficient for one year. But as they did not deal with the question of the reserve, the Board consider it necessary to re-open it on this occasion.

10. The Commission also suggest that in storing the chests in the Calcutta godowns a narrow passage should be left through the centre of each godown so as to reduce the breadth of the stacks and facilitate the examination of the innermost chests. The Board have considered this suggestion, and have issued the necessary orders for stacking the provision chests for the season 1883-84 accordingly.

11. The recommendation in paragraph 772 of the Opium Commission's report that arrangements should be made with the French Government to surrender on equitable terms the right which it enjoys of requiring 300 chests of provision opium to be annually reserved for it has already been carried out, and a convention entered into for the payment of Rs. 3,000 per annum for five years, commencing from the 1st January 1884, to the French authorities at Chandernagore.

No. 955 B., dated 25th November 1886.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

On the retirement recently of Mr. W. A. Byrne, head accountant, Benares Opium Agency, the opium agent applied to the Board for sanction to the submission of a scheme for the revision of his office establishment. This was granted by the Board, and Mr. Carnac has

* No. 259-3005, dated 15th September 1886.

now submitted the accompanying report,* together with a proposition statement showing the present scale and reorganisation of the agent's office establishment now proposed, which has been submitted through the Accountant-General.

2. It will be observed that the opium agent proposes to reduce the salary of the post of head accountant from Rs. 500 to Rs. 300 per mensem, rising by an annual increment of Rs. 20 to Rs. 400, and to improve the position of the superintendent of the correspondence branch of the agent's office by raising his salary to that to be drawn by the head accountant. It is also proposed to appoint the superintendent of the standard computing office to be head auditor, and to grant him a personal allowance of Rs. 50 per mensem, in order to bring up his pay to the amount drawn by him in the former appointment, viz., Rs. 200, until such time as the revised establishment for the Ghazipore factory, recommended to Government in the Board's letter No. 14 B., dated 9th January 1886, has been sanctioned, when the personal allowance will lapse. The standard computing office will, under the present scheme, be entirely abolished, as well as the post of treasurer, and that of ninth clerk in the head accountant's office. The net saving to Government which will be effected by the revision of establishment proposed will, as shown in the proposition statement, amount to Rs. 19-8 per mensem, or Rs. 234 per annum, and this saving will, in the event of the scheme for the revision of the factory establishment referred to above being sanctioned, be increased, as explained by the agent in paragraph 10 of his letter enclosed, to Rs. 69-8 per mensem, or Rs. 834 per annum.

3. The Board, I am to add, see no objection to the agent's proposals, and they would recommend that the early sanction of Government may be given to the revised scheme now submitted with effect from the date of Mr. Byrne's retirement.

4. As the proposals under consideration are intended to supersede those submitted in connexion with the Opium Commission's recommendation, I am to request that the proposition statement now submitted may be substituted for that furnished with the Board's letter No. 37 B., dated 12th January 1885.

No. 259-3005, dated 15th September 1886.

From J. H. RIVETT-CARNAC, Esq., C.I.E., Opium Agent of Benares, to the SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, Lower Provinces.

As already reported in my letter No. 247-2899, dated 8th instant, I have, in accordance with the provisional sanction given by the Board of Revenue, made the following arrangement, subject to approval, on the retirement of Mr. Byrne.

2. For the charge of the accounts office I have selected Babu Gagan Chunder Rae, who for 11 years has been in charge of the audit branch of this agency. Babu Gagan Chunder was for four years in the Accountant-General's office, North-Western Provinces, where he earned a high character. He is well up in the orders and procedure of the Accounts Department. His good service has been frequently brought to the notice of the Board of Revenue, and the Commission have noticed the valuable assistance rendered by him. In my opinion he is thoroughly well fitted for the work.

3. The salary drawn by Mr. Byrne was Rs. 500. I would propose to reduce it to Rs. 300 per mensem, rising by annual increments of Rs. 20 to Rs. 400. The manner in which the savings from this reduction and others in the establishment will be utilised will be noticed in a later paragraph.

4. To the post of head auditor Babu Sidheshwar Chatterjee has been appointed. He has hitherto held the appointment of head of the standard computing office on Rs. 200 per mensem. This appointment I now propose to abolish, as the retirement of Mr. Byrne enables me to distribute the work hitherto performed by the Babu between the head accountant's and head auditor's offices.

5. I have appointed Babu Jugadishwar Chatterjee to be the superintendent of the agent's correspondence office. In this particular branch his knowledge and experience is invaluable. He is also a good accountant; and had it been determined to unite the two offices, his long and excellent service and knowledge would have entitled him to the highest post. But it is no disparagement to the Babu to say that his experience has been chiefly in the correspondence branch, as Babu Gagan Chunder has been in accounts, and that the offices being separate, offers an excellent opportunity for providing, with advantage to the public service, for two excellent men in the two departments for which they are especially fitted.

6. Having regard to the services rendered by Babu Jugadishwar Chatterjee, and the onerous and responsible duties of his office, it is right, I consider, that this opportunity should be taken of raising his salary to that to be drawn by the head accountant, viz., Rs. 300 per mensem with an annual increment of Rs. 20 up to Rs. 400 per mensem. Not only has the size and work of this agency increased, but owing to the necessity of the agent's personal assistant being continually deputed to assist in the districts, it is particularly necessary to retain in the correspondence branch of this office a really capable man with knowledge and experience of the work. Even though I have worked 12 years as agent, I find how necessary this is. And I have no hesitation in saying that next year, when I hope to take furlough, the officiating opium agent will be in real difficulty if he has not in hand Babu Jugadishwar Chatterjee in charge of the office. The men below him, whose salaries range from Rs. 80 to Rs. 35 are nothing but copyists, and are quite unable to supply his place. The services of the personal assistant are not, as the Board are aware, a constant quantity, and in the present state of the Department there seems little chance of improvement. But no personal assistant from the line could supply the knowledge possessed by the officer in question.

7. I may be permitted to state that I have little hope of retaining Babu Jugadishwar Chatterjee's services unless his position be improved. He is naturally enough desirous of earning something more than the average of about Rs. 150 he has drawn during the past 16 years

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and which is not, I consider, commensurate with the ability he possesses and the work he has to perform. Recently, just as Mr. Porter was appointed, I prevailed upon Babu Jugadishwar Chatterjee to decline the offer of a post of Rs. 400 in Cashmere, as it was most undesirable the office should be deprived of its head just as a new agent was expected.

8. A proposition statement in the prescribed form, showing the present scale and the re-organisation of the agent's office, as now proposed in consequence of Mr. Byrne's retirement, is submitted.

9. It will be seen from the statement that the re-organisation will cause a saving of Rs. 19-8 per month, or Rs. 234 per annum.

10. As stated in paragraph 4, the superintendent of the standard computing office has been appointed to the post of head auditor. The present maximum pay of the post is Rs. 150, and the pay now drawn by Babu Sidheshwar Chatterjee as superintendent of the standard computing office is Rs. 200. I would therefore propose that a personal allowance of Rs. 50 may be granted to him till the revised scheme for the factory, proposed by the Opium Commission, is sanctioned. In this scheme Rs. 250 has been recommended as the pay of the head auditor. In the event of the factory scheme being sanctioned, the personal allowance will lapse, and the actual saving by the re-organisation now proposed will amount to Rs. 69-8 per month, or Rs. 834 per annum, instead of Rs. 234 as shown in the accompanying statement.

11. Gabu Gagan Chunder Rae will, as directed in Board's letter No. 221 B., dated 6th ultimo, draw the minimum pay of the post of head accountant, viz., Rs. 300 only, from the date of Mr. Byrne's retirement, i.e., 6th September 1886.

12. As the revision causes no extra expenditure to Government, but, on the contrary, shows an actual saving, I trust the Board will allow Babu Jugadishwar Chatterjee to draw the minimum pay of his post as superintendent of the correspondence branch, viz., Rs. 300, with effect from the date of Mr. Byrne's retirement, i.e., 6th September 1886, the date from which he has held not only the post of superintendent of the office, but also had charge of the office of personal assistant.

No. 283 B., dated 15th April 1885.

From P. NOLAN, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Government Order No. 1697-760, dated 8th November 1884, drawing attention to the practice which prevails in most sub-deputy opium agencies in Behar and Benares of keeping in hand large cash balances at the close of each month, particularly during the season when weighments are going on and advances are being made, and requesting a report from the Board on the practicability of carrying out a suggestion made by the Accountant-General, Bengal, that rules should be framed fixing the maximum balance to be kept at each sub-agency, the method by which the balances should be recouped, and the manner in which the money should be safeguarded.

2. I am to express the regret of the Board at the delay which has occurred in submitting a reply. The Behar agent thought it necessary to defer expressing an opinion on the subject until he had had an opportunity of discussing the subject with the most experienced officers in the agency during his cold weather tour, and his report was not received until the 10th March.

3. With reference to the allegation made by the Accountant-General that sufficient care is not taken to keep the balance down to the lowest figure compatible with efficient work, I am to state the Behar agent reports that at times the daily payments at the weighing sheds amount to as much as Rs. 16,000, and that where the weighing sheds are at a distance from a treasury, as they are, for instance, at Burharwah, Tehta, and Sewan, the head-quarters of the Bettiah, Tehta, and Allegrunge sub-agencies, it is absolutely impossible to keep the balances low. The amount, the agent states, is regulated by the quantity of opium expected to be brought in and paid for. When payments are being

made at the head-quarters of a district, it is possible, the agent states, to send daily for money that may be required; but even then, Mr. Kemble thinks, some balances must be shown. The agent adds :—

"I find that in two head-quarter weighing places on the last day of April last year the sub-deputy agents had in their possession Rs. 13,786 and Rs. 12,465 respectively, and on the morning of the 1st of May, before they could have had time to send to the treasury to cash their cheques, they had paid away all except Rs. 30 and Rs. 33-8, respectively. Weighments begin in the early morning, and money must be drawn the previous day."

Orders have been issued by the agent to the effect that where a postponement of the weighments will not occasion inconvenience to cultivators, or loss to Government, they shall not commence till the 2nd of April in each year; but, so far as has been ascertained, the Gya Sub-Agency is the only one in which this could be done.

4. The Benares agent states that the practice of officers retaining large balances for months after the weighments, and clearing them off by degrees in their monthly payments, has long since been put a stop to. Any excess at the end of the weighments is returned to the treasury, and is not, as formerly, kept by the opium officers. Moreover, as the responsibility and inconvenience attending the custody of large sums of money are great, officers are glad to reduce their balances as far as possible. The circumstances which render it necessary that large sums should be kept during the settlement and weighments are explained in the following extract from the agent's letter :—

"In the first place, the daily payment at these seasons are very large. Then it is now the rule rather than the exception to conduct these operations at a distance from the district head-quarters. Lastly, the whole of the opium staff is fully engaged during this period in the weighments of opium, payments to cultivators, and preparation of many accounts.

"It will be readily understood that where the work is carried on at a distance from a Government treasury, it is absolutely necessary that the opium officer should retain a considerable balance in hand sufficient for the payment of the cultivators, whilst the treasure party is moving between the treasury and the opium godown. At first sight it may appear that this does not apply to cases where the opium office is close to the civil station. But although this view is partly correct, there are strong objections to the procedure, which I myself at first proposed, and which I now see the Accountant-General has suggested, a system of obtaining each day or even every two or three days required amount from the collector's treasury. The fact is that owing to the objections to the presence of large bodies of cultivators in the civil station, the opium godowns are always situated at some distance from the cutcherry. The civil offices during the hot weather constantly close for holidays, whereas with us during the working season holidays are unknown. The treasury hours do not always run with our working hours, which during the weighments extend from 5 o'clock in the morning to 6 at night, and even later. The trouble and delay in sending for the money, counting it at the treasury, carrying it in carts, and then re-weighing it and placing it in safe custody at the opium treasury are not inconsiderable. But this is not the chief difficulty. The officers responsible for the money are the gomashas and the European sub-deputy or assistant. Even were each day's requirements to be drawn on the day of payment, or on the preceding day, the sums are so large that the gomasha himself attended by some of the staff must go to the treasury and take delivery of the money, and the European officer must on receipt personally count it, or weigh it and lock it up. During the weighments, when the gomasha is busy with his accounts, and with the management of a large staff and crowds of cultivators, he certainly could not be spared for the additional duty. The continual taking in and counting the treasure also would be a serious additional tax on the already over-worked European officer. Of this I was convinced when attempting to alter the system some years ago, and I was forced to abandon my original idea, and to return to the system which experience has shown to be necessary, and to draw large sums at a time, so as to save the gomasha being taken away from his duties at a most busy season."

5. As regards the arrangements made by the sub-deputy agents for the safe custody of the balances in their hands, I am to state that Mr. Kemble reports

that at every weighment kothee there are buildings for the storage of opium jars and treasure. The treasure rooms are not, however, as strong as the agent would like to see them and Mr. Kemble accordingly suggests that a strong iron safe with double locks be supplied to each, and that it may be embedded in the floor of the verandah of the building. By this arrangement the sentry on guard would have to walk up and down close by the chest, thereby rendering the treasure more secure than if it were kept in a dark room in the bungalow. On this point the Benares agent reports that all due precautions are taken for the safe custody of the treasure. The balances are kept in safes under double locks of which one key is with the gomashtha and the other with the European assistant or sub-deputy agent. A sufficient armed police guard is, the agent states, always employed during the weighments and settlements, which seldom extend over five or six weeks. Any other system than that now in force would, Mr. Carnac thinks, delay the weighments and settlements, and cause great inconvenience to the cultivators. During the past season, the agent states, efforts were made to reduce the drawings on the treasuries until the May instalment of revenue had been collected. In more than one instance, however, the weighments were delayed by treasuries being unable to cash the sub-deputy's credit. Even when weighing near a civil station an opium officer, the agent reports, may be placed in great difficulties if he does not keep a considerable balance in hand. As an illustration in point, the agent cites the case referred to in the foot-note at page 115 of the Opium Commission's report, the circumstances connected with which are explained by the agent in the following words:—

"The case referred to in the report happened under my own observation the season before the last, at a station where the opium godown is not more than two miles from the collector's treasury. I arrived early on a Saturday morning to find that through a delay in the post the assistant had not received the necessary cheque on the treasury, and that he had not enough cash for the day's payment. On my proceeding to see the collector and obtain the necessary funds on my own order, I found that the day being a holiday the treasury was closed and the treasury officer absent."

"Before I left that evening the cheque had arrived and it was understood that the money would be paid out on Monday morning. But when the Commission arrived on the Monday, they found the assistant still without money, and the payments stopped. The treasury officer had been detained by the sudden death of a near relative. I do not mean to say that such *contretemps* are not exceptional, but where the importance of paying off the cultivators quickly and allowing them to return to their homes is so great, a good balance to guard against accidents is certainly desirable. So long as the sums required by the opium officer for his payments during the busy season are properly guarded, there is little objection, I think, to the balance being large, and to the staff being thus saved the loss of time which the constant sending for and taking in of treasure involves."

6. It will be observed that in paragraph 652 of their report the Opium Commission recommend (1) that the payments to the cultivators should ordinarily take place at stations where a treasury or sub-treasury exists, and that the amount drawn each day should be that which it was proposed to spend before evening; (2) that the amount should be recouped by drawing on the nearest treasury against a credit granted by the Accountant-General; and (3) that there should be no guard beyond that of the kothee peons, except where payments were made elsewhere than at places where treasuries existed, when a police guard should be supplied. When dealing with these proposals in paragraph 7 of their letter No. 653 B., dated 23rd September 1884, the Board were in favour of adopting the Commissioner's recommendations and abolishing the opium officer's treasuries. But the fuller and more detailed information now laid before them by the agents has convinced the Board that the adoption of any such change would seriously interfere with the working of the Department.

7. Pending a decision on the proposal of the Opium Commission that the opium treasuries should be abolished, the Board deem it unnecessary to frame general rules for the safeguarding of the balances, as any alteration in the existing arrangements would probably lead to considerable expense. No difficulty

has been found in recouping the balances when necessary, and, therefore, no orders are required on this subject. The Board propose to request the agents to pay special attention to keeping down the balances to the lowest point consistent with efficiency.

No. 284-13 O., dated 28th January 1887.

From W. C. MACPHERSON, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Finance and Commerce.

In continuation of paragraph 30 of Mr. Nolan's letter No. 2,600-130 O., dated 18th December 1886, I am directed to submit copy of a letter No. 54 B., dated 15th January 1887, from the Board of Revenue, and to say that, subject to the qualification stated in paragraph 2 of Mr. Nolan's letter of 18th December 1886, the Lieutenant-Governor recommends that the sanction of the Government of India may be accorded to the additional expenditure of Rs. 5,016 per annum on account of the remuneration of the native temporary establishment employed at weighments in the Behar Opium Agency at the increased rates proposed by the Opium Commission in paragraph 677 of their report.

No. 54 B., dated 15th January 1887.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

In continuation of paragraph 20 of this office letter No. 173 B., dated 5th March 1885, and with reference to Government Order No. 2,717-135 O., dated 31st December 1886, I am directed to report, for the information of Government, that the annual cost of the native temporary establishments employed at weighments in the Behar Opium Agency at the rates proposed by the Opium Commission will amount to Rs. 11,193, while the cost of the establishment at present employed in the agency amounts to Rs. 6,177 as reported by the agent. The extra cost will, therefore, be Rs. 5,016.

No. 630-31 O., dated 28th February 1887.

From W. C. MACPHERSON, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Finance and Commerce.

In continuation of paragraph 52 of Mr. Nolan's letter No. 2,600-130 O., dated 18th December 1886, I am directed to submit copy of a communication No. 140 B., dated 12th February 1887, from the Board of Revenue, and to say that under the circumstances therein stated the Lieutenant-Governor has, in anticipation of the approval of the Government of India, sanctioned the increase of establishment for the saw-mill and chest department at the Patna opium factory, which was recommended by the Board of Revenue, and which is shown on page 52 of the proposition statement enclosed with Mr. Nolan's letter above-mentioned, with the exceptions of the proposed increases—

- (1) to the pay of the superintendent and engineer;
- (2) to the pay of the storekeeper;
- (3) to the pay of the four chuprasis;
- (4) by appointment of an assistant engineer on Rs. 125 in place of an assistant to engineer on Rs. 50, and a boilermaker on Rs. 40.

With regard to these increases, the Lieutenant-Governor has informed the Board of Revenue that the orders of the Government of India must be awaited.

No. 140 B., dated 12th February 1887.

Memo. by C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces.

COPY submitted to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, in continuation of the correspondence ending with this office letter No. 594 B., dated 17th July 1886, with request that the Board may be favoured with the early orders of Government on the subject.

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No. 6 A., dated 9th February 1887.

From W. KEMBLE, Esq., Opium Agent of Behar, to the SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, Lower Provinces.

I HAVE the honour to call your attention to the correspondence ending with my No. 240, dated 15th June 1886, on the subject of revising the establishment at the opium factory, and beg earnestly that my proposals may be sanctioned without delay, in order that the new arrangements may be brought into working order before the commencement of the manufacturing season.

2. I have received a pressing letter from Dr. Whitwell, pointing out the difficulty of carrying on work underhanded as he is at present.

No. 1,485-85 O., dated 6th May 1887.

From P. NOLAN, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Finance and Commerce.

In continuation of paragraph 34 of my letter No.

1. Letter to the Board of Revenue, No. 2,134-105 O., dated the 15th November 1886.

2. Letter from the Board of Revenue, No. 76 B., dated the 22nd January 1887, and its enclosure.

3. Letter to the Board of Revenue, No. 425-18 O., dated the 9th February 1887.

4. Letter from the Board of Revenue, No. 298 B., dated the 14th April 1887, and its enclosure.

5. Letter to the Board of Revenue, No. 1,484-84 O., dated the 6th May 1887.

tion of fines by the opium examiner on opium sent in as good by the district officers, but found at the factory to contain *pussewah*.

2,600-130 O., dated the 18th December 1886, I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, copy of the correspondence noted in the margin, regarding the transmission of inferior opium to the factory in separate despatches, and regarding the continuance of the system of imposition

No. 2,134-105 O., dated 15th November 1886.

From G. K. LYON, Esq., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, Miscellaneous Revenue Department.

With reference to paragraph 26 of your letter No. 173 B., dated 5th March 1885, stating that the Board have directed the opium agents to adopt the Opium Commission's recommendation contained in paragraph 681 of their report, that inferior opium should be separately challenged, I am directed to request that the Board will be good enough to submit a report on the working of the new plan after the expiry of a year from the date of its actual introduction.

No. 76 B., dated 22nd January 1887.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

With reference to Government Order No. 2,134-105 O., dated 15th November 1886, I am directed to submit herewith, for the information of Government, a copy of a report* from the opium agent, Benares, on the result of the introduction,

during the opium weighments of season 1885-86, of the system recommended in paragraph 681 of the Opium Commission's report for the transmission of inferior opium to the factory in separate despatches, and to state that the Board are of opinion that, notwithstanding the difficulties that had to be contended with, owing to the very large quantity of *pussewah* in the opium of the season, the new system has worked satisfactorily.

2. The officiating opium agent, Behar, Mr. D'Oyly, has reported that it appears that the Board's orders directing the introduction of the change of practice in question in the Behar Agency were by an oversight not communicated to the district officers. The necessary instructions have now, he states, been issued, and a report will be furnished by the agent on the subject after the conclusion of next year's weighments.

No. 7-40, dated 10th January 1887.

From J. H. RIVETT-CARNAC, Esq., C.S., C.I.E., Benares Opium Agent, Ghazipore, to the SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, Lower Provinces.

I HAVE the honour to submit the report called for by the Government of Bengal in their secretary's No. 2,134-105 O., dated 15th November 1886, received with your No. 310 B., dated 23rd ultimo, on the subject of the recommendation of the Opium Commission regarding the separate invoicing and despatch of inferior opium to the factory.

2. The system of transmitting inferior opium to the factory by itself in *challans* or despatches separate from those of good opium came into general practice in this agency during the opium weighments of season 1885-86. I was absent during the greater part of the season, but I find that on the whole the system has worked well.

3. The year was noticeable for the great quantity of *pussewah* found in the opium, and the officers of the Department had thus considerable difficulties to deal with. But out of 59,562 maunds despatched as good, but 0.246 per cent. was found to be below the mark, 0.240 of this being on account of *pussewah*. The results during the first year's working of the system, and that during a difficult season, may be regarded as satisfactory.

4. Great care, however, is necessary; and as I understand the orders of Government to be that fines considered necessary by the opium examiner will not be levied on the cultivators, there will be some loss to Government if the classification by district officers is not exact.

5. The officers of the Department have again had their attention drawn to the subject. At the present moment I am marching through the districts, (Pertabgarh, Sultanpur, &c.) which are most noted for *pussewah*, and special measures are being taken this season to improve the out-turn in this respect.

No. 425-18 O., dated 9th February 1887.

From W. C. MACPHERSON, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, Miscellaneous Revenue Department.

With reference to your letter No. 76 B., dated 22nd January 1887, and enclosure, reporting the result of the introduction in the Benares Opium Agency, during the opium weighments of season 1885-86, of the system recommended in paragraph 681 of the Opium Commission's report for the transmission of inferior opium to the factory in separate despatches, I am directed to inquire to what orders of Government the Benares agent alludes in paragraph 4 of his letter No. 7-40, dated 10th idem, to your address. I am also to ask whether, with reference to the remarks made in paragraphs 26 and 32 of your letter, No. 173 B., dated 5th March 1885, the Board approve of the district testing officer's classification being final in favour of the cultivator, so far as regards payment to him of the price of his opium.

No. 298 B., dated 14th April 1887.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Government order No. 425-18 O., dated 9th February last, inquiring to what orders of Government the Benares agent alludes in paragraph 4 of his letter No. 7-40, dated 10th January 1887, and asking whether, with regard to the remarks made in paragraphs 26 and 32 of their letter No. 173 B., dated 5th March 1885, the Board approve of the district testing officer's classification being final in favour of the cultivator so far as regards payment to him of the price of his opium.

2. In reply, I am to submit copy of a letter No. 79-1074, dated 26th ultimo, from the opium agent of Benares, from which it will be seen that it was a mistake on his part to refer to any orders of Government, as he now finds that no such orders exist. It will also be observed that the agent raises the question of the imposition of fines on opium sent in as good by the district

officers, but found at the factory to contain *pussewah*. The agent states that the Opium Commission recommended that opium which had been passed as good by the district officers should not be liable to penalty; that in practice it has been found at the factory that owing to many circumstances, such as the rapidity with which weighments must be conducted in the districts, the difficulty in detecting *pussewah*, and in some cases the comparative inexperience of officers, opium which contains *pussewah* is often sent down as good. The opium examiner has continued to impose penalties in the cases in which they have appeared necessary; and the agent proposes that this procedure should be continued.

3. Under the circumstances represented by Mr. Rivett-Carnac in paragraphs 7 to 14 of his letter, the Board would recommend that the opium examiner at the sudder factory should continue the practice of imposing fines, with the sanction of the agent in each case for *pussewah*, on opium sent in as good by the district officers, but which is found at the factory to be inferior, and the agent has been instructed accordingly in anticipation of the approval of Government.

4. With regard to the latter part of the Government order under acknowledgment, I am to refer to paragraph 32 of the Board's letter No. 173 B., dated 5th March 1885, in which the Board expressed their opinion that the object of the Commission's recommendation in paragraph 688 of their report was not to make the sub-deputy opium agent's purrukh final, but to ensure the payments at weighments being closure, than it now is, to the real value of the opium, and that no change should be made in the system of payment for opium at the weighment time until the strength of the European establishment is materially increased. Proposals to increase the European staff of the Opium Department were submitted to Government in the Board's letter No. 85 B., dated 10th May 1886, but no orders on the subject have as yet been received. I am to state that under these circumstances the Board would not now advocate the change of system suggested by Government, especially as it goes far beyond the recommendation of the Opium Commission.

No. 79-1074, dated 26th March 1887.

From J. H. RIVETT-CARNAO, Esq., C.S., C.I.E., Benares
Opium Agent, Ghazipore, to the SECRETARY TO THE
BOARD OF REVENUE, Lower Provinces.

WITH reference to your letter No. 52 B., dated 24th February 1887, inquiring the number and date of the Government Order noticed in paragraph 4 of my letter of the 10th January, No. 7-40, on the subject of the chullaning of inferior opium, I find that the remark written by me in camp was made by inadvertence, and that no Government order should have been referred to, as none is found to exist.

2. I have since my return been into the whole question of the measures to be taken to limit the deliveries of *pussewah* opium and have consulted with Dr. Weir on the subject, and I now submit the following report based on his opinion and my own.

3. The Opium Commission in paragraph 681 of their report recommended that inferior opium should be separately chullaned, and remarking as what appeared to them to be the objections of levying fines for *pussewah*, on what had been passed as good opium by the district officer, recommended that such opium should not be liable to penalty.

4. Orders were duly issued to district officers, in accordance with the recommendation in this paragraph, in regard to the chullaning of opium mixed with *pussewah* as inferior opium.

5. This was duly carried out to the best of their ability by district officers. But in practice it has been found at the factory that owing to many circumstances the rapidity with which weighments must be conducted in the districts, the difficulty of detecting *pussewah*, and in some cases the comparative inexperience of officers, opium is often sent down as good which contains *pussewah*.

6. The opium examiner has continued to impose penalties in such cases as have appeared necessary, and it is proposed that, unless ruled by the Board to the contrary, this procedure should be continued for the following reasons.

7. The report submitted from time to time will have shown how seriously the admixture of *pussewah* with the opium of this agency affects the factory operations and the provision manufacture, and that special measures have had to be adopted to prevent this result. Extra officers have been employed during the collecting season in the districts which are the worst as regards *pussewah*, and every precaution has been enjoined on the local officers. Last season the results, owing to a very damp season, were unfavourable. This year there has been so little east wind that the opium is likely to be of much better quality, that is, with much less *pussewah*, and thanks chiefly to this, and partly to the precautions taken, there is small likelihood of the *pussewah* difficulty being so prominent this year.

8. Fines for *pussewah* imposed by the opium examiner have, in the opinion of Dr. Weir and myself, a salutary effect; and if imposed with care they are not open to objection, and are not unfair to the cultivators. On the contrary, unless an assami is fined for *pussewah* in proportion to its amount, he is in fact overpaid for his opium; he gets more than Rs. 5 per seer when it is estimated at standard pure opium. Opium mixed with *pussewah* is distinctly of less value to the Department than opium free from this admixture, and if the cultivator, through carelessness, omits to take proper precautions to prepare the drug, he should pay the penalty, and the penalty, if felt, will tend to make him more careful in the future, and will improve the quality of the out-turn.

9. On the other hand it may be held that the district officers should detect the admixture at once, and send all inferior opium down in the separate chullan ordered for that purpose. Practically it has been found that there is considerable difficulty in carrying this out efficiently. There might also be a danger of a timid officer going to the opposite extreme, and sending down as inferior opium opium not liable to fine. Any incorrect or even ill-judged action in this respect might cause great discontent and even alarm among the cultivators, and a serious hitch during the weighments.

10. Thus, then, if fines be not levied on opium mixed with *pussewah* and sent down as good by district officers, there is a risk of Government being a considerable loser. As regards the cultivator who on the factory purrukh gets paid rather less for opium mixed with *pussewah* than opium free from this substance, his case, even although the opium has been passed by the district officer as good, is not harder than the case, in which an officer at the weighments passes the opium as at 700 consistence which at the factory is declared to be, say, 680. And the cultivator who has been careless and who escaped the notice of the officer at the purrukh will no longer have the reminder in the shape of a small fine that he must be more careful next year.

11. Dr. Weir in fact advises me that—

"I am apprehensive that in the course of a few years, if fines as heretofore are remitted, the quality of the opium of our agency will steadily deteriorate until at last the greater part of the produce will arrive largely charged with *pussewah*, and I can affirm that should this prove to be the case, it will be impossible to turn out at the factory, at our present caking standard, cakes equal in quality to those hitherto exported to China. In fact, I would have grave doubts as to the fitness of the cakes made of opium largely mixed with *pussewah* to stand storage in Calcutta for any length of time in hot weather as our cakes now have to do."

12. It may of course suggest itself that the district officer who makes the mistake should be held responsible. But unless they were paid partly by commission this could not be done. And any such rule would bear hardly on an officer with very heavy weighments in a district where the conditions are such that *pussewah* is more abundant and more subtle in the manner in which it mixes itself into the drug than in other parts of the agency. The principal assistant informs me that in some classes of opium from certain districts the difficulties of detecting *pussewah* are much more difficult than in others. The examination, it will be understood, is less difficult at the factory than in the districts where the weighing officer works under great disadvantages with a large and noisy crowd around him claiming to have their opium weighed off.

13. Being of opinion then, after consultation with Dr. Weir, that there are great difficulties in ensuring all opium mixed with *pussewah* being sent down

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separately; that the levy of a fine in cases in which the admixture escapes the notice of the district officers is not a real hardship, whereas the failure to levy such a fine will cause some loss to Government, and will remove a salutary means of reminding the cultivators of the necessity of careful preparation of the drug, I would continue the practice of fining in all cases in which the opium examiner considers the course necessary.

14. I am strengthened in this view by the consideration of the great difficulties which have to be encountered in this agency with *pussewah*, and which are not so much felt in Behar, where the conditions of soil and climate are different, and where the cultivators are nearly all old and experienced in the management of the crop.

15. I find that during my absence on leave Mr. Porter, officiating opium agent, ruled that the opium examiner should not, under any circumstances, levy fines on any opium sent down as good. Dr. Weir recently brought the subject to my notice in connexion with arrangements for the ensuing weighments, with a strong recommendation that the powers should be retained by the opium examiner, in view of the circumstances noticed above; and supporting this view I have now to invite the early orders of the Board on the subject.

No. 1484-84 O., dated 6th May 1887.

From P. NOLAN, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, Miscellaneous Revenue Department.

With reference to the correspondence ending with the Board's letter No. 298 B., dated the 14th April 1887, I am directed to say that the Lieutenant-Governor accepts the views stated in that letter regarding the system of payment for opium at weighment time, and regarding the continuance of the system of the imposition of fines by the opium examiner at the sudder factory on opium sent in as good by the district officers, but found at the factory to contain *pussewa*.

2. I am to add, with reference to the last sentence of the Board's letter under acknowledgment, that the suggestion therein referred to was not made by Government, but by the opium agent of Benares in paragraph 4 of his letter No. 7-40, dated the 10th January 1887, enclosed in the Board's letter No. 76 B., dated the 22nd idem.

No. 1500-87 O., dated 7th May 1887.

From P. NOLAN, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Finance and Commerce.

In paragraph 56 of my letter No. 2600-130 O., dated 18th December 1886, in which the Lieutenant-Governor examined the proposals of the Opium Commission, it was stated that no case had been made out in the correspondence, so far as it had then gone, for introducing any change in the existing practice under which the supply of chests for the packing of opium in the two agencies is left in the hands of the Behar agent. I am now to submit copy of a letter No. 257 B., dated 25th March 1887, from the Board of Revenue, with enclosure, and to say that the more complete information therein furnished points to the same conclusion. The Board will be instructed to continue to give attention to the subject, which, in the Lieutenant-Governor's opinion, would form a suitable matter for inquiry during the annual tour of the member of the Board in charge of the Opium Department. As, however, the Benares agent doubts the suitability of *sâl* wood chests for the packing of the Benares provision opium, and as *sâl* chests are more expensive than mango wood chests, it seems to the Lieutenant-Governor to be unnecessary to press for introduction of *sâl* wood chests in the Benares Agency.

No. 257 B., dated 25th March 1887.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2728-139 O., dated 31st December 1886, calling for a report regarding the proposal of the Opium Commission to impose on the Behar agent the duty of providing chests for both agencies, and stating that, in view of the supply of mango wood in Behar decreasing, it seems very questionable whether the duty of providing the Ghazipore Agency with chests should be imposed on the Patna Agency; and in reply to report as follows.

2. In paragraph 44 of the Board's report on the administration of the Opium Department during the year 1880-81 it was stated that the despatches of provision opium of season 1880-81 from the Benares Agency were temporarily interrupted in consequence of the chest contractors having failed to supply a sufficient number of mango wood chests for packing the opium; that a very serious difficulty had only been avoided by the Behar agent being able to supply 10,000 chests at a short notice from the reserve of the Patna saw-mill; and that the whole question of the future supply of chests to both agencies was under the consideration of the Board. A full report on the subject was submitted to Government in the Board's letter No. 266½, dated 6th April 1882, and in it the Government was informed that it had been decided at a conference held by the agents that the Behar agent should alone go into the market for the mango wood chests required. Since 1882 the Behar agent alone has entered into contracts for the supply of mango wood chests required for both agencies, and the arrangement has been found to work well, no complaints having been received to the effect that the supply had fallen short during any year.

3. The Government order under acknowledgment was sent to both opium agents for any remarks they might wish to offer, and copies of their reports* are submitted herewith for the information of Government. From the Behar agent's report it will be seen that Mr. Kemble is of opinion that there is no reason to apprehend that the supply of mango wood in Behar is failing, but that for very many years yet there will be no difficulty in procuring an abundant supply of mango timber. On the other hand, the Benares agent reports (*vide* paragraph 10 of his letter) that it has been found impossible to obtain, in the North-Western Provinces, chests at the rate for which they can be procured in Behar, and that endeavours to obtain mango wood chests at a comparatively low rate have not been successful, it having been found that if the purchases of mango wood were limited to the North-Western Provinces, chests cannot be made at the same rate as they can be purchased at in Behar.

* Behar agent's No. 9 A., dated 16th February 1887.
Benares agent's No. 56-604, dated 3rd March 1887.

4. Under these circumstances the Board are of opinion that there is no advantage to be gained by altering the present arrangement under which the Behar agent undertakes the supply of the chests required for packing the Benares opium.

5. With regard to the proposal in paragraph 3 of Mr. Kemble's letter that in order to keep the saw-mills fully employed a certain number of *sâl* wood chests should be supplied to the Benares Agency, I am to observe that it will be seen that Mr. Rivett-Curnac is not in favour of packing the Benares provision opium in *sâl* wood chests. Should, however, the Government desire, the subject will be further considered, and the Benares agent directed to submit a full report on it.

No. 9 A., dated 16th February 1887.

From W. KEMBLE, Esq., Opium Agent of Behar, to the SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, Lower Provinces.

In reply to your No. 13 B., dated 10th January 1887, I have the honour to report that, in my opinion, and

that of Dr. Whitwell, sāl wood chests would not be found more unfitted for Benares than for Patna opium, or rather, I should say that, properly seasoned, they are equally well fitted for the produce of both agencies. Sāl is a much less sappy wood than mango. Under present arrangements all sāl timber is sawn into planks in our own yard, and there stacked till it is thoroughly well seasoned; whereas the mango trees are cut down, sawn up and made into chests at once by contractors in their own villages in the damp North Ganges districts. Dr. Whitwell finds from his experience in both agencies that mango wood chests lose far more weight in drying than those made of sāl wood; it is probable, therefore, that, if exposed to a damp atmosphere, they would imbibe more moisture and would be in all respects inferior to sāl.

2. It has often been reported that the supply of mango wood is failing to a serious extent in Behar. This, though the opinion of many officers of experience, is one in which I am unable to concur. No doubt it is scarce near the Ganges opposite Bankipore, in parts near Mozufferpore, and in a few other places; but speaking from what I have seen and heard from Europeans and natives during extended tours in these districts, I think that generally it is as good as ever—perhaps contractors may have to go further for their requirements; but in Chuprah Chumparun, in North Tirhoot, in Durbhungah, North Bhugulpore, Monghyr, and Purneah, there will be for very many years yet no difficulty in procuring abundant supply of mango timber. New plantations are being made, not in such numbers as I could wish, but still they are made; and I think no fears need be entertained of a failure of supply to the Opium Department. A few years ago this cry of scarcity of wood was raised, and the contractors increased their prices; they have now fallen again, and Dr. Whitwell reports that there is far greater fear of the sāl wood supply running short than that of mango wood.

3. In determining our future policy we must remember that new and expensive machinery has now been erected capable of turning out in nine months enough sāl wood boxes for one year's use of the Patna factory; to keep this machinery fully employed we ought to send a certain number of sāl wood chests to Benares, unless it be considered advisable to use the saw-mills for other work. The use of both mango and sāl wood chests is advantageous to us in keeping down prices. Were sāl wood only used, the price of that timber would go up immediately on the ground that the supply was failing, or that the Nepal Government had prohibited export, or "closed their forests," as it is called.

4. Provided that the Benares Agency undertake to use as many sāl wood chests as our mills can send them, I see no objection whatever to the agent making his own contract for the delivery at Ghazipore for so many mango wood chests as he may require. There is nothing whatever to be gained by having these chests landed and examined at the Patna factory, when the same work might be done once for all at Ghazipore. This is a matter for the Benares agent to decide. If it is thought that the present arrangement should continue, I have nothing to urge against it, except that it gives much extra trouble to Dr. Whitwell and the factory establishment, who have all for the last four years done this work excellently.

No. 56-604, dated 3rd March 1887.

From J. H. RIVETT-CARNAC, Esq., C.S., C.I.E., Benares Opium Agent, to the SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, Lower Provinces.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement, forwarding for report copy of a letter No. 2728-139 O., dated the 31st December last, and calling for report on chest supply of this agency.

2. The letter from the Government of Bengal raises, I understand, two chief questions, (1) whether sāl wood chests should be used for the packing of the provision of this agency; (2) assuming that the mango chests be adhered to for Benares opium, whether the arrangements to supply those chests be imposed on the Patna Agency.

3. In respect to the first question, the use of sāl wood chests in this agency, I understand this depends on (a)

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whether this class of wood is suited to our provisions and (b) whether the Patna Agency could supply our demand for such chests.

4. Benares opium has hitherto, save on exceptional occasions, been packed in mango wood, and this class of chest has been found to suit the Benares provision excellently. Without desiring to re-open the controversy, as to whether the damage to Benares opium arose from the use of sāl wood, it is undoubted that the opium packed in sāl did not fare so well as that packed in mango wood. And it is not impossible that as Benares opium contains more than 5 per cent. more of moisture than Patna opium, that special precautions in respect to the wood used for the chests of this agency may be necessary here, which are not essential for the comparatively dry Patna opium.

5. Mango wood chests are much cheaper than those made from sāl at the Patna Agency. Thus it is undesirable to use sāl wood chests here, unless some special reason exists, of which I have no information.

6. I am equally without information as to the capabilities of the Patna saw-mills. If it would be an advantage to them to supply this agency with sāl chests, a change in the class used here might be worthy of consideration. But the objections already noticed will have to be surmounted. My impression is that Patna cannot conveniently do much more than supply its own wants. But the saw-mills are a distinct advantage to this agency, as they leave the mango wood chests market free for our supply.

7. Next as regards the manner in which the contract for mango wood chests for this agency should be made. The Behar agent being close to the source of supply, and he and his people having great experience of the wood market, have great advantages, which the officers of this agency do not possess, and it was for this reason that, in the interests of Government, the arrangements which now exist, by which the Behar agent provides for the mango wood chest supply of this agency, were sanctioned.

8. The arrangement has worked well, and the interests of Government and of this agency have been well cared for and advanced under the supervision of the Behar authorities. If the burden imposed by this arrangement is found too heavy by the Behar agent, it would be only fair to reconsider it. But I gather from Mr. Kemble that this is not the case and that he does not object to the continuance of the plan by which the contracts are made at Patna.

9. I am altogether without detailed information, save that contained in the Behar agent's annual reports regarding the mango wood supply of Behar, and whether that province is being denuded of trees, so that it may be necessary to adopt some other wood for provision chests. On this subject the Behar agent, who marches through the Behar districts, must have full information. And for this reason, as already indicated, it is desirable that the mango chests supply should remain in his hands. The price paid does not suggest any greatly increased difficulty during past years in obtaining this class of chest in Behar.

10. On the other hand, it has been found impossible to obtain in these provinces chests at the same rate as obtainable in Behar. This is doubtless partly owing to the industry in Behar being of long standing, and having taken firm root; but the comparatively plentiful supply of both wood and of labour must, I think, have much to do with it. In these provinces endeavours have been made by me to obtain a supply of mango chests at a comparatively low rate, but the attempt has not been successful. Messrs. Burn & Co. put up steam machinery at Ghazipore, but found that if their purchases of mango wood were limited to the North-Western Provinces, they could not make chests at the rate at which they can be purchased in Behar. The superintendent at the Central Gaol at Naini undertook an experimental contract with this agency, but after making 400 chests has written that he cannot supply any more under Rs. 3 each. Efforts in other directions have hardly been more successful, and it suggests itself that, if the superintendent of the Great Central Gaol at Naini, with all the advantages possessed by that institution, cannot manufacture chests at a lower rate than Rs. 3 each, that private contractors cannot afford to do the work at a lower rate. It is thus, as matters now stand, cheaper and better to obtain our supply from

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Patna, unless the supply of wood is decreasing there, and there is danger of the supply of mango wood being exhausted.

11. In that case, and as already indicated, the Behar authorities are in the best position to report on the subject. It would be necessary, I apprehend, to pay at least Rs 3 per chest in the North-Western Provinces, the condition being that the wood should be the produce of these provinces. Not only is the industry comparatively new, and the wood supply inferior as compared with Behar, but there have been very heavy drains on it from the railways and great public works, which have been carried out and are being carried out in these provinces.

12. The price of mango wood has risen considerably of late years, and indigo planters and the manufacturers of shellac, whose requirements are infinitesimal, as compared with those of this factory, have assured me that the difficulty of obtaining chests for their produce has much increased of late years. My inquiries have been confined to the districts comparatively near Ghazipore, as to bring chests from any great distance would not be remunerative. The building of the Ganges Bridge, the great junction station at Mogul Sarai, near Benares, and the new lines of railway opened out in these districts, have undoubtedly affected the mango wood supply.

13. It seems to me, therefore, that it must depend on the information at the disposal of the Behar agent whether it is desirable that the arrangements that have worked so well in Behar for the supply of our chests should undergo any alteration.

No. 2166-120 O., dated 21st July 1887.

From P. NOLAN, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Finance and Commerce.

In continuation of paragraph 16 of my letter No. 2600-130 O., dated 18th December 1886, I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, copy of the correspondence noted on the margin,

Letter from the Board of Revenue, No. 479 B., dated 27th June 1887, with enclosures.

Letter to the Board of Revenue, No. 265-119 O., dated 21st July 1887.

from which it will be seen that the Lieutenant-Governor has approved the suggestion of the Board of Revenue that a conference should be held either at Patna or Ghazipore, at which the member of the Board in charge of the Opium Department should preside, and both the agents, with any experienced officer of the Department whom they may select, should attend, to discuss the question of placing on a legal footing the present practice of granting licenses for the cultivation of the poppy in the Behar and Benares Opium Agencies.

No. 479 B., dated 27th June 1887.

From K. G. GUPTA, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

I AM desired by the Board of Revenue to refer for the orders of Government the following questions regarding the practice at present prevailing both in the Behar and Benares Opium Agencies of granting licenses for the cultivation of the poppy, not to the actual cultivators, but to middlemen or representative ryots.

2. The facts of the cases which give rise to this reference are stated in detail in the Board's No. 638 B., dated 17th May 1887, to the Solicitor to Government, copy of which is annexed. Briefly stated, the point at issue is this. Section 8 of the Opium Act (XIII. of 1857) provides that licenses shall be issued to cultivators who may choose to cultivate the poppy, and that counterpart engagements shall be taken from them. It is, however, the practice in both agencies not to issue licenses to individual cultivators direct or to take counterpart agreements from them. The licenses are issued to, and engagements taken, from one man, called in Benares a *lumberdar*, in Behar *khattadar*, who engages to cultivate a certain area, and subsequently divides this area between a number of actual cultivators or *shikmi ryots*. The advances also are made to the

middlemen, and by them distributed among the cultivators. The systems are fully explained in Part II., Chapter V. (sections 248-265) of the Opium Commission's Report.

3. Cases occurred in the Behar Agency in which cultivators failed to grow poppy after receiving (through the *khattadars*) advances from Government for that purpose, and on their being sent up for trial under section 10 of the Act the Collector of Mozufferpore refused to punish them on the ground that engagements had not been entered into directly with them or counterparts taken from them as contemplated by section 8 of the Act. They could not therefore be held to be regarded as being under engagements to Government.

4. Similarly in the Benares Agency a cultivator was prosecuted before the Magistrate of Basti, under section 19, for illegally disposing of the opium supposed to have been produced by him. The Magistrate refused to convict on the same grounds as those taken by the Collector of Mozufferpore, viz., that no engagement had been executed by the cultivator. The Collector and the Legal Remembrancer of the North-Western Provinces held the same view.

5. On these facts being reported, the Board consulted the Advocate-General, whose opinion is appended to this letter. Although, as will be seen from paragraph 8 of the Board's letter to the Government Solicitor, the actual systems differ in some particulars in the two agencies, yet the principle in both is the same, namely, that the engagements are not made with the actual cultivators but with a middleman or representative, and the systems are, in the opinion of the Advocate-General, with whom the Board entirely agree, not in accordance with the provisions of the law.

6. Anticipating that this would be the opinion of the Advocate-General the Board in paragraph 9 of their letter reproduced the suggestion originally made by the magistrate of Basti, that perhaps lumberdars and khattadars might be brought within the scope of section 8 by being regarded as "other officers entrusted with the superintendence of the cultivation." The suggestion was not very clearly put in the Board's letter, and the Advocate-General merely states his opinion that the lumberdars and khattadars are not included within the expression quoted from section 8. Whether it is in the power of Government to invest them with powers under that section is quite another question, regarding which no opinion is given.

7. It may perhaps be thought that cases in which it is necessary to prosecute under the penal sections of the Act are of such rare occurrence that no great harm is likely to result from leaving matters as they stand, and that it is not desirable to open up so important a question at the present time. Apart, however, from the obvious impropriety of continuing a system, the illegality of which has been so prominently brought to notice, there is the risk that the failure of the prosecutions in the cases mentioned may become generally known, and cultivators may be emboldened to disregard the engagements made on their behalf from the knowledge that they can do so with impunity. The difficulty in the way of the sub-deputy agents and their assistant personally issuing licenses direct to each cultivator consists in the immense number of men each officer would have to deal with. It would be impossible to carry out such a system without very largely increasing the staff of officers. This step would probably be impracticable, not only for general financial reasons but for the special reason that the selling price of opium shows a tendency steadily to decline, in consequence of the increase in the growth of the poppy in China, and the unfavourable effect on the trade in the Indian drug, resulting from the new opium agreement with the Chinese Government. On this point a reference is requested to Board's No. 794 B., dated 16th September 1886.

8. On the other hand it is very doubtful whether the lumberdars or khattadars could be safely trusted to issue licenses under section 8, even if it should be held to be legal to invest them with such powers. They are not men of any social standing or respectability, being in many cases mere ordinary ryots like the rest of the cultivators. To entrust to them such extensive powers as are conveyed by sections 8 and 9 would probably lead to serious complications. It would also in most cases be difficult to assemble all the cultivators of one khatta or of one village in order that they might sign their names or make their mark upon a joint license in which all

their names were entered, and on a joint counterpart similarly prepared, because it appears that in many, if not most cases, the khattadar first comes to the opium officer and arranges for a lump area, and then goes and divides it between the *assamees* or actual cultivators. The ultimate decision of how much land is to be given for poppy by each cultivator is not arrived at till after considerable haggling, and wrangling, and the officers of Government could not possibly spare time to sit out these endless discussions.

9. The document called a "miniature license" in use in the Benares Agency is intended to serve in some sort as a direct engagement with the actual cultivator, but from the copy annexed it will be seen that it is, as the Magistrate of Basti remarks, a mere memorandum conveying no permission on the part of Government to the ryot to cultivate, nor any undertaking on the part of the ryot to deliver the opium produced. It would not be accepted as such by either the collector or the criminal courts.

10. It seems advisable to treat this important and difficult question separately from the other points raised in the Opium Commission's report, because although in paragraph 647 of their report the Commission point out that the present systems are not in accordance with the law, yet the remedy they propose is in the opinion of the Board quite inadequate. The Commission's proposal is based upon the assumption that Act XIII. of 1857 will be repealed. But this step would be somewhat injudicious at the present time, as it would render the passing of a new Act necessary, and would thus afford opportunities for raising a variety of questions as to the whole working of the Government Opium Department. But whether the Act be repealed or not, the proposal of the Commission in paragraph 649, that such cultivators as cannot attend personally to receive licenses and advances should be represented by an attorney is one which seems to the Board quite impracticable. The remarks in paragraphs 16, 17, and 22 of Board's No. 173 B., dated 5th March 1885, though directly referring to other matters, show how great would be the difficulty of introducing the system of dealing direct with cultivators, and how deeply rooted the present khattadari system is in Behar. The plan of supplying printed forms of powers of attorney would probably not be understood by the ryots, and if the forms were used at all they would probably all be executed in favour of the khattadar, thus perpetuating the present system. In fact in the footnote to section 649 the Commission express this opinion, though seemingly they fail to see that their proposal would only secure a nominal or apparent legality, while leaving the abuses of the khattadari system virtually untouched.

11. The only suggestion which it occurs to the Board to make is that a conference should be held either at Patna or Ghazipore, at which the member of the Board in charge of the Opium Department should preside, and both the agents, with any experienced officer of the Department whom they might select, should attend

The whole question might then be thoroughly discussed, and probably some practical conclusions arrived at.

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Bengal.

Dated 30th May 1887.

Opinion by Honourable G. C. PAUL, Advocate-General.

The preamble of Act XIII. of 1857 recites that the law relating to the cultivation of the poppy in force to the time of introduction of the Act is in some respects inconsistent with the practice obtaining with regard to agreements between opium agents and cultivators, and it declares that it is expedient that such inconsistency should be removed.

Section 8 provides that the sub-deputy agents or other officers entrusted with the superintendence of the cultivation shall, at the proper period of the year, issue licenses to the cultivators who may choose to cultivate the poppy, and to deliver the produce to the officers or Government at the established rates; and the section further requires that a counterpart engagement in conformity with the tenor of the license shall be taken from the cultivator. Having regard to the intention of the Legislature as expressed in the preamble, and also to the words of the section itself, I am of opinion that the section is imperative and not directory.

The practice is to be made consistent with the terms of the law, and the method of entering into engagements is then expressly provided in section 8.

Section 9 clearly contemplates that the sub-deputy agent or the officer, covenanted or uncovenanted, whom Government may from time to time entrust with the superintendence of the cultivation, shall deal personally with each cultivator and exercise a discretion in the case of each with regard to granting or withholding a license. Section 8 requires a counterpart engagement to be taken from the cultivator clearly with the view of binding him by a specific undertaking, and thereby bringing him within the operation of the penal sections of the Act. I am of opinion that the words "any cultivator" in section 10 must be taken to mean "any cultivator duly licensed under the Act."

In section 19 the expression used is "any cultivator entering into engagements for the cultivation of the poppy on account of Government," the engagements entered into being those expressed in the counterpart engagement, in conformity with the terms of the license referred to in section 8.

I am of opinion that the systems in operation in the Behar and Benares Agencies are not such as to comply with the requirements of the Act, nor such as to bring the cultivator within the operation of the penal sections. I am further of opinion that the lumberdars and khatadars are not included in the expression "other officers entrusted with the superintendence of the cultivation" in section 8.

MINIATURE LICENSE (D).

[illegible]

Date _____

Mukirri.

Assistant.

APP. I.

No. 638 B., dated 17th May 1887.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SOLICITOR TO GOVERNMENT.

I AM directed by the Board of Revenue to request that you will be good enough to obtain the opinion of the Advocate-General on the following cases which were instituted in the Behar and Benares Opium Agencies, respectively, under sections 10 and 19 of Act XIII. of 1857, in which questions have been raised respecting the legality of the engagements made on behalf of Government with the opium cultivators.

2. In certain cases in which cultivators in the Behar Agency had been sent up for punishment under section 10, Act XIII. of 1857, for failure to cultivate poppy after receipt of advances from Government for that purpose, the officer trying the cases recorded an order that, unless separate agreements (kabulyats) executed by the cultivators were produced, they could not be punished. Mr. Kemble, the Behar opium agent, directed the sub-deputy opium agent to see the officer "trying the cases," and to "explain to him the procedure in the "Opium Department of taking written agreements from "the khattadars or middlemen only." He added that "to show that the cultivators were parties to the contract, it may be necessary to call the khattadars to "prove that they gave advances to them." Thereupon the sub-deputy opium agent wrote to the collector, explaining the procedure under which cultivators arrange to cultivate poppy. Mr. Norman, the collector, replied that the cultivators who had been prosecuted under section 10, Act XIII. of 1857, had not been licensed under that Act, and he entertained grave doubts of the legality of convicting them under the circumstances. He added:—"It seems to me that it is clear that the "provisions of section 10 apply only to cultivators "licensed under the provisions of the two preceding "sections, but you admit that the requirements of section "8 have not been carried out, inasmuch as no counter- "part engagements were taken from the cultivators in "question. Moreover, there is nothing before me to show "that these cultivators in any way agreed to or authorised "the khattadars signing a counterpart on their behalf." When a copy of the collector's letter reached the agent, he wrote to Mr. Norman and inquired whether he meant that the licenses granted to khattadars, in which are included the names of cultivators *licensed thereby* to grow poppy, and the khattadars' agreements or counterparts of the licenses are not in themselves sufficient proof that the cultivators named in the license agreed to cultivate poppy, or whether he meant that even when the Opium Department proves that a cultivator has cultivated poppy in previous years and that such cultivator has again for the current year *accepted advances to cultivate poppy*, he, the collector, would still decline to punish the cultivator if he failed to cultivate, simply because such cultivator had not received a separate license and executed a separate agreement. In reply, Mr. Norman wrote as follows:—"Section 10 "of Act XIII. of 1857 appears to authorise the imposition "of penalties upon cultivators licensed in accordance "with the provisions of the Act, who have received "advances from Government. Section 8 appears to con- "template the issue of a license to *each* cultivator and the "taking of a counterpart from him. In the cases in "question it seems that the cultivators had not received "licenses, nor given counterpart engagements. All that "was shown was that licenses were granted to middle- "men known as khattadars, and that counterpart en- "gagements were taken from such middlemen; it was "not even shown that the cultivators had authorised or "agreed to the middlemen entering into contracts on "their behalf."

3. The opium agent of Behar was of opinion that the general license given to several cultivators, in which the name of each and the area of land to be cultivated by each are mentioned, is sufficient, and that the fact that a cultivator has not given a separate agreement should not be held to be a bar to his punishment under section 10. All the deputy agent (collector) has to do, in the agent's opinion, is to satisfy himself that the culti- vator sent up for punishment has actually accepted an advance of a certain sum; and as the advance is always cultivated on the area to be cultivated, it is easy to see for what area the advance has been given. If the deputy agent is not satisfied that the cultivator in question has received an advance, he should either send back the papers to the sub-deputy opium agent for further inquiry, or he should call for further evidence himself.

The agent stated that it is the practice for khattadars when distributing the advances to the several culti- vators, to draw out what is called a butwara paper (copy sent herewith), which shows the names of the several cultivators in his khatta, the area of land they agree to cultivate with poppy, and the amount of advance given; and each cultivator signs or puts his marks to the entries opposite his name, and such marks or signatures are attested. The production of these papers, and if necessary, of witnesses, should, the agent was of opinion, suffice to satisfy a deputy opium agent, if he does not accept the report alone of his sub-deputy opium agent. When the case came before them, the Board observed that it was desirable that Mr. Norman should remember that he was dealing with these cases as deputy opium agent and that it was for him to support the action of the opium officers unless they are manifestly wrong; as the action of the sub-deputy opium agent in sending up the cases for punishment of the defaulting cultivators was, it seemed to the Board, in accordance with the law, it was not open to Mr. Norman, in his position as deputy opium agent, determining the penalty in the cases to raise, as if he were a judicial officer, a question affecting the long-established system of the opium cultivation. The Board said that in rais- ing the objections Mr. Norman had overlooked the provision made in section VIII. of Act XIII. of 1857 that the license "shall be in such form as the agent, with "the sanction of the Board of Revenue, may direct," and that the counterpart engagement shall be "in con- "formity with the tenor of the license." It was pointed out that the form of the engagements on both sides has for years been determined under the approval of the Board for carrying on the special system of cultivation of opium obtaining in the Behar Opium Agency; and the collector and agent were informed that, in the opinion of the Board, it is sufficient for the deputy opium agent to see that the cultivator's name was duly entered in the khatta with the area to be cul- tivated by him, and that the advance was duly made to the khattadar. The butwara papers, it was said, should be filed in each case and the mark of each cultivator, attested by witnesses, should be produced before the deputy opium agent, and that there is no occasion whatever for a judicial trial in each case, but if a trial is held it must be by the collector himself as deputy opium agent.

4. The above correspondence took place six months ago, and nothing more has been heard of the question in the Behar Agency. But a very similar reference has now come up from the Benares Agency, necessitating a further examination of the point. The facts are as follows. One Badal Chamar of Basti engaged through his lumberdar in the usual way took an advance of Re. 1 and sowed eight biswas of land with poppy. No portion of the produce was, however, delivered to Government, and the man was consequently prosecuted, under section 19 of the Opium Act for illegally disposing of the drug.

5. The "usual way" referred to above is as follows:—A license is given to the lumberdar only, and he alone executes a "kabulyat." The names of the culti- vators engaging are not entered until the measurements. The cultivators receive at the measurements what is called a miniature license. This procedure (since amended by the miniature license) has been in vogue in both agencies for a long period, and has not been called into question until recently.

6. The joint magistrate who tried the case held, and the collector agreed with him, that the present system of issuing licenses is only binding on the lumberdar, and that the sub-cultivators cannot be prosecuted for its breach as the Opium Department hold no counter- part agreement. He accordingly acquitted the accused. Considering the great importance of the case, the decision was referred to the Legal Remembrancer, North-Western Provinces, for his opinion.

That officer, whilst allowing that the law does not require that the defendant should have filed an agree- ment in the Opium Department, proceeded to say that no person can be punished under section 19, Act XIII., until the Department can prove that he has entered into an engagement for the cultivation of poppy on account of Government. This he thought, cannot be done under the existing system. The only persons who can be touched he held are the lumberdars.

The law only enacts that licenses should be given to cultivators and counterparts taken from them. No form is prescribed in it, this matter being left in the hands of the Board of Revenue, *vide* section 8, Act XIII. of 1857;

and in accordance with the powers so vested in them, the Board directed the issue of a general license to "khattadars" or "lumberdars," covering a certain area which they, and their sub-ryots through them, agree to cultivate. The Board have also issued rules directing sub-deputy agents and gomashas to make such engagements and to pay over the advances to such middlemen, *vide* sections 14 to 16, pages 21 and 22 (sub-deputy agent's duties), and 11 to 15, pages 32 and 33 (gomasha's duties) of the manual sent herewith. This procedure, moreover, has been in force for very many years, and it was not unfairly assumed that custom had given it nearly the force of law. It may therefore be fairly assumed that the onus of proving ignorance of his liabilities should rest on the cultivator and not on the Department. It cannot fairly be contended that any cultivator nowadays can possibly be ignorant of the fact that he is by law required to deliver to the Opium Department the produce of his field. It may also fairly be contended that the lumberdar is only a channel of communication between the Department and his ryots, and receives money from the Department on trust for the latter. The fact of the ryot taking an advance from a lumberdar should therefore be *prima facie* proof that he has engaged to cultivate for the Department, and that it is the cultivator's duty to acquaint himself with the terms on which he is to cultivate, and that the fact of his ignorance should not bar his liability.

7. The opium agent subsequently instituted proceedings under section 9, clause (g) of Act I. of 1878, against Badal Chamar; but in this instance also the case was dismissed, the following judgment being given by the magistrate of Basti, who tried the case:—

"Badal Chamar was prosecuted last year under section 19 of Act XIII. of 1857 for making away with the produce of eight biswas of poppy crop, and was discharged by Mr. Reynolds, officiating joint magistrate, on 13th September 1886, because the inquiry showed that the accused was not a cultivator under agreement with the Opium Department, and that consequently Act XIII. of 1857 did not apply to the case.

"I submitted the papers in the case to the opium agent with my letter No. 1856—V-58, dated 17th September 1886. The opium agent consulted the Legal Remembrancer, who agreed with the interpretation put on the law by Mr. Reynolds and myself, and by memorandum, dated 11th February 1887, the opium agent requested the sub-deputy opium agent to prosecute Badal Chamar a second time under clause (g) of section 9 of Act I. of 1878. The Legal Remembrancer's opinion is not on the file, but I understand that this second prosecution has been undertaken on his advice.

"It is unfortunate that it should be, for clause (g) of section 9, Act I. of 1878, utterly inapplicable to the case. That clause renders penal an omission to warehouse opium, and it is desirable to obtain a conviction against Badal for not warehousing his opium, because he did not bring it or cause it to be brought to the Basti opium godown.

"But the warehouse referred to in clause (g) of section 9, Act I. of 1878, is not the Basti opium godown, nor any such place. It is the warehouse referred to in sections 7 and 8 of the same Act, and means a frontier warehouse established under orders of Government for the receipt of opium from foreign territory.

"Badal Chamar must therefore be again discharged, and the court hereby orders his discharge.

"These observations dispose of the case before me, and there can be no doubt that the law is as I have interpreted it. It seems, however, desirable to add a few remarks in order to invite the attention of the Opium Department to the urgent need for reform in its procedure.

"The opium agent is mistaken in saying that Badal escaped in the first instance, owing to a flaw in the law. There is no flaw in the law; the flaw is in the procedure of the Opium Department which ignores the law. Act XIII. of 1857 amply provides for the due delivery of opium by licensed cultivators but the cultivators must first be licensed. The practice of the Opium Department is not to license the cultivators but to grant licenses to certain headmen who sublet the lands included in the license. Thus in this case the headman (lumberdar) Dalthuan Lal has consented to cultivate 63 bighas of poppy and to deliver its produce to the Opium Department. Inasmuch as he failed to deliver the produce of Badal's eight biswas, he might probably have been legally, though not equitably, convicted under section 19 of Act XIII. of 1857.

"Badal was under no contract whatever with Government and was under no obligation whatever to deliver the opium produced by his crop. His legal position was that of a person cultivating without a license, and the opium produced in his field was legally though not equitably liable to confiscation, except the very small area given in by lumberdars themselves, the entire opium cultivation in this district illicit. I believe the case is the same throughout the provinces.

"Act XIII. of 1857 is drawn on the supposition that the cultivators enter into engagements with the Opium Department, that is to say, that each cultivator receives a written license, and accepts its terms by a written kabulyat or counterpart. No formal license is given at present to any cultivator except the lumberdar.

"The so-called miniature license recently introduced is a memorandum, not a license, and no counterpart of any sort is taken from the cultivators.

"It is perfectly easy for the Opium Department to make its procedure accord with the law. An obvious method of doing so is to empower lumberdars as 'officers entrusted with the superintendence of the 'cultivations' to issue licenses under section 8 of Act XIII. of 1857.

"Act XIII. of 1857 is the law applicable to cases like Badal's, and there is no use in attempting to strain Act I. of 1878, so as to cover them, which it cannot do."

8. The systems under which settlements and advances are made in the Behar and Benares Agencies differ slightly. In Behar the advances are given to the khattadar, but the license is not a license to the khattadar alone. It gives permission to him and the assamees of his khatta to sow poppy, and produce opium over a certain defined area, and the names of all the assamees, and the area to be cultivated by each of them, are entered in both the license and the kabulyat. The documents are, however, executed by the khattadar alone, and the assamees are not even present. In Benares the license is granted to the lumberdar, the column which shows the cultivator's names and the area cultivated by each being left blank. This information is filled in at the time of measurements by the measuring officer, and the document known as the miniature license is given to each cultivator. The first advances are made in September each year, and the measurements take place in November and December. A list of the enclosures forwarded is appended to this letter. Their return with your reply is requested.

9. The question on which the Board wish to be favoured with the opinion of the Advocate-General is whether these licenses are sufficient to enable the departmental officers to secure the punishment of the cultivators of the poppy in the event of their committing the offences described in sections 10 and 19 of Act XIII. of 1857, and, if not, whether the lumberdars and khattadars can be held to be included in the expression in section 8, "other officers entrusted with the superintendence of the cultivation?"

No. 2165-119 O., dated 1st July 1878.

From P. NOLAN, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, Miscellaneous Revenue Department.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 479 B., dated 27th June 1887, with enclosures, and in reply to refer the Board to the enclosed extract (paragraph 16) from letter No. 2600-130 O., dated 18th December 1886, addressed by this Government to the Government of India in which an opinion was expressed identical with that now communicated by the Board, that an effort should be made to place on a legal footing the present system of granting licenses for the cultivation of the poppy, but that any radical change would be inexpedient. The Lieutenant-Governor approves the Board's suggestion that a conference should be held either at Patna or Ghazipore, at which the member of the Board in charge of the Opium Department should preside, and both the agents, with any experienced officer of the Department whom they may select, should attend to discuss the matter. Sir Stuart Bayley thinks that it may not be impossible to bring the present practice into accordance with the law, and he would be glad to receive advice from the conference in this direction.

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No. 2793-153 O., dated 8th September 1887.

From W. C. MACPHERSON, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Finance and Commerce.

IN continuation of paragraph 59 of Mr. Nolan's letter No. 2600-130 O., dated 18th December 1886, I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, copy of the correspondence noted on the margin, on the subject of the recommendations of the Opium Commission contained in Chapter IX., Part III. of their report, regarding the opium laws and their administration.

To facilitate reference, the correspondence with the Government of India on the subjects named in paragraphs 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8 of my letter to the Board of Revenue of this date is indicated below.

Paragraph 3.—*Vide* correspondence submitted with my endorsement No. 713-36 O., dated 5th March 1887.

Paragraph 4.—*Vide* paragraph 32 of Mr. Nolan's letter No. 2600-130 O., dated 18th December 1886, and Mr. Nolan's letter No. 2166-120 O., dated 21st July 1887.

Paragraph 6.—*Vide* correspondence submitted with Mr. Risley's endorsement No. 1449-114 O., dated 27th July 1885, and Mr. Harbour's demi-official note dated 27th August 1885.

Paragraph 7.—*Vide* paragraph 31 of Mr. MacDonnell's letter, No. 980 T. R., dated 28th June 1884, and paragraph 15 of Mr. Nolan's letter dated 18th December 1886.

Paragraph 8.—*Vide* paragraphs 20 and 23 of Mr. Nolan's letter of 18th December 1886.

No. 537 B., dated 14th July 1887.

From K. G. GUPTA, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the BOARD OF REVENUE, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Revenue Department.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of Government order No. 2718-136 O., dated 31st December last, requesting that the Board's report on the recommendations of the Opium Commission contained in Chapter IX. of Part III. of their report regarding the opium laws and their administration may be submitted, and to report as follows:—

2. The proposals in paragraph 773 of the Opium Commission's report contemplate the repeal and re-enactment of Act XIII. of 1857. The proposals relating to the appointment of a Director-General having been negatived by the Secretary of State, the Board are of opinion that nothing need be said about that or the subsidiary proposals based upon the assumption that such an appointment will be created.

3. With regard to the repeal and re-enactment of Act XIII. of 1857, I am to state that the Benares agent is in favour of the measure, but the Behar agent with a keener sense of the difficulties that attend legislation in the present day, considers that it would be impolitic to pass an entirely new Act—a step which would probably "bring up the whole question of a Government monopoly," and give rise to hostile criticism regarding the grant of special powers to departmental officers. In order to judge whether the improvements which fresh legislation would introduce are of sufficient importance and urgency to justify Government in having recourse to legislation, it will be advisable first to examine the changes in the law recommended by the Opium Commission and discussed by the agents in their reports now before the Board. These are as follows:—

(1.) That the collector should cease to be *ex officio* deputy opium agent and the present "sub-deputy opium agents" and "assistant sub-deputy opium agents," should be styled "deputy agents" and "assistant agents" respectively. The Behar agent has expressed no opinion on this point, but the Benares agent is strongly opposed to the elimination of the collector. It is true, he remarks, that the collectors are very seldom called on to interfere, but it is at times necessary to ask for their assistance, and on such occasions much advantage to the Department results. The retention of the collector as deputy agent does not

take up much of his time, but adds considerably to the prestige of the Department, as the official head of the district administration naturally exercises far more power, and his orders carry far more weight than those of a departmental officer. The advantage of having less clumsy titles for some of the officers of the Department would be too dearly purchased by the loss of the collector's support. It is true that, even when no longer deputy agent, the collector would of course support and assist the officers of the Opium Department, as he would those of any other Government Department; but he would have to do so from outside as it were, and relying on his general powers, which, especially in the Lower Provinces, are more liable to be questioned by the public in these times than formerly. His power of intervention when called for would be much more effectually exercised, and its legality far less liable to be questioned, if he remained an officer of the Department. Under the provisions of section 3 of Act XIII. of 1857, it is at any time within the power of Government to declare that a collector shall not be deputy agent, and to appoint an officer of the Opium Department to such post, so that if thought advisable the experiment of eliminating the collector from the Department might be tried without having recourse to legislation.

4. The second recommendation of the Opium Commission is that the provision in section 10, imposing a penalty for not cultivating, should be replaced by one making provision for the recovery as well as imposition of the penalty. In paragraph 650 of their report the Commission recommend that such cases should be tried by a magistrate, as in section 3 of the Opium Act of 1878, in which case there would be no difficulty about recovery of the penalty. Both the agents agree in this view. The Behar agent points out that under the present law if the penalty be not paid the collector can only apply to the magistrate, who can confine the defaulter in the civil gaol under section 27—a process which brings him no nearer to payment than before. He adds "such penalties are practically irrecoverable " if the defaulters do not continue to grow poppy."

5. The third recommendation is that the exemption of opium under section 11 of the Act from distraint by a landlord, or attachment by a creditor, should be retained. This evidently does not require fresh legislation. But the agents both point out that, as the Act stands, there is nothing to prevent a zemindar or creditor attaching the poppy plant while growing, and thus preventing the ryot from lancing the poppy heads and drawing off the opium. Neither of the opium agents states that any cases of the kind have ever occurred, but the Benares agent says that he has been told that it has been held (he does not say by what court or authority), that such attachment is not illegal. He considers the apprehension of such occurrences as not a very real one, and in this view the Board concur, for it is difficult to see what a zemindar would gain by attaching a crop from which neither he nor anyone who might purchase it could make any profit, while if he allowed the cultivator to extract the opium and deliver it he might attach the sum due to him for it in the hands of the sub-deputy opium agent. This suggestion, I am to state, seems to the Board rather fanciful. Had there been any real difficulty in this point, it would not have escaped the notice of the Opium Commission.

6. The next recommendation is that in section 16 of the Act, balances should be made recoverable as arrears of land revenue; but no process should be issued without the authority of the agent. Both agents agree with this; but the Behar agent observes that practically balances are recovered from the next advances which, as the cultivation of opium is generally conducted by the same men from year to year, and by their sons and successors after them, affords a sufficient protection to the department from loss.

7. The fifth recommendation is that the penalty imposed by section 18 should be increased to ten times the amount of the excess and a cheap and speedy method of adjudication should be adopted. This question has recently been before Government on a reference from the Behar agent, and in Mr. Risley's letter No. 1448-113 O., dated 27th July 1885, the Lieutenant-Governor expressed his opinion that, "the new Tenancy Act " provides adequate security to the ryot in Behar, both "against excessive demands and illegal exactions." No further legislation on this subject is therefore necessary. The next recommendation that no prosecution under section 19 of the Act shall be permitted,

except at the instance of an officer of the Department, also does not call for legislation as it is already practically enforced by executive order.

8. The seventh recommendation of the Commission is that sections 24 and 25 of the Act need not be retained. The Benares agent is opposed to the repeal of these sections, and in Behar they are said to be a dead letter. Under the circumstances, there seems to the Board no necessity for any action in regard to these sections. The last recommendation, that the provisions of section 29, regarding imprisonment in the civil gaol, should not be extended to persons illegally purchasing opium from a cultivator is, the Board consider, a point which may be left to be dealt with by executive action.

9. From the above it will be seen that, out of the eight amendments in the law proposed by the Commission none, with perhaps the exception of No. 2, is such as to call for legislation. And even in regard to No. 2 there is much reason for doubt whether the difficulty is really serious. Before an opinion could be given on this point, it would be necessary to ascertain from both agents in how many cases the Department had suffered loss from the imperfect state of the law. It must be borne in mind that in their reports both the agents were answering the question "if the Act is to be repealed and re-enacted, what amendments or improvements can you suggest?" and not the question "do you really suffer from the imperfections of the present law, and are you unable to get on without fresh legislation?" If the question had been put in the latter form, probably the answers might have been different. On the whole the Board are not of opinion that the defects of the present law are such as to call for legislation, and this portion of the Commission's proposals may, they think, be allowed to stand over for the present.

10. In paragraph 774 of their report the Opium Commission say that there is reason to believe that the provisions of sections 14 and 15 of Act I. of 1878 have been seriously abused, especially in some of the districts of Behar. But this abuse, they were of opinion, could be remedied by an amendment of the rules, or by an executive order of Government without any alteration of the substantive law. They recommended that the powers of search, arrest, and seizure given by the sections referred to should be retained, but orders should be passed to prohibit any officer of excise or police from putting the provisions of these sections in force against licensed cultivators of the poppy, except under the instructions, or in the presence of such officers of the Opium Department as may be authorised on that behalf. With regard to this recommendation, I am to invite a reference to the Board's letter No. 668 B., dated 5th August 1886, in paragraph 5 of which it was suggested that the police subordinates should refrain from arresting any poppy cultivator found in possession of contraband opium, but take his personal recognizance (unless the quantity of opium was considerable, in which case the accused should be required to find bail), and that the recognizance and bail should be for the appearance of the accused, at not any given date, but whenever he might be summoned by the magistrate; that the police officer should then submit his report in the case to the district superintendent, who should forward it to the sub-deputy opium agent for his opinion as to whether a prosecution should be instituted or not, and dispose of the case in accordance with the decision of the sub-deputy opium agent on this point. This procedure was approved in Government order No. 1324 T. R., dated the 7th October 1886, with the reservation that the police should retain the power of sending up to the magistrate for trial at once very important or urgent cases. It was said that the Inspector-General of Police would be asked to issue the necessary instructions, and that the matter would be brought to the notice of the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, with a view to the issue of similar instructions as regards the districts of the Benares Agency. From the enclosure of Government order No. 711-54 O., dated 5th March 1887, it appears, however, that the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh are averse to the introduction of the procedure into those provinces. I am to state that the Board consider that no further action in this matter is required at present.

11. In paragraph 776 of their report the Commission mention the six objects aimed at by the opium law, and in paragraph 777, they state the measures taken by the executive to attain those objects. Of the six, two, they considered in paragraph 778, are successfully attained,

viz., the maintenance of the free agency of the ryot and suppression of adulteration. Only partially attained, and that by injudicious measures are two other objects; the cultivation of the area stipulated for and repression of unlicensed cultivation. With regard to the former the Commission remark that failure to cultivate is seldom the fault of the ryot or lumberdar. It is often the fault of the settling officer. The Behar agent cannot concur with this view. Mr. Kemble writes:—

"The great evil I have to contend against is what is known in the Department as paper or dummy cultivation, that is, taking an advance and making a mere pretence to sow. It is only to enable officers to cope with this that, I think, some additional powers should be given to deputy agents or collectors under the law. I ask for no special powers for sub-deputies. No doubt much may be done, and I flatter myself has been done to stop this practice by improved administration, but some means for imposing and enforcing penalties for continued neglect of orders is much wanted.

12. This point has been considered under head (2) (in paragraph 4 above) of the Commission's suggestions for the amendment of the Act. Mr. Kemble, in the extract from his letter given above, asks that additional powers be given to collectors as deputy agents, though in his remarks, quoted in paragraph 4 of this letter, he has shown that penalties for not cultivating are usually recovered from the next advances. The defects in the license have formed the subject of a separate correspondence in the Board's letter No. 479 B., dated 27th June 1887, and the Board are of opinion that it would be better to discuss this question simultaneously with that regarding licenses as suggested in paragraph 11 of the letter referred to as the information supplied by the agents is not sufficient to enable the Board to judge of the extent of the evil or of the best measures for repressing it.

13. Regarding unlicensed cultivation the Behar agent remarks that it is unknown in his agency and measurements of lands by revenue officers are not made. Mr. Kemble thinks they would lead to oppression. The Benares agent remarks as follows:—

"Some years ago the measurement of opium lands by the Revenue Department was advocated by me but negatived by the Board. The arguments in favour of the scheme were, that the Revenue Department has a large and competent staff in every part of the district, trained to the work and provided with village maps, and that this staff for revenue purposes measures all the fields. Also that the measurement by an independent department would be a salutary check. I am, however, quite with the Commission in the view that the double measurement is undesirable, provided that the departmental measurement is properly performed. For undoubtedly the cultivator is put to inconvenience even if he escapes exactions by the double arrangement. I am doubtful, however, whether the revenue authorities in these provinces would forego the existing procedure. For no crop measurement for statistical purposes would be complete which omitted poppy lands. If the two departments would work together in the matter the result might be good, and this could only be attained by the opium officer being recognised as part of the district machinery. As matters now stand, the "putwaris" and others will not be at the beck and call of an opium officer. And the idea of opium assistant, village map in hand, ticking off the fields, though excellent in theory, is almost impossible in practice. With some experience in settlement work I have put the idea into practice, and although strongly prejudiced in favour of a system which I myself suggested I have been obliged to recognise that with our present staff the work cannot be done *ad unguem*. With a European assistant and kothee staff in each purgunah, or with a few hundred bighas of cultivation, such as an indigo assistant would have, the work could be done. But it must always be remembered, when dealing with suggestions for the improvement of the work, that our staff, roughly speaking, means one assistant, with a gomashtha and three mohurirs, and a certain number of zillahdars to a whole revenue district with perhaps from 15,000 to 20,000 bighas of cultivation. That the result is not much less satisfactory than it now is, is to me a marvel. I cannot certainly be debited with having failed to urge this over and over again. And the report of the Commission has most strongly supported my continuous representations."

There seems to be a general consensus of opinion that the measurement of poppy lands by officers of the Revenue Department is harassing and vexatious, and as

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there seems no reason to suspect unlicensed cultivation, the Board are disposed to recommend that it should be discontinued. There is, however, this difficulty, if the Board rightly understand Mr. Rivett-Carnac's statement that he is doubtful whether the revenue authorities in the North-Western Provinces would forego the existing procedure. If it be the case, as seems to be implied by the wording of the next sentence, that in the North-Western Provinces all lands under crop are measured for statistical purposes, the ryots of those provinces would feel it no greater hardship to have their poppy lands measured than their wheat or rice lands. The Board are of opinion that before finally deciding on this point it would be advisable to consult the Government of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

14. Of the two remaining objects which in the opinion of the Opium Commission (*vide* paragraphs 780 and 781 of their report) are not attained at all, the first is the protection of the ryot from illegal exactions. With regard to this it has already been pointed out in paragraph 7 above that, as regards the Behar Agency, the Tenancy Act may be expected to afford the cultivator of opium, as much as any other ryot, the necessary protection. As regards the Benares Agency, where the Tenancy Act is not in force, the Board labour under the difficulty of not being sufficiently informed as to the relations existing between landlord and tenant. Mr. Rivett-Carnac doubts whether the exaction of illegal cesses is common in the North-Western Provinces. He writes:—

"In this paragraph reference is made to officers of the Department not suing zemindars for illegally exacting cesses from cultivators, and I doubt such cesses being common in these provinces. The opium cultivators are the very cream of the agricultural community, and their very presence in the village is a delight to the zemindar. They hold the best land, and if they willingly pay a good rate for such land, interference on the part of the opium officer would be undesirable. It would set a very powerful class against us. An indigo planter would be very careful in touching a similar case, and an opium officer should act on the same principle. It must not be forgotten, on the other side, that apart from the good rents paid, the opium cultivator finds favour with the zemindar from the regularity with which he pays rent. The opium weighments and payments take place just before one of the "kists," and unless there has been some desperate failure in the out-turn the zemindar is certain of the prompt payment of a portion of the rupees counted out at the opium godowns. Men who pay so regularly are riches to the zemindar, and establish for themselves a position, and can command fair treatment."

On this point the Board in the absence of full information, or of any light gained by experience, are unable to offer any opinion.

15. The exaction of bribes and gratifications by the amlah is, I am to state, not confined to the Opium Department, and is not likely to cease either in that or in any other department of the administration, until the practice of taking such gratifications is pronounced dishonourable by native public opinion, and until the givers learn to disbelieve in the efficacy or expediency of offering them. The Board fully endorse the remarks on this subject made by both agents. Mr. Kemble writes:—

"The only matter remaining to be discussed is the abolition of illegal gratification. I do not, and never shall believe, that the grant of increased salaries will stop the evil; every one will have what is called his "huq," the higher the pay the higher the "huq." When the exactions exceed the usual rate or the recipients commit unusual extortions, act dishonestly, or make themselves otherwise unpopular, complaints are made. If measures are taken to have these complaints promptly and carefully inquired into all that can be done is done. I consider that with commission all the native staff are liberally and adequately paid, but I cannot say the same of the European staff. When men in the position of European gentlemen after 12 or 14 years' service only receive Rs. 300 a month, and when the pay of the highest appointment they can hope to attain is only Rs. 900, and there are only two of these appointments, it is not surprising that discontent and grumbling prevail, and charges of conduct which is not strictly correct are occasionally brought to notice.

"Illegal exactions can only be stopped when the people who give them find it to their interest to discontinue the practice; when large sums of money pass

through a large number of hands it is hopeless to expect that all of it will reach the cultivators."

Mr. Rivett-Carnac remarks:—

"When the country and people are both more advanced it will be less difficult to put a stop to this universal custom. All that can be done ought undoubtedly to be done to advance an improved state of things. But I leave it to the Board to judge what measure of success can be expected from a European officer in a district isolated from the people, against the amlah who belong to the people and who live amongst the people, and against the people, brought up in and sympathising with the system. I am inclined to believe that the people at present would resent a change of system. They give a small percentage willingly. That small per-centage is given to ensure consideration and make the work go smoothly. It is "dustcory" or a customary offering. It is "huq" or the zillahdar's right. Recently I received a petition from a lumberdar, who had fallen out with the zillahdar, complaining that the man "had taken R. 1 "huq" ("illegal gratification"). I give the words of the petition as showing the native and British rendering of the transaction. The payment is "huq" or the zillahdar's right as long as he behaves fairly in other respects. It is illegal gratification when any difference of opinion arises between the two * * * entirely hold that, so far in our power lies, the cultivator should be protected in this respect, but with the staff at our command, and the present pay of the native subordinates, their opportunities, and the sympathies of the people to help them, I cannot hope for any great or immediate results."

16. In paragraph 781 of their report the Commission are led from considering the question of illegal gratification into what seem to the Board to be proposals not naturally connected therewith. The necessity of giving to the opium cultivator a higher status and more vigorous protection by officers of Government is insisted on with some force. Both the agents view these proposals with a certain amount of distrust, and the Board are of the same opinion. It would certainly be dangerous and almost as certainly unnecessary to lead the ryot who cultivates opium to consider that by so doing he earns the special favour of Government and places himself in a position to defy or defraud his zemindars. There are many ways in which a discreet and active opium officer can assist a ryot with advice and even with more active help in cases where he is really oppressed; but if the Tenancy Act is to be of any real use in putting a stop to oppression of ryots by their zemindars and leading to a more equitable adjustment of their relations than at present prevails, it ought to be able to do this quite as much for the man who grows opium as for the man who grows any specially valuable crop, and any support over and above what the ordinary law affords is not only an admission that the law itself is too weak to protect the people, but is a step which would in all probability lead the landlords to discourage the growth of poppy in their estates, lest it should bring down on them the intervention of officers of Government and interfere with their legitimate business. In the Benares Agency it is said that there is no necessity for such intervention, as the zemindars find it to their interest to encourage the opium cultivators who willingly pay a high rent for their land, and being well-paid by Government for their opium, are always able in their turn to pay their rents punctually. There seems no reason to offer protection where it not only is not required but would introduce a feeling of hostility between landlord and tenant where none exists at present. In matters of irrigation, famine relief, and tucceavi advances where no interests but those of Government and the ryots are concerned, Government can be as liberal as it pleases, and if any cases of oppression are brought to light, the officers of the Department would naturally do their best to procure redress for the sufferers; but nothing, the Board consider, can be more dangerous than to create a pampered class who are or fancy themselves to be under the special protection of Government.

17. The last point, the securing for Government the entire produce of the cultivation, is discussed by the Commission in paragraphs 784 to 789 of their report; and the following six remedies are proposed:—

- (1.) Bringing the cultivators into more direct relation with the Government.
- (2.) Improvement of the position of the ryots.
- (3.) Purification of the subordinate native establishment.

- (4.) Improvements of the present method of measuring the lands and of testing the measurements.
- (5.) Securing a trustworthy estimate of the yield of each assamee's crop.
- (6.) Rigorous enforcement of the law against persons receiving contraband opium.

The first of these remedies is in effect the question of giving licenses direct to the cultivators and abolishing the lumberdars and khattadars. The detailed recommendations of the Opium Commission in regard to this point are contained in paragraphs 674 to 677 and 679 of their report, and the subject has already been reported on in paragraphs 15 to 20 and 22 of the Board's letter No. 173 B., dated 5th March 1885, to which a reference is invited. The second and third remedies have been noticed in paragraphs 15 and 16 above.

18. The proposals of the Opium Commission in connexion with the fourth remedy are contained in paragraphs 653 and 654 of their report, and the Board's views on them have been furnished to Government in paragraphs 8 and 9 of their letter No. 653 B., dated 23rd September 1884. On this subject the Benares agent writes:—

"Paragraph 787 treats of improvements in the measurements, and in testing measurements, in respect to which there cannot be two opinions. As regards second advances, the Commission have rightly stated the procedure enjoined by me. In the last part of this paragraph the Commission return to what must be advanced in respect to this agency whenever improvement of any sort is mentioned, i.e., large and better staff. The importance of concentration of the cultivation is dwelt upon, but by no one has this been more strongly urged than by myself. I can with confidence refer to all I have written on the subject, and to all I have attempted to do in this respect. This was one of the first points that received my attention. A system of inspection and record and mapping out of the lands was instituted by me, which received the approval of the Board, and which has since been universally adopted in both agencies. The object in view was to get rid of inferior cultivation and to concentrate where possible. Officers were enjoined to keep this object steadily in view in their inspections.

"A scheme for concentrating the cultivation and massing the staff was matured. Then came the necessity for extending the cultivation. The reserve was reduced, it appeared difficult, the cultivation was hardly likely to be extended. It thus became necessary to take up almost every bigha that could be possibly secured in these parts, and this being the position, concentration and massing of the staff became an impossibility. No one would more gladly welcome a reduction in the unwieldy proportions of this agency than I myself. The magnificent out-turns of recent years and the second string to the bow provided by the Malwa scheme may render some improvement possible. Nothing can well be done this year even if the Government determine later that a reduction is desirable. But during the approaching cold weather tour, I propose to consider in detail whether cultivation cannot be entirely given up in some districts, and the staff now employed there massed in that part of the agency where cultivation is thickest. This must, however, depend on the policy of the Government and the state of the reserve after the housing of this year's crop, the exact out-turn of which cannot be known for a month or two to come."

19. With regard to the fifth remedy Mr. Rivett-Carnac remarks as follows:—

"Paragraph 788 deals with the fifth remedy, i.e., to secure a trustworthy estimate of each assamee's crop. Now could this Utopian view be put into execution, i.e., had we a sufficient staff—a staff sufficiently experienced, sufficiently trustworthy, and sufficiently controlled for the purpose—little would be left to be desired. The Commission state that to make an independent estimate of the probable yield of each field would not be impossible or even difficult. In this view I believe that they are so far mistaken that the little margin that even the best estimate would leave would be quite sufficient to affect the excise revenue. And that a detailed investigation and estimates with our present staff is practically impossible. The 'taidad' has never been adopted in this agency, and the results in Behar have, I have always learnt, been most unsatisfactory. I do not believe that, save in rare cases, any individual cultivator retains any considerable quantity of opium. Those who do are the cultivators with the best out-turn,

and it will always be difficult to catch, with the assistance of an estimate, any man the produce of whose field is large. What is done I believe is that small portions of the out-turn are kept back by a large number of cultivators, and that in the aggregate the quality so retained is considerable. Moreover, that the excise revenue is materially affected by the extensive use of an extract of opium obtained by breaking up and boiling the small earthen vessels in which the crop is collected. My views on this subject will be found fully stated in paragraph 27 of my annual report for 1885-86. The raising of the standard of integrity of the inferior establishment of the agency will doubtless advance the end which must always be kept in view. And we must hope for better results from an increased establishment. And there can be no possibility of doubt that strenuous efforts should be made even with our present staff to improve the position as it now is. But I repeat that extreme caution is necessary in dealing with the cultivators."

The opinion of the Opium Commission regarding "taidads" has been expressed in paragraph 656 of their report, and Government were informed in paragraph 11 of the Board's letter No. 653 B., dated 23rd September 1884, that "taidads" had been discontinued in the Behar Agency. No further orders seem to the Board to be called for on this point.

20. In connexion with the sixth remedy the Benares agent remarks:—

"Against those dealers who collect from the cultivators, and retail to opium-eaters, no such caution is necessary. Nor would any crusade against the opium-eaters affect our cultivation. The cultivator may use a small quantity as medicine, but is seldom an opium-eater. If he is, he will put his finger into the pot, and nothing will prevent it. I have always urged concerted action against the dealers. A suggestion, made by some officers of the Department consulted on the subject, is worthy of consideration, that the district authorities should keep up a list of opium-eaters and see where they obtain their supplies."

The Board note that section 9 of Act I. of 1878 awards the same maximum punishment to the receiver or possessor of the opium as it does to the seller of the drug, and they are of opinion that it will be sufficient if it is impressed on the officers trying the cases that the heavier punishment should, as a rule, be imposed on the receiver of the opium. With this view I am to suggest that the purport of paragraph 789 of the Opium Commission's report may be circulated among the magisterial officers.

No 2792-1520, dated 8th September 1887.

From W. C. MACPHERSON, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, Miscellaneous Revenue Department.

With reference to your letter No. 537 B., dated the 14th July 1887, in which the Board review the recommendations of the Opium Commission regarding the opium laws and their administration, contained in Chapter IX., Part III., of their report, I am directed to make the following remarks:—

2. The Lieutenant-Governor accepts the Board's conclusions, stated in paragraph 9 of your letter, that the defects of Act XIII. of 1857 are not such as call for fresh legislation at present. Sir Stenart Bayley is opposed to having recourse to such an expedient except in the case of the law, as it stands, being found to be absolutely unworkable, and he is of opinion that no improvement of the law in details would counterbalance the mischief of bringing before the Legislature the whole question of the connexion of Government with the cultivation of opium. I am to point out that the last sentence of paragraph 8 of your letter appears to have been written under a misapprehension, as the matter of imprisonment under section 29 of Act XIII. of 1857 is not one which can be dealt with by executive action so long as the section remains unaltered. Even on this point, however, the Lieutenant-Governor is not prepared to recommend legislation.

3. With regard to paragraph 10 of your letter on the subject of the operation of sections 14 and 15 of Act I. of 1878, I am to observe that this matter was disposed of in the correspondence resting with my endorsement

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No. 711-340, dated the 5th March 1887, and that further action would appear to be unnecessary.

4. The recommendations of the Commission, made with a view to improving the system under which Government deals with opium cultivators, are discussed by the Board in paragraphs 11 to 20 of your letter under reference. The most important subject considered is that of bringing the ryot into more direct relations with Government, and, in order to effect this, the first step proposed is the introduction of what the Commission describes as miniature licenses. The Lieutenant-Governor would desire that this subject should be considered at the conference which is to be held under the instructions given in Mr. Nolan's letter No. 2165, dated 21st July 1887, for the purpose of discussing the question of placing on a legal footing the present practice of granting licenses for the cultivation of the poppy. The Board's suggestion that the means by which the cultivation of the full area stipulated for should be practically enforced should also be considered at the conference is proved by the Lieutenant-Governor.

5. With advertence to paragraph 13 of your letter regarding the measurement of poppy lands by officers of the Revenue Department, I am directed to ask for precise information as to the point or points on which the Board wish that the Government of the North-Western Provinces should be consulted. It is understood to be suggested that, instead of the existing practice of double measurements, the officers of the Opium Department should work with the measurements of revenue officers, or that officers of the Revenue Department should work with the measurements of opium officers. Of these courses, the only one of which it would appear desirable to consult the Government of the North-Western Provinces is the second, and it is doubtful whether such a proposal would be acceptable to that Government. If, however, the Board wish to pursue the inquiry further, it would be necessary to show that the maps and records of the Benares Agency are sufficient for purposes of revenue assessment and statistics.

6. Paragraphs 14 and 16 of your letter deal with the Commission's recommendations in the direction of affording special protection and patronage to opium cultivators, and in the views therein expressed the Lieutenant-Governor entirely concurs with the Board. The opium cultivator of Behar is, in common with other ryots, sufficiently secured against excessive demands and illegal exactions on the part of zemindars by the provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act; while, in the Benares Agency, Mr. Rivett-Carnac's report shows that he is a highly valued tenant who is in apparently a better position than his neighbours to command fair treatment and protect his own interests. In the correspondence ending with Mr. Risley's letter No. 1448-1130, dated the 27th July 1885, instructions were issued as to how far officers of the Opium Department might be allowed to assist cultivators in suits in which it was believed that the illegal enhancement of the rent of poppy lands was aimed at.

7. Referring to paragraph 15 of your letter, I am to state that the proposals made by the Opium Commission with the object of raising the pay of the *kothi* staff, together with the Lieutenant-Governor's remarks thereon, have been submitted to the Governor of India, under whose consideration they still remain. Sir Stuart Bayley is of opinion that, until the pay of the subordinate amlah of the Opium Department is raised, it will be difficult for Government to insist on purity in the lower ranks of a service in which the opportunities for demanding and exacting illegal gratifications are probably greater than in any other branch of the executive.

8. As regards paragraphs 18 and 19 of your letter on the subject of measuring the lands and estimating the field of each assamee's crop, I am to say that the Lieutenant-Governor concurs with the Board in the view that the question of the use of chains or poles is one which may be left to the agents for decision, and also approves of the Board's action in directing the discontinuance of the preparation of taidads in the Behar Agency.

9. In order to the proper enforcement of the law against persons receiving contraband opium, to which subject reference is made in paragraph 20 of your letter, I am to add that the Lieutenant-Governor approves the Board's suggestion that paragraph 789 of the Commission's report should be circulated among magisterial

officers. A circular will be addressed to Commissioners to this effect.

No. 5,685, dated 26th October 1887.

From E. T. ATKINSON, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 2600-130 O., dated the 18th December 1886, referring for orders certain proposals in connexion with the recommendations made by the Commission appointed in 1883 to inquire into the administration of the Opium Department in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces.

2. The proposals are briefly as follows:—

A.—As regards the higher Officers—

- (1.) The creation of three new opium districts in the Benares Agency, and a corresponding increase from 26 to 29 in the number of district officers, and from 43 to 50 in the number of assistants.
- (2.) The equalisation of the house-rent allowances of these officers.

B.—As regards Establishments—

- (1.) In the Benares agent's office a revision without increase of cost, with the retention of the personal assistant.
- (2.) The cost of the district office establishments to be increased from Rs. 5,478 to Rs. 10,741-4 a month.
- (3.) Mofussil establishments—A complete revision at a cost of Rs. 2,94,381 a year; payments by commission to be discontinued.

C.—Dealings with Asamis—

- (1.) The continuance of the present practice as to the number of advances.
- (2.) New procedure as regards unlicensed cultivation.
- (3.) Enhanced payments for trash (Rs. 6,336-4 a year).
- (4.) Improvements in the weighing establishment (yearly additional cost Rs. 3,648 in Benares and Rs. 5,016 in Behar).
- (5.) Iodine testers at Rs. 15 a month, and for three months but apparently only ten are wanted.
- (6.) The formal exemption from stamp-duty of receipts given by cultivators for money paid to them.

The following proposals are not entirely recommended by the Government of Bengal:—

- (7.) Payment of transit allowances to *asamis*.
- (8.) Abolition of the system of payments to cultivators through *khattadars* in Behar and middlemen in Benares, a system which it is considered impossible at present to do away with.
- (9.) Abolition of *khurcha* and *khurchan*, or *dasturi* paid by cultivators, which should be deferred until the price of opium is changed.

D.—Ghazipur Factory.—The following proposals are recommended:—

- (1.) Better regulation of the relations of agent, factory superintendent, and assistant superintendent.
- (2.) Certain small changes in the subordinate native staff.
- (3.) A small improvement in the fire engine establishment at both the factories (Ghazipur and Patna).
- (4.) The substitution of regular police for the *burkandaz* guard without increase of cost.
- (5.) The enhancement of pay to *cakc*-makers, costing Rs. 1,252 a year.

The following proposal is not recommended by the local Government:—

- (6.) Increase in the office establishment of the principal assistant.

E.—Patna Saw-mill.—Increase of Rs. 100 to the salary of Mr. Girling, and some other changes in the establishment.

F.—The following *general matters* are also discussed:—

- (1.) The introduction of a code for the working of the factories.
- (2.) The amount of the reserve of chests of opium.
- (3.) The French concession (already disposed of).
- (4.) Inspection of opium agencies by a member of the Board of Revenue every year.

3. *Supplementary Questions*.—Since the receipt of the general case above stated, the following letters have been received from the Government of Bengal:—

No. 630-31 O., dated 28th February 1887, which has reference to the recommendation *E.* above. The saw-mills were being extended and the extension involved an increase in the cost of establishment from Rs. 791 to Rs. 1,144, or of Rs. 353 a month. This consisted of—

(1.) Proposed increase to the salary of Mr. Girling	Rs. 100
(2.) Assistant engineer on Rs. 125 instead of on Rs. 50	75
(3.) Storekeeper on Rs. 35 instead of on Rs. 20	15
(4.) Increase to petty establishments	159
(5.) To four chaprasis, R. 1 each	4
Total	353

The Government of Bengal intimate that the cost under No. 4 has been sanctioned in anticipation of orders. The proceedings of the Government of Bengal are confirmed.

4. No. 1485-85 O., dated the 6th May 1887.—This letter has reference to paragraph 681 of the report, and paragraph 34 of the letter from the Government of Bengal, No. 2600-130 O., dated the 18th December 1886, the question being whether the opium examiner should retain the power that he possesses at present to impose a fine on opium sent in as good by the district officers, but found really to contain an excess of *pussewah*. The Government of India concurs in the opinion of the local authorities that this power should remain.

5. No. 1,500-87 O., dated 7th May 1887.—On consideration of the question whether the Patna factory should continue to supply chests for the Benares Agency or whether the latter should make its own arrangements, all the authorities (including the Commission) agree that the present practice, whereby Behar undertakes the whole supply of chests, should continue, and I am to state that the Government of India concurs in that opinion.

6. No. 2166-120 O., dated 21st July 1887, has reference to O. (8). The system of payments through middlemen not being in accordance with law, it is found that the cultivator cannot be punished for misdoings, as he is not licensed under the law. It is stated by the Government of Bengal that a conference of opium officers is to be held to consider the question of bringing the present procedure into harmony with the law. The Government of India will therefore await the result of these deliberations before considering this question.

7. No. 2793-153 O., dated 8th September, 1887.—This letter deals with legal questions and includes the above. The Commissioners made some suggestions (eight in number) for improvement of the law, but none of them bear on important matters, and the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, and the Government of Bengal agree that there is in them no such urgency, and that no such difficulty in working the existing law exists, as to make it necessary for the Government to bring these matters before the Legislature.

Of the six objects aimed at by the law, two are successfully attained, viz., free agency of the ryot and suppression of adulteration.

In two, viz., the cultivation of the stipulated area and the prevention of unlicensed cultivation, the success is partial; and further information is promised by the Government of Bengal under those two heads. The first question depends partly on the general question of direct licenses; and as regards the second, unlicensed cultivation does not seem sufficiently prevalent to warrant harassment of the cultivators by measurements.

The remaining two matters, the protection of the ryot from illegal exactions and the securing for Government of the full return on the crop, depend to a large extent upon the improvement of the mofussil establishment. The Government of Bengal has, it is stated, issued a circular impressing upon magistrates

the necessity of properly enforcing the law against receivers of contraband opium.

8. As regards the less important of the proposals enumerated in paragraph 2 above, I am to communicate the following orders of the Government of India:—

9. B.—(1.) The Benares agent proposes—

- (1.) To reduce the salary of his head accountant from Rs. 500 to Rs. 300-20-400.
- (2.) To abolish the appointment of treasurer on Rs. 110.
- (3.) To abolish the “standard computing” branch of the office costing Rs. 297-8, and to distribute these reductions in the form of—
 - (i.) A personal allowance of Rs. 50 to one man;
 - (ii.) Various other increases.

The Government of India, I am to state, accepts these proposals on the conditions that the changes are introduced only gradually as funds become available by reductions, and that compensation pensions or gratuities are not given. The agent may also be authorised to take as his personal assistant an assistant on a salary not exceeding Rs. 300.

10. C.—(1 and 2.) The Government of India agrees that the present number of advances be continued; that opium treasuries be not closed; and that the procedure proposed as regards unlicensed cultivation be adopted.

(3.) The rates for trash may be enhanced as proposed.

(4.) The better payment of the temporary weighing establishments is agreed to by the Government of India, on the understanding that better methods of selection of weighmen recommended by the Commission are introduced.

(5.) The proposals regarding the iodine testers are sanctioned, and I am to say that as these testers already exist in all but a few sub-agencies, the number of additional testers required appears to be only about 10, costing for three months Rs. 450.

(6.) A notification will be issued exempting from stamp duty the receipts for money received from Government by opium cultivators, *lumbardars*, and *khattadars*.

(7.) The proposal is to make transit allowances more general in Benares, but not to extend them to Behar. As regards the latter, it is shown to be very doubtful whether they would ever reach the cultivator. As regards the former, the Government of India desires that the principle upon which allowances are at present given in Benares and the cost involved by the proposed extension should be stated. The necessity seems doubtful considering that the price of crude opium in Benares was raised a few years ago, only because it had been raised in Behar. From this it would appear that there is no urgent necessity for giving the Benares cultivators more than is given in Behar.

11. The question of increase in the number of weighing stations awaits further detailed proposals from the Government of Bengal, and that of *adaminadr* payments awaits the consideration of the general question of middlemen.

12. D.—(1.) The proposals for future selection of factory superintendents and assistants are agreed to.

(2.) The new scale of establishment for the native subordinate staff at Ghazipur factory as modified by the agent may be introduced, the reductions being effected as soon as convenient.

(3.) The increases in the allowances for the fire brigade establishment, and the allowance of Rs. 50 for uniform at the Patna factory are sanctioned.

(4.) The substitution of a police for a *burkundaz* guard at the Ghazipur factory may be carried out, provided there is no increase of cost.

(5.) The rates proposed by the Government of Bengal for cake-making may be adopted.

13. E.—The proposals about the Patna saw-mill are agreed to, but the increase proposed to the salary of Mr. Girling will be referred to the Secretary of State not, in the form of an enhancement of pay, but as a personal allowance on account of the increase of work and responsibility and the long service of Mr. Girling.

The other proposals contained in your letter No. 2,600-130 O., dated the 28th December 1886 (that is, A. (1), A. (2), B. (2), and B. (3), including the proposal to spend Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000 on bonuses to *lumbardars*

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and ziladars) are still under the consideration of the Government of India.

Copy, with copies of the letters to which it is a reply, forwarded to the Accountant-General, Bengal, for information.

No. 329, dated 20th December 1887.

From the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

With reference to paragraphs 11 and 12 of Lord Kimberley's Despatch No. 47, dated the 18th June 1885, we have honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copy of the correspondence detailed in the accompanying schedule with the Government of Bengal, from which it will be seen that we have sanctioned some of the proposals in connexion with the recommendations made by the Commission appointed in 1883 to inquire into the administration of the Opium Department in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces.

2. We now beg to recommend, with reference to paragraph 13 E. of the letter to the Government of Bengal, No. 5,685, dated the 26th October 1887, a copy of which is herewith forwarded, that a personal allowance of Rs. 100 a month may be granted to Mr. Girling, the superintendent and engineer of the Patna saw-mill, in addition to his pay, in consideration of the increase of his work and responsibility, as also of the long and good service he has rendered to the Government.

No 9 Revenue, dated India Office, London,
the 2nd February 1888.

From the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

I HAVE to convey to you my sanction to the grant of a personal allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem to Mr. Girling, the superintendent and engineer of the Patna saw-mill, as reported in the letter of your Excellency's Government in the Separate Revenue Opium Department, No. 329, dated 20th December 1887.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Mis. Revenue, No. 2,603-151 O.

From H. J. S. COTTON, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Department of Finance and Commerce.

SIR, Calcutta { Dated the 8th August 1888.
Issued the August 1888.

WITH reference to paragraph 6 of your letter, No. 5,685, dated the 26th October 1887, I am directed to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the correspondence noted on the margin, indicating the measures adopted by this Government with a view to bring

into harmony with the law the present system of granting licenses for the cultivation of poppy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. J. S. COTTON,
Officiating Secretary to the
Government of Bengal.

No. 970 B.

From K. G. GUPTA, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

SIR, Calcutta { Dated the 30th December 1887.
Issued January 1888.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Government Order No. 2165-1190, dated 21st July 1887, accepting a suggestion made by the Board that a conference be held either at Patna or Ghazipore, at which the member of the Board in charge of the Opium Department should

preside, and both the agents, with any experienced officers of the Department whom they might select, should attend to discuss the question of placing on a legal footing the present system of granting licenses for the cultivation of poppy.

2. In conformity with the above orders of Government a conference was held at Bankipore in October last, at which were present:—

The Member of the Board in charge of the Opium Department (F. M. Halliday, Esq.), presiding.

The opium agent, Behar (W. Kemble, Esq.),

The officiating opium agent, Benares (A. Cadell, Esq.), and

Mr. Tytler,

Mr. Ridsdale,

Mr. Drake,

Mr. Luard,

} sub-deputy opium agents.

The defects of the existing system, and the practical difficulties of making it satisfy the requirements of the law, are adverted to in the Board's No. 479 B., dated 27th June 1887.

3. The system which now obtains in the two agencies is as follows:—

In the Behar Agency the settlements are made on the system as described in paragraph 259, page 95, of the Opium Commission's report, while those in the Benares Agency are made as described in paragraph 254 of the report; the chief point of difference being that in the Behar Agency the opium officer receives from the khattadars lists of the cultivators at the time of settlement, while in the Benares Agency the lambardars only appear before the opium officer and conclude settlements absolutely on their own account for a definite area of poppy cultivation, irrespective of any arrangement as to the number of actual cultivators, whose names are given afterwards, who will engage to carry out the lambardars' engagement.

4. In the Behar Agency the license granted to the khattadar is not, as in the Benares Agency, a license to the khattadar alone, for it gives permission to him and to the assamis of his khatta to sow poppy and produce opium over a certain area, and the kabuliya is framed in corresponding language, the names of the assamis and the area to be cultivated by each of them being entered in these documents. But the defect of this arrangement is that, in its most complete form, it is not sufficient to bind the cultivators, as the counterpart engagement is entered into by the khattadar alone, and the assamis are not even present. Further, it appears that in some parts of the Behar Agency the lists of cultivators put in by the khattadars, at the instance of the ziladars, are really altogether erroneous and in fact a sham, for they have been sometimes simple copies of those of former years, showing names of men who have not even got the quantity of lands in their possession for which they are supposed to agree for, or of men who have died or left the village. But after he has received his first advance, the khattadar prepares a paper showing the names of all the cultivators to whom he actually distributes advances, and obtains their signatures in attestation of the receipt of the advance and the engagement to cultivate. This paper, technically called the "Butwara paper," is really the record of the transaction as between the khattadar and the cultivators in his khatta, but a copy of it is submitted to the opium officer, and it forms the basis of the further transactions between the Department and the cultivator.

5. The weak point in the present system, that it fails to secure direct dealings with the cultivators as is contemplated in section 8 of Act XIII. of 1857, was brought to the notice of the Board by Mr. Rivett-Carnac, the Benares agent, in 1879, and the remedy suggested by him consisted in the issue to each cultivator of a ticket in the form given in Appendix A., which he considered was to all practical purposes a miniature license.

6. The ticket, it will be observed, consisted of two parts, A and B, the former being a memorandum of account, and the latter a license to cultivate a certain number of bighas. The side B was to be filled up at the time of measurement, and the side A was practically a reproduction of the ticket which is issued to every cultivator at the time of weighments. It was, in fact, merely an extract of that part of the lambardar's license which, after the names have been entered, refers to the individual cultivator, showing the area he is understood to have engaged to cultivate, and what amount he has received as an advance, and it contained blank columns (to be subsequently filled up) for the

quantity of opium delivered, and the balance payable to him by Government after deducting the advance.

7. For revenue purposes the side A was undoubtedly the more important, but for the purpose of meeting the legal difficulty in reference to section 8 of the Opium Act, the side B, when duly filled up, would have been sufficient; it has, however, been found in practice that the side A only in the form was retained, that apparently being from a departmental point of view the really important feature of the license, and the side B, which represented the actual license to cultivate, was dropped out of use altogether, and the so-called miniature license became but an improved form of the *hatchita* already in use. There was another defect in the form, viz., though the portion A was to be signed by the opium officer, there was no provision made for having the signature of the officer issuing it in the portion B.

8. Thus, as a matter of fact, the miniature license, originally defective, came, after the disappearance of the portion B, to be no license at all, and it in no way met the requirements of section 8 of the Act, while no attempt was made to take a kabuliyat or counterpart engagement from the actual cultivator.

9. It is therefore manifest that in neither agency can the system in force be accepted as satisfactory, and this was brought prominently to notice by the Opium Commission in paragraph 647 of their report. The Commission also suggested certain remedies, all, however, based on the assumption that Act XIII. of 1857 will be repealed, and they considered therefore it was unnecessary to discuss the phraseology of its provisions, or to endeavour to make their suggestions run with it. But it

* Government order No. 2792-1520, dated 8th September 1887.

has been held by Government* that recourse to fresh legislation on this subject would be highly inexpedient, except in the case of the law, as it stands, being found to be absolutely unworkable, and that no improvement of the law in details would counterbalance the mischief of bringing before the Legislature the whole question of the connexion of Government with the cultivation of opium.

10. The object which the conference had in view was therefore to devise, if possible, some means to bring the present practice into accordance with the existing law without entailing any radical change in a system which has so long worked satisfactorily on the whole.

After a full discussion of the subject in all its bearings the proposals that commend themselves to the conference are the following:—

- (1.) That the present lambardari and khattadari system be continued.
- (2.) That a form of cultivator's license be adopted at each agency to be issued by the opium officer.
- (3.) The lambardar in Benares or the khattadar in Behar, when coming in to engage, should bring with him a list of the cultivators who have agreed with him to grow opium.

Either then, or at some future time, as may be found most convenient, when the list of actual cultivators who have received advances is final and complete, licenses to each individual should be prepared and signed by the sub-deputy agent or his assistant, filled up according to the names in the list as complete for distribution to the cultivators engaging. Forms of counterpart are to be issued to the lambardar or khattadar in the same way, and he is to be held responsible for having them filled up and returned to the opium officer either personally or through the *kothee amla*. In some divisions in one or other agency the cultivators come in themselves to engage, and in such cases the issue of the license and execution of the counterpart can then be effected direct. It has been considered that though the cultivators' licenses should be given separately and individually, the requirement of the law as regards the counterpart or kabuliyat will be sufficiently met by having this document executed jointly with the signatures of all the cultivators under each khattadar on one paper, the signatures being duly attested.

- (4.) The form of the license should be short and simple and might follow the portion B in Mr. Rivett-Carnac's miniature license already referred to, and the further details as given in the portion A might be added on the reverse, according to the requirements of each agency as may be deemed desirable, for the interest of the cultivator and the Department.

11. In this way the Conference believe the lambardar or khattadar would act as the agent of the Department in the distribution of the licenses, under which the Government would be dealing direct with the cultivator. It is agreed that it would be most undesirable to sever the connexion with khattadars and lambardars, without whose aid and influence the Department would find it now exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to negotiate engagements with the cultivators. Experience has shown that instances are very rare where the necessity arises for the enforcement of the penal sections of the Act against cultivators, and that what is wanted is only an administrative change to secure the interests of Government in the few cases where the cultivators fail to fulfil their engagements. It is not worth while to upset a long existing system to meet isolated cases of infringement of engagements, and it is the opinion of the Conference that the proposals made above will meet all requirements.

In parts of the Benares Agency the cultivators are already getting accustomed to a method more recently introduced, on the lines now recommended, under which their individual responsibilities are being more directly brought home to them in their engagements with the Department, while at the same time the aid and influence of the khattadar and lambardar are retained.

I have, &c.

(Signed) K. G. GUPTA,
Officiating Secretary.

A. Division.
(Koti) (Name of assami).
(Name of village) (Name of lumberdar).
(Map No. of village) (No. of license).

Cultivation.	Quantity of Opium.	Sort.	Value of Opium.	Deduct Amount of Advance.	Net due at Weighment.

Mohurir.

Assistant.

APPENDIX A.

B.
(Name of assami) (Name of lumberdar).
(Son of) (Name of village).
(Caste) (Name of pergunnah).
(Translation.)
License.

Whereas you have of your own free will and pleasure submitted an application for permission to cultivate poppy, and have agreed to sow beeghas in village , pergunnah , this license is therefore granted to you.

No. 450-16 O., dated Calcutta, the 7th February 1888.

From H. W. CARNDUFF, Esq., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, to the SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF REVENUE, Miscellaneous Revenue Department.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 970 B., dated 30th December 1887, in which the Board report the result of the conference held to discuss the question of placing on a legal footing the present system of granting licenses for the cultivation of poppy.

2. With reference to paragraph 10(2) of your letter, I am to request that copies of the forms of licenses and counterparts to be adopted in each agency may be forwarded to Government, and to say that the Legal Remembrancer should be consulted as to the validity of a contract made through the instrumentality of such documents, in the manner proposed by the conference, and as to whether the arrangements suggested in paragraph 10 of your letter is calculated to fulfil the conditions prescribed by Act XIII. of 1857.

APP. I.

No. 573 B., dated Calcutta, the 18th July 1888.

From K. G. GUPTA, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of Government Order No. 450-16 O, dated 7th February 1888, calling for

copies of the forms of licenses and counterparts for poppy cultivation proposed for adoption in the Behar and Benares Agencies, and stating that the Legal Remembrancer should be consulted as to the validity of a contract made through the instrumentality of such documents, in the manner proposed by the Opium Conference, and as to whether the arrangement suggested in paragraph 10 of the Board's letter No. 970 B., dated 30th December 1887, is calculated to fulfil the conditions prescribed by Act XIII. of 1857.

2. In reply, I am to submit the enclosed sets of draft forms of license and kabuliya, which have been obtained from the Behar and Benares agents, and to state that the Legal Remembrancer, whom the Board consulted in the matter, considers that the joint kabuliya submitted by the Benares agent and the license Form A. are substantial in conformity with section 8, Act XIII., 1857, and if duly signed in the manner stated in paragraph 10 of the Board's letter to Government, will satisfy the requirements of that section, and also legally bind the signing cultivators. As regards the Behar forms, Mr. Allen sees no propriety in the words "and jointly" as applied to cultivators. He says "each man agrees separately for himself and no more. He has nothing to do with failures of his fellow villagers."

3. The Benares forms appear to be more appropriate, and should, the Board think, be adopted in both agencies, such slight verbal alterations as may be found necessary being introduced in the forms for the Behar Agency in consultation with the agent.

BENARES OPIUM AGENCY.

License Form A.

Division.

(Koti) (Name of assami,)
(Name of village) (Name of lumberdar.)
(Map No. of village) (No. of license.)

Cultivation.	Quantity of Opium.	Sort.	Value of Opium.	Deduct Amount of Advance.	Net due at Weigh-ment.

Mohurir.

Assistant.

(Name of assami) (Name of Lumberda
(Son of) (Name of village.)
(Caste) (Name of pergunnah.)
(Translation.)

License.

Whereas you have of your own free will and pleasure submitted an application for permission to cultivate poppy, and have agreed to sow beghas in village , pergunnah his license is therefore granted to you.

Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, or Assistant
Sub-Deputy Opium Agent.

BEHAR OPIUM AGENCY.

Translation.

License.

To cultivate of poppy on account of 18 .
Issued to , son of , of
village

(Signed) Sub-Deputy Opium Agent.

BEHAR OPIUM AGENCY.

Translation.

WHEREAS we, the undersigned cultivators and tenants of village , pergunnah district , have received advances from Government through khattadar, our appointed agent, on account of growing poppy, we hereby bind ourselves severally and jointly to cultivate the full quantity of land for which we have received advances, and to deliver the whole of the produce thereof to the opium godown at

This to be signed by each cultivator.

BENARES OPIUM AGENCY.

Proposed Joint Kabuliya.

WHEREAS we, the lumberdars and cultivators, as mentioned in the appended list, of pergunnah , out of our free will agree to grow poppy seeds and execute this kabuliya for taking a lease under the following terms:—

In the best pieces of land held by us, as mentioned in the appended list, we shall sow poppy seeds, free from other vegetation, in due season and take proper care in weeding and watering the same. If we cultivate less than the land assigned for, the Government will have the power, under section 10 of Act 13 of 1857, to impose on us a fine amounting to three times the sum advanced for the land left uncultivated. When the plants will be in full blossom, the flower petals will be prepared and weighed as usual, and the fixed price will be taken by us. After scratching the capsules and collecting the exudation, we shall deliver the pure opium, under section 11 of the said Act, to the agent at any of the factories directed by him. After making allowances for the standard *sokhtni* (process of heating) under section 7 of the said Act, we shall take the price at the fixed rate per seer of eighty (80) tolas; and at the time of delivery we shall make over to the office all the implements used in preparing opium, to which it might have adhered. It will be weighed and examined under section 12 of the said Act before us and the sub-deputy agent or other officers. We shall accept the conditions of the pottah as proposed by the head or any other Government officer under section 13 of the said Act. The forfeiture of the opium, in case of its being adulterated, will not be objected to. If out of the actual produce of the land engaged and surveyed any quantity of opium is withheld by us, we shall be liable to penalty under section 19 of the said Act. We shall not take the premium or the whole amount without endorsing it on the pottah, or without having the endorsement examined by the *gomashia*. There will be no additions and alterations made in the pottah, otherwise we shall be the losers. If at the time of closing the accounts any default be made on our part, we shall acknowledge the same, and the Government will have the power, under section 16 of the said Act, to realise the same by means of the attachment and sale of all our moveable and immoveable properties. We shall not be able to raise any objection to the fulfilment of the terms of this *kabuliya*. We shall be held responsible for any loss (occasioned by the non-performance of the terms of the *kabuliya*) as well as the cultivators who, under section 8 of the said Act, have agreed to grow the poppy seeds. Under the aforesaid conditions we execute this kabuliya or lease, and it may be used against us if necessary.

BENARES OPIUM AGENCY.

This license, together with the pottah in name of , son of by caste , resident of village , pergunnah district is granted in compliance with his application, forwarded with that of his lumberdar for sowing in the land engaged in the village , pergunnah district

Dated 188 .

BENARES OPIUM AGENCY.

Proposed License of Cultivators.

APP. I.

To gal.

Village		Number of Pottah (Lease).				Name of the Cultivator.		
Land engaged.	Description of Seeds sown.	Serial Number of License.	Gross Weight of Opium.	Value of Opium.	Advance deducted.	Date of Delivery of the Opium.	Date of Chukti.	Remarks.

BENARES OPIUM AGENCY.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	
Name of Cultivator.	Name of Father and Caste.	Place of Residence.	Advance per Beegha.	Amount of Advance.	Date of Payment.	Signature of the Cultivator.	Signature of the Witness.	Remarks.

BENARES OPIUM AGENCY.

Translation of the Urdu Kabuliyat.

PETITION—KABULIYAT written by LUMBERDAR under Section 8, Act XIII., of 1857.

WHEREAS I, named _____, son of _____, resident of mouzah _____, agree of my own free will to cultivate poppy, therefore I, filing this petition to the *hoozoor* for the grant of a pottah, and consenting to the terms mentioned below, declare and give in writing that in the first class land in an area of _____ together with the land which is found in excess at the time of measurement in mouzah _____, I shall sow poppy at the fixed time and will take every care, such as brooming and irrigating, &c., and will not allow any other kind of vegetable to grow on the land. If less land than the lands mentioned above is cultivated, the Government, under section 10, Act XIII., of 1857, can realise a fine, three times the *dadni* (advance) amount paid to me for the portion left uncultivated. When the poppy trees blossom, petals will be prepared in accordance with usage, and will be weighed wherever ordered, and I will take the price at the fixed rate. After lancing the capsules and collecting the milky juice, I would prepare pure opium under section 11 of the above Act, and have the opium weighed wherever ordered through the *amla* of the *kothee*, and will receive the price after its being boiled per standard under section 7, Act XIII., of 1857, at the weight of the seer of 80 tolahs at the rate of Rs. _____ per seer. I would make over to Government

the opium vessels and the rags in which the juice is inspissated, or any other pots or cloths used at the time of lancing and scraping, &c. The test and weighing of opium would be made in my presence and that of the sub-deputy opium agent, or any other officer appointed for the purpose, under section 12 of the aforesaid Act. The classification of *pottah* and premium of the opium fixed by the first assistant or other Government officer should be accepted by me in every case under section 13 of the above Act.

If the opium be confiscated for being impure or on proof of there being an adulteration I shall have no objection to make. If by some trick or otherwise I remove any portion of the opium produced in the land settled with me and measured, I shall be liable to be punished under section 19 of the Act. Without writing on the *pottah* and the attestation of the *gomashta* I would not take the *dadni* (advance) and *chukti* (settled) amount. In the *pottah* there would not be anything erased or struck out or re-written; if there be any, it will be for our loss. After the settlement of accounts, if there be any balance due to Government, I would pay it off to the *gomashta* on taking a receipt; and in case of there being any arrear, the Government is authorised to realise it by the attachment of my moveable and immoveable property. I shall never make any objection to the execution of the conditions mentioned in this *kabuliyat*. Until the joint *kabuliyat* is not executed this *ekrarnamah* would remain in force. Therefore I execute these few lines in the shape of petition—*kabuliyat* for the grant of *pottah*, that it might come of use at the time of need.

Dated the _____

Number of License.	Name of Lumberdar and Village.	Land engaged.	Amount of Advance.	Date of Payment.	Initials of Officers.	Gross Weight of Opium.	Value of Opium.	Amount of Chukti.

Executed by _____, resident of mouzah _____, *pergunnah* _____, *zillah* _____ I have received the amount detailed below for the cultivation of poppy for _____, through _____ *gomashta* of *kothee*; therefore I give this receipt in writing that it might be of use at the time of need.

For first *dadni* _____

Dated _____ 18 .

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Mis. Revenue—No. 2602-1500.

From H. W. C. CARNDUFF, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the SECRETARY to THE BOARD OF REVENUE, Miscellaneous Revenue Department.

SIR, Calcutta, the 8th August 1888.
WITH reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. 573 B., dated the 18th July 1888, regarding the question of placing on a legal footing the present system of granting licenses for the cultivation

APP. I.

of poppy, I am directed to say that the Lieutenant-Governor sanctions the adoption in both the Benares and the Behar Opium Agencies of the forms of license and kabuliyat submitted by the Benares agent, such slight verbal alterations as may be found necessary being introduced in the forms for the Behar Agency in consultation with the agent. The joint kabuliyat and the license (Form A.) should be duly signed in the manner stated in paragraph 10 of your letter No. 970 B.,

dated the 30th December 1887, and the proposals of the Conference, contained in that paragraph, regarding the issue and distribution of the licence and the execution of the counterpart, are approved by Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. C. CARNDUFF,
Under Secretary to the Government
of Bengal.

APP. II.

APPENDIX II.

MEMORANDUM ON THE COMPARATIVE COST OF CULTIVATION OF THE POPPY AND OTHER CROPS.

[Handed in by Mr. A. C. TYTLER.]

A WORKING household of six amongst the true agriculturists is sufficient to entirely cultivate, from first to last, one bigah of poppy, *i.e.*, 20 kuthas of land. The poppy cultivation last year in the Sewan sub-division amounted to bighas 38,696, and the number of ryots who received licenses to cultivate this amounted to 84,651. In this densely populated district there are few households that do not contain three working hands at least, consequently, roughly speaking, 10 kuthas of poppy could be easily cultivated by each household, but if, for argument sake, the total cultivation of bighas 38,696 be equally divided, it gives about nine kuthas per household, or within their working capacity. However, as a fact, some households do more than they can themselves manage, and others less. Also some of the cultivators are high caste Hindus, whose wives and daughters do not work in the fields, and the same remark applies to the upper class of Mohamedans, and in such cases the men of the household are supplemented by hired labour, which is always paid for in grain, excepting during the lancing and gathering, when in cash at the rate of 12 to 14 hands for the rupee.

Under the above circumstances any statement of the cost of cultivation of crops in Sarun must be read more with a view to understanding their laboriousness than as a true guide as to what they cost the cultivators, who, for the most part, do the work themselves, failing which they would be idling their time, as there is no local demand for their labour.

Speaking roughly, about three-fourths of the poppy cultivation is done free of cost in Sarun by each household, and one-quarter with an additional outlay of about from Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 a bigah, and, exceptionally, Rs. 10 a bigah. The men who engage this labour are those who have fine lands, large yields, and generally fairly large holdings, with spare grain in their granaries.

In sugar-cane, similarly, the cultivation is mostly done with home labour, but a heavy deduction has to be made for the cost of pressing and boiling, which, in the Sewan sub-division, is paid for by deduction from the weight or value of the sugar made. If the sugar-cane press, boiling pans, press bullocks, practised stoker, and workmen are all hired it comes to five annas in the rupee, one anna for each item, while there is an equivalent saving for as much as is home supplied.

Lastly, soils differ greatly in Sarun, more so probably than anywhere else in India, because the very dry soil of the South Gangetic districts, the damp soil of Bengal, and a medium description, all exist, adding to the difficulty of estimating the cost of cultivation. For instance, the first requires, for poppy, seven irrigations ;

the second, none ; and the third description two, three, or four, as the case may be.

With the above explanation the following statement will show what some crops would cost if only hired labour was employed :—

POPPY per BIGHA in HIGHLY IRRIGATED LAND.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Ploughing - - - - -	-	5	0 0
Poppy seed - - - - -	-	0	5 0
Seven irrigations - - - - -	-	5	0 0
Four weedings - - - - -	-	4	0 0
Lancing and gathering - - - - -	-	6	0 0
Total - - - - -	-	20	5 0

SUGAR-CANE in similar SOIL.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Ploughing - - - - -	-	5	0 0
Spade work before and after planting - - - - -	-	9	0 0
Cost of cuttings for planting - - - - -	-	4	0 0
Labourers for planting - - - - -	-	0	6 0
Nine irrigations - - - - -	-	4	4 0
Also 5 annas per rupee for pressing, &c., as described above, say on a crop worth Rs. 80	25	0	0
Total - - - - -	-	47	10 0

FOR WHEAT or BARLEY on similar SOIL.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Ploughing - - - - -	-	3	0 0
Seed - - - - -	-	3	0 0
Two irrigations - - - - -	-	2	0 0
One bundle in 20 for the cutting - - - - -	-	1	0 0
Also one maund in 20 for treading out - - - - -	-	1	0 0
Total - - - - -	-	10	8 0

POTATOES in similar SOIL.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Ploughing - - - - -	-	5	0 0
Seed potatoes - - - - -	-	25	0 0
Labourers for planting, irrigating, earthing up, &c. - - - - -	-	10	0 0
Total - - - - -	-	40	0 0

N.B.—In non-irrigated lands the cost of irrigation must be deducted, and in partially irrigated land lessened by half.

BÁNGAR, OR DRY AND GREATLY IRRIGATED LAND.
Bágar No. 1.—Highest Class.

A.—In Poppy.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
Opium - - - - -	0 16 0	88 0 0
Poppy seed - - - - -	—	12 0 0
Do. flowers - - - - -	0 15 0	3 12 0
Passewa - - - - -	0 1 0	2 8 0
The following rain crop—cheena (kutcha weight). Do. straw - - - - -	20 0 0	25 0 0
The following rain crop—Indian corn (kutcha weight). Do. stalks - - - - -	15 0 0	1 8 0
Total - - - - -	—	149 4 0
2nd year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
Opium - - - - -	0 8 0	44 0 0
Poppy seed - - - - -	—	8 0 0
Do. flowers - - - - -	0 8 0	2 0 0
Passewa - - - - -	0 0 8	1 4 0
Now no cheena, only Indian corn (kutcha weight). Do. stalks - - - - -	20 0 0	20 0 0
Total - - - - -	—	76 4 0
GRAND TOTAL - - - - -	—	225 8 0

B.—The same in Mustard, &c.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
Mustard (or sarson) - - -	14 0 0	28 0 0
The following Indian corn crop (kutcha weight). Do. stalks - - - - -	20 0 0	20 0 0
Total - - - - -	—	49 8 0
2nd year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
The following winter crop—wheat (kutcha weight). Do. bhusa - - - - -	20 0 0	32 0 0
Do. sarson - - - - -	—	3 0 0
The following rain crop—Indian corn (kutcha weight). Do. stalks - - - - -	15 0 0	4 0 0
Total - - - - -	—	1 8 0
GRAND TOTAL - - - - -	—	55 8 0

C.—The same in Wheat.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
Wheat (kutcha weight) - -	20 0 0	32 0 0
Do. bhusa (chaff) - - -	—	3 0 0
Amongst the wheat, sarson, and linseed. The following rain crop—Indian corn (kutcha weight). Do. stalks - - - - -	15 0 0	6 0 0
Total - - - - -	—	1 8 0
2nd year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
The following winter crop—barley (kutcha weight). Do. bhusa (chaff) - - -	15 0 0	15 0 0
Amongst the barley, sarson - - -	—	3 0 0
The following rain crop—marua (kutcha weight). Do. stalks - - - - -	20 0 0	4 0 0
Total - - - - -	—	20 0 0
GRAND TOTAL - - - - -	—	42 0 0

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D.—The same in Barley, &c.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
Barley (kutcha weight) - -	30 0 0	30 0 0
Do. bhusa (chaff) - - -	—	4 0 0
Linseed and sarson (mustard) in the same. The following rain crop—Indian corn (kutcha weight). Do. stalks - - - - -	—	4 0 0
Total - - - - -	16 0 0	16 0 0
2nd year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
The following winter crop—peas (kutcha weight). Do. bhusa (chaff) - - -	15 0 0	15 0 0
Sarson in the same - - -	—	2 0 0
The following rain crop—marua (millet) (kutcha weight). Do. stalks - - - - -	20 0 0	3 0 0
Total - - - - -	—	20 0 0
GRAND TOTAL - - - - -	—	40 0 0

N.B.—Sugar-cane, if planted in such extra fine lands, grows splendidly, but the "goor" will not form and the produce is dark, and can only be sold as the cheaper "shira" or treacle. At the very best, with the succeeding crop of kodo, it would realise Rs. 130, while occupying the land for four fasils, or two years.

Bágar No. 2.—Good Land.

A.—In Poppy.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
Opium - - - - -	0 8 0	44 0 0
Poppy seed - - - - -	—	8 0 0
Do. flowers - - - - -	0 8 0	2 0 0
Passewa - - - - -	0 0 8	1 4 0
The following cheena crop (kutcha weight). Do. straw - - - - -	16 0 0	16 0 0
Total - - - - -	—	1 0 0
2nd year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
The following poppy crop - -	0 9 0	49 8 0
Do. seed - - - - -	—	9 0 0
Do. flowers - - - - -	0 8 0	2 0 0
Passewa - - - - -	0 0 10	1 9 0
The following—sawuni muruah (kutcha weight). Do. stalks - - - - -	16 0 0	16 0 0
Total - - - - -	—	78 1 0
GRAND TOTAL - - - - -	—	150 5 0

B.—The same in Sugar-cane.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
The first rabi or winter crop is a fallow, the cane being put down in January or February. The following rain crop—sugar growing. 2nd year: The following rabi also occupied with it, but pressed in January. The following rain crop—kodo (kutcha weight). Do. straw - - - - -	50 0 0	80 0 0
Total for both years - - -	15 0 0	10 0 0

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APP. II.

C.—The same in Wheat.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
Wheat (kutcha weight) -	16 0 0	25 8 0
Do. bhusa -	—	3 0 0
Sarson amongst the wheat -	—	4 0 0
Linseed do. -	—	2 0 0
*The following rain crop—	8 0 0	8 0 0
Indian corn (kutcha weight).	—	—
Do. stalks -	—	1 0 0
Total -	—	43 8 0
2nd year:	—	—
The following winter crop, viz.,	—	10 0 0
rahur.	—	—
Do. cotton -	—	8 0 0
Stalks -	—	1 0 0
Rahur bhusa -	—	1 0 0
Total -	—	20 0 0
GRAND TOTAL	—	63 8 0

* Such soil produces less Indian corn, and especially when mixed with rahur and cotton, which take up room. Rahur and cotton are put down as a rotation to restore the strength of the land after wheat, which is a very exhausting crop.

Bāngar No. 3.—Fair Land.

A.—In Poppy.	Out turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
Opium -	0 5 0	27 8 0
Poppy seed -	—	5 0 0
Do. flowers -	0 4 0	1 0 0
Passewa -	0 0 4	0 10 0
The following rain crop—	12 0 0	12 0 0
murua (kutcha weight).	—	—
Total -	—	46 2 0
2nd year:	—	—
The following poppy crop at	—	27 8 0
4 seers and as above.	—	—
The following cheena and no	15 0 0	15 0 0
rain crop (kutcha weight).	—	—
Ditto straw -	—	1 0 0
Total -	—	43 8 0
GRAND TOTAL	—	89 10 0

B.—The same in Barley and Peas, &c.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
Barley and peas (kutcha weight)	12 0 0	12 0 0
Do. bhusa -	—	2 0 0
Linseed and sarson amongst the barley.	—	3 0 0
The following rain crop—	10 0 0	10 0 0
Indian corn (kutcha weight).	—	—
Do. stalks -	—	1 0 0
Total -	—	28 0 0
2nd year:	—	—
The following winter crop—	12 0 0	14 0 0
barley and wheat (kutcha weight).	—	—
Do. bhusa -	—	2 0 0
Linseed and sarson amongst the barley.	—	3 0 0
The following rain crop—	15 0 0	15 0 0
murua (kutcha weight).	—	—
Total -	—	34 0 0
GRAND TOTAL	—	62 0 0

C.—The same in Wheat, &c.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
Wheat (kutcha weight) -	10 0 0	16 0 0
Do. bhusa -	—	2 0 0
Sarson and linseed amongst the wheat.	—	3 0 0
The following rain crop—	12 0 0	12 0 0
murua (kutcha weight).	—	—
Total -	—	33 0 0
2nd year:	—	—
The following rabi—barley, the field being worn out.	10 0 0	10 0 0
Linseed amongst the barley -	—	1 0 0
Bhusa -	—	1 0 0
In the second year there can be no crop in the rains; the land must be fallow, both wheat and murua being most exhausting crops.	—	—
Total -	—	12 0 0
GRAND TOTAL	—	45 0 0

BHÁT, or LANDS which retain MOISTURE and require less IRRIGATION.

Bhát No. 1.—Highest Class.

A.—In Poppy.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
Opium -	0 14 0	77 0 0
Poppy seed -	—	10 0 0
Do. flowers -	0 12 0	3 0 0
Passewa -	0 1 0	2 8 0
The following rain crop—	20 0 0	25 0 0
cheena (kutcha weight).	—	—
Do. straw.	—	1 8 0
It would then be ploughed and remain fallow till November.	—	—
Total -	—	119 0 0
2nd year:	—	—
Opium -	0 10 0	55 8 0
Poppy seed -	—	10 0 0
Do. flowers -	0 8 0	20 0 0
Passewa -	—	2 0 0
The following rain crop—	20 0 0	20 0 0
Indian corn (kutcha weight).	—	—
Do. stalks -	—	1 0 0
Total -	—	90 8 0
GRAND TOTAL	—	209 8 0

B.—The same in Mustard.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
Sarson (kutcha weight) -	13 0 0	26 0 0
Castor-oil seeds (do.) -	8 0 0	16 0 0
The following rain crop—	20 0 0	20 0 0
Indian corn (kutcha weight).	—	—
Do. stalks -	—	2 0 0
Total -	—	64 0 0

B.—The same in Mustard.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
2nd year :	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
The following winter crop—wheat (kutcha weight).	15 0 0	24 0 0
Ditto straw	—	2 0 0
Sarson amongst the wheat	—	4 0 0
The following rain crop—Indian corn (kutcha weight).	10 0 0	10 0 0
Do. stalks	—	1 0 0
Total	—	41 0 0
GRAND TOTAL	—	105 0 0

C.—The same in Wheat.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year :	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
Wheat (kutcha weight)	18 0 0	29 0 0
Do. bhusa	—	3 0 0
Linseed and sarson amongst the wheat.	—	6 0 0
The following rain crop—Indian corn (kutcha weight).	15 0 0	15 0 0
Do. stalks	—	1 0 0
Total	—	54 0 0
2nd year:		
The following winter crop—barley (kutcha weight).	10 0 0	10 0 0
Do. straw	—	1 8 0
Mustard amongst the barley	—	3 0 0
The following rain crop—Indian corn (kutcha weight).	20 0 0	20 0 0
Do. stalks	—	1 0 0
Total	—	35 8 0
GRAND TOTAL	—	89 8 0

MEMO.—*Sugar-cane* if planted in such extra fine lands grows splendidly, but the "goor" will not form, is dark, and can be sold only as the cheaper "shira" or treacle. At the very best, with the succeeding crop of *kodo*, it would realise Rs. 130, occupying the land for four "fasils," or two years.

Bhât No. 2.—Good Land.

A.—In Poppy.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
Opium	0 8 0	44 0 0
Poppy seed	—	8 0 0
Do. flowers	0 8 0	2 0 0
Passewa	0 0 6	1 0 0
The following rain crop—cheena (kutcha weight).	12 0 0	14 0 0
Do. straw	—	0 8 0
Remains a fallow till next poppy crop.	—	—
Total	—	69 8 0
2nd year:		
Opium, &c. as above, at 7 seers	—	50 0 0
The following rain crop—Indian corn (kutcha weight).	10 0 0	10 0 0
Do. stalks	—	0 8 0
Total	—	60 8 0
GRAND TOTAL	—	130 0 0

B.—The same in Sugar-cane.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year :	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
<i>Sugar-cane</i> .—During the first rabi or winter crop the land lies fallow. Cane is planted in January or February. The following rain crop: sugar growing.	—	—
2nd year :		
The following winter also occupied with it, but manufactured in January.	42 0 0	70 0 0
The following rain crop of kodo and tangani (kutcha weight).	12 0 0	8 0 0
Do. straw	—	0 8 0
Total of both years	—	78 8 0

C.—The same in Wheat.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year :	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
Wheat (kutcha weight)	12 0 0	19 0 0
Do. straw	—	2 0 0
Mustard and linseed amongst the wheat.	—	3 0 0
The following rain crop—Indian corn (kutcha weight).	12 0 0	12 0 0
Do. stalks	—	1 0 0
Total	—	37 0 0
2nd year :		
The following winter crop—peas.	10 0 0	10 0 0
Ditto straw	—	1 0 0
Mustard and sarson amongst the peas.	—	3 0 0
The following—cheena	15 0 0	18 0 0
Do. straw	—	0 8 0
Total	—	32 8 0
GRAND TOTAL	—	69 8 0

Bhât No. 3.—Ordinary Land.

A.—In Poppy.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
1st year:	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
Opium	0 5 0	27 8 0
Poppy seed	—	5 0 0
Do. flowers	0 4 0	1 0 0
Passewa	0 0 6	1 0 0
The following rain crop—Indian corn (kutcha weight).	10 0 0	10 0 0
Do. stalks	—	0 8 0
Total	—	45 0 0
2nd year:		
The following poppy crop—opium.	0 4 0	22 8 0
Poppy seed	—	4 0 0
Do. flowers	0 4 0	1 0 0
Passewa	0 0 6	1 0 0
The following—cheena (kutcha weight).	15 0 0	15 0 0
Do. straw	—	0 8 0
Total	—	44 0 0
GRAND TOTAL	—	89 0 0

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B.—The same in Sugar-cane.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
1st year:		
<i>Sugar-cane</i> .—During the first winter crop the land lies fallow, the cane being put down in January or February.		
The following rain crop—sugar growing.		
2nd year:		
The following winter crop also occupied with it but manufactured in January.	30 0 0	50 0 0
The following rain crop of kodo (kutcha weight).	12 0 0	8 0 0
Ditto straw - - -	--	0 8 0
Total for both years -	--	58 8 0

C.—The same in Wheat.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
1st year:		
Wheat (kutcha weight) -	8 0 0	12 0 0
Do. straw - - -	--	1 8 0
Linseed and mustard amongst the wheat.	--	2 0 0
The following rain crop—Indian corn (kutcha weight).	10 0 0	10 0 0
Do. stalks - - -	--	1 0 0
Total - - -	--	26 8 0
2nd year:		
The following winter crop—barley and peas, mixed (kutcha weight).	16 0 0	10 0 0
Do. straw - - -	--	1 8 0
Linseed and mustard amongst the barley.	--	3 0 0
The following rain crop—Indian corn (kutcha weight).	15 0 0	15 0 0
Do. stalks - - -	--	1 8 0
Total - - -	--	31 0 0
GRAND TOTAL	--	57 8 0

Bhát No. 4.—Poor Land.

A.—In Poppy.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
1st year:		
Opium - - - -	0 3 0	16 8 0
Poppy seed - - -	--	3 0 0
Do. flowers - - -	0 4 0	1 0 0
Passewa - - - -	0 0 4	0 8 0
The following rain crop—Indian corn (kutcha weight).	10 0 0	10 0 0
Do. stalks - - -	--	0 8 0
Total - - -	--	31 8 0
2nd year:		
The following poppy crop—opium, &c.	--	21 0 0
The following rain crop—Indian corn (kutcha weight).	10 0 0	10 0 0
Do. stalks - - -	--	0 8 0
Total - - -	--	31 8 0
GRAND TOTAL	--	63 0 0

B.—The same in Wheat, &c.	Out-turn per Bigha.	
	Produce.	Value.
	Mds. s. c.	Rs. a. p.
1st year:		
Wheat (kutcha weight) -	6 0 0	9 8 0
Do. straw - - -	--	1 8 0
Linseed and mustard amongst the wheat.	--	1 8 0
The following rain crop—Indian corn (kutcha weight).	8 0 0	8 0 0
Do. stalks - - -	--	1 0 0
Total - - -	--	21 8 0
2nd year:		
The following winter crop—barley and peas, mixed (kutcha weight).	7 0 0	7 0 0
Do. straw - - -	--	1 0 0
Mustard amongst the barley -	--	1 0 0
The following rain crop—Indian corn.	9 0 0	9 0 0
Do. stalks - - -	--	1 0 0
Total - - -	--	19 0 0
GRAND TOTAL	--	40 8 0

APP. III.

APPENDIX III.

CORRESPONDENCE No. 291C.-787, REGARDING THE USE OF NARCOTINE AS A FEBRIFUGE.

From G. M. GREGORY, Esq., Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, Ghazipur, to J. P. HEWETT, Esq., C.I.E., Secretary Royal Opium Commission.

SIR, Ghazipur, 14th February 1894.
In accordance with the request made by the President of the Royal Opium Commission during my public examination at Benares as a witness, that I should submit what papers I could obtain from the opium factory at Ghazipur, regarding the use of narcotine as a febrifuge, and its supply to the Medical Department; I have now the honour to annex the following papers in connexion with the subject for submission to the Commission:—

1. Copy of letter No. 79, dated 15th December 1858, from Dr. Palmer to the Opium Agent.

2. Copy of letter No. 103, dated 13th April 1859, from Dr. Palmer to the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of Gorakhpur.
3. Copy of letter No. 169, dated 19th November 1859, from Dr. Palmer to the Opium Agent.
4. Copy of letter No. 192, dated 14th February 1860, from Dr. Palmer to the Director-General of the Medical Department.
5. Appendix to above letter, containing history of cases treated.
6. Extract of letter No. 2, from Dr. Shepherd to the Opium Agent.
7. Extract of letter No. 74, dated 7th October 1875, from Dr. Shepherd to the Opium Agent.
8. Extract of letter No. 175, dated 27th March 1877, from Dr. Shepherd to the Opium Agent.

9. Statement showing the issues of narcotine from the Ghazipur factory to the Medical Department from 1860 to 1894.

The last item of 400lbs. was issued to the Secretary of State, London, in 1883, for sale in the London market, but there was no purchaser for it. The issues to the Medical Department have now ceased, owing to the cheapness of quinine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. M. GREGORY,
Sub-Deputy Opium Agent.

No. 79.

To H. C. HAMILTON, Esq., Benares Opium Agent,
Ghazipur.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward for your orders the Annual Statement of confiscated opium, and to make the following report on the uses to which that of the former seasons has been applied, together with a statement of some important experiments which are still being carried on in the laboratory of this agency on the manufacture of anarcotine.

On my arrival here in November 1857, there was 18 mds. 12 seers 2 ch. of confiscated opium in store of season 1856-57; from this 8 seers 10 ch. of muriate of morphia has been made; its purification is not yet completed; as soon as it is I shall have the honour of reporting to you, but in the meantime I am anxious to call your attention to some experiments which are still being carried on in this laboratory, and in the hospitals round about, which appears to me to be of greater importance than the mere preparation of morphia, as this latter is only a saving of money to Government, while the former appears to give a remedy scarcely inferior to quinine in the treatment of the fevers and some other of the most severe diseases of this country, to solve that great difficulty, "How a substitute for quinine is to be found," in case all future attempts to introduce the cinchonas or quinine-giving trees in this country fail, and in case those trees should die out in their own country; and further it appears to justify that old and almost universal belief, that wherever a severe disease is common there the remedy for that disease exists if man can find it out.

When morphia has been extracted from opium it has been the custom to throw the dregs away; those dregs contained several of the proximate principles of opium which have been separated from time to time by chemists, but only one of these, called anarcotine or narcotine, has been used in medicine, and this only to a very limited extent. Some years ago Sir W. B. O'Shaughnessy made some quantities of the alkaloid in question, distributed it to some of the most eminent surgeons and assistant surgeons on the Bengal establishment, as a remedy against the common fevers of this country; it was tried and reported upon favourably by all who had used it. Dr. O'Shaughnessy published these experiments in England; the discovery of a substitute for quinine excited much interest there, but the actual value of the remedy could not well be tested because cases of the same class of diseases were not very common.

In India, however, the remedy had also fallen into disuse; on asking the question why, it appeared to me that no regular establishment for its manufacture had ever been formed, and its disuse was a necessary consequence of the departure from this country of Dr. O'Shaughnessy; whether this were the correct reason or not, it appeared to me a subject of such importance that further experiments were urgently called for. When the morphia had been prepared from the confiscated opium of season 1856-57, and the dregs were about to be thrown away, I felt that these dregs contained a considerable portion of anarcotine, and was anxious to extract some of it in order to put its medicinal properties to the test. When the first portion was extracted Dr. Gibbon was here in medical charge of the 65th N.I.; he tried it in all the fevers in his hospital and reported most favourably upon it. In my own practice it appeared highly successful, scarcely inferior to quinine as a remedy in some cases of fever, while in some other cases it was decidedly superior. In the Gaol Hospital and Civil Station only half the usual quantity of quinine has been used during the past year, while a much larger number of fever cases has been treated than in previous years.

In the Ghazipur Charitable Dispensary anarcotine has been used most extensively, and with uniformly favourable results. Small quantities have been distributed from time to time to surgeons proceeding up and down the river in charge of sick, but in consequence of the unsettled state of the country no record of these has been obtained.

In all about one seer of anarcotine has been prepared during the past twelve months, and most of it has been used in the treatment of fevers at this station.

The result of its use has been so highly satisfactory that I am anxious to call your attention to such an important subject, and to solicit permission to extract the whole of anarcotine, as well as the morphia, from the opium confiscated this season. As we have only 17 mds. 32 seers 3 ch. this season, it is possible that it does not contain more than six or eight seers of anarcotine. In case permission is granted to extract as much of this as it is possible to obtain, it appears to me that two things remain to be done. First, experiments have to be made upon the most economical mode of separating anarcotine on a large scale. Secondly, the anarcotine made has to be distributed so as to obtain the most carefully observed results as to its medicinal properties.

I have the honour of further communication with you upon both these subjects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. J. PALMER,
16th December 1858. 1st Assistant.

No. 103.

To G. OSBORNE, Esq., Sub-Deputy Opium Agent,
Gorakhpur.

SIR,

April 13, 1859.

I HAVE the honour to transmit by this day's post one ounce of *hydrochlorate of anarcotine* as a remedy against fever. I am very anxious to know how it answers with the kind of fever which prevails at Gorakhpur, and shall be much obliged if you will let me know the result of your trial.

Directions for use.—A dose of purgative medicine should always be first administered, then the anarcotine may be given in doses of *one grain* every six, four, or two hours according to the virulence of the fever. It may be taken in a little water.

Precautions.—As it is a very powerful remedy, it must be used with great care. If the dose is too large it causes giddiness and vomiting. Whenever these occur it should be given in smaller doses. Whenever the fever does not abate quickly the dose should be increased gradually until the giddiness or vomiting comes on.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. J. PALMER,
1st Assistant.

No. 169.

To H. C. HAMILTON, Esq., Benares Opium Agent,
Ghazipur,

SIR,

November 15, 1859.

I HAVE the honour to report the despatch, under care of Assay Superintendent, Mr. H. Myles, of fifteen and a half chitaks of hydrochlorate of morphia, made from the confiscated opium of season 1857-8, to the address of Dr. Grant, Apothecary-General, also of one seer five chitaks of anarcotine, made from part of the same confiscated opium to Dr. J. Forsyth, Director-General of the Medical Department, under care of the Apothecary-General.

2. The Director-General in his letter, No. 2,760, dated 12th March 1859, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, having pointed out the necessity of estimating the cost of manufacturing both morphia and anarcotine at this agency, as soon as the "weighments" of past season were over, careful experiments were commenced in this laboratory for the solution of that question. The results are appended to this letter in two tables, from which it appears that we can supply a large proportion of the morphia required by Government at 8 annas and 4 pies per oz.

3. Dr. Forsyth in the letter above alluded to mentions the quantity of the salts of morphia annually required by

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APP. III.

Government, and refers to a former recommendation of the Apothecary-General, that the whole of this quantity should be supplied from the Behar and Benares Agencies. The quantity we shall be able to supply from this agency will, of course, vary with the quantity and quality of the opium confiscated. The morphia sent down this year was the product of 17 maunds 32 seers of confiscated opium, but in the season just ended only 10 maunds 9 seers of opium were confiscated, and the produce of morphia will be proportionately diminished. With reference to the quality of the drug, I would observe that it can be purified here to any degree the Apothecary-General may think fit; the drug I have sent down this year appears to me to be of fair average commercial purity, but I shall be glad to have the opinion of the Apothecary-General on this point to guide me in future.

4. The actual amount of anarcotine made in the past year has fallen far short of the amount estimated in my letter, No. 79, dated 15th December 1858.

A large proportion of anarcotine is lost in our present method of preparing morphia, or rather it is so mixed up with the resin of opium, that in the present state of our knowledge it would be very expensive to extract it; this is one cause of the diminution, secondly, a number of experiments were made to extract anarcotine without the aid of spirit; and in trying which form of the alkaloid could be prepared most economically this was another cause of the diminution.

At first much difficulty was found in making the anarcotine pure, and up to the present time there is a difficulty in extracting the whole of it. The specimen sent down to the Director-General is a good sample both as to the quality and quantity we are able to obtain from a given amount of confiscated opium.

Under the circumstances I am afraid it will be impossible to make enough to supply dispensaries, and I would suggest that it be given out on special indent only, and that medical officers using it should be required to keep records of its therapeutic effects.

It has been very extensively used here as a remedy in fevers, especially during the late severe visitation, from which so large a proportion of the population has suffered; it appears to me hardly inferior to quinine in its power of arresting the attack of fever; indeed, in many cases it appears superior, and as the dose required is rather smaller than that of quinine, I estimate its commercial value as at least equal to that of that drug.

5. I am drawing up an exclusively medical report on the therapeutic effects of anarcotine, as observed here during the last two years, which I shall have the honour of forwarding to the Director-General as soon as it is completed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. J. PALMER,
1st Assistant and Opium
Examiner.

No. 192.

To J. FORSYTH, Esq., Director-General Medical
Department.

Calcutta,
February 14, 1860.

SIR,
I HAVE the honour to make the following report on the use of narcotine or anarcotine as an anti-periodic during the time I was Civil Assistant Surgeon at Ghazipur.

From November 6th, 1857, to the end of September 1859 one hundred and eighty-eight cases of malarious fever were admitted into the Gaol Hospital. From the formation of the Ghazipur military police in July 1858 to the end of September 1859, three hundred and fifty-eight cases of fever were admitted into the Police Hospital, making a total of 546 cases, all of which were treated with anarcotine. Of the 188 admitted in the Gaol Hospital, 184 were cured and 4 died.

Of the 358 admitted in the Police Hospital, 357 were cured and 1 died.

The plan of treatment adopted in all cases was uniformly simple. When a patient was admitted, complaining of any one of the forms of malarious fever, a purgative was first administered. In case the fever was not present at the time of admission, the patient was allowed to remain without more medicine until the attack came on, and was examined. As soon as it was

ascertained beyond a doubt that the patient was suffering from malarious fever anarcotine was given in one, two, or three grain doses, either alone or dissolved in a little dilute sulphuric acid and water, three or more times a day in proportion to the severity of the attack. The first expected return of the paroxysm after the medicine was commenced, usually came on, sometimes as if no medicine had been taken, generally with less severity than before. The second expected return seldom came, the paroxysm had been arrested. So constantly was this the case that I would scarcely refrain from assuring the patient in every case that the second return of the paroxysm would never come.

Of this class of cases I have transcribed the notes of six cases, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 in the Appendix. Those six cases fairly represent the effect of anarcotine as an anti-periodic in seventy per cent. of all the cases treated by me.

There is another class of cases where the effect is not so quick; it causes, but not immediately as in the above. Cases 7, 8, 9, and 10 in the Appendix are fair representations of this class. The effect of the medicine is first seen by postponing the attack. While no medicines are being given it is not uncommon to see each succeeding paroxysm commence a little earlier, continue a little longer, and with more severity than the former ones. When these three signs are reversed under the influence of the medicine, a rapid cure may be predicted. The four cases, viz., Nos. 7, 8, 9, and 10, are a fair representation of 20 per cent. of all the cases treated by me.

The remaining 10 per cent. may be said to form a third class, in which anarcotine in the form and doses at present given by me does not appear to have any curative effect. A specimen is given in Case 11. This class contrasts so strongly with the former two that I have been constantly led to believe there must be some difference in the character of the fever. I have, however, up to the present time sought in vain for any pathognomonic symptom by which they may be distinguished before the treatment is commenced. In this 10 per cent. of all cases other anti-periodics were given. The necessity for resorting to them was generally assumed when each succeeding paroxysm of fever commenced earlier and lasted longer, or come with more violence.

The proportion of deaths which occurred in the Gaol was large compared with those in the Police Hospital. The policemen were all in the prime of life while the prisoners were frequently old and diseased. Of the four fatal cases amongst the prisoners, two were admitted in a dying state, and a third was an enfeebled old man. The four fatal cases are noted in the margin from the Gaol Hospital records.

Janki Roy, aged 60, admitted December 13th, 1857, remitt. fever, died 16th December 1857.

Chonee, aged 40, admitted September 1st, 1858, and died the next day.

Gouree Roy, aged 60, admitted March 28th, 1858, died from anæmia 7th May.

Jhutina, aged 32, admitted March 3rd, 1858, died 12th March.

2. In addition to the above 546 cases, all of which are recorded in the usual official manner, a large number of fever patients have come under my treatment in the following ways:—

In the ordinary medical practice of a large civil station;

At the Ghazipur Charitable Dispensary;

In the hospital of the 2nd Sikh Infantry, which was under my charge from July to October 1858; and

In the hospitals of the 4th Madras Light Cavalry and of the regiment of irregular cavalry, called the Benares Horse, both of which were under my medical charge from the end of September to the end of November 1858.

In all cases the results were exactly similar to those reported above, and the total number treated falls little short of 1,000.

3. The above I think contains satisfactory evidence of the power of anarcotine to cure fevers. The question whether it is equal to quinine as an anti-periodic cannot be decided by such a limited number of experiments as have been hitherto made, but sufficient I trust has been done to show the desirability of further knowledge on such an important subject. There are cases where its efficacy appears to be decidedly superior to quinine, viz., where there is an intolerance of quinine and where quinine has been given without any effect for a long time. I will mention two in illustration which have come under my observation. 1. A lady had been

subject to periodical headache; it came every day after noon. The smallest dose of quinine caused such a ringing in her ears and deafness that she said "the remedy was worse than the disease." One grain of anarcotine given three times a day caused no deafness, but cured the headache in three days. The other was a pale chlorotic girl aged 16. She had had a very severe attack of fever six months before, from which time she had never regained her health and strength; slight attacks of fever returned from time to time, for which she took quinine, but it had, to use her expression, "lost its effects." This patient was perfectly cured after taking anarcotine for a few weeks.

It may be that there are fevers which are more amenable to anarcotine, and others which yield more readily to quinine. It may be that larger doses of anarcotine could cure a greater number of cases than the above small doses; these and many other questions in the treatment of periodic diseases appear to be opened up by the above facts, and will, I hope, be solved when a sufficient number of cases have been recorded by different medical men in various parts of the country.

4. So long as there is an unlimited supply of quinine it does not appear probable that anarcotine will ever supersede it. The former enjoys an established reputation, the latter has fallen into disuse partly because it is so little known, and partly perhaps from an uncertainty about its relative cost.

All that has been used here during the past two years has been made from refuse opium, which as opium was of no value whatever, so that its cost has only been that of manufacture. But even if it should cost more per ounce than quinine when made from good opium it appears to be effectual in much smaller doses. Again quinine may at any time become very much scarcer and dearer than at present; in such a case it is satisfactory to know that we have an indigenous product which will cure the fevers of the country, almost, if not quite, as rapidly and certainly as quinine.

5. Among the Ghazipur Police there are many natives of the Nepaul hills who had never lived in the plains before 1858. A large proportion of these men suffered from fever and were very subject to relapse. A phenomenon occurred which appears to bear upon the question of the relation of dysentery to the malarious fevers. Of every five patients re-admitted into hospital within eight or ten days after they had been discharged cured two were suffering from dysentery, while the other three had fever again. Both diseases appeared to have returned under exactly similar circumstances, but they were always separate; if a patient had fever he seldom had dysentery and *vice versa*. These cases came before me so constantly that I felt compelled to assume that the same malarious poison was the origin and cause of both diseases, and I subjected them to the same treatment.

Castor oil was first given, then a pill made of two grains of anarcotine and a half or one grain of opium every four or six hours. From July 1858 to end of September 1859, 44 cases of dysentery, and some of them very severe ones, were treated in this way in the Police Hospital.

All were cured; there was not one death. This result appeared so wonderful that the same treatment was applied to the dysentery patients in the Gaol Hospital. Out of 39 cases admitted into the Gaol Hospital during the same period 15 died, or 38 per cent. of deaths to be treated. The number of dysentery cases admitted into the Gaol Hospital in the seven months before the anarcotine treatment was tried was 21, of which six died, or 28 per cent. of deaths to be treated. These figures tend to invalidate the supposition that anarcotine is a specific in dysentery, but the experiment is on both sides on too limited a scale to prove anything, and the great fact that 44 cases of dysentery were cured without one fatal result still remains demanding further investigation into the therapeutic action of anarcotine in this disease. Is there a form of dysentery which may be cured by anarcotine, and, if so, how may it be known from other forms?

6. There is another class of cases in which anarcotine has been given with great benefit, viz., hemicrania and periodic headaches; these diseases are in most cases rapidly cured by two-grain doses given three to six times a day according to the severity of the disease.

7. I regret that my opportunities of submitting this valuable remedy to further experiment are now so limited, but am also glad to be able to inform you that Dr. Garden, the present Civil Surgeon, has continued to use it extensively in both the Gaol and Police Hospitals ever since his arrival here in October 1859, and as

fever has raged with fearful and fatal violence at this station and in all the country round about ever since his arrival, his experience of its therapeutic effect will be especially valuable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. J. PALMER,
Assistant Surgeon,
First Assistant and Opium Examiner,
Benares Opium Agency.

APPENDIX.

Case 1.—An European aged 55, who had lived many years in near Ghazipur called me in to see him at 2 p.m. on 27th of September when he was suffering from great heat of the body, skin dry and harsh, burning pain in the head, great thirst, urine high coloured. P. 98 says he has been in this condition since noon, and that between nine and ten o'clock this morning he was attacked with a shivering fit, during which his whole body was shaken severely and he could not feel warm though he was covered with a great amount of warm clothing and had hot water bottles to his feet and stomach. The great heat, thirst, and febrile symptoms generally abated after 3 o'clock and by 5.30 p.m. they had all passed away with the exception of the harsh dry skin, which continued.

History.—He usually enjoys good health but has had an attack similar to the present one every other day for the last ten days, but it has every day increased slightly in duration and force. At 6 o'clock p.m. on the 27th his skin continued harsh and dry but he said this was usual and that he had not perspired for the last week. He had himself taken a dose of purgative medicine a day or two before, so I immediately administered one grain of anarcotine. In 20 minutes from this time he felt a warm glow over the whole of the surface of his body, but especially about his hands and feet, the harsh feel had disappeared, the skin now felt soft and was presently covered with minute drops of perspiration which gradually increased until his whole body was bathed. Continue the powder every four hours.

On the 29th the fever returned very slightly. On the 1st October it did not come at all and the medicine was discontinued, contrary to my direction. About a week after this time I was again called in to see the same patient suffering from a return of the fever. He had travelled to an indigo factory ten miles away to pack up some indigo. During the time he was there he performed an unusual amount of labour for many hours and was attacked with a shivering on the spot about four o'clock in the afternoon. Of the 28 natives who were at work there with him on that day six were attacked with fever. The factory was on the borders of the Ganges river and the flood of the rainy season had just subsided. Under these circumstances it was not surprising that he should have caught fever again. This attack yielded to the influence of anarcotine exactly as the former one had done.

Case 2.—Gumbheer Bhitiskotee, Goorkha, aged 22, admitted into hospital at 8 a.m. February 6th, 1859.

Has suffered for the last three or four days from quotidian ague which commences at midnight and continues till the next morning. Ordered a purgative.

February 7th, 7 a.m. Bowels had been well moved yesterday. The fever had been examined in the night by the native doctors, and the man's body was still covered with profuse perspiration as an evidence that he was really suffering from fever. Ordered anarcotine $1\frac{1}{2}$ grains every four hours.

8th. Had fever last night but it was less severe than before.

9th. Had no fever last night.

10th. Discharged cured.

Case 3.—Jus Beer, Goorka, aged 28; admitted into hospital on 22nd May; has been suffering from remittent fever for the last two days.

22nd. Ordered purgative to be followed by anarcotine two grains three times a day.

February 23rd. The fever has continued with slight variation in degree throughout the whole day and night.

24th. The fever has been very slight since yesterday.

26th. The fever scarcely perceptible.

27th. Fever quite gone.

30th. Discharged cured.

Case 4.—Mohan Sing, aged 26 years, a policeman, native of Ghazipur, was admitted into hospital.

APP. III.

27th October 1858. Suffering from the following symptoms:—Skin hot and dry; pulse frequent, jerking, and easily compressible; urine high coloured; thirst; no appetite; tongue coated with brown fur; headache, and great lassitude. Has suffered from these symptoms for the last six or seven days.

Ordered purgative powder.

Anarcotine, two grains three times a day, to be commenced after the operation of the purgative.

28th October. Has been well purged. Took one dose of the anarcotine yesterday. Fever continued the whole day. He feels chilled from time to time; never has actual shivering. His skin continues dry.

29th October. Fever continues, but all the symptoms are milder.

30th October. Complaints of nausea after taking the medicine yesterday, and says he perspired all night.

31st October. Had no fever during the day yesterday.

3rd November. Discharged cured.

Case 5.—Gujraj Sing, policeman, native of Ghazipur.

Admitted into hospital December 17th, 1858. Says he was attacked with ague every day at noon since the 15th instant, that it lasts about half an hour, after which he becomes very hot. This continues till five or six o'clock, when he begins to perspire freely, and after eight or nine p.m. he feels quite well again.

Ordered a purgative.

18th December. Bowels were moved yesterday freely. Fever came on as usual.

Ordered anarcotine, 2 grs.

„ dil. sulph. acid, 5 drops.

„ water, an oz. To be taken three times a day.

19th December. Fever came on slightly.

20th December. No fever yesterday.

21st and 22nd December. Has had no fever.

23rd December. Had fever again yesterday. Says he had not omitted the medicine, but I suspect he had not taken it. Ordered the medicine to be given carefully.

24th December. No fever yesterday.

27th December. Discharged cured.

Case 6.—A robust male European, aged 45, who had lived in Ghazipur for many years, applied to me for medical aid on the 15th October at one o'clock p.m. He was then in a burning heat; his whole body was covered with a papular eruption of a lenticular shape and a dusky red colour. These papules were distinct and varied in size from one line to one-eighth of an inch in diameter. His whole body was burning and itching. He could scarcely refrain from tearing his hands and face with his finger-nails. His pulse at this time was 88, but as I sat and watched him it uniformly increased in frequency until three o'clock p.m., when it beat 125 per minute. At the same time the skin became hotter and dryer, the papules increased in size, number, and depth of colour; those which measured only a line in diameter had increased gradually and uniformly up to nearly a quarter of an inch, new papules had appeared, faint coloured and small as at first, but the whole number had by this time so much increased that they had run into each other until the whole body was a dusky red colour, and presented a bloated appearance; the lips were much swollen, and the tongue had by three o'clock become quite dry. From this time (three p.m.) all these symptoms gradually disappeared, and by six o'clock p.m. the papules had all disappeared, the skin was still harsh and dry, and he still complained of thirst, but the pulse had gradually decreased to 80, and his skin was gradually becoming moist.

History of the disease. His health generally very good a week ago. On the 7th October he felt a slight burning on his face and the palms of his hands and the soles of his feet, but took no notice of it. Again on the 9th and 11th he had similar attacks. The last time (on the 11th) he noticed the eruption on his hands and face as to-day, but it was very slight. On the 13th, at noon, he had a slight shivering fit, followed by gradually increasing heat, thirst, itching, and eruption, exactly as to-day, but not so severe. The attack commenced to-day with shivering, but the cold stage lasted a very short time.

He was ordered a dose of blue pill and colocynth at bedtime, to be followed by a dose of castor-oil on the morning of the 6th.

15th October. His purgative is operating freely. He is free from fever to-day.

Ordered anarcotine, two grains, to be taken every four hours.

17th October. Has taken the anarcotine regularly since four p.m. Yesterday at eleven o'clock p.m. slight shivering came on, which was followed by all the symptoms noted on the 15th, every one exaggerated in degree. The pulse rose to 130, and the fever did not attain its maximum weight until four o'clock. After seven o'clock p.m. profuse perspiration occurred. Continue anarcotine.

18th October. Lives on slop diet. Feels quite well, with the exception of weakness and disinclination for food. Continue the anarcotine.

19th October. Between one and two o'clock the body became slightly warm, and one or two papules appeared on the face, but all passed away in less than an hour. Continue the medicine.

1st November. No symptom of fever appeared to-day.

2nd and 3rd November. Is quite well.

To leave off medicine gradually.

Remarks on case. In the above case the eruption, the swelling of the lips, and the intolerable itching of the hands, feet, and face are uncommon symptoms, but they were also manifestly connected with the fever poison, increasing and decreasing simultaneously with the ordinary signs of an attack of intermittent fever that their occurrence in this case appears to throw light on the proper treatment of a class of cases by no means uncommon in this country. A native applies to a medical man, complaining of occasional burning in the palms of his hands and soles of his feet, or sometimes of constant perspiration from the same parts. I have often been puzzled to know how to treat these cases. Are they amenable to anti-periodic remedies, as quinine or anarcotine? I have only had one case of the kind since the above case of fever was seen. It was a case of constant sweating of the hands. Anarcotine relieved the symptoms very much while it was being taken, but did not appear to cure. Although this case was not quite favourable, still I hope the question is one of sufficient interest to induce other practitioners to seek for the true solution of it.

Case 7.—Pooran Joysee, a Goorkha Brahmin, aged 18, admitted into hospital.

October 27th, 1858. Says he has had an attack of fever every night for the last five nights.

Ordered a dose of castor-oil.

23rd October. His bowels were well acted upon yesterday. In the evening about five o'clock his body became very hot, and his heat continued with headache, thirst, and great restlessness until three or four o'clock this morning, attaining its maximum about midnight. The attack did not commence with shivering, nor did it terminate with the usual sweating. His skin continues dry and harsh all day.

Ordered anarcotine, one grain, to be taken three times a day.

24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th October. On all these days it is reported that the fever has not diminished in any degree. He was therefore ordered to take the following draught three times a day:—

Anarcotine, 2 grains.

Dil. sulph. acid, 10 drops.

Water, 1 oz. Mix.

29th October. Says the fever was less severe last night.

30th October. The fever still less severe.

31st October. Had no fever last night.

3rd November. No fever, but he does not regain his strength. Ordered quinine mixture as a tonic.

3rd December. Discharged cured.

Case 8.—Rambux Tewary, aged 35, policeman. August 2nd admitted into hospital suffering from tertian ague. The fit has just passed it off. Says the fever comes every second day; begins at noon with shivering, which continues three or four hours; his body then becomes burning hot, and towards the morning his body begins to perspire, after which he feels well.

Ordered a purgative.

3rd August. Bowels well opened yesterday.

4th August. The ague commenced as usual at four p.m. yesterday, and continued till this morning.

Ordered anarcotine mixture, to be taken three times a day.

6th August. Fever returned last night.

8th August. Continue the mixture.

10th August. Continue.

12th August. The fever well; severe last night.

14th August. Had no fever yesterday.
Continued the medicine till the 23rd, when he was discharged cured.

Case 9.—Buddhibul Khedree, aged 20, policeman. Admitted into hospital on the 2nd February 1859.

He has been suffering from ague every day for the last three days. It commences in the afternoon, and continues all night.

Ordered a purgative.

3rd February. The ague came on at three p.m. yesterday.

The bowels had been well opened.

Ordered the following draught, to be taken three times a day:—

Anarcotine, 2 grains.

Dil. sulph. acid, 10 drops.

Water, 1 oz. Mix.

4th February. The fever came as usual yesterday.

5th February. Fever came yesterday.

6th February. Fever came again.

7th February. Reports that the fever yesterday was less severe.

8th February. No fever yesterday.

9th February. Discharged cured.

Case 10.—Knaba Beer, Goorkha, aged 18, admitted in to the hospital on the 11th October 1858, complaining of fever, which comes on every afternoon and continues all night. His face, lips, and tongue are all very pale. He is very weak, and his spleen is seen and felt extending nearly as far forward as the umbilicus.

Ordered a purgative; a blister over the spleen.

12th October. The usual attack of fever came on yesterday, passing through the regular stages of shivering, hot and dry skin, with thirst and headache, succeeded by profuse perspiration.

Ordered 2 grains of anarcotine, to be taken three times a day.

13th, 14th, and 15th October. Same report daily. The fever had not abated, but on the 16th the attack yesterday was less severe.

17th October. Had no fever yesterday. The spleen is softer but not smaller than it was.

Ordered the following draught, to be taken three times a day:—

Anarcotine, 2 grains.

Sulphate of iron, 1 grain.

Dil. sulph. acid, 5 drops.

Water, 1 oz. Mix.

Another blister to be applied to the left hypochondrium. From this time his health improved regularly, and the spleen had shrunk up under the ribs, where it could be felt, a little larger than its natural size.

29th November. Discharged cured.

Case 11.———, aged 25, called me in on the 18th December, 1859, at four o'clock p.m. She was then shivering and covered up with warm clothing, sitting before a fire. The attack had just commenced. After an hour the cold stage passed away, and the body became gradually hot, the mouth dry, and the pulse rose gradually from 74 to 98 beats in a minute. After two hours this dryness was succeeded by profuse perspiration, and all the abnormal symptoms passed away. She remembered feeling a coldness for the first time on the 14th inst., and on the 16th she became very cold at four or five o'clock p.m., but had no decided shivering until to-day.

Ordered castor-oil, a tablespoonful to be taken to-morrow morning, to be followed by 2 grains of anarcotine every two hours.

19th December. The bowels have been freely moved. Continue the anarcotine.

20th December, 4 p.m. The ague came again to-day with about the same force as on the 18th.

Continue the powder.

22nd December. The fever came a little earlier to-day, and continued longer.

Continue the powder.

24th December. The fever commenced at two o'clock to-day, and continued until 10 p.m.

Quinine would now have been given but that at the outset of the case the patient warned me that I was on no account to give her quinine, for she had once taken it, and it had made her almost mad.

Ordered anarcotine, 3 grains, to be taken every two hours.

26th December. The fever returned to-day with still greater severity. As the constitution was now suffering from the repeated attacks of the fever, and as it was evident the anarcotine did not check it, but, on the contrary, it was increasing in violence, I ordered to omit the anarcotine, and to give 10 grains of quinine as soon as the sweating stage commenced.

27th October. The quinine was given at four o'clock this morning, and no distressing head symptoms having followed, the dose was repeated at noon and again at night.

28th October. At seven o'clock a.m. 10 grains of quinine was given, and repeated again at ten o'clock. Ordered 10 grains of quinine to be taken three times to-morrow and twice on the 30th before noon.

30th October. No fever came to-day.

From this time the doses of quinine were gradually reduced, and the patient rapidly recovered her health and strength.

APP. III.
Narcotine.

No. 2.

ON THE PREPARATION OF NARCOTINE AND MORPHIA.

1. Dr. Palmer, principal assistant, commenced the manufacture of narcotine and morphia from confiscated opium. History of the manufacture of narcotine and morphia at this agency. Opium which is only slightly adulterated, or somewhat largely with additions of articles which can be separated in the preparation of Lewah, is not confiscated, but passed for Lewah under a fine proportionate to the nature and extent of the adulterations.

2. The confiscated opium of seasons 1858-59 and 1859-60 was operated on for the extraction of morphia and narcotine. Quantity of narcotine and morphia. Its quality is not stated, but from it 182 lbs of morphia and 21 lbs. 14 ozs. of narcotine were obtained. The value of these alkaloids was at English rates, according to Dr. Palmer, Rs. 18,933, while the expense of preparing them was only Rs. 1,737, showing a profit of Rs. 17,196.

3. Since 1865 neither morphia nor narcotine have been manufactured at this agency, and the confiscated opium of three years has been destroyed, amounting to 80 maunds. Hence a great loss of two very valuable alkaloids has taken place.

* * * * *

7. The demand for narcotine is always considerable in India, on account of its febrifuge properties, and, as it is used in doses ten times larger than those of morphia, the consumption is much greater.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) T. W. SHEPPARD,
Principal Assistant B.O.A.

No. 74.

From the PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT, Benares Opium Agency, to the BENARES OPIUM AGENT.—Dated 7th October 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following remarks on the preparation of morphia and narcotine at the Benares Opium Agency Factory.

* * * * *

17. Formerly there was but a very small demand for this alkaloid. During the last 14 or 15 years it has come to be used, and has been of late years much employed as a febrifuge for malarious fevers* between 1871-72 and 1874-75. Upwards of 1 cwt. per annum

* In the three Presidencies.

APP. III. on an average has been supplied to the three of morphia, hydrochlorate, and narcotine at this
Presidencies. agency factory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. W. SHEPPARD,
Principal Assistant B.O.A.

* * * * *
* * * * *

No. 175.

From the PRINCIPAL ASSISTANT, Benares Opium Agency,
to the BENARES OPIUM AGENT.—Dated Ghazipur,
the 27th March 1877.

The demand for narcotine has been steady in 1875-76,
142 lbs. and in 1876-77 137 lbs.
Narcotine. were issued. These quantities
show a slight increase over the
issues of 1873-74 and 1874-75. There are 22 lbs. 7 ozs.
in stock.

SIR,
IN a letter, No. 74A, 7th October 1875, I had
the honour to submit some remarks on the preparation

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. W. SHEPPARD,
Principal Assistant B.O.A.

STATEMENT showing the QUANTITY of NARCOTINE issued to the MEDICAL DEPARTMENT before 1878.

Date.	Order Number.	To whom supplied.	Quantity supplied.
1	2	3	4
			lbs. oz. d.
4th April 1860 - -	2155 F.	Sub-deputy opium agent, Gorakhpur - - -	0 2 0
13th June 1860 - -	2267 F.	Superintending surgeon of Benares Circle - - -	1 0 0
20th August 1860 - -	2339 F.	Medical store-keeper, Allahabad - - -	3 0 0
31st August 1860 - -	2347 F.	Medical-in-charge, Ghazipur Factory - - -	0 4 0
12th October 1860 - -	2373 F.	Medical store-keeper, Umballa - - -	2 0 0
31st October 1860 - -	2389 F.	" " " " - - -	1 0 0
—	—	" " Saugor - - -	1 0 0
—	—	" " Sialkot - - -	1 0 0
2nd November 1860 - -	2399 F.	Assistant-surgeon (civil), Ghazipur - - -	0 4 0
26th July 1861 - -	2723 F.	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. each to the Medical Store Department of Saugor, Umballa, Sialkot, and Allahabad.	2 0 0
17th January 1863 - -	3151 F.	Medical store-keeper, Calcutta - - -	10 0 0
28th April 1863 - -	3271 F.	Principal medical store-keeper, Calcutta - - -	27 0 0
—	—	Medical store-keeper, Allahabad - - -	3 0 0
—	—	" " Saugor - - -	2 0 0
—	—	" " Umballa - - -	4 0 0
—	—	" " Sialkot - - -	4 0 0
11th June 1863 - -	3321 F.	Presidency Medical Store Department as per Board's letter, No. 262, dated 8th June 1863.	20 0 0
11th November 1863 - -	3469 F.	Medical store-keeper, Sealkot, and the remaining. Vide First Assistant's Memo., No. 457, dated 10th November 1863, to Calcutta.	28 0 0
8th August 1864 - -	3746 F.	Medical store-keeper, Sialkot - - -	8 0 0
—	—	" " Umballa - - -	6 0 0
—	—	" " Allahabad - - -	6 0 0
—	—	" " Saugor - - -	4 0 0
19th January 1867 - -	393 G.	" " Sialkot - - -	1 0 0
19th May 1869 - -	1011 G.	" " " " - - -	3 0 0
13th April 1870 - -	1280 G.	" " Allahabad - - -	1 6 0
1st August 1871 - -	1711 G.	Medical Department, Sialkot - - -	6 0 0
6th March 1872 - -	1861 G.	Medical store-keeper, Allahabad - - -	20 0 0
22nd April 1875 - -	2857 H.	Principal medical store-keeper, Calcutta (including supply for Madras).	51 0 0
—	—	Principal medical store-keeper, Allahabad depôt - - -	45 0 0
—	—	" " Mean Meer " " - - -	—
24th April 1876 - -	26 H.	Medical depôt as per Board's letter, No. 136, dated 13th April 1876.	21 0 0
			100 0 0
		Total - - -	382 0 0

STATEMENT of NARCOTINE supplied from 1876 to January 1894.

APP. III.

Narcotine.

Number of Invoice.	Date of Invoice.	To whom supplied.	Quantity supplied.
		Brought forward	lb. oz. d. 382 0 0
1	15th December 1876	Medical store-keeper, Mean Meer	17 0 0
4	1st March 1877	Calcutta	51 0 0
5	" "	" "	100 0 0
6	" "	Allahabad	25 0 0
7	" "	" "	45 0 0
8	" "	Mean Meer	21 0 0
10	10th September 1877	" "	25 0 0
11	" "	Allahabad	23 0 0
12	14th October 1877	Calcutta	63 0 0
13	5th March 1878	" "	20 0 0
15	26th May 1878	" "	69 0 0
16	" "	Allahabad	3 0 0
17	" "	Mean Meer	16 0 0
21	12th February 1879	Allahabad	5 0 0
22	28th April 1879	Calcutta	20 0 0
25	23rd May 1879	Allahabad	9 0 0
26	14th July 1879	Mean Meer	19 0 0
27	" "	Calcutta	21 0 0
29	19th June 1880	Surgeon-General, Agra	5 0 0
30	12th August 1880	Medical store-keeper, Allahabad	5 0 0
31	" "	" "	15 0 0
32	" "	Mean Meer	31 0 0
22	21st May 1886	Mr. Francis, Durbhanga	1 0 0
9	November 1887	" "	2 0 0
39	9th February 1888	Medical store-keeper, Calcutta	0 8 0
54	20th August 1893	Civil surgeon, Ludhiana	0 1 0
	23rd January 1894	Factory superintendent, Behar	0 1 0
	October 1883	Secretary of State, London	100 0 0
		Total	1,393 10 0

Benares Opium Agency, Ghazipur,
14th February 1894.

G. M. GREGORY,
Sub-Deputy Opium Agent.

APPENDIX IV.

APP. IV.

N.W. Prov.
Excise.

MEMORANDUM on the HISTORY of the OPIUM EXCISE ADMINISTRATION in the NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES and OUDH, by Mr. STOKER, Commissioner of Excise in the North-western Provinces and Oudh.

It may be well to premise by saying that the Government and the revenue officers of these provinces are responsible only for the excise administration. The cultivation of poppy and the manufacture, &c. of opium are under the direct control of the Benares opium agent, who is immediately subordinate to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces. The supplies of excise opium required for provincial consumption are procured from the Ghazipur factory at a fixed price, which is now Rs. 7-4 per sir, and the further arrangements for control of vend and collection of revenue are made under orders of the Local Government.

But the presence of a large and widely diffused area of poppy exercises a very important influence on the opium excise administration and on the revenue from this source. Notwithstanding the severely restrictive character of the present system, a large amount of illicit opium both from inside and from outside the provinces finds its way into the hands of consumers, and a limit is put on the price which can be exacted for the duty-paid drug. This will be more fully considered hereafter.

2. Up to 1844, the price of excise opium was regulated by the price at which the drug sold for export. In that year the price rose to Rs. 18-4 per sir, and the vendors in these provinces refused to take out licenses. The competition of cheap contraband opium, both home grown and imported was too great to permit sales at so high a rate. The price of excise opium was therefore fixed at a uniform rate of Rs. 10 per sir. Retail sale was then effected through both official and non-official agency. The number of licenses is nowhere stated, but it cannot have been considerable as the

total revenue of the North-western Provinces from contract fees was only Rs. 23,000. It may be gathered that non-official vendors were few in number, and limited to large towns in localities where poppy was not grown and supervision could be exercised to prevent the sale of illicit opium. The cost price of excise opium to Government appears to have then been Rs. 5-8 per sir, and if, as seems probable, a discount of Re. 1 per sir was allowed to licensed vendors, the net profit to excise was Rs. 3-8 per sir.

3. In 1857, the retail price of excise opium was raised to Rs. 12 per sir. The arrangements for retail vend seem to have undergone little change. Sale was permitted at the collector's office, and such Tahsil offices as the collector might select. In districts where the cultivation of poppy was prohibited, sale by non-official vendors was permitted under special circumstances. Such permission was limited to large towns and subject to previous sanction of the Board of Revenue. The object of this restriction was to guard against the sale of illicit opium, and to restrict shops to localities where a demand existed, which would otherwise be illicitly supplied. This agency seems to have been little employed and it had fallen into complete desuetude in the seventh decade. Retail sales were limited to five tolas, and a register kept showing the names, residences, &c. of all purchasers. A discount of Re. 1 per sir was allowed to all licensed vendors to cover wastage and charges, leaving the net profit to excise Rs. 5-8 per sir; special licenses were granted to medical practitioners. The sale of madak and other non-medical preparations was prohibited.

4. These prices remained unchanged till 1861. In the meantime the demand for excise opium was growing, and as the price of provision opium had advanced to Rs. 42-11-3 per sir, so the loss on withholding opium from export had become very considerable.

APP. IV.
N.W. Prov.
Excise.

At the same time the price of crude opium to the cultivators had been increased by 12 annas per sir, and the expenses of manufacture had become heavier. These circumstances led the authorities to consider whether the rate for excise opium could not be raised in the North-western Provinces as it had already been raised in parts of Bengal. An experiment was made by Mr. A. O. Hume, the collector of Etawah, who had satisfied himself that a large amount of illicit opium was used in the district. The recorded consumption was only one maund per annum, and he estimated that it should be at least nine. He had succeeded in raising the duty paid sales to two maunds before the Mutiny. During the disturbances the cultivation of poppy was stopped, and on the restoration of order there was an unprecedented demand which led to the sale of three maunds in a few months. This demand ceased when the crop of 1858-59 was ready, and it was observed that in spite of a favourable season the recorded out-turn of that crop was very small. In order to check the illicit consumption to which these facts clearly pointed, Mr. Hume introduced regulations of a very stringent and inquisitory character. At the same time, he raised the retail price to Rs. 14, and placed the sale entirely in the hands of official vendors. The result of these measures in 1859-60 was to double the recorded consumption of excise opium, and Mr. Hume obtained permission to raise the retail price to Rs. 16 in 1860-61.

From the 6th December 1861, this price was made general throughout the North-western Provinces. Opium was issued to the vendors at Rs. 15 per sir, and retailed by official vendors at Rs. 16. Non-official vendors were at liberty to charge what retail price they liked. These prices remained in force till the 1st July 1893.

For the year 1861 the net profit to excise was Rs. 9-8 per sir.

5. In 1862, the factory price of excise opium issued to Local Governments was raised from Rs. 5-8 to Rs. 7-4 per sir, at which it still remains. From that time up to last July, the profit to the Excise Department on the sale of opium has been Rs. 7-12 per sir.

6. The rules of 1857 for vend of pure opium remained practically unchanged when these modifications of price were effected in 1861-62. Up to this time the sale of madak and other preparations of opium had been prohibited with a view of repressing the practice of opium-smoking. But protracted experience had shown that it was impossible to prevent the contraband manufacture and sale of these preparations, or to suppress opium-smoking in private. Moreover, as the business escaped direct taxation, and as illicit opium was largely used, the habit was not made as expensive as it might be to those who practised it. It was, therefore, deemed better to bring the trade or habit under proper control, wherever it was known to exist, and to subject it to taxation which would make it as expensive as possible. With this view it was decided in 1862-63 to give licenses to non-official vendors for the manufacture and sale of madak in those localities where the sale of the preparation was such as to render this step advisable. The licenses were then almost exclusively confined to the districts of the Benares and Allahabad divisions, and the chief military cantonments elsewhere. In the first year, 1862-63, the revenue from these contracts realised Rs. 13,657. The sums paid in such places as Allahabad (Rs. 2,988), Benares (Rs. 4,001), Cawnpore (Rs. 1,600), Gorakhpur (Rs. 1,250), indicate clearly that the practice had attained considerable dimensions before it was brought under formal control and taxation.

7. In 1863 and the following years, various changes were made in the method of administering the excise from country spirits, which had the effect of restricting the supply and increasing the price to consumers. It was considered that this curtailment of the supply of liquor tended gradually to stimulate the use of opium. The extensions of canal irrigation in the Meerut and Agra divisions led also to a demand for opium by the population whose health had been affected by the insubstantial conditions which followed an artificial disturbance of the water level.

But the main cause of the progressive increase in the sales of excise opium was the restriction of illicit traffic and its displacement by the duty-paid drug.

8. The existence of a large consumption of illicit opium had always been recognised. In 1845, the Behar agent believed that as much as one-seventh of the produce of land cultivated for his agency was diverted

from the Government stores for illicit consumption. This was supplemented by contraband import from foreign territory. The constant attention of Government and its officers was directed to the leakage, which not only involved a large loss revenue but was calculated to encourage the use of opium generally, as the illicit drug sold much cheaper than the duty paid article. The proofs furnished from time to time left no doubt of the existence of a large contraband trade. It has been shown that the recorded consumption of excise opium always diminishes at those times and in those places where the facilities for obtaining the illicit drug increases. To illustrate this, I may give an extract from the Excise Report of 1891-92.

"After making due allowance for all special and local causes which operate in both directions, I have no hesitation in saying that the increased sales are due broadly to nothing else than a corresponding diminution in the use of illicit opium. This again has been determined by the character of the poppy harvest and the area under poppy cultivation. . . . The amount of illicit opium consumed in these provinces is undoubtedly considerable. This is admitted by the unanimous consent of everyone who is in a position to judge. Figures on such a point obviously cannot be procured; but there are certain indications even from existing figures which leave no doubt on the point. It has been observed that a favourable season for poppy cultivation is accompanied by a fall in the sale of duty-paid opium during the past 10 years. The best opium crops were in 1883-84, 1884-85, and 1887-88. The season of 1889-90 was above average, but not a bumper one. The worst out-turn was in 1882-83 and 1888-89, while 1890-91 fell below the average. In each of the good years the consumption of Government opium in these provinces fell and in each of the bad years it rose. The following figures illustrate most strikingly the way in which the sales of duty-paid opium vary with the season, or, in other words, with the scarcity or abundance of illicit opium :—

Year.	Out-turn of Opium per Bigha.		Sale Proceeds of Government Opium.
	Seers.	Chataks.	
1880-81	4	3½	5,37,701
1881-82	5	2½	5,13,275
1882-83	4	1½	5,35,018
1884-85	6	9	5,15,892
1885-86	4	14½	5,24,196
1886-87	5	4½	5,28,535
1887-88	6	2½	5,19,190
1889-90	4	4½	5,79,346
1890-91	4	8	5,76,919
1891-92	4	3½	5,95,231

"Opium cultivators are compelled to produce a certain out-turn at the risk of having their cultivation stopped. When the crop is abundant they can keep back a large amount. When the crop is scanty the margin available for smuggling is small. The exceptional figures of 1889-90 are ascribed to contraction of the area of opium cultivation. No other inference can be drawn from these figures, but that a large illicit consumption exists which is stimulated by a full opium harvest, while in a bad season consumers are forced to purchase more of the Government drug.

"Again it has been observed that the sales of duty-paid opium rise and fall with the extensions and contracting of poppy cultivation. For instance, in Aligarh poppy was not allowed in the Mursan pargana till 1887-88. The sales fell in that year from 62 maunds 30 seers, 1888-89, to 58 maunds 16 seers. The next year the cultivation was stopped throughout the district, and the sales rose, to 64 maunds 12 seers, and in the following year to 67 maunds and 36 seers. In Agra, the cultivation was admitted in 3 parganas in 1887-88, and the sales fell from 67 maunds 12 seers in 1886-87 to 59 maunds 16 seers. Next year it was prohibited throughout the district, and sales rose to 67 maunds 19 seers and in the following year to 67 maunds 21 seers. The Moradabad cultivation was permitted everywhere up to 1888-89, and the sales averaged under 50 maunds. In 1888-89 cultivation being stopped, they rose to 65 maunds 15 seers. In 1889-90 they were 61 maunds 14 seers, and in 1890-91 were 64 maunds 20 seers. In Jaunpur when cultivation of poppy was stopped in 1888-89, the sales rose from 23 maunds 10 seers to 31 maunds 30 seers and increased to 39 maunds 12 seers in 1889-90 and to 39 maunds 18 seers in 1890-91. Those are

representative districts, and the figures indicate unmistakably the connexion between the use of the illicit drug and the facilities for obtaining it. It is impossible to suppose that consumers suddenly gave up or diminished the use of opium in 1887-88, or increased it again in 1888-89. The price of Government opium remained unchanged. They simply took more duty-paid opium because they could not smuggle as much as before."

9. These conclusions will obtain some confirmation from a reference to the more extended statistics now supplied. A distinct and constant co-relation may be observed between the sales of excise opium and the fluctuations in area and out-turn of the poppy crop. In some cases this has been obscured by some special disturbing influence. For instance, in 1873-74 a sudden increase in the average out-turn was not followed by a corresponding fall in sales, because the facilities for the sale of duty-paid opium had been increased, and the cultivation of poppy stopped in five districts from the close of the preceding year. In 1878-79 the usual result of a large out-turn and a full area was neutralized by a further extension of the licensing system.

10. In considering the Excise Report of 1876-77, the Board and Government dwelt on the suspiciously low recorded consumption of opium in those districts where poppy cultivation was general. The Government order remarks:—

"In the Meerut division there is no poppy cultivation, except in Jaunsar-Bawar, and little or none of the opium produced there finds its way into districts of these provinces. The Benares division, on the other hand, is the home of the poppy. In the Meerut division the Muhammadan population which contributes by far the largest proportion of opium consumers is 1,058,200, and in Benares 889,935. In the Meerut division the revenue derived from opium in 1876-77 was Rs. 1,08,439 and in the Benares division it was but Rs. 54,390, of which the district of Benares alone yielded Rs. 40,590. In Muttra and Moradabad the cultivation of the poppy is prohibited. In Farukhabad and Badaun it is permitted, with the result that the former districts yield Rs. 29,829 and Rs. 18,655 respectively, and the latter Rs. 1,461 and Rs. 1,750. In 1875 the cultivation of the poppy was abandoned in Jalaun and Jhansi, and the immediate result in each case has been enhanced revenue. The figures speak for themselves. If the rest of the North-western Provinces yielded as much revenue in proportion to their population as the Meerut division, the revenue from opium would be Rs. 6,71,000 instead of Rs. 3,66,00. In other words, it seems probable that licensed cultivators annually deliver to the Opium Department nearly 900 maunds less than their fields have produced; and thereby inflict on the revenue of these provinces a loss exceeding three lakhs of rupees a year. The best means of checking these frauds is under the consideration of the Government and the Board in a separate correspondence. But in the meantime the Board should impress on district officers the necessity of punishing with the utmost severity cultivators convicted of embezzling produce and persons convicted of illegally purchasing it from them."

11. In the following year a table was prepared showing the registered consumption per 1,000 of population in districts where:—

- (a.) Poppy cultivation was permitted everywhere.
- (b.) Was permitted in part.
- (c.) Was prohibited.

The average incidence appeared to be:—

N.W.P.	Oudh.
(a.) 10 chatt.	2 chatt.
(b.) 13 "	10 "
(c.) 35 "	12 "

The Excise Commissioner estimated that if the entire illicit consumption were displaced by duty paid opium, the additional revenue would be in the North-western Provinces, Rs. 216,168 and in Oudh Rs. 168,402 or Rs. 384,570 in all.

12. Besides this retention of opium by cultivators for illicit purposes there were circumstances to show that contraband opium was introduced from foreign territory. Consignments sometimes of a large amount were captured on their way from Nepal, while it was observed that the abolition of the custom's line in 1878-89 was followed by an increased smuggling of Malwa opium and a fall in the recorded consumption in the border district of the Agra division. In 1869

the Bengal Government and in 1871 the opium agent had called attention to the smuggling into both the North-western Provinces and Punjab of Hill opium which had paid no duty. The amount so introduced into these provinces was said to be of inferior quality and limited extent. In 1876 export of Nepal opium through Oudh under pass to Bombay was permitted. This seems to have facilitated smuggling into these parts of India. In 1889 and again in 1890, attention was drawn to the prevalence of this smuggling, and the contraband opium seized in some cases was found not to be crude but concentrated drug fit for use.

The efforts of the administration were steadily directed to the suppression of these various forms of illicit traffic. This object seems to have influenced most of the changes introduced into the system as it existed in 1863. In 1871 the experiment was tried in Oudh of farming out in each district the right to sell opium. This led to an increase in revenue of Rs. 18,000, but the increased consumption of opium was only two maunds. The results were held to show that the farmers themselves must have been selling illicit opium and the system was abandoned in 1872. In 1874 an experiment which originated and had failed in Bengal of selling excise opium at the reduced consistence of 80 degrees and reduced price of Rs. 14 was tried in two Oudh districts. The experiment failed and was discontinued. Complaints were made that the absence of licensed shops, which were practically confined to tahsil head-quarters absolutely compelled people who required opium to purchase illicitly, because they had no reasonable means of procuring the duty-paid drug. In 1867 the retail sale of opium at collectors' offices had been discontinued. In 1873 it was decided to try the experiment in the North-western Provinces of granting licenses for retail vend at important places in those districts where poppy was not grown. The licenses were granted to people of respectable character and no fees at this time were charged. In the case of poppy districts it was feared that these licenses might be used as covers for the collection and sale of crude opium. The rule took effect in all the districts of the Meerut division, in Bijnor, Moradabad, Muttra, and Agra. The reports of succeeding years show that it was successful.

13. An examination of the recorded purchases of excise opium by the persons licensed to sell *chandru* and *madak* left no doubt that illicit opium was largely used by them in the manufacture of these preparations. The nature of the business facilitated such frauds. Illicit and excise opium can easily be discriminated in their ordinary state, but once prepared for smoking in the shape of *chandru* or *madak*, recognition of illicit opium becomes impossible, and this circumstance gave dishonest dealers impunity in storing smuggled opium. To put some check on these malpractices which defrauded the revenue and by cheapening encouraged the use of *chandru*, an experiment was tried in one district in 1872-73 of binding the *chandru* contractor to purchase a minimum amount of excise opium fixed considerably below the quantity which it was known must actually be consumed. The plan was found successful, it was followed by the displacement of illicit opium, and the restriction of unlicensed smoking places. In the next few years it was extended to all *chandru* and *madak* shops throughout the provinces.

14. In 1877 the excise system generally of these provinces came under revision by a committee of officers appointed for the purpose. The success of the limited grant of retail licenses in 1873 warranted an extension, under proper safeguards, to districts where poppy was grown. The experience of other branches of excise, where various systems of licensing had been tried, led also to the conclusion that a considerable revenue might advantageously be raised from fees for retail sale. In the case of country spirits the experiment had been made of issuing licenses, first at nominal fees and when that failed at moderate fixed fees and excluding the competition of open auction. Both schemes proved a disastrous failure. If licenses were granted to all applicants the number of shops became excessive. If the number of shops was strictly limited the arrangement amounted to making a money grant, sometimes very large, to the favoured licensees. In both cases a considerable revenue was handed over to the vendors which properly should accrue to Government. Some shops from their position enjoy greater advantages than others, and this advantage, it was found, could only be taxed by setting the licenses up to auction. Such an arrangement for opium had been

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suggested by district officers some years before. The committee recommended that instead of retail sale being allowed on free licenses, such licenses should be put up to auction; in opium producing tahsils only with the special authorisation of the Board for each person licensed; in other places with the Divisional Commissioner's sanction, provided that the shops could be properly supervised and that their number did not exceed the demand. The treasurer or his agent were still to be allowed to sell opium at a rate not exceeding Rs. 16 per sir at the tahsil head-quarters; other licensees were allowed to purchase at Rs. 15, and sell at what price they could, the treasurer's sale being regarded as a check on the sale of adulterated opium, and on the demand of such exorbitant prices as would encourage illicit traffic.

The system extended also to Oudh, which was amalgamated with the North-western Provinces in 1877, though Oudh excise was not brought under the Board of Revenue till 1883. It proved successful. The license fees in the first year amounted to Rs. 56,959, though the issues of opium actually decreased owing to the famine which prevailed that year in the United Provinces. There was, however, some reason to fear that these licenses might be used as a cloak for the sale of illicit opium. It was therefore decided to extend to opium shops the arrangement which had been found to work well in the case of chandu shops, of requiring the licensed vendor to purchase a certain fixed minimum amount of excise opium. With a view to check the licensing of shops in places where they were not actually wanted, the Board were empowered to fix a minimum sum below which no license would be given.

15. It may here be noted that the system of requiring fixed minimum purchases of excise opium was found to act as a very useful check on illicit traffic. It was rendered more effective in 1887 by a clause in the license empowering the collector in the case of short purchases to resume the license if no satisfactory explanation were forthcoming. In 1889 objections were raised by critics of the administration. The condition was relaxed for 1890 in districts not producing poppy, and under the orders of the Government of India was everywhere withdrawn with effect from the year 1893-94, now current. In a few cases at the recent settlements where the stipulation had been retained by an error of the local officials and a re-sale was ordered, it was found that the licensees were willing to pay substantially higher fees when the condition was not enforced. There has not yet been sufficient time to ascertain the result of this return to the *laissez faire* policy.

16. While these measures were introduced by the Excise Department, the attention of the Opium Department was forcibly drawn to the large amount of opium obviously kept back by the cultivators. Various measures were devised to minimise this by more active and systematic supervision, by utilising the Land Revenue Records, and by securing the co-operation of the revenue with the opium officials, in order to ascertain the actual out-turn of each cultivator's field and to weed out those whose returns were so abnormally low as to justify the suspicion of fraud. Under rules framed by the Bengal Government in 1877, the local opium officer (sub-deputy agent) was required to report his movements to the collector (ex-officio deputy agent). Officials of the Opium Department were instructed to watch the proceedings in opium cases before the criminal courts; and further licenses were refused to guilty cultivators or even to whole villages where irregularities were frequent. Cultivation of poppy was prohibited in the vicinity of large towns including Lucknow, Fyzabad, Furakhabad, Benares, and Cawnpore, and many others where the facilities for smuggling were pre-eminently great. The forms of licenses to opium cultivators were expressly adapted to permit easy check of the areas and produce, and generally the efforts of the department were directed to stop the embezzlement of opium and its illicit sale by cultivators. The Opium Commission of 1883 suggested various remedies to suppress contraband traffic and other illegal practices.

17. The Opium Act of 1878 and the rules made under it caused no substantive change in the system then in force in these provinces, but the new punitive provisions of the Act greatly assisted the enforcement of the law. Under the Act which it superseded first offences had been only punishable with fine. Act I. of 1878 made offences connected with opium punishable with rigorous imprisonment up to one year as well as with fine. The

legal limit of retail sale and possession of opium was at the same time reduced from five to three tolas. It was observed that after the Act had been a short time in force the number of convictions began to fall, because habitual offenders had received long terms of imprisonment; and the fear of like punishment acted as a deterrent to others.

18. The result of these measures was, that in spite of a large increase of the poppy area and its extension to new districts, the sales of excise opium steadily increased, while a large and growing revenue was gained from the license fees for retail sale which have the immediate effect of increasing the retail price to consumers. This growth of revenue and recorded consumption has been carefully watched, and its causes ascertained. A similar and even greater development of other branches of the excise revenue lends support to the view that the decided increase of general prosperity in the provinces has been followed by a larger outlay on such luxuries as excisable commodities. There seems little doubt that this cause has contributed to the growth of the revenue from opium, just as it has contributed to the growth of the revenue from spirits and hemp drugs. But a reference to the annual reports and proceedings leave no doubt that even a more potent cause has been at work. The development of excise revenue is mainly due to better administration, and does not by any means imply a corresponding extension of the habit of opium consumption. It is due to the more effective check exercised by the Opium and Excise Departments over poppy cultivators and licensed vendors.

19. In 1883 the Government of India in order to increase the supply of Bengal provision opium, commenced the issue of Malwa opium for excise purposes. The Malwa opium was at first much disliked and there were many complaints of its quality and weight. This circumstance coupled with a large extension of poppy cultivation and a large average out-turn arrested the sale of excise opium for several years; its place being taken by illicit drug of local growth. In 1886-87, Malwa opium was withdrawn and Bengal opium again made available for sale. The issues at once improved and only in 1887-88, when the crop was unusually large and productive it fell back to the old level.

20. In spite of the improvement which has taken place it is abundantly clear that the recorded consumption is still much below the actual consumption, and it may yet be possible to add largely to the revenue by displacing cheap illicit opium while actually contracting the general use of the drug. But it may be at once admitted that no repressive measures can possibly succeed in preventing a considerable illicit traffic. The conditions of the country effectually negative such an idea. The sources of supply are too numerous and the means of smuggling too easy and its results too lucrative to render prevention possible. Even if no opium at all were produced within the provinces, the demand would be supplied from the product of foreign states lying along our borders. The vexatious and harassing system of espionage which would follow any effective measure of repression would be absolutely intolerable. It has been deemed better to endeavour to control the use of opium by granting reasonable facilities for obtaining it in a legal way wherever a real demand for it has been shown to exist.

21. The Treasury price of opium has, as already stated remained unchanged since 1861. The nominal price was Rs. 16 per sir, but as Re. 1 discount was granted to all licensed vendors, it was practically issued at Rs. 15. The possibility of increasing this price had been several times considered, but it was thought that any enhancement would lead to a larger consumption in the shape of illicit opium. In fact, some officers advised a reduction of the price; and the experiment of issuing opium of a lower consistence at Rs. 14 was actually tried in two Oudh districts in 1871, but proved unsuccessful.

In 1892 a further inquiry was undertaken in connexion with the orders of the Secretary of State, contained in his Despatch of the 17th December 1891. A good deal of difference of opinion was found to exist among local officers, many of whom feared the stimulus which an enhanced price would give to contraband trade. The large revenue gained from license fees since their first imposition in 1877-78 had practically the same effect as an addition to the Treasury price, and gave reason to believe that a cautious and gradual rise would not be attended with any very serious risk, though it might involve a loss of license fees. In view of the different retail rates found to actually prevail in

different parts of the provinces, it was deemed inadvisable to impose a uniform issue rate everywhere. Differential rates were accordingly fixed as follows:—

	Rs.
In 12 Eastern districts - - - -	16
In 25 Central „ - - - -	17
In 11 Western „ - - - -	18

This involved a rise of Re. 1, Rs. 2, and Rs. 3 according to the class. The official vendors alone receive a discount of Re. 1 as before to cover waste and expenses.

These rates came into force on the 1st July 1893. There has not yet been time to form an opinion on the results of the scheme. At the following annual settlements there was a fall in license fees substantial in itself but not commensurate with the anticipated increase of sale profits. The effects on consumption remain to be seen.

22. In 1892-93, the rules governing the vend of chandu and madak were altered. The legal limit of retail sale and possession was reduced from three tola to one tola, and consumption on the premises was prohibited. It was decided to reduce the number of licensed shops for that year to the narrowest possible limits, and to abolish them altogether in the following year. This policy was carried into effect, and there has been no licensed shop for the manufacture or vend of these preparations since the 30th September 1893.

23. The history of opium-smoking in these provinces may be specially noticed. Opium-eating has been practised for centuries, but the habit of smoking appears to be of very recent origin. The two forms in which opium is prepared for the purpose are known as madak and chandu. A brief description of the method of manufacture and use of each is appended.

CHANDU.

Opium, broken into small pieces is mixed with ashes of the previous smoking of the chandu pipe. These ashes are known as “inchi.” The proportion is generally two parts of opium to one of “inchi.” A little water is added and the mixture is slowly boiled and stirred till it becomes of a uniform consistency. To this is added water in the proportion of four or five parts to one part of opium. The whole is boiled and strained through a cloth several times till reduced to the original weight of the opium used. The refuse contains the more insoluble part of the opium and most of the “inchi.” The preparation is now ready for smoking. The pipe is a hollow stem of bamboo, closed at one end and with a mouthpiece at the other. If thick it is known as “bambo” if thin as “nigali.” Near the closed ends is an opening (chúlá) for receiving the bowl (dawát). The bowl is made of clay and is solid except for a small hole passing through the centre. It is wide at the top and slopes in towards the bottom, to which a brass holder [Sakat (socket)] is attached that fits into the “chúlá.” A small lamp is required: it consists of a burner covered by a glass shade generally made from the upper part of a bottle, which is so adjusted over the burner that the flame almost reaches the orifice at the top of the shade, represented by the neck of the bottle. The attendant (or the smoker himself) picks up a small quantity of the chandu on a wire (thák), and heating it for a moment over the lamp fashions it into a pill (chinta). This pill is then placed in the hole in the bowl of the pipe. The smoker lies down generally on his left side, takes the pipe in his hands and holds it, with the bowl inclined somewhat downward close to the flame of the lamp. He then takes a long pull at the pipe and inhales as much of the smoke as he can. He retains the smoke a second or two and emits it with one puff. The “chinta” is exhausted by a single inhalation. After the smoke is finished the ashes “inchi” are scraped from the bowl and stem to be used in the preparation of more chandu. About four “chintas” weighing in all one masha (the twelfth part of a tola or 15 grains), are used by an habitual smoker at one sitting; but it is said that a very seasoned smoker can get through as much as a tola (180 grains). Some skill is required both in the preparation of the chandu, and in the adjustment of the “chinta” and the lamp.

MADAK.

24. Opium is mixed with from 8 to 16 times its weight in water and boiled and strained. A small quantity of sugar, one-tenth or 12th, is sometimes

added. The whole is boiled till reduced to one and half times the quantity of opium used. This syrup is then mixed with from one to three times its weight of leaves desiccated by parching and reduced to powder, but not actually calcined. The most expensive leaf used is “pan” which costs more than twice as much as the opium; but guava leaves, babul leaves, cardamum husks, even cocoanut fibre or grass are used. The leaf is broken up into fine pieces mixed with the opium liquor, and the whole formed into pills. Flavouring matter or essences are said to be sometimes used. Madak is smoked in an ordinary tobacco pipe in the same way as tobacco, but a bowl of a special make (called maira or mahra) is generally used instead of the ordinary “chillum.” It is quite flat and the madak pill is placed over the hole with a piece of burning charcoal.

25. Chandu is considered more potent in its effects than Madak. This I believe is due, first to the circumstance, that it contains a larger proportion of pure opium extract. Madak contains from one to three parts of foreign matter in addition to the opium. Chandu is pure opium with the addition of a very small quantity of its own ash. The ash seems to be added chiefly as a basis to regulate the combustion of the opium which is said to burn too quickly if “inchi” is not added. Probably any other carbon would do this as well, but “inchi” is selected because it is said to improve the flavour of the chandu, and because a certain amount of the less volatile oils or other constituent parts of the opium may have escaped combustion in the first smoking. In the second place, in chandu smoking, the whole or as nearly as possible the whole of the volatile matter reaches the smoker’s mouth and lungs, but in the madak pipe some of the properties may be lost in passing through the long stem and the water in the bowl.

26. The habit of smoking opium seems to have come to India from the further East. It spread into these provinces from that direction and so recently as 1863 was confined to the eastern districts, and to those large cantonments in other parts where it would naturally be first introduced by the movements of troops and their followers. Originally the only form known was madak. Forty years ago madak smoking and opium-smoking were synonymous terms in these provinces. It may be safely surmised that the habit first arose from adding opium to the tobacco pipe or impregnating tobacco with opium liquor. The form of pipe and the method of preparation point clearly to this origin.

27. Chandu and its use are believed to have been of Chinese origin. In 1865 the Commissioner of Excise when introducing the Bengal returns reported that it was unknown in these provinces. The name first appears in the Excise Report for 1871-72, where an account of it is transcribed from the Bengal Excise Report of the preceding year. It is stated that it had already become known in many districts, and was gaining ground among the town population, especially where the Mohammadan element was strong. At that time the consumption of madak in the town of Cawnpur was estimated to be rather less than two and a half times the consumption of chandu. The habit of opium-smoking in one form or another had spread to almost every district of the North-western Provinces. From this time chandu finds increasing mention in the annual reports as the form in which opium was usually smoked and madak gradually disappeared. In 1883-84 it was stated that madak was then hardly consumed at all. I cannot say that its use has been even now entirely discontinued, but it has certainly been reduced to narrow limits. A short time ago, when I had occasion to inquire about the two drugs in Agra, a place where opium-smoking is very prevalent, but one man was forthcoming who was acquainted with the method of preparing madak. In Oudh the manufacture and sale of both preparations was included in the farm of hemp drugs down to 1873 when the rules provide for separate contracts with a limited number of retail shops.

28. Up to 1863 the sale of madak and other non-medical preparations of opium was absolutely prohibited in the North-western Provinces. In spite of this prohibition, however, the habit of madak smoking began to spread in the province. It was carried on in private and it was found impossible to prevent the contraband manufacture and sale of the drug. After the Mutiny the attention of Government was drawn to the prevalence of the practice and the necessity for taking some measures to repress it. The policy of absolute prohibition having failed, it was considered

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advisable to recognise the sale of madak with a view of bringing it under proper control. A provision to this effect was included in the rules of 1863, and collectors were empowered to grant licenses. The number granted was to be as small as possible, and the localities of the shops to be chosen with particular regard to their careful supervision. Such licenses were granted for the first time in 1862-63. They were confined to 15 districts, nearly in the Benares and Allahabad divisions; besides the cantonments of Meerut and Shahjahanpur. The license fees that year amounted to Rs. 13,663, but rose to Rs. 19,230 in 1863-64 when the arrangements were in better working order. As already remarked, the large sums paid in several places indicate the prevalence the habit had obtained, and the extent of the contraband trade now brought under taxation. The control was extended to some districts of the Agra and Jhansi divisions, but the revenue remained about stationary till 1869-70. Its increase from that year onward coincides with the introduction of chandu, which seems to have seized the popular taste much more rapidly and completely than madak. In 1871-72 it had become necessary to recognise and bring under control the trade in 28 districts, or portions of districts. In the reports for that year prominent attention was drawn to the spread of opium-smoking and its deleterious effects. The Board of Revenue would have recommended the utter suppression of both manufacture and sale of these undoubtedly noxious and demoralising preparations if they believed that any such prohibition would effect any other result than that of driving the madak and chandu vendors to illicit manufacture and sale, and their customers to illicit purchase. They held that since it was not possible to prevent their manufacture and sale, madak and chandu should be made as expensive as possible to the consumer, by taxing the sale and compelling the use of only duty-paid opium. With the concurrence of the Excise Commissioner who was in favour of placing the narrowest restrictions on the trade the farms and licenses were discontinued in several districts and localities. The revenue continued to grow and in 1874-75 the Excise Commissioner (Mr. Halsey) reported that most officers were of opinion that this revenue must eventually fall away, as people were acquiring the habit of manufacturing at home sufficient for their wants. It would be a good thing he thought if the manufacture for sale were entirely forbidden. It encouraged smuggling and every form of idleness and vice, and was physically, morally, and socially to be deprecated. The Government order on this pointed out that the tax operated as a check on consumption, and that if home manufacture were increasing, the licensed shops, evidently, did not stimulate consumption, but failed to satisfy the demand. This view was taken in the following year by the next Excise Commissioner (Mr. Robertson). He agreed in deprecating the use of chandu on social, moral, and physical grounds, but did not think that forbidding its manufacture for sale would stop its consumption. He feared facilities would be provided for its private manufacture, and preferred the policy of effective control to the policy of ineffective prohibition.

29. For the next few years this policy was pursued, and vigilance was employed to repress illicit trade and secure the use of only duty-paid opium by the licensed vendor. It was found that both these ends were aided by requiring the license to purchase a certain amount of opium from the Treasury. It then became his interest to assist in detecting those unlicensed rivals who could under-sell him by using illicit opium. In 1882-83 the Board of Revenue drew particular attention to the growth of the revenue from chandu and madak, which had now reached Rs. 46,243 in the North-western Provinces, though it was stationary in Oudh. The district reports gave indications that the habit of opium-smoking was on the increase, and all authorities agreed on its injurious results. The Government directed the Commissioner of Excise and the Board to consider measures to restrict the use of the drugs. This was done in next year's report (1892-93) where the Excise Commissioner (Mr. Cadell) gave a very full account of the extent and growth and consequences of the habit, and discussed the best means for checking it. "It is comparatively easy," he said, "to prevent the extension by needless encouragement of this degrading vice, but it is difficult to suggest any means altogether unobjectionable of lessening the existing evil. Of late years sufficient care has not been taken to insist on men paying large license fees taking a

"suitable quantity of excise opium, and to restrict the number of shops in towns with regard to the proportion of licit opium to fees. Greater care is now being taken, and it rests chiefly with district officers to see that in the centres of population in which it is necessary to maintain chandu shops, they are not needlessly close to each other. The most obvious means of repressing the growth of the practice is by repressing smuggling, and in this way making the drug an expensive one. . . . It is no part of the province of Government to open a chandu shop on the chance of a demand arising, the shop should be established only to meet a considerable existing demand, and where this does not exist it should be closed. . . . The general opinion is that the vice is of comparatively recent growth, and that except in cities it has not taken wide root. The general opinion, in which I concur, is that, except where the demand is considerable, licenses should be refused, and that the chandu smoker should be left to make up his own chandu and smoke it at home."

Some officers were in favour of the immediate or gradual suppression of all licensed houses, and some opposed such a measure on the ground that the vice would be driven into private houses where it could not be regulated, and would be more injurious to society. "The most practical question at present," said Mr. Cadell, "is which is the least injurious to the people at large, that the manufacture and sale of chandu should be licensed and regulated or that Government should refuse to recognise the vice and drive it into private houses with the likelihood that, in some cases at all events, places for the illicit manufacture and vend of the drug will spring up. It is hoped that the measures experimentally adopted during the current year will afford ground for safer conclusions than are at present possible. In the meantime the policy which has been adopted is this, that in larger centres of population, where there is a considerable existing demand, the sale must be licensed and regulated; that where the demand is trifling and of recent growth, the evils of private consumption should be faced rather than the popularization of the vice should be risked, and that above all things the speculative opening of new shops should be stringently prohibited. With reference to this as to other branches of excise, the best service which a friend to temperance can render is to aid in the suppression of the trade in the illicit substitute for the fully-taxed article. Illicit chandu can be sold at less than half the price of the taxed drug, and the more lax our administration is, the more certain is the vice which is so generally deplored, to flourish and extend. The absolute prohibition of the sale of chandu has already been tried in these provinces without success."

On this the Government orders were:—

"The total prohibition of the practice has been tried and failed. It is absurd to attempt to make the private use of chandu penal; but the public use of it should be discouraged in every way. New licenses should not be granted without careful inquiry as to the need for them, in order to prevent the opening of illicit shops, and it seems desirable to reduce the chandu and madak shops to the lowest possible scale. It is understood that considerable reduction has been made during the current year (1883-4) and that more will be made next year."

These instructions were carried out.

30. The Government orders on the report for 1883-84 referring to the subject says:—

"The Commissioner writes that repressive measures would meet with universal approval among respectable natives. So far as can be judged, this seems to be the fact; and it is noticeable that the district officers who have alluded to the subject seem to be almost unanimously in favour of repression. The Board have directed the Excise Commissioner to ascertain by what means a check can be laid on the consumption of this drug. . . . Sir A. Lyall is desirous of doing all that is possible to check the increasing consumption of this pernicious drug. The vend of chandu should be put under regulations as rigorous as the law will permit; the number of shops should be very closely restricted, and severe penalties should be imposed in cases of illicit manufacture. As already observed, the law does not allow of absolutely prohibiting private consumption, and such prohibition would probably

be in a great measure futile, besides being somewhat beyond the province of excise administration. But in the matter of shops the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner considers that, as a rule, a chandu shop should only be licensed where local circumstances render it tolerably certain that its place would otherwise be supplied by contraband trade, and his Honour is prepared to accept the loss of income which may be involved in carrying out this principle. District officers, in short, should be distinctly authorised and required to check, by all means in their power, the spread of acknowledged chandu consumption, provided they do not do so at the expense of fostering illicit vend and use."

In the following year a further large reduction of shops was effected, and seems to have met with universal approbation. It was declared by the Board that the total abolition of shops would undoubtedly foster the contraband trade, but licensed shops would be abolished in all places where, but for their existence, a shop for illicit sale would in all probability be established. No bad results appeared to have followed these reductions, but there were no grounds for believing that the habit of opium-smoking had sensibly decreased, and it was believed that illicit practices still prevailed in some places. Regulations were made to ensure more complete supervision of the remaining shops. The Government repeated its injunctions to continue the policy of restriction.

31. Next year (1885-86) a further and very large reduction was made in the number of shops which fell from 284 to 112. In 15 districts there were no licenses granted at all. The revenue also fell off considerably. The measures appeared from the district reports to have met with general approval. Some officers expressed apprehension that the private manufacture and use of chandu was increasing; but Government considered that the functions of public officers could not extend to preventing this. All that could be done was to restrict the number of chandu shops and of persons directly interested in the trade.

32. In 1886-87 the number of shops was again reduced to 74. There was reason to fear that the contraband trade was extending, and it was suggested that farther reductions might foster illicit vend and use. In 1887-88 the number of shops had fallen to 57. "But," the Government order remarked, "the receipts rose by Rs. 8,000. It is noteworthy that in 1884-85 the amount of drugs taken was much greater than in 1887-88; and that the shops were four times as numerous, whereas the receipts were less than those of the latter year. This implies a large amount of very careful supervision, and the figures rebut the contention of those who charge the Government with encouraging consumption. In 25 districts of the provinces there are now no shops licensed for the sale of these drugs. The way in which the license fees keep up in the face of these sweeping reductions is remarkable. The avowed policy of the Government is to check in every possible way the consump-

"tion of these noxious drugs, always provided that illicit vend and use are not fostered thereby. In the current year the number of shops has been further reduced from 57 to 50. Gradual reduction is obviously the right policy."

33. The district reports of that and the following years (1888-89 contained numerous indications that the habit was not dying out, and that private or illicit manufacture and use was spreading. The Board suggested that the reductions had gone far enough, and that a re-allocation of the existing shops was required. The Board and the Commissioner were desired to consider the question. The Board in their covering letter on the report of 1889-90, suggested that though it might be necessary to keep up some licensed shops as a check on illicit consumption, yet that it would be well to prohibit the smoking of opium on licensed premises and to confine the contractor's license strictly to manufacture and vend. The Government in its order of 24th July 1891 recognised the importance of the suggestion and desired that the views of district officers and of the Board should be placed before it in the form of a special report. Before this could be submitted the matter was settled. In September 1891 the Government of India issued orders that opium should not be consumed on licensed premises. The settlements for 1891-92 had then been made, and the number of shops reduced to 26. Consumption on the premises was stopped where it was possible to do so that year, and ceased entirely in 1892-93. The number of shops had then been brought down to 14 for the whole provinces, and it was decided to close the remainder on the expiration of the current licenses. This was done and there are at present no shops where chandu can be legally manufactured or consumed.

34. This step was taken with the full knowledge that the licensed shops would be replaced by unlicensed ones; that opium-smoking would still continue; that there was some risk that the absence of publicity might encourage the vice in domestic circles; that illicit opium would be more largely used and a certain amount of revenue abandoned. In spite of these drawbacks and dangers it has been deemed better to try the experiment of again prohibiting the public manufacture and sale or consumption of these drugs, in the hopes that it may prevent the spread of the habit among people by whom and in places where it is not at present practised. Many experienced officers doubt the wisdom of the measure, and those who favour it do so with some hesitation, as possibly the lesser of two evils.

The experience of the last year does not, it must be noted with regret, give any indication that the habit of opium-smoking has perceptibly decreased. Though consumption on licensed premises was stopped, an unlicensed trade sprang up before long, which, in spite of constant vigilance, it has not been possible to suppress, and it is only in rare cases that convictions have been secured. It will take some time before the full effect of this second attempt at the total prohibition of opium-smoking can be known.

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STATISTICS OF OPIUM FOR NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES AND OUDH.

Year.	Area under Poppy Cultivation in Bighas.	Number of Districts wholly or partly under Poppy Cultivation.	Quantity of Opium consumed, in Maunds.				Revenue derived from Opium, in Rupees.				Number of Shops.		Population.	Incidence of Population per Shop.	Incidence of Consumption Annam, in Tolas per 1,000 of Population.	Number of Convictions for Breach of Opium Laws.		Remarks.	
			Sold to Treasurer.	Sold to Licensed Vendors.	Sold to Chandu-Madak Vendors.	Total.	Price of Opium (excluding Cost Price).	Opium.	Chandu-Madak.	Opium Vendors.	Chandu-Madak Vendors.	Cases.				Persons.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
	Bighas.		Seers ch.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.								
1860-61	1,54,125	21	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Columns 2 and 3.—The figures have been taken from a special statement supplied by the opium agent.
1861-62	2,11,454	25	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Column 8.—The sales to Rampur were:—
1862-63	2,88,914	36	5	—	—	—	624	2,18,574	—	13,662	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1890-91 = 17½ maunds.
1863-64	3,57,719	36	5	—	—	—	568	1,98,925	—	19,129	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1891-92 = 25 "
1864-65	2,95,648	26	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	19,229	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1892-93 = 18 "
1865-66	2,27,355	19	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	15,862	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Column 11.—The figures against 1862-63 to 1876-77 are for North-western Provinces only.
1866-67	2,53,584	17	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	16,683	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Column 15.—The figures have been arrived at by dividing column 14 by the sum of columns 12 and 13.
1867-68	2,69,476	19	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,679	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Columns 17 and 18.—The figures against 1892-93 are not at present available.
1868-69	2,46,938	17	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	18,185	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1869-70	3,09,945	25	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	20,519	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1870-71	3,46,499	31	3	—	—	—	1,024	3,58,460	—	22,602	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1871-72	3,67,115	34	3	—	—	—	1,041	3,63,423	—	23,931	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1872-73	3,45,064	28	3	—	—	—	1,051	3,67,840	—	26,123	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1873-74	3,15,803	29	5	—	—	—	1,053	3,68,442	—	27,573	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1874-75	3,46,676	31	4	—	—	—	1,100	3,84,988	—	28,588	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1875-76	3,68,305	30	6	—	—	—	1,202	4,02,771	—	31,436	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1876-77	3,41,025	28	6	—	—	—	1,149	4,02,070	—	32,114	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1877-78	3,27,093	29	5	—	—	—	1,069	3,74,167	—	42,718	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1878-79	3,99,519	28	5	—	—	—	1,189	4,16,265	—	54,827	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1879-80	4,33,486	29	4	363	935	—	1,298	4,60,716	—	67,458	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1880-81	4,32,114	35	4	401	1,135	—	1,536	5,37,700	—	75,465	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1881-82	4,00,180	36	5	382	1,085	—	1,467	5,13,274	—	45,883	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1882-83	4,12,827	36	4	415	949	—	1,529	5,35,017	—	48,947	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1883-84	4,14,928	36	6	380	952	—	1,497	5,23,668	—	57,400	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1884-85	4,75,193	36	6	339	925	—	1,474	5,15,892	—	57,788	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1885-86	5,00,840	36	4	361	959	—	1,497	5,24,116	—	55,485	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1886-87	4,44,040	36	5	—	—	—	1,510	5,28,535	—	46,863	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1887-88	4,13,928	36	6	370	979	—	1,482	5,19,190	—	48,051	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1888-89	3,34,871	26	4	407	1,136	—	1,655	5,79,346	—	56,081	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1889-90	3,69,886	26	5	422	1,127	—	1,703	5,96,322	—	54,994	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1890-91	4,13,198	29	4	414	1,132	—	1,650	5,76,919	—	49,680	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1891-92	3,80,502	29	4	416	1,204	—	1,704	5,95,230	—	37,268	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1892-93	3,51,871	29	—	473	1,266	—	1,784	6,36,222	—	32,241	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

STATISTICS OF OPIUM FOR NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES.

Year.	Area under Poppy Cultivation in Bighas.	Number of Districts wholly or partly under Poppy Cultivation.	Average Out-turn per Bigha.	Quantity of Opium consumed, in Maunds.				Revenue derived from Opium, in Rupees.			Number of Shops.		Population.	Incidence of Population per Shop.	Incidence of Consumption, in Tolas per 1,000 of Population.	Number of Convictions for Breach of Opium Laws.		Remarks.
				Sold to Treasurer.	Sold to Licensed Vendors.	Sold to Chaudu-Madak Vendors.	Total.	Price of Opium (excluding Cost Price).	License Fees.		Opium Vendors.	Chaudu-Madak Vendors.						
									Opium.	Chaudu-Madak.								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Bighas.			Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.								
1860-61	1,38,853	13	—	—	—	—	385	1,34,633	—	—	—	—	—	—	41	—	—	Columns 2 and 3.—The figures have been taken from a special statement supplied by the opium agent.
1861-62	1,78,836	16	—	—	—	—	419	1,46,839	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	—	—	Column 2.—The sales to Rampur were :—
1862-63	2,41,840	25	—	—	—	—	457	1,60,047	—	13,662	—	—	—	—	49	—	—	1890-91 = 17½ maunds.
1863-64	2,89,908	25	—	—	—	—	488	1,51,692	—	19,129	—	—	—	—	47	—	—	1891-92 = 25 "
1864-65	2,35,403	15	—	—	—	—	508	1,77,824	—	19,229	—	—	—	—	55	—	—	1892-93 = 18 "
1865-66	2,35,403	12	—	—	—	—	572	2,00,418	—	15,862	—	—	—	—	95	—	—	Column 14.—There were two previous censuses before the census of 1872, viz., in 1853 and 1865, and the figures against 1860-61 to 1870-71 refer to census of 1865.
1866-67	2,11,536	11	—	—	—	—	704	2,46,399	—	16,683	—	—	—	—	76	—	—	Column 15.—The figures have been arrived at by dividing column 14 by the sum of columns 12 and 13.
1867-68	2,11,960	14	—	—	—	—	816	2,85,789	—	17,679	—	—	—	—	88	—	—	Columns 17 and 18.—The figures against 1862-93 are not at present available.
1868-69	2,27,915	14	—	—	—	—	747	2,61,505	—	18,185	—	—	—	—	80	—	—	
1869-70	2,37,971	16	—	—	—	—	750	2,62,557	—	20,519	—	—	—	—	81	—	—	
1870-71	2,50,446	21	—	—	—	—	876	3,06,525	—	22,602	—	—	—	—	94	—	—	
1871-72	2,63,397	23	—	—	—	—	898	3,14,420	—	23,931	—	—	—	—	93	—	—	
1872-73	2,41,974	18	—	—	—	—	931	3,25,893	—	26,123	—	—	—	—	96	—	—	
1873-74	2,15,162	18	—	—	—	—	930	3,25,370	—	27,573	—	—	—	—	102	—	—	
1874-75	2,36,463	20	—	—	—	—	987	3,45,654	—	28,588	—	—	—	—	112	—	—	
1875-76	2,49,038	20	—	—	—	—	1,076	3,76,630	—	31,436	—	—	—	—	108	—	—	
1876-77	2,27,432	19	—	—	—	—	1,042	3,64,595	—	32,114	—	193	30,781,947	—	101	708	1,064	Column 15.—The figures have been arrived at by dividing column 14 by the sum of columns 12 and 13.
1877-78	2,14,485	19	—	—	—	—	972	3,40,095	49,802	35,353	503	202	—	—	109	437	652	
1878-79	2,61,704	19	—	—	—	—	1,056	3,69,696	62,383	36,972	505	174	—	—	115	349	476	
1879-80	2,77,313	20	—	—	—	—	1,109	3,94,601	66,703	38,316	513	225	—	—	129	336	403	
1880-81	2,83,573	24	—	—	—	—	1,256	4,63,806	73,680	41,726	592	247	—	—	123	286	359	
1881-82	2,57,869	25	—	—	—	—	1,256	4,39,521	83,890	46,243	578	268	—	—	123	221	283	
1882-83	2,59,310	25	—	—	—	—	1,303	4,58,005	93,447	48,856	601	288	—	—	124	298	334	
1883-84	2,51,755	25	—	—	—	—	1,289	4,43,722	1,03,416	50,190	660	272	—	—	122	427	463	
1884-85	2,81,400	25	—	—	—	—	1,252	4,38,218	1,07,535	45,234	686	203	—	—	123	324	373	
1885-86	3,03,207	25	—	—	—	—	1,253	4,40,877	1,12,495	39,968	742	87	—	—	123	480	369	
1886-87	2,68,482	25	—	—	—	—	1,263	4,42,085	1,09,900	39,964	742	63	—	—	122	456	380	
1887-88	2,50,828	24	—	—	—	—	1,246	4,36,126	1,14,907	46,209	891	47	—	—	133	454	392	
1888-89	1,94,730	16	—	—	—	—	1,365	4,77,645	1,23,592	41,316	944	47	—	—	136	388	316	
1889-90	2,12,336	16	—	—	—	—	1,391	4,87,498	1,24,877	41,318	965	43	—	—	126	361	304	
1890-91	2,16,626	17	—	—	—	—	1,364	4,76,923	1,36,074	30,484	961	22	—	—	128	392	334	
1891-92	2,63,553	17	—	—	—	—	1,393	4,86,477	1,30,586	29,362	814	22	—	—	134	—	—	
1892-93	1,93,783	17	—	—	—	—	1,452	5,18,065	1,40,222	9,575	839	14	—	—	—	—	—	

APP. IV.
N.W. Prov.
Excise.

APP. IV.
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Excise.

STATISTICS OF OPIUM for OUDH.

Year.	Area under Poppy Cultivation in Bighas.	Number of Districts wholly or partly under Poppy Cultivation.	Average Out-turn per Bigha.	Quantity of Opium consumed, in Maunds.				Revenue derived from Opium, in Rupees.			Number of Shops.		Population.	Incidence of Population per Shop.	Incidence of Consumption, in Tolas per 1,000 of Population.	Number of Convictions for Breach for Opium Laws.		Remarks.
				Sold to Treasurer.	Sold to Licensed Vendors.	Sold to Chandu-Madak Vendors.	Total.	Price of Opium (excluding Cost Price).	Opium.	Chandu-Madak.	Opium Vendors.	Chandu-Madak Vendors.				Cases.	Persons.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1860-61	Bighas. 15,272	8	—	—	—	—	—	Rs. —	Rs. —	Rs. —	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Columns 2 and 3. — The figures have been taken from a special statement supplied by the Opium agent. Column 14. — There was only one census of Oudh previous to the census of 1881, viz., in 1869, and the figures against 1860-61 to 1879-80 refer to that census. Column 15. — The figures have been arrived at by dividing column 14 by the sum of columns 12 and 13. Columns 17 and 18. — The figures against 1892-93 are not at present available.
1861-62	32,618	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1862-63	47,074	11	—	—	—	—	167	68,527	—	—	—	—	—	—	48	—	—	
1863-64	67,811	11	—	—	—	—	135	47,233	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—	—	
1864-65	60,245	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1865-66	33,706	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1866-67	42,048	6	—	—	—	—	122	42,673	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1867-68	48,316	5	—	—	—	—	150	52,587	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	—	—	
1868-69	19,023	3	—	—	—	—	129	44,996	—	—	—	—	—	—	43	—	—	
1869-70	71,994	9	—	—	—	—	124	43,411	—	—	—	—	—	—	37	—	—	
1870-71	96,053	10	—	—	—	—	148	51,935	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	—	—	
1871-72	1,03,518	11	—	—	—	—	146	49,003	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—	—	
1872-73	1,03,090	10	—	—	—	—	120	41,947	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	—	—	
1873-74	1,00,641	11	—	—	—	—	123	43,072	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	—	—	
1874-75	1,10,213	10	—	—	—	—	112	39,334	—	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	—	
1875-76	1,19,267	11	—	—	—	—	126	44,141	—	—	—	—	—	—	36	—	—	
1876-77	1,13,593	9	—	—	—	—	107	37,475	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	—	—	
1877-78	1,12,608	10	—	—	—	—	97	34,072	5,025	7,365	110	63	—	—	28	425	495	
1878-79	1,37,815	9	—	—	—	—	133	46,569	5,075	5,898	59	54	—	—	38	452	513	
1879-80	1,56,173	9	—	77	112	—	189	65,115	8,762	7,567	75	61	—	—	54	309	353	
1880-81	1,48,541	11	—	75	136	—	211	73,894	10,637	7,221	85	68	—	—	59	217	248	
1881-82	1,42,311	11	—	77	134	—	211	73,753	10,033	7,236	94	73	—	—	64	184	189	
1882-83	1,53,317	11	—	73	136	17	226	79,012	11,651	8,544	106	83	—	—	69	184	192	
1883-84	1,60,173	11	—	64	142	22	228	79,946	12,296	7,548	119	52	—	—	64	230	286	
1884-85	1,93,793	11	—	58	136	28	222	77,674	14,682	10,931	122	45	—	—	63	227	258	
1885-86	1,97,653	11	—	61	149	28	238	83,239	14,992	6,895	123	25	—	—	67	241	266	
1886-87	1,75,558	11	—	—	—	—	247	86,450	16,691	8,087	126	11	—	—	69	329	299	
1887-88	1,63,100	12	—	59	153	24	236	83,064	16,750	9,872	136	9	—	—	66	310	300	
1888-89	1,40,141	10	—	75	194	21	290	1,01,701	20,396	13,678	184	7	—	—	81	210	198	
1889-90	1,77,550	10	—	78	201	33	312	1,08,824	20,792	8,362	194	5	—	—	88	253	268	
1890-91	1,96,572	12	—	69	190	27	286	99,996	23,019	6,784	179	4	—	—	72	273	234	
1891-92	1,76,949	12	—	81	220	10	311	1,08,753	22,462	2,879	176	4	—	—	78	296	180	
1892-93	1,56,088	12	—	94	238	—	332	1,18,157	24,900	Nil.	188	Nil.	11,220,950	67,291	84	—	—	

STATISTICS OF OPIUM FOR 1892-93.

APP. IV.
N.W. Prov.
Excise.

Districts.	Population.			Poppy Cultivation permitted in whole or part of District or prohibited.	Sales of Opium.	Consumption per Annum in Tolas per 1,000 of Total Population.	Remarks.
	Hindus.	Mohamedans.	Total.				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Dehra Dún - - -	1,48,239	19,896	1,68,135	Prohibited.	Mds. Srs. 19 6	364	(a.) The area per opium shop (excluding madak-chandu shops) is :—
Saháranpur - - -	6,76,848	3,24,432	10,01,280	"	56 2	179	sq. miles.
Muzaffarnagar - - -	5,58,884	2,18,990	7,72,874	"	39 9	162	N.-W. P. = 99.3
Meerut - - -	10,74,487	3,16,971	13,91,458	"	88 18	203	Oudh = 128.9
Bulandshar - - -	7,70,895	1,79,019	9,49,914	"	51 31	174	United } = 104.7
Aligarh - - -	9,22,834	1,20,338	10,43,172	"	71 27	220	Provinces }
Muttra - - -	6,50,764	62,657	7,13,421	"	37 5	167	(b.) The incidence of cost price and license fees per seer of opium (including madak-chandu, but excluding sales to Rámpur and dispensaries) is :—
Agra - - -	8,99,363	1,04,433	10,03,796	"	68 36	220	Rs. a. p.
Farukhabad - - -	7,59,211	99,476	8,58,687	Whole.	18 35	70	N.-W. P. = 18 12 9
Mainpuri - - -	7,20,634	41,529	7,62,163	"	10 10	45	Oudh = 18 0 6
Etáwáh - - -	6,85,304	42,325	7,27,629	"	27 22	121	United } = 18 10 5
Etah - - -	6,29,110	72,953	7,02,063	Part.	28 26	131	Provinces }
Bareilly - - -	7,95,652	2,45,039	10,40,691	"	39 36	123	
Bijnor - - -	5,26,908	2,67,162	7,94,070	Prohibited.	30 6	122	(c.) Column 6 against Moradabad, includes 18 maunds sold to Rámpur. The sales to dispensaries aggregate 23 seers in N.-W. P., and 10 seers in Oudh.
Budaun - - -	7,77,309	1,48,289	9,25,598	Part.	11 30	41	(d.) The districts of Gházipur, Gorakhpur, Básti, Sháhjahánpur, Budaun, Kheri, and Hardoi though shown as "Part" in column 5 exclude very small areas—in each case in which poppy cultivation is prohibited.
Moradabad - - -	7,78,693	4,00,705	11,79,398	Prohibited.	68 8	136	
Sháhjahánpur - - -	7,89,285	1,29,266	9,18,551	Part.	30 23	107	
Pilibhít - - -	4,02,880	82,486	4,85,366	Prohibited.	17 22	116	
Cawnpore - - -	11,08,154	1,01,541	12,09,695	Part.	145 4	384	
Fatehpur - - -	6,22,096	77,061	6,99,157	"	37 8	170	
Bánda - - -	6,65,170	40,662	7,05,832	Prohibited.	24 18	111	
Hamírpur - - -	4,80,439	33,281	5,13,720	"	38 1	237	
Allahabad - - -	13,48,884	1,99,853	15,48,737	Part.	98 5	203	
Jhánsi - - -	6,54,606	29,013	6,83,619	Prohibited.	40 30	191	
Jalaun - - -	3,70,860	25,501	3,96,361	"	30 16	245	
Benares - - -	8,33,542	88,401	9,21,943	Part.	140 14	487	
Mirzapur - - -	10,86,268	75,240	11,61,508	"	46 3	127	
Jaunpur - - -	11,48,605	1,16,344	12,64,949	Prohibited.	38 38	99	
Gházipur - - -	9,75,183	1,02,726	10,77,909	Part.	15 4	45	
Ballia - - -	8,76,112	66,353	9,42,465	Whole.	2 27	9	
Gorakhpur - - -	26,92,427	3,01,630	29,94,057	Part.	34 18	37	
Basti - - -	15,10,115	2,75,729	17,85,844	"	9 21	17	
Azamgarh - - -	15,02,986	2,25,639	17,28,625	Whole.	13 39	26	
Almora - - -	5,51,212	11,969	5,63,181	Prohibited.	4 21	26	
Garhwál - - -	4,04,213	3,605	4,07,818	"	2 18	19	
Naini Tal - - -	1,35,361	75,207	2,10,568	"	13 38	212	
Total, N.-W. P. -	2,95,28,533	47,25,721	3,42,54,254	—	1,451 35	134	
Lucknow - - -	6,12,794	1,61,369	7,74,163	Whole.	143 24	594	
Unao - - -	8,77,716	75,920	9,53,636	Part.	25 7	84	
Rae Bareli - - -	9,50,556	85,965	10,36,521	Whole.	15 11	47	
Sítapur - - -	9,17,774	1,57,639	10,75,413	"	19 38 ³ / ₄	59	
Hardoi - - -	9,98,537	1,14,674	11,13,211	Part.	14 8	41	
Kheri - - -	7,85,558	1,18,057	9,03,615	"	29 1	102	
Fyzabad - - -	10,78,498	1,38,461	12,16,959	Whole.	27 29	73	
Gonda - - -	12,53,804	2,05,425	14,59,229	"	11 13	25	
Bahraich - - -	8,30,634	1,69,798	10,00,432	Part.	13 37	45	
Sultánpur - - -	9,59,005	1,16,846	10,75,851	Whole.	11 32	35	
Partabgarh - - -	8,20,057	90,838	9,10,895	"	9 22	34	
Bara Banki - - -	9,44,968	1,85,938	11,30,906	"	10 29	30	
Total, Oudh - -	1,10,29,901	16,20,930	1,26,50,831	—	332 11 ³ / ₄	84	
Total, United Provinces	4,05,58,434	63,46,651	4,69,05,085	—	1,784 6 ³ / ₄	120	

STATEMENT OF THE PROFITS FROM THE CULTIVATION OF THE POPPY.
 Received from Mr. Stoker, Commissioner of Excise in the North-western Provinces and Oudh.)

Serial No.	Opium Division.	Revenue Districts comprised in an Opium Division.	Total Area of Poppy Cultivation in Acres (after deducting fallow in 1891-92).	Rabi Crop Area in Acres (in 1891-92).	Percentage of Column 4 to Column 5.	Total Out-turn of Opium (including waste) delivered (1891-92).	Total Value of Opium as paid by the Opium Department.	Estimated value of other Substances, viz., Petals, Trash, Sprayed Stock at Rs. 30 per Acre.	Cost of Cultivation.					Profits to Cultivators (Column 10 minus Column 11).	Number of Cultivators engaged.	Average Area per Cultivator.	Total Revenue on the Soil on 1st October 1892.	Total Tenants' 1890-91.	Total Payments made to Cultivators for provision of Opium, Lard, and Trash.
									Watering, Manuring at Rs. 11 per Acre.	Other Labour at Rs. 24 per Acre.	Rent at Rs. 10 per Acre.	Total at Rs. 48 per Acre.							
1																			
1	Ghazipur	Ghazipur and Ballia	Acres. 1,581	Acres. 6,92,517	Acres. 1-8	Mds. 2,446	Rs. 4,98,820	Rs. 3,77,450	Rs. 8,66,260	Rs. 3,01,944	Rs. 1,25,810	Rs. 6,03,888	Rs. 24,338	Ac. 51	Rs. 17,20,312	Rs. 35,04,698	Rs. 5,21,127		
2	Azamgarh	-	8,294	4,46,756	1-8	1,362	2,49,820	2,49,820	5,21,134	1,99,056	82,940	3,98,112	24,949	83	17,37,106	26,59,840	2,92,081		
3	Gorakhpur	-	16,849	12,22,004	1-4	2,594	5,18,710	5,05,470	10,24,130	1,92,916	1,68,490	7,65,782	50,492	28	25,73,713	43,82,881	5,31,326		
4	Basti	-	16,846	7,23,536	2-3	2,644	5,28,013	5,05,380	10,34,398	2,83,974	1,68,400	8,06,788	69,769	23	18,74,687	33,53,157	5,52,953		
5	Mirzapur	Benares, and Allahabad.	10,495	13,19,855	1-2	2,094	4,00,641	3,13,740	7,14,381	1,46,412	1,04,680	5,01,984	22,943	45	54,25,381	91,16,531	4,08,039		
6	Allahabad	Allahabad and Fatehpur	8,100	2,89,404	1-2	1,417	2,89,404	2,45,970	5,29,374	1,14,786	81,990	3,93,252	13,024	45	54,25,381	91,16,531	2,84,173		
7	Etawah	Etawah and Cawnpore	5,445	1,53,026	1-7	765	1,53,026	1,68,350	3,16,376	79,230	1,30,680	5,43,450	9,977	54	46,88,388	82,30,916	1,57,633		
8	Fatehgarh	Fatehgarh and Cawnpore	13,715	11,34,062	1-7	2,026	4,05,199	4,11,450	8,16,649	1,92,010	1,87,150	6,58,820	26,801	51	46,88,388	82,30,916	4,16,701		
9	Mainpuri	-	10,642	7,18,999	1-5	2,010	4,02,036	3,19,260	7,21,316	1,48,988	1,06,420	5,10,816	26,031	40	28,64,764	43,77,771	4,11,684		
10	Bareilly	Bareilly, Budaut, and Shahabnagar.	21,177	13,02,507	1-4	3,888	7,77,908	6,85,310	14,12,018	2,96,478	2,11,770	10,16,806	43,090	48	33,45,706	75,81,886	7,85,187		
	Total, N. W. P.	-	1,24,206	79,59,946	1-6	21,157	42,80,706	37,26,180	79,56,976	16,94,044	12,42,060	59,17,048	3,15,873	40	2,36,80,002	4,55,77,680	45,63,569		
11	Lucknow	Lucknow, Unao, and Bara Bank.	20,114	10,66,723	1-9	5,940	6,67,940	6,03,420	12,71,360	2,81,596	2,01,140	9,65,473	46,718	43	36,84,791	87,42,756	6,95,374		
12	Sitapur	Sitapur, Kheri, and Hardoi	14,742	17,28,305	8	2,817	5,43,318	4,42,260	10,05,578	2,06,388	1,47,420	7,07,616	40,921	36	34,88,592	1,01,46,681	5,69,663		
13	Fyzabad	-	14,474	4,16,882	3-5	2,471	4,94,093	4,34,220	9,28,313	2,02,656	1,44,740	6,94,752	41,242	34	11,46,560	26,91,748	5,00,036		
14	Gonda	Gonda and Bahraich	18,673	13,48,404	1-4	2,938	5,92,426	5,60,190	11,52,016	4,48,152	1,86,730	8,85,904	50,266	37	24,87,668	81,70,783	6,00,046		
15	Partabgarh	Partabgarh and Sultanpur	19,740	6,76,297	2-8	2,807	5,73,395	5,62,200	11,35,535	2,62,360	1,87,400	8,99,520	2,36,015	34	21,83,324	53,47,112	5,93,705		
16	Rai Bareilly	-	17,972	3,34,132	6-4	2,674	5,74,666	5,89,160	11,15,866	4,31,928	1,79,720	8,65,666	50,376	35	12,83,161	31,83,000	6,01,908		
	Total, Oudh.	-	1,04,715	55,70,743	1-9	17,332	34,65,808	31,41,460	66,07,263	14,58,700	10,47,150	50,19,010	15,88,248	38	1,42,97,791	3,62,23,090	35,71,624		
	Total, N. W. P. and Oudh.	-	2,28,921	1,35,30,689	1-6	38,489	76,96,604	69,67,630	1,45,64,234	31,83,744	22,59,210	1,06,36,068	6,01,413	38	3,9,96,883	8,17,30,770	79,40,883		

At least one-third of the sums shown in column 11, and practically the whole of those shown in column 12 are earnings, not outlay, of the cultivator. They represent the work of himself, his family, and his cattle, which would otherwise have mostly been hired or less profitably employed. This modifies the figures in columns 12 and 13, which represent the minimum average net profits of a tenant wholly employing hired labour. The net earnings of the ordinary cultivator who does not employ hired labour average per acre Rs. 44 or Rs. 45, but vary from district to district according to the out-turn.

The land revenue and rental (columns 19 and 20) are for the entire revenue districts and not merely for those parts in which poppy is cultivated. The proportion of proceeds of poppy cultivation to revenue and rent is therefore understated. Of the total payments in column 21 Rs. 1,49,987 was recoverable from cultivators, leaving net payments Rs. 77,91,144. Though poppy occupies only 1·6 per cent. of the cold weather crop area, and 3 per cent. of total crop area, the value of the out-turn (column 10) amounts to 17·8 per cent. of the tenant's rental, and 38·4 per cent. of the land revenue of the provinces.

APPENDIX VI.

APP. VI.
N.W. Prov.

STATEMENT showing the CASES brought to TRIAL in the NORTH-WEST PROVINCES and OUDH of ILLICIT DEALINGS in CHANDU and MADAK from 1st October 1892 to 30th November 1893.

(Received from Mr. STOKER, Commissioner of Excise, North-west Provinces and Oudh.)

District.	Name, Caste, and Occupation of the Person convicted.	Section and Clause of the Act under which Punishment inflicted.	Nature of Case.	Sentenced to		Amount of Reward paid to Informers and Apprehenders.
				Imprisonment, simple or rigorous.	Fine.	
1	2	3	4	5		6
Shaharanpur	Ahmad Husain, caste Chepi, fruit-seller.	Section 9 f, Act I. of 1878.	Sale of chandu:—1 tola	- - - -	Rs. a. p. Rs. 50 or one month's rigorous imprisonment in default. 50 0 0	Rs. a. p. 45 0 0
Meerut	Abdul Majid, Pathan	Section 9, Act I. of 1878.	Sale of chandu	Three months' rigorous.	50 0 0	50 0 0
Aligarh	Amira and Fida Husain, day labourers, Mussalmans.	Section 9 f, Act I. of 1878.	Illegal possession of 3½ tolas of chandu.	One month's rigorous each.	Rs. 5 each	10 0 0
Ditto	Sitaram Bania, vendor of victuals.	Sections 3 and 9, Act I., 1878.	Illegal possession of chandu and madak ½ seer prepared opium and six pills madak.	Four months' rigorous	10 0 0	10 0 0
Ditto	Mussamut Nasiban, caste Bhisti.	Section 9, Act I. of 1878.	Selling madak and chandu without license.	Three ditto	50 0 0	40 0 0
Agra	Faiz Buksh Shaik, labourer.	Ditto	Illicit manufacture and sale of chandu, 1 chittak.	Three ditto	—	20 0 0
Ditto	Maula Bania	Ditto	Illicit manufacture of chandu.	Three ditto	Rs. 25, or one month's rigorous imprisonment in default.	25 0 0
Ditto	Ahmad Ali Sayed, shop-keeper.	Ditto	Illicit sale of chandu, 5½ tolas.	One year's rigorous	Rs. 20, or in default two months' rigorous. 25 0 0	20 0 0
Ditto	Bhikhan Kachi	Ditto	Illicit possession of chandu, 2 chittaks.	- - - -	25 0 0	15 0 0
Farukhabad	Sallah Khan, Pathan	Ditto	Possession of chandu, 6 mashes and apparatus.	Discharged	—	—
Ditto	Mohamad Husain, tailor.	Ditto	Illicit possession of opium and ½ phial of chandu, and smoking apparatus.	- - - -	Rs. 10, or in default two weeks' rigorous.	—
Ditto	Chotu Lal, Brahman	Ditto	Illicit possession of 13½ tolas of opium, including a phial and 10 tolas chandu, with apparatus of smoking.	Three months' rigorous under section 9 (c), and three months under clause f.	—	20 0 0
Budaun	Maula Baksh, Sheikh, juggler.	Ditto	Illicit possession of chandu, 5 tolas.	- - - -	15 0 0	10 0 0
Shahjahanpur	Mussamut Nanhi and Asad Ali Khan, Pathan, dyer.	Ditto	Sale of 6 tolas 11 mashes of chandu.	Asad Ali, two months' rigorous, and Mussamut Nanhi -	5 0 0	15 0 0
Ditto	Abbas Khan, Pathan, beggar.	Ditto	Sale of 6 tolas 10 mashes, chandu.	Two months' rigorous	10 0 0 5 0 0	5 0 0
Ditto	(1.) Mussamut Rahima, and (2.) Khafun, Pathan, tailor.	Ditto	Possession of 5 tolas crude opium, and 1 tola chandu.	One month's rigorous	10 0 0	10 0 0
Pilibhit	Fakher Alam Khan, Pathan, zamindar, and Sukha, bhisti.	Ditto	Illegal possession of 2 tolas 10 mashes of chandu with smoking apparatus.	- - - -	30 0 0 and 10 0 0	10 0 0
Cawnpore	(1.) Shukne - - - (2.) Jani - - - (3.) Mussamut Nanhi -	Ditto	Illegal possession of 6½ tolas of chandu.	(1.) - - - (2.) - - - (3.) Discharged	75 0 0 75 0 0	125 0 0
Ditto	Ahmad Ali and three others, Mussalmans, &c.	Ditto	Illegal sale of 6 tolas, chandu.	Discharged	—	—
Ditto	Mussamut Begum, prostitute.	Ditto and section 39, Act XXII. of 1881.	Illegal sale and possession of chandu, weighing 8 annas, and charas, ½ annas.	Six months' rigorous	100 0 0	50 0 0
Ditto	Gamesh, goldsmith	Section 9, Act I. of 1878.	Illegal sale and possession of chandu, 8½ annas.	Four ditto	Rs. 25 or month's further in default.	25 0 0
Ditto	(1.) Khurshed, beggar - (2.) Amir Ali, labourer	Ditto and section 109 Indian Penal Code.	Illegal sale and possession of chandu, 2 tolas 9 mashes with pot.	(1.) Three months' rigorous.	{ (1.) 100 0 0 } { (2.) 50 0 0 }	100 0 0
Allahabad	Ahmad Ali, cultivator	Section 9, Act I. of 1878.	Possessing 6 tolas opium and making chandu.	Four months' rigorous	—	8 0 0
Ditto	Khunoo Syed, shop-keeper.	Ditto	Keeping chandu more than authorised.	Two weeks' rigorous	20 0 0	20 0 0
Ditto	Zamin, Sayed Rangsaaz	Ditto	Manufacture and sale of chandu.	Three months' rigorous.	50 0 0	25 0 0
Ditto	Ashrafuddin, Sheikh, ekkadriver.	Ditto	Manufacture and sale of chandu.	Six months' rigorous	50 0 0	25 0 0
Ditto	Badlu Gararya, Naichaband.	Ditto	Manufacture and sale of chandu.	Two ditto	30 0 0	15 0 0
Ditto	Babu, Pathan, service as mason.	Ditto	Preparing and selling chandu without license.	Two ditto	30 0 0	15 0 0
Ditto	Mussamut Shahzadi, prostitute.	Ditto	Illicit manufacture of chandu, 2½ tolas.	- - - -	30 0 0	20 0 0
Jhansi	Mussamut Hora, dancing girl.	Ditto	Possessing 2½ tolas chandu	Discharged	—	—
Ditto	Chuonu, labourer	Ditto	Possessing 2½ tolas madak	Six months' rigorous	—	—
Ditto	Zulfikar Ali, book-seller.	Ditto	Illicit manufacture and sale of madak, Rs. 3 ½ a. in weight.	Three ditto	—	—
Ditto	Bucha, labourer, Bechua	Ditto	Illicit manufacture and sale of madak, 4½ tolas in weight.	Four ditto	20 0 0	—

APP. VI.

District.	Name, Caste, and Occupation of the Person convicted.	Section and Clause of the Act under which Punishment inflicted.	Nature of Case.	Sentenced to		Amount of Reward paid to Informers and Apprehenders.
				Imprisonment, simple or rigorous.	Fine.	
1	2	3	4	5		6
					Rs. a p.	Rs. a p.
Jhansi	(1.) Kunus, Brahman, weighman.	Section 9. Act I. of 1878.	Illicit manufacture and sale of madak, $\frac{1}{4}$ tolas in weight.	(1.) One year's rigorous	20 0 0	—
Benares	(2.) Mohan, grain dealer	Ditto	Illicit sale of opium and chandu.	(2.) ditto	—	25 0 0
Ditto	(1.) Nankhi, Brahman	Ditto	Sale of kewam and opium	(1.) Ten weeks' rigorous, (2.) discharged	25 0 0	25 0 0
Ditto	(2.) Lal Mohamad, Joiaha Alahu, Rangrez	Ditto	Illicit sale of chandu-kewam.	Two weeks' rigorous	—	—
Ditto	Valait Ali Khan	Ditto	Illicit sale of chandu and opium.	Discharged	30 0 0	30 0 0
Ditto	Nabboo Khan	Ditto	Illicit sale of chandu and opium.	Three months' rigorous	—	19 0 0
Ditto	Bhagwan Dass, shop-keeper.	Ditto	Illicit sale of chandu	Three weeks' rigorous	—	—
Ditto	Husain Ali Dabkai	Ditto	Illicit sale of kewam-madak.	Discharged	25 0 0	25 0 0
Ditto	Gulla Bakkal	Ditto	Illicit sale of kewam-madak.	—	25 0 0	25 0 0
Ditto	Mussamat Sarupia, labourer.	Ditto	Illicit sale of chandu	—	30 0 0	30 0 0
Ditto	Madar Bux	Ditto	Ditto	Two months' rigorous	30 0 0	30 0 0
Ditto	Lalloo, Rangrez	Ditto	Illicit sale of madak	One months' rigorous	25 0 0	30 0 0
Ditto	Bhaggu, Kasarwani	Ditto	Illicit sale of kewam-opium.	Two months' rigorous	30 0 0	32 0 0
Ditto	Golab, Hajam, and Mangar, Jalaha.	Ditto	Selling chandu without license.	(1.) Discharged (2.) five weeks' rigorous.	—	20 0 0
Ditto	Dalmir Khan	Ditto	Illicit sale of chandu and kewam.	Six months' rigorous.	50 0 0 or default four weeks' rigorous	—
Ditto	Abdulla Khan	Ditto	Illicit sale of chandu and kewam.	Three ditto	—	—
Ditto	Hassan Khan	Ditto	Illicit sale of chandu	Discharged	—	—
Ditto	Mangu, Kasarwani	Ditto	Illicit sale of madak	Eight weeks' rigorous	20 0 0 in default two weeks' rigorous	20 0 0
Ditto	(1.) Budhu and (2.) Mussamat Gobindi.	Ditto	Illicit sale of chandu	(1.) Three months' rigorous, (2.) 15 days' simple.	—	20 0 0
Ditto	Mussumat Ganeshi and Dhanu Singh.	Ditto	Ditto	Three months' rigorous each.	10 0 0 each.	25 0 0
Ditto	Salig Singh, silk merchant.	Ditto	Illegal sale of chandu, 13 mashas.	Discharged	—	—
Ditto	Parsotam Ahir	Ditto	Illegal sale of chandu, $\frac{2}{3}$ weight, chandu, mashas.	Six weeks' rigorous	—	—
Ditto	Lalloo, Rangrez	Ditto	Illicit sale of chandu	One year's rigorous	100 0 0	100 0 0
Ditto	Rama Nath Chakurbatti	Ditto	Ditto	Discharged	—	—
Mirzapur	(1.) Mockan, and six others.	Ditto	Illicit sale of chandu, 17 pie weight with vessel.	—	40 0 0	20 0 0
	Shankar, Sonar, and three others.	Ditto	Illicit sale of chandu, and possession of illicit opium, Rs. $\frac{1}{4}$ in weight.	(1.) Two months' rigorous.	10 0 0	10 0 0
				(2.) One month's rigorous.	2 0 0	
				(3.) One month's rigorous.	2 0 0	
				(4.) Discharged	—	15 0 0
	Sheikh Asad Ali, and four others.	Ditto	Illicit sale of chandu, Rs. 14 18a. in weight, with vessel.	(1.) Three months' rigorous.	10 0 0	
				(2.) Six weeks' rigorous.	5 0 0	
				(3.) Discharged	—	
				(4.) Six weeks' rigorous.	5 0 0	
				(5.) Six weeks' rigorous.	5 0 0	
	Jamna Kasera, and four others.	Ditto	Illegal possession of chandu, Rs. $\frac{1}{4}$ in weight.	Discharged	—	—
Jaunpur	Afghan Khan, juggler	Ditto	Illicit manufacture and sale of $\frac{1}{4}$ tola chandu.	—	5 0 0	—
Gorakhpur	Ramjan Khan, service	Ditto	Illegal possession of chandu, $\frac{1}{4}$ tola.	—	6 0 0	3 0 0
Ditto	Babu Khan, service	Ditto	Illegal possession of chandu, 4 mashas.	Three months' rigorous.	—	—
Ditto	Subrat Julaha	Ditto	Illegal possession of chandu, 1 seer madak, $\frac{1}{4}$ seer kafa.	Four months' rigorous	20 0 0	20 0 0
Lucknow	Mussamat Nazirjan, and others.	Ditto	Possession and sale of chandu, 1 tola.	Six ditto	20 0 0	20 0 0
Ditto	Karim Khan, Pathan	Ditto	Possession of opium and chandu; opium, $\frac{2}{3}$ tolas, chandu, 5 tolas.	Three ditto	—	20 0 0
Ditto	Manjo Wasikadar	Ditto	Possession of opium, and sale of chandu.	—	70 0 0	20 0 0
Ditto	Karim Buksh	Ditto	Possession of opium, and sale of chandu.	—	20 0 0	—
Ditto	Wazir Jaincha	Ditto	Possession of opium, and sale of chandu; opium, $\frac{1}{4}$ tolas; chandu, $\frac{2}{3}$ tolas.	Four months' rigorous	—	20 0 0
Ditto	Shankar Zardos	Ditto	Possession of opium, and sale of chandu, $\frac{1}{4}$ tolas.	Eight ditto	15 0 0	20 0 0
Ditto	Mohamad Hussain Sayad	Ditto	Possession of opium, and sale of chandu, 8 mashas chandu.	Four ditto	—	—
Ditto	Murli Teli	Ditto	Possession of opium, and sale of chandu, 2 tolas.	One year's rigorous	50 0 0	25 0 0
Ditto	Mayah Hussain	Ditto	Possession of opium and sale of chandu, $\frac{2}{3}$ tolas.	Ditto	100 0 0	10 0 0
Kheri	Gur Parshad Shah, and five others.	Ditto	Possession of opium, and sale of chandu.	Ditto	43 0 0	—
Bahraich	Jhabbu Khan, labourer	Ditto	Illicit sale of chandu	Six months' rigorous	—	—
	Majju, labourer	Ditto	Ditto	Discharged	—	—

APPENDIX VII.

APP. VII.

Rae Bareilly.

NOTE ON POPPY CULTIVATION in the RAE BAREILLY DISTRICT by Mr. D. C. BAILLIE, Settlement Officer.

1. The Rae Bareilly District is the most important as regards poppy cultivation in the N.-W. Provinces and Oudh. The accompanying Statements A. and B. compare the area under poppy, and the income to cultivators from the poppy crop, with the total cultivated area and the rental and land revenue of the district. Poppy is in general, but by no means invariably, grown on land which has been fallow throughout the rains. Its importance as regards the area occupied is indicated by a percentage figure lying between that shown in the Statement A. as on the total crop area and that on the total cultivated area. At present poppy probably occupies an area equivalent to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the total cultivation.

2. As regards income the past five years have on the whole been unfortunate; the best of them, 1889-90, is as compared with previous years only average. In Statement B. I have taken into account only licit income from poppy cultivation. The illicit income, especially to the less reliable class of cultivators, is by no means negligible. As regards the best class of cultivators, the income from sale of illicit opium is not large, their dependence on the opium cultivation being too great to permit them to run any risk in selling illicitly. Almost all cultivators probably keep back a comparatively very small quantity of opium for medical use in their own families. Statement B. shows that in a year of average prosperity like 1889-90 poppy, though in extent less than 4 per cent. of the cultivation, pays the whole of the land revenue of the district and 40 per cent. of the rental. A rough estimate of the total value of the agricultural produce of the district shows that the poppy crop in an average year may be valued at nearly 9 per cent. of the sale price of the total produce, deducting the rental and working expenses. The available surplus from poppy bears a far higher ratio to that for the other crops of the district, but I am not prepared to estimate what proportion.

3. It is therefore clear that a most serious loss would be incurred by the cultivators, and through the cultivators by the landholders of the district, were poppy cultivation abolished—unless it were possible to provide a substitute crop or crops to take its place, by the introduction or extension of which the district surplus produce could be raised to the extent it would fall from the abolition of poppy. Is this possible? In my opinion it is not. The special features of opium cultivation which render it so specially valuable to Indian cultivators are (1.) the high value of the crop per unit of area occupied; (2.) the comparatively small amount of labour required, and the fact that labour on poppy is mainly necessary at seasons when the cultivator has time to spare, and that for the best class of opium cultivators the labour devoted to opium cultivation costs little or nothing. Land for poppy is prepared and the seed is sown after the rest of the spring crops are down and before irrigation has begun. The opium is extracted after cane has been pressed and irrigation of spring crops completed, and just before the reaping of the opium harvest is begun in earnest. The weeding and extraction of the juice is done by the families of low caste cultivators, and requires no hired male labour whatsoever. It might be considered possible to abolish opium cultivation without loss were either of two courses possible: (a.) to grow a substitute crop with the same available surplus of income, and with the same advantages on the same area; (b.) by extending the cultivation of the more valuable crops over a larger area than they occupy at present.

4. The only crops now grown in these provinces to any extent which can compare in value per unit of area with poppy are (1.) cane, (2.) tobacco, (3.) vegetables. As regards cane there can be no doubt of its value to the Indian cultivator, and of its being suited to the system of agriculture: providing work for the cultivator who has good bullocks in the hot weather, and being pressed when work in irrigating the rabi slackens. For an eastern district it is not, however, nearly so paying as opium. It wants far more male and bullock labour than opium, and provides much less for women and children. It interferes also to a considerable extent with the late watering of the rabi

crops. A still more fatal objection to the idea that it can be adopted as a substitute for opium is to be found in the fact that cane is uncertain in the extreme, except in stiff clayey soil with ample irrigation. The greater part of the area of the Rae Bareilly District is of light soil, in which cane is liable to be destroyed by insects, and in which cane cultivation, though tried time after time, has been a failure. A local bar to the cultivation of cane is almost insuperable in half the district. Cane is considered unlucky, and to grow it likely to cause the death of a son. The result of this superstition has been that though many attempts have been made to introduce the cultivation of cane in the Kanpuriya parganas of this district, the area under it is still infinitesimal, and it makes no progress, even though several of these parganas are, in soil, well suited to its growth. In Rae Bareilly at least any great extension of cane cultivation is impracticable for many years. (2.) Tobacco need only be briefly mentioned. It is now grown on almost as large an area as it can be grown on. It can be grown at a profit only on old village sites where the soil is impregnated with salt. It is never grown elsewhere, and its cultivation cannot extend, even did the demand admit of it. (3.) The area under vegetables is very small, and yet it is sufficient to meet the demand. They take far more labour than poppy, and as they have to be carried to bazárs or towns to be sold, are grown for sale only by a small class.

5. It has now to be considered whether it is possible to extend the cultivation of the more valuable crops, such as wheat, over a considerably larger area than they now occupy. For wheat in this district the area to make up for loss from poppy would have to be doubled. It may be at once said that this is impossible, as the small size of the holdings in the district, and the large cultivating population which has, as a first charge, to be fed from the holdings, has made the restriction of the area under the cheap food grains used by the cultivators and labourers themselves impossible.

6. To estimate the effects of the abolition of opium cultivation in the district it is necessary to inquire more clearly into the circumstances of opium cultivation and opium cultivators. The loss would not be spread uniformly over the district and its population. Opium is of the highest importance to certain classes of cultivators only. It is of the highest importance in probably less than 50 per cent. of the villages of the district. The loss would, therefore, being restricted in area, fall with extreme severity on certain classes and areas. I am unable to give district figures showing exactly the distribution of opium cultivation, but how important the cultivation is to certain classes will be clear from Statement C., in which figures are collected from certain villages in tahsil Salon, in which poppy cultivation is of high importance. Some of these villages are exceptional, but they are exceptional only that in them are collected an unusually large proportion of the close cultivating castes which grow poppy best. The circumstances of the individual cultivators in these villages are similar to those of cultivators of a similar class throughout the district. It will be observed that throughout these villages the area of the holdings is extremely small, and the rental even for a high rented district like Rae Bareilly (the district incidence per acre being Rs. 5-12) the rent is in general very high, and for the opium cultivators the proportion of income from opium very large. These circumstances are general amongst the castes which cultivate opium throughout the district.

7. What is considered a fair rent in India is, I believe, the surplus produce after defraying cost of production and maintaining the cultivator and his family in the standard of comfort to which they are accustomed. A large holding would mean a large surplus and therefore a comparative high rent, and a comparatively high standard of comfort. Reducing the size of the holding without reducing the rent would lower the standard of comfort. Reducing the value of the produce would have the same effect (if rents did not at once fall) of greatly reducing the standard of comfort of the cultivators. The figures for some of the villages in Statement C. indicate how severe would be

APP. VIII.
Rae Bareli,

the effect on the people affected. In Jasanli, for instance, it would imply the loss of one-fifth of the income of the village as a whole, and a considerably larger proportion for many of them. There is not, in my opinion, the least doubt that the removal of the income from opium cultivation would reduce almost the whole of the Murais, Lodhs, and Kurmis, and a large proportion of the Ahirs and Chamars in this district from the condition of comparatively well-to-do people to that of day labourers living from hand to mouth, or force them to emigrate, not in itself a bad thing, but a course which would be followed only after years of suffering. As to what the tenants say themselves I have frequently made notes. Murais have told me that in the Nawabi they, with difficulty, paid low rents and lived in poor circumstances, and that since they have taken to opium cultivation they have been able to live in comfort and give their daughters a suitable portion. Several men have told me that if opium cultivation were abolished "*nán nán larke marjaenge*" (our small children will die). The effect on high caste tenants will be by no means so great. Opium cultivation is expensive for them, and the profits therefore smaller. They would lose a small surplus they now find useful, and they would lose a resource in time of trouble by which they can now raise some funds. Of this resource we have an excellent illustration this year. Since the opium settlements were made part of the autumn crop turned out to be a failure, and many of the tenants are hard up. They have in consequence taken to opium, and every village is sowing in excess of the area contracted for.

8. Landlords would be affected by the fall in rents of the opium-growing tenants, whose small holdings could no longer pay the rents they no do. Land revenue would have to fall also. It is difficult to estimate the loss which would accrue in this way to Government, but it would certainly be close on to two lakhs of rupees.

9. It may be asked in what Rae Bareli is peculiar in that opium cultivation is so necessary to it. There are western districts which grow no opium, and yet in which rent is quite as high as in Rae Bareli. The difference is in the size of the holdings. In Bulandshahr a tenant holds probably three times as large an area as a tenant does here. The large holding, as already re-

marked, can pay a full rent with ease, whereas a small holding could not. Rae Bareli is one of the districts in which the pressure of agricultural population is most dense. It is distinguished from the eastern districts in which I have served by a difference in the incidence of the rent, which fully explains the greater extent to which tenants here have taken to opium cultivation.

10. Several points in connexion with opium cultivation have not been referred to above, but deserve notice. One of them is the system of advances, which plays a most important part in connexion with the collection of rent and revenue in the district. About a lakh of rupees are distributed annually in August, at a time when both tenants and landlords are worst off for ready money. The autumn rent collections would suffer from the absence of these advances, and many tenants, now free from debt, be driven to get their seed from grain-lenders, on condition of repaying it six months afterwards with interest at 50 per cent.

11. An opinion appears to prevail that the influence of Government officers has to be exerted to get tenants to cultivate. Here at least the opposite is the case, and tenants who are prevented from cultivating make the greatest efforts to regain permission to do so. To induce cultivators to take up on a large scale a system of cultivation the advantages of which are not clear to them requires more influence than Government officers, without positive compulsion, could exert. Many officers in positions of very much more influence than the opium employés have tried to promote cane cultivation, but have altogether failed.

12. The opinion of the tenants of the district as to opium cultivation has already been referred to. They thoroughly realise its importance to themselves.

13. Landholders I find often fail to understand the intimate connexion between poppy cultivation and rent. Some of them, by no means the best, object to the opium officers inquiring minutely into the circumstances of their tenants, and trying to aid oppressed tenants. The more intelligent landlords I have consulted entirely agree with the opinions I have above recorded. I have never yet met tenant or landlord who was prepared to suggest how the loss of opium revenue was to be compensated for, or expressed any willingness to bear his share of the burden.

STATEMENT A.

STATEMENT comparing the AREA under the POPPY CROPS in the RAE BARELI DISTRICT for the past Five Years, with the total Crop and other Areas.

Year.	Poppy.	Total Crop Area.	Total Cultivated Area.	Crops only.	Per-centage on whole Crops.	Per-centage on Cultivated Area.	Per-centage on Rabi Crop Area.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.			
1888-89 (96 fasli)	22,559	827,393	597,180	370,199	2.72	3.77	6.09
1889-90 (97 fasli)	25,449	833,211	594,011	357,891	3.54	4.28	7.11
1890-91 (98 fasli)	26,132	803,993	586,219	354,419	3.25	4.45	7.37
1891-92 (99 fasli)	21,847	785,132	582,563	334,132	2.78	3.75	7.53
1892-93 (1,300 fasli)	21,061	785,748	581,146	332,266	2.67	3.62	6.33

EXPLANATION OF VARIATIONS.

(1) Reduction of cultivation was ordered in 1890, and was effected by excluding cultivation unprofitable to the Department in general, by high caste tenants, in land not properly prepared or suited for poppy.

(2) A bad year in poppy cultivation tends to reduce the area cultivated in the succeeding year. The last three years have all been poor.

(3) A bad year for other cultivation tends to raise the poppy area in the succeeding year or harvest, e.g., loss of several crops during the autumn just passed has

induced cultivators throughout the district to sow opium largely in excess of their engagements to make up for the loss sustained.

(4) Settlement operations being in progress has induced landowners, as far as possible, to keep down the cultivation in their villages. A large poppy area is a sign of rent-paying capacity, and they are unwilling that the area should be up to average whilst settlement measurements and inspection are in progress.

(5) Variations as a rule affect only the inferior poppy cultivation by high caste tenants

STATEMENT B.

APP. VII.
Rae Bareli.

STATEMENT showing the LAND REVENUE, RENT, and VALUE of POPPY in the RAE BARELI DISTRICT for the past Five Years.

Year.	Land Revenue.	Departmental Payments for Opium.	Add Value of Seed at Rs. 10 per Acre.	Total Value of Poppy.	Proportion to Land Revenue.	Proportion to Rent.	Rental Demand.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			Rs.
1888-89 - - -	12,40,030 3 5	7,22,917	2,25,590	9,48,507	76.49	30.99	30,59,963
1889-90 - - -	12,43,731 14 5	10,90,503	2,54,480	13,44,983	108.14	43.94	30,60,553
1890-91 - - -	12,41,689 3 5	7,46,492	2,61,320	10,07,812	81.16	32.82	30,70,265
1891-92 - - -	12,39,865 12 5	5,74,696	2,18,470	7,93,166	63.97	26.37	30,11,644
1892-93 - - -	12,44,709 13 5	6,78,934	2,00,620	8,79,554	70.66	29.06	30,26,616

REMARKS.

(1.) Variations in area have been explained under Statement A.

(2.) Variations in produce are due to the somewhat precarious nature of the poppy crop:—

(a.) It is ruined by even a slight hailstorm which would not materially deteriorate other crops.

(b.) It is sensitive to frost.

(c.) It is particularly sensitive to rain. Over irrigation, or rain after irrigation, is very injurious.

Rain whilst the poppy is in flower injures the crop by preventing full fertilisation; rain while the poppy is being extracted wastes off a large part of the yield of opium.

(3.) The last three years have been particularly unfortunate for poppy. 1889-90, the yield of which was considerably higher than in any other year above shown, was only, as compared with preceding years, an average one.

STATEMENT C.

Giving figures regarding OPIUM CULTIVATION in certain typical VILLAGES in the RAE BARELI DISTRICT.

Village.	Total Cultivated Area.	Tenant Area.	Number of Tenants.	Average Area of Holding.	Number of Opium Tenants.	Poppy Area.	Per-cent- age of Poppy on Cultivated Area.	Rental.	Tenants' Rent-rate.	Land Revenue.	Estimate of Value of Produce.	Value of Poppy Crops.		
												Opium Pay- ments.	Seed.	Total.
	Acres.	Acres.		Acres.		Acres.		Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1. Jasauli - -	152	100	32	3	23	18	11.84	908	9 1 2	295	3,866	1,306	190	1,496
2. Katra - -	1,017	1,125	187	6	176	108	10.61	6,807	5 0 9	1,862	27,221	5,483	1,161	6,644
3. Negohan -	153	151	56	3	45	19	12.41	1,072	7 1 7	325	4,927	1,191	221	1,412
4. Shukrullapur	215	160	60	2½	48	22	10.23	1,098	6 13 0	400	6,512	899	310	1,209
5. Mohanganj -	343	348	163		71	19	5.53	2,169	6 3 8	865	7,976	1,092	480	1,572
6. Khanpur or Beerbhanpur.	363	463	300	1½	63	45	12.39	3,987	8 9 9	658	18,399	855	517	1,372
7. Besaia - -	650	654	410	1½	101	46	7.07	3,632	5 8 10	1,417	14,986	1,285	792	2,077
8. Matika -	382	393	172	2½	94	52	13.61	2,885	7 5 5	1,000	13,691	1,621	538	2,159
9. Beoli - -	484	346	168	2	70	47	9.71	2,983	8 7 6	1,125	15,130	1,000	644	1,644
10. Rasulpur -	1,272	1,169	269	4	200	153	12.02	7,376	6 4 11	2,240	35,540	4,738	1,786	6,524

APPENDIX VIII.

APP. VIII.
Lucknow Shops.

(Handed in by Mrs. J. G. HAUSER.)

The LUCKNOW OPIUM SHOPS, January 10th, 1894.

The seven shops visited during the day were all about alike, from 6 to 10 feet square. The floor of mud, some 3 feet above the level of the road, all very dirty. The shopkeeper sat on a bit of mat with two or three packages of opium and a cash box beside him, also some bits of paper for wrapping the opium as sold.

In the first shop in Agha Mirki Deori were three men beside the shopkeeper, one of them particularly miserable as to clothing, health, and scarcely enough spirit to sit up. He held a Mahomedan rosary in his fingers which he dropped two or three times from sheer stupidity. Lives by begging, and uses one anna a day of opium when he can get so much money. The other women were middle-aged and very thin.

Other purchasers came up, one of them a young man

belonging to a Nawab's family. He receives Rs. 7 a month pension, looked most wretched and was obliged to rest his head on the platform while his opium was weighed out, then hastened away to use it.

One man said he used daily one anna of opium and half pice of parched grain; would rather have opium than food. All pronounced the habit very bad, and would be glad to be rid of it that they might expend the money for food. Said it was the fault of their parents who had given it to them in childhood. The shopkeeper said that as long as opium was sold it would be used, but it would be "sab log ko bahut faida"—a great benefit to the people if the shops were closed. He took pains to uncover his license board, which was covered for the time with a blanket. The license board is seen in all the shops. A boxwala, an itinerant notions vendor, who lived in the neighbourhood, came

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Lucknow Shops.

up with his two children to see what we wished in such a place. He and his children looked healthy and happy. He said he did not use opium; not even gave it to his children, and his comfortable, cheerful appearance was in strong contrast to the miserable creatures about us.

At second shop in Ahyagunj about a dozen men sitting in the shop, some eating parched grain, and some stirring their opium in small bowls preparatory to drinking. Many more buyers came up. One of them, a most miserable, middle-aged man, his clothing in rags, his countenance besotted. He spent two pice daily on opium. On being asked how his family lived, he said that he earned rupees two a month, spent one for opium, two annas for rent, and had 14 annas, or less than two pice a day to feed himself and daughter. He regretted the little food, but could not live without the opium. What must the daughter suffer, who had not even the effect of opium to dull the pangs of hunger. A cleanly dressed, grey haired old man, intelligent looking, but very thin, came up for his daily allowance of one anna of opium because it was his taqdir, fate, but the habit was no good, only very bad, entirely bad, an evil "Shaitani"—from the devil, and they would be much better off if they never had opium, but as a slave of the habit what could he do, who would cure him? He was greatly grieved at the increased cost. In the King's time, Wajid Ali Shah, which he remembered, opium was four rupees a seer, and many used it. Now it is Rs. 20 a seer, and very many more people use it; this in reply to a direct question. On asking why it is so much dearer, the shopkeeper particularly, and others joining, explained, "Sarkar ke liye" for the Government, and also that since the smoking shops had been closed, the shopkeeper had been obliged to raise the price to meet the license. The old man said that it cost him an anna to produce the desired intoxication. If the Government prohibited the sale they then would suffer and thousands would die. I pointed to the eight or ten children standing around, and laughingly ask, "Would it not be better if such old opium slaves as 'yourself should die, that these children may be 'saved,' to which with a laugh and shrug he answered, "Beshak," without doubt. By all the crowd, both in the shop and on the street, the custom of the mothers giving opium to their children was greatly denounced, and yet saying, "What could a poor woman do with a crying baby."

At two shops in the Chauk, no customers, as it was the busiest time of the day.

At a shop near entrance of Hosainabad only two men sitting in the shop, but an hour or more later, on returning from Rais Manzil, there were eight or more buyers, mostly very miserable. One young man, comfortably dressed, with an intelligent face, but showing the effect of opium, on being asked why he took it, answered, "Nasha"—drunkenness. He was smoking a hukka, and between whiffs stirring the opium with water in a bowl. A miserable bhisti—water carrier,—with wretchedest rags for covering was sitting on the ground in front of the shop devouring a half pice worth of parched grain. Our coachman who had been waiting for us outside the Rais Manzil, has just seen this water-carrier buy seven pice of opium and a half pice of corn. The people about said this was his daily custom, and his appearance was ample evidence of truth. He was too eager over the corn, and too besotted to tell what his family had to eat. An old woman came along carrying a hukka and coal stand, such as is used in selling smokes to passers-by. This was her means of livelihood. Her flowing rags were miserable, and her countenance haggard. She bought her daily allowance of four pice of opium. Her veil and the great folds of her divided skirt were burned in dozens of places. The bystanders said that she was usually so stupid from opium that she was constantly dropping the lighted coals on her dress, to which statement she assented. Some blamed their mothers for giving them the habit, others began for illness, and could leave off if they

would, and gladly go to a hospital where they could be assured of cure.

In the Rais Manzil, a sort of refuge for the aged members of the former noble families, we first met two old women, mother and daughter, the latter a grey-haired woman. They live on a small pension granted the mother. One of them takes a pice of opium in four days, and greatly regretted the habit, because of the expense. It was began on the doctor's order for sickness. They would do anything to be free from the bad habit, but could not give it up without some medicine to carry over the illness that would result from stoppage. It is very hard for Europeans to realise that a quarter of pice daily can be any appreciable loss in supplying food, but these two women expressed their loss emphatically, wailing that they had only the feeble mother's pension to live on, with "no one to take them by hand" or foot, only in God is our hope." When it is possible for a person to maintain existence on a pice a day, a quarter of a pice even counts.

At another house in Rais Manzil lives an old opium-eater, aged about 60, with his wife. They receive Rs. 5 a month, and he spends Rs. 2 for opium. He began using opium shortly after the Mutiny. He had just had his dose of opium and was finishing his noonday meal, so his eyes were bright and he at his best, and talked a great deal. He pointed to his worn poor clothing, to the wretched tatters and rags which served for bedding, to the misery of the damp place where he, who had once been a man of means and influence, was obliged to live, and all on account of his opium habit. He would gladly leave it off if any medicine could be given which would cure him. If he lessened his dose to any extent, or did without, in two or three days dysentery would set in, and probably death. He complained greatly that he could afford but one meal a day for himself and wife, he was heavily in debt, and could not work either with opium or without it.

Shop in Aminabad, eight or ten people sitting in the shop, among them two women. Many came to buy; those in the shop mostly too stupid to talk. One or two talked, saying that opium was only a harm. On asking how some of the most miserable buyers got money, the reply was by begging. Many go out at night to beg as they are quite sleepless, and during the day too dull with opium.

Another shop in Aminabad full of men sitting, some evidently having taken their dose, others preparing it in a little bowl. Crowds were coming and going. I have often passed this shop and wondered what the people were so eager about as they stood in front. One rather young man of most haggard appearance, came up and offered his pice, then was obliged to sit on the ground until his opium was weighed. A bright young man who belonged to the neighbourhood and knew the people began telling about them. I asked him how the wretch at our feet was ever able to get money for opium. The reply was he never works, his sister dances and earns the money for both, giving her brother two annas a day for opium. Another buyer belonged to a class of Brahmin priests and gets his money by begging, others were night beggars. One very pretty, well-dressed girl of eight or nine came into the miserable crowd to buy for someone in the house. A mother came to buy for her baby, and a father for his baby, carried by an elder boy that already looked a physical wreck, an elderly man from Rais Manzil for opium which his wife would have for her baby; and many others of all shades of misery.

In conversation later with a company of Mahomedans, men who are much interested in the daily news of their country, they said, "We know that there are many people who care for our good, but the Government cares only for the revenue and not for the people."

JENNETTE G. HAUSER.

January 11th, 1894.

APPENDIX IX.

APP. IX.
Punjab Excise.

(Handed in by Mr. T. GORDON WALKER, Commissioner of Excise in the Punjab.)

MEMORANDUM on the SYSTEM of EXCISE on OPIUM in the PUNJAB, with DETAILS of CONSUMPTION, &c.

OPIUM SUPPLY.

The system of excise with regard to opium which is in force in the Punjab differs (at least so far as the matter of supply is concerned) a good deal from that in other provinces. The main feature of the Punjab system proper is that the production of the drug is subject, until it comes into the hands of the licensed vendors, to taxation in the shape of an acreage duty on poppy cultivation only. The cultivation of the poppy is controlled, but there is no interference with the manufacture of the drug. The rest of the taxation is taken in the form of license fees payable by the dealers.

The above may be accepted as describing the original, and what is still the principal, feature of the system. But it has been somewhat obscured and the system a good deal complicated by developments intended to meet certain special circumstances. In the matter of supply (1) the produce of our own districts has been for long supplemented by (2) opium produced in the territories of the Kashmir State and in the petty Hill States under the political control of the Punjab Government, and (3) opium imported from foreign territory beyond the Indus to the west. Opium from these two latter sources is practically treated as if it had been produced in the province, or rather it is more favourably treated, because it pays no acreage duty. I may here mention that proposals were made two years ago and are still under the consideration of higher authority for levying an import duty on (2). The supply of (3) is very small. The other sources of licit supply are (4) Malwa opium, of which the import by dealers is allowed to a defined extent on payment of a reduced duty at the Ajmere scales; and (5) a comparatively limited quantity of excise opium is supplied by the Bengal Government for issue to licensed vendors. There has, besides the above, been till within the last three or four years, a very considerable illicit import of opium from Nepal and Malwa.

3. These various sources of supply will be examined in detail; but I may first give the following explanation with regard to opium from sources (2) and (3) enumerated above. The definition of Punjab-grown opium in the existing rules [1 (xiii)] is to this effect:—"Punjab-grown opium means (1) opium manufactured from the poppy plant grown in those parts of the Punjab in which the cultivation of the plant is permitted, and (2) opium manufactured from the poppy plant grown in Kashmir or in any Native State under the political control of the Punjab Government, except the States of Bahawalpur and Loharu, the Bahawal, Kanti Narnaul, Kanaundh, and Dadri parganas of the Nabha, Patiala, and Jind States, and the Nahar villages of the Dujana States." The reason for these exceptions is that the tracts enumerated adjoin directly the territory of the Rajputana States without the intervention of Punjab districts. Rule 26 provides that "Punjab grown opium may be imported by licensed vendors from Kashmir and from all native States or parts of native States under the political control of the Punjab Government, excepting the States of Bahawalpur, &c." (as above).

Again, under Rule 25 (iii) "opium produced in foreign territory situated to the west of the Indus may be imported by licensed vendors and farmers and holders of licenses for wholesale vend. after they have procured from the Deputy Commissioner of the district in which they are licensed to sell opium a written permit authorising such import." The result of the arrangements described in the above definition and in the rules quoted is that opium from sources (2) and (3)

comes into our districts free of duty and becomes, at all events so far as our system of excise is concerned, undistinguishable from (1). With regard to (2) at least it may be said that opium from this source is part of the home-grown supply.

4. Another point which I may mention is that the opium falling under heads (1), (2), and (3) is not all retained for consumption in our districts. A very considerable portion of it finds its way through any districts into the territories of the native States under the political control of the Punjab Government which are situated in the plains. This transport is specially provided for by the Provincial rules.

Part of the home-grown supply exported to Punjab native States.

CULTIVATION of the POPPY and PRODUCTION of OPIUM and POPPY-HEADS in PUNJAB DISTRICTS.

5. The cultivation of the poppy is permitted (under a license taken out free of charge for each crop) throughout the Punjab, except in the district and parts of districts noted in the margin* (the old "Delhi territory"), in which it has for long been prohibited. The

System under which the cultivation of the poppy is regulated.

* Delhi, Gurgaon Rohtak, Hissar, the greater part of Karnal and part of Ferozepore.

total area under poppy cultivation has usually been from 12,000 to 15,000 acres; but there are really only five opium-producing districts, viz., Umballa, Simla, Kangra, Shahpur, and Dera Ghazi Khan. In the remaining districts in which the plant is grown opium is either not extracted, or if it is extracted, only a small quantity of the drug becomes available for sale by licensed vendors, the rest being surreptitiously disposed of; and the produce is consumed in the shape of poppy-heads (post), either illicitly or after passing through the hands of licensed vendors. The cultivator may either dispose of his poppy crop standing to license holders, or extract the opium himself, and dispose of this or of the produce in the shape of poppy-heads to licensed wholesale or retail vendors; but consumption of home produce is now a punishable offence. The home-grown supply of opium has, according to the estimates, varied from 1,200 to 2,000 maunds per annum according to the season; and the whole consumption of post or poppy-heads, the sale of which is covered by the same licenses as that of opium, is met from the area under poppy in British districts and adjoining native States. The cultivation of the poppy was subject to an acreage duty at the rate of Rs. 2 per acre throughout the province from 1860, when this system was first introduced up to 1889. Under the present rules (1889) power has been taken to enhance this duty up to Rs. 8 an acre; and in view of the illicit practices prevailing in connexion with the cultivation of the crop, the duty has been raised to Re. 4 an acre (or Rs. 1 for every quarter of an acre or fraction thereof) in 21 districts; while in the five opium-producing districts (and in Gujrat, as to which see paragraph 9) it still remains at Rs. 2 an acre.

6. Thus in six districts poppy cultivation is allowed at the old duty of Rs. 2 an acre (8 annas for every quarter of an acre or smaller area). In four entire districts and parts of two others it is entirely prohibited. In the rest of the province the acreage duty has been enhanced by Punjab Government Notifications, No. 1005, dated 20th May 1889, and No. 745, dated 8th April 1891, to the rate of Rs. 4 an acre (Re. 1 for every quarter of an acre or smaller area). Dealing with the first of these groups, the following details of area and produce during the last 10 years may be given:—

APP. IX.
Punjab Excise.

District.	1883-84.		1884-85.		1885-86.		1886-87.		1887-88.	
	Area in Acres.	Produce of Opium in Maunds.	Area in Acres.	Produce of Opium in Maunds.	Area in Acres.	Produce of Opium in Maunds.	Area in Acres.	Produce of Opium in Maunds.	Area in Acres.	Produce of Opium in Maunds.
Umballa - -	4,535	794	2,720	476	2,737	479	3,174	574	3,598	630
Shahpur - -	2,872	479	3,621	489	3,127	425	2,173	350	2,077	330
Kangra - -	1,843	250	1,651	224	1,326	117	1,419	173	1,538	160
Dera Ghazi Khan	760	107	803	100	428	51	314	40	497	75
Simla - -	295	12	247	19	188	14	320	17	222	15
Gujrat - -	385	16	442	20	229	28	159	7	132	7
Total - -	10,690	1,658	9,484	1,328	8,035	1,114	7,559	1,161	8,064	1,217

District.	1888-89.		1889-90.		1890-91.		1891-92.		1892-93.		Average Produce per Acre in Seers.
	Area in Acres.	Produce of Opium in Maunds.	Area in Acres.	Produce of Opium in Maunds.	Area in Acres.	Produce of Opium in Maunds.	Area in Acres.	Produce of Opium in Maunds.	Area in Acres.	Produce of Opium in Maunds.	
Umballa - -	4,026	632	4,916	858	3,223	712	3,599	941	3,316	508	6
Shahpur - -	3,151	473	4,005	840	3,535	707	3,946	779	3,213	642	3
Kangra - -	1,946	247	1,662	236	1,773	232	2,001	209	1,294	96	3
Dera Ghazi Khan	689	110	749	110	521	100	617	95	509	70	5
Simla - -	247	32	261	19	253	21	255	24	182	8	2
Gujrat - -	237	12	235	12	158	5	141	6	85	3	1
Total - -	10,296	1,566	11,828	2,075	9,463	1,777	10,559	2,054	8,599	1,327	—

District in which the poppy is grown, but no opium produced.

7. With regard to the 21 districts in which the acreage duty has been enhanced, the following figures show the total area in acres under the crop in each of the past 10 years:—

1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
5,028	3,625	3,208	4,123	4,023	5,195	2,630	2,578	2,084	1,258

In the last Excise Report I described the state of affairs with regard to poppy cultivation in those districts as follows:—"Even allowing for the fact that the season last year was unfavourable, it seems to me a fair conclusion that the measures already taken have led to the reduction of this area within very limited dimensions; and I should not be surprised if there was a further contraction. Two or three years hence it will be possible to speak with greater certainty on this point; and in the meantime I am not prepared to recommend the virtual prohibition of cultivation by a further enhancement of the acreage duty. It would be a mistake, I think, to take immediate action in this direction. The more gradually such a change is introduced the less likely is it to be felt and regarded as a grievance."

In several of these districts the area under the crop is really nominal. The details for 1892-93 are as follows:—

No.	Name of District.	Area in Acres under Poppy.
1	Lahore - - - - -	346
2	Jullunder - - - - -	275
3	Amritsar - - - - -	102
4	Hoshiarpur - - - - -	87
5	Sialkot - - - - -	81
6	Hazara - - - - -	66
7	Gujranwala - - - - -	51
8	Montgomery - - - - -	44
9	Gurdaspur - - - - -	40
10	Rawalpindi - - - - -	29
11	Ferozepore - - - - -	28
12	Jhelum - - - - -	27
13	Mooltan - - - - -	23

No.	Name of District.	Area in Acres under Poppy.
14	Ludhiana - - - - -	21
15	Peshawar - - - - -	17
16	Jhang - - - - -	9
17	Bannu - - - - -	5
18	Karnal - - - - -	3
19	Muzaffargarh - - - - -	2
20	Kohat - - - - -	1
21	Dera Ismail Khan - - - - -	1

The total out-turn from the area under poppy in these 21 districts was in 1892-93 shown as 13 maunds. How much was illicitly consumed it is impossible to say.

8. It may here be observed once for all with regard to figures of produce that it is a consequence of the provincial system not involving any direct interference with the manufacture of the drug, or any direct taxation on it, that there is no standard of quality, so that in dealing with questions of out-turn, price, &c. it is practically impossible to give any accurate information. Thus in the Umballa district the wholesale price of opium last year was said to be Rs. 7 a ser. But of every ser purchased by the licensed vendors from the producers at this price 30 or 40 per cent. is made up of impurities, while there is a considerable loss of weight by dryage; so that by the time it is refined and ready for sale to the consumers it has cost Rs. 12 or Rs. 13 a ser.

9. In dealing with the questions of poppy cultivation and the manufacture of opium it is necessary to keep the group of districts dealt with in paragraph 6 entirely distinct from those dealt with in paragraph 7. In the latter we are really proceeding in the direction of imposing a prohibitive acreage duty, while in the former things have been allowed to remain as they have been from the first. The figures given in paragraph 6 will show that the greater part of the home-grown supply comes from the two districts of Umballa and Shahpur. A considerable quantity is produced in the Kulu sub-division of the Kangra district and in the Rajanpur sub-division of Dera Ghazi Khan. The area under the crop and the out-turn of Simla are considerable only with reference to the small total area of that district (the total population is 44,642); while it has practically been decided to treat Gujrat like the other districts mentioned in paragraph 7.

10. With regard to the 21 districts in which cultivation is permitted subject to the payment of an enhanced duty, it will be observed that the area is made up principally by the central districts of the province (Lahore, Amritsar, Sialkot, Jullundur, Hoshiarpur). In an Appendix (II.) I have given a brief historical account of the growth of the present system. Here it will be sufficient to state that until quite recently it had been the custom, from time immemorial, we may say, for the agricultural population of these districts to grow patches of poppy for the purpose of supplying what was required for their own consumption and that of their friends in the form either of opium or of poppy-heads. On such consumption there was, under native rule, no taxation at all, while there was no sort of restriction on the cultivation of the crop. Since annexation in 1849 the only direct taxation has been in the form of a light acreage duty. Moreover, although it was not contemplated that such a practice should be recognised, the criminal courts of the province held that under the Provincial Opium Rules in force up to 1889 consumption of his produce by a grower was not an offence. The existing opium rules which came into force in 1889 contained two important provisions, (1) distinctly forbidding the consumption by a grower of his produce, and making such consumption expressly an offence, and (2) giving the Local Government power to enhance the acreage duty up to a maximum rate of Rs. 8 an acre. The object of this latter provision was "to meet the case of those districts in which, although there is a large area under poppy cultivation, the produce of the crop is consumed by the growers or otherwise surreptitiously disposed of principally in the form of 'post or poppy-heads.'" Since the new rules were passed in 1889 the acreage duty has been enhanced to Rs. 4 an acre (or as any area less than a quarter acre pays the full duty for a quarter really to something over Rs. 5) with results, so far as the area under the crop is concerned, which have been already described in paragraph 7. It seems not at all unlikely that the cultivation of the poppy will, with the duty at the present rate of Rs. 4 an acre, be practically abandoned as unprofitable. In considering the question of poppy cultivation in these districts the circumstances referred to above must be kept in mind that the agricultural population affected (which is largely composed of Sikhs) have been for a very long time accustomed to grow the crop, and that they would certainly resent actual prohibition. The plan of "taxing out" the cultivation appears to me to be a very safe way of dealing with the matter, because it is gradual in its operation and at all events appears to leave an option. It is too early to speak with certainty; but (see the figures in paragraph 7) it seems very probable that the result of enhancing the acreage duty up to half the maximum limit will be to leave a very small portion of the cultivation remaining a few years hence. The necessity for proceeding gradually in such a matter in the Punjab at least, and of avoiding sudden change where the prejudices of a population like that of our Sikh districts are involved will, I think, be apparent. With regard to the last few districts in the list at the end of paragraph 7, these might at any time be included in the list of districts in which cultivation is prohibited if it is considered that anything will be gained by doing so. As to the others, I think it will be safest to respect the objection noticed, although it may appear sentimental, and to avoid the appearance of giving offence.

11. The object of this memorandum is to give an account of the existing arrangements in the Punjab, and any detailed discussion with regard to possible improvements in those arrangements would be out of place here. It may, however, be mentioned that many years ago experiments were made with a view to seeing whether it would be possible to introduce the Bengal system of a Government monopoly. The result was at once to show that that system could not be worked in the Punjab. Apart from other considerations affecting the questions, and they are very many, it may be noticed that the whole business is on much too small a scale to make it possible to work a monopoly profitably, while the areas producing opium are far apart from each other. One peculiar fact about the Punjab opium that may be mentioned in this connexion is its comparatively very high cost of production. A grower or manufacturer of opium in the Punjab could not sell his produce profitably at a lower price than Rs. 10 or Rs. 12 a ser, taking the standard of quality of Government excise opium. Good Shahpur opium (Kachkara) will usually fetch this price. It is this fact that accounts for the result that Malwa opium with a duty of Rs. 3 a ser can compete with the home-grown drug, and in many districts actually undersells it. Even excise opium, of which the cost price on issue from the factory is Rs. 7-4 would probably at a wholesale price of Rs. 12 (or perhaps even Rs. 13) compete successfully with that produced in the Punjab.

Another circumstance that may be referred to is the comparative importance of the poppy crop to the agricultural population of the tracts in which it is grown. It may in a sense be said to be their most important crop, because, although the area under poppy in a holding is usually very small, the produce is so valuable (Rs. 60 or Rs. 70 an acre) and can be converted into cash more readily than any other form of agricultural produce. It supplies in most cases the cash required to pay the Government revenue demand, with something over for the expenses of the grower. As an instance of the importance of the crop, the following may be given. In 1889 a recommendation was made by the Local Government to have the prohibition against cultivation which had been (really by mistake) extended to a portion of the Karnal district removed, because it was found that the withdrawal of the permission had seriously affected the prosperity of the tract (see letter, No. 331, dated 11th February 1889, from the Punjab Government to the Government of India).

It is certain that if any attempt were made to enhance the acreage duty in the opium-growing districts the burden of the taxation would fall on the people who are least able to bear it, i.e., the cultivators; and no steps in this direction have ever, so far as I am aware, been contemplated. No plan has so far been devised of imposing a direct duty on the drug produced in the districts under reference, all the taxation being taken in the form of a low acreage duty and of license fees, the incidence of the latter being, as will be seen further on very high.

12. The only other general facts with regard to the cultivation of the poppy and the manufacture of opium are that the cultivator either extracts the opium himself or sells the standing crop to a middleman. The cultivator or middleman can only sell his produce to a licensed (wholesale or retail) vendor, and this is the way that it comes into the market.

OPIMUM FROM KASHMIR and the HILL STATES and from FOREIGN TERRITORY to the WEST of the INDUS.

13. There is a large import of opium produced in Kashmir territory (Jammu) and the Hill States under the political control of the Punjab Government. This is favourably treated in the matter of taxation even in comparison with the supply of the drug manufactured in our own districts, for it is not subject to an acreage tax and pays no import duty on entering our territory. As already stated, proposals were submitted to Government in 1891 (by Mr. R. M. Dane, Officiating Commissioner of Excise) for imposing an import duty on this opium. Mr. Dane collected and submitted the

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following statistics of import from this source during the five years 1885-90 :—

Native States from which Imported.	Quantity Imported in Maunds.				
	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.
Kashmir - - -	76	106	173	135	142
Chamba - - -	20	24	1	1	1
Mandi - - -	30	23	1	9	10
Suket - - -	5	2	—	3	9
Nahan - - -	105	33	—	34	38
Rampur Bashahr	66	53	69	109	234
Theog - - -	52	92	54	85	78
Balsan - - -	11	8	1	12	51
Jubbāl - - -	11	12	65	84	174
Other Hill States of Simla.	146	11	40	24	30
Kalsia - - -	—	—	—	5	—
Total - - -	522	364	404	501	767

Mr. Dane, in his report observed "the opium grown in these States is classed at present as Punjab-grown, and there are, therefore, no statistics available to show what becomes of it as distinguished from the local produce when it passes into our districts." It will be seen that the quantity of opium coming in from this source is very considerable. Rampur (Bashahr), Theog, Balsan, and Jubbāl are very petty States, under the control of the Deputy Commissioner, Simla. In these, at all events, and, so far as I am aware, in Kashmir, there is absolutely no restriction on cultivation or production. The produce of the four small states mentioned just above and of the other Simla Hill States passes through Simla, a large proportion of it going direct to Patiala and the other native States in the plains; and the remainder, in the first instance at least, to our districts.

With regard to opium coming from independent territory west of the Indus, it is sufficient to say that there is an occasional consignment of the drug brought in from Kabul. Statistics recently collected show that the extent of this during the 16 years 1869-85 was 86 maunds, of which 60 maunds, however, came in during the single year 1882-83. As a rule the import does not exceed 2 or 3 maunds per annum, and in many years there is no import at all.

MALWA AND EXCISE OPIUM.

14. The question of the import of Malwa opium into the Punjab has always been considered by the Provincial Government as of very great importance. The home-grown supply has from the first been insufficient for requirements of the province (including the native States in the plains), and in addition to the opium coming from the sources referred to in the preceding paragraph there was a large import from the Rajputana States (Malwa) and Nepal. Up to 1880 this was subject to no duty. From that year the licit supply from Nepal was cut off entirely. The policy with regard to the conditions under which the import of Malwa opium since 1880 should be permitted may be said to have varied a good deal apparently, according as the views of the Supreme or of the Local Government have prevailed. There has always been a strong demand for this drug in our cis-Sutlej (i.e., south and west of the Sutlej) districts, and specially Ludhiana and Ferozepore, and in the territories of the Phulkian States adjoining. Up to the passing of the Opium Act, 1878, and the framing of rules under that Act by the Local Government in 1880 (Punjab Government Notification, No. 2, dated 3rd January 1880), Malwa opium appears to have come into the province very much as Kashmir, &c. opium now does. No. 32 of the rules published with the above Notification, however, provided that a licensed vendor importing Malwa opium must pay to the opium agent at Indore or Ajmere "the duty for the time being leviable on Malwa opium imported into the Punjab." In submitting the Excise Report of the year 1880-81, Sir James Lyall (as Financial Commissioner, Punjab, made certain remarks on the effect of the change introduced.

The attention of Deputy Commissioners had been drawn to the rule quoted above, "and especially to that part of it which subjected the importation of Malwa opium to a heavy duty" (the full duty of Rs. 700 per chest, or Rs. 10 a ser), while "the term Malwa opium" had been interpreted as including opium grown in "all States belonging to the Rajputana Agency" (paragraph 22 of the Report). The result of the change was a general dislocation of the provincial arrangements. "The Financial Commissioner still thought that the best solution of the difficulty lay in the import of a limited quantity of Malwa opium into the Punjab at reduced rates of duty." This view was accepted for the time, and "the annual import of 1,200 maunds of Malwa opium from the Indore and Ajmere Agencies on payment of one quarter of the full duty" was agreed to (paragraph 12 of Government Review of the Excise Report for 1881-82). From the financial year 1885-86, however, this policy was reversed; and the privileged treatment of Malwa opium coming into the Punjab was withdrawn. During the three years 1885-1888 this source of supply was practically stopped by the imposition of the full duty of Rs. 700 a chest, and the licit importation ceased, while a great stimulus was given to smuggling, and with effect from 1st April 1888 it was found necessary to revert to the old arrangement. A reference to a map of the province will explain our difficulties in connexion with this matter. Not only is there a long straggling frontier adjoining the Rajputana States, Alwar and Bharatpur, which it is practically impossible to guard efficiently, but we have inside the province the territories of Patiala and the other Phulkian Chiefs inextricably mixed up with our own. It has always been the recognised policy of Government to avoid interference in all matters of detail connected with the internal administration of these States, so that when an illicit consignment of opium was safely across a few intervening miles of our territory and into that of one of the protected States, it was beyond our reach. Although we might ask for and obtain the promise of their co-operation in the direction of checking the illicit trade, the State authorities had really no interest in keeping it out, even if they did not actually connive at its introduction. Once inside their territories it was practically impossible to keep it out of our own districts. Sir James Lyall, in the Excise Administration Report of 1880-81, from which I have already quoted, observed "to check smuggling direct from Rajputana into the Punjab will be difficult, while to stop smuggling through native States dependent on the Punjab Government will be impossible." Some idea of the extent of the illicit trade in Malwa opium during the period of practical prohibition may be formed from the occasional seizures of contraband consignments. Thus the Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon in 1886 made a seizure of upwards of 140 maunds of Malwa opium, of which the avowed destinations were in Patiala and Jind territory.

15. It is quite certain that the full duty on Malwa Existing arrangements opium (Rs. 700 a chest, or Rs. 10 with regard to Malwa a ser) is prohibitive for the opium. Punjab. This fact has now been recognised, and the policy has (I hope I may say permanently) been accepted of allowing its import at such a reduced duty as to put it on something of an equality with the home-grown drug. When Government abandoned in 1888 the experiment of keeping out Malwa opium, it supplemented the change with a very important measure. It recognised that the cis-Sutlej native States were under the same necessity as ourselves in the matter of obtaining a supply of Malwa opium; and provision was made for this, the duty realised on the opium being credited to the native States importing it. The existing rules (passed in 1889) provide for the import through the scales at Ajmere, where the duty is levied, of opium for the Punjab districts and the native States at a reduced duty. Rule 28 is as follows:—"So many maunds of Malwa opium as the Government of India may determine may be yearly imported into the Punjab on payment of a duty, herein-after called the reduced duty, of such amount per chest of 140½ lbs., or half chest of 70½ lbs., as may from time to time be fixed by the Government of India and notified in the 'Gazette of India.' Such opium, after deduction of the amount which the Local Government may reserve for import into the native States under the political control of itself, will be allotted annually by the Financial Commissioner to the various districts of the Punjab." The reduced duty has been fixed at Rs. 210 per chest (Rs. 3 per ser); and the maximum for

import into the province is, during the current year, for import into our districts 400 chests (701 maunds), for import into the native States, 150 chests (263 maunds).

16. The history of the policy of Government in regard to excise opium is also a varied one; but it seems scarcely necessary in view of the relative importance of the two subjects to follow it in the detail in which Malwa opium has been dealt with. The following description will therefore perhaps suffice. It was apparently supposed that when the import of Malwa opium, except at the full duty, was stopped in 1885, it would be possible to substitute, to some extent at least, excise opium for it in consumption. But there was never any great readiness on the part of the Bengal Government to furnish the required supply, and the price at which it was offered to vendors was too high to bring it into the market. The real cause of the inability of the Punjab vendors to pay as much (wholesale price) for excise opium as those in the North-western Provinces did not, strangely enough, occur to anyone, viz., that under the provincial system, as established the incidence of taxation in the shape of license fees was so much higher in the Punjab than in the North-western Provinces. If the Punjab vendor who paid Rs. 5 in license fees was charged even as low a price as Rs. 12 a ser for excise opium, he would be contributing as much to the revenue (though he might not seem to be doing so) as the North-western Provinces vendor who paid Rs. 15 per ser for his opium and Rs. 2 in license fees. Unfortunately attention was only directed to the wholesale price charged for opium. This is a matter to which I shall have to revert later on. A supply of Malwa opium manufactured at the Ghazipur factory was for some years furnished to the Local Government at a price of Rs. 10-8, a ser, the opium being issued from the treasuries to retail vendors at the price (usually) of Rs. 15 a ser. The consumption of this opium may be said to have been practically confined to the districts south and east of the Sutlej. The manufacture of Malwa opium at the Ghazipur factory has now ceased, but under arrangements made with the Government of Bengal in November 1889, 200 maunds of Benares opium manufactured at Ghazipur are supplied at a cost of Rs. 7-4, a ser, plus freight from Ghazipur to the Punjab. This opium is issued to licensed vendors in the districts of the old Delhi division at Rs. 15 a ser, and a limited quantity has been sold at a somewhat reduced price in a few other districts. It should be explained that it was at first (through a misapprehension, I think) considered necessary to manufacture a special preparation of the Malwa drug for consumption in the Punjab, but this, like other details of the past, is really of no practical importance. Under the existing arrangement, then, which has been in force since 1889, the Bengal Government supply that of the Punjab with ordinary excise opium up to a limit of 200 maunds per annum at the usual factory price of Rs. 7-4, a ser. This limit of 200 maunds has so far been found more than sufficient for the requirements of the province. In the districts of the old Delhi division (Delhi, Rohtak, Hissar, Karnal, Gurgaon) there is a demand for excise opium, and it can be disposed of from the treasuries there at the full price of Rs. 15 per cake of a reputed ser weight (no allowance being made for discount, dryage, and the like), which is the price charged in the North-western Provinces. Elsewhere in the Punjab there is practically no demand for it at this price. The experiment has been tried at Lahore, and one or two other places, of lowering the prices to Rs. 13 a cake, but this is only a temporary measure, and it has had very partial success.

17. The following statistics of the consumption of Consumption of Malwa and of Malwa and of excise opium (quantity in maunds) in each of the last 10 years are given at this place in illustration of what has been written in the preceding paragraphs (14-16):—

Year.	Malwa.	Excise.
1883-84 - - - -	278	—
1884-85 - - - -	445	—
1885-86 - - - -	10	—
1886-87 - - - -	—	80
1887-88 - - - -	—	129
1888-89 - - - -	96	104
1889-90 - - - -	192	93
1890-91 - - - -	386	96
1891-92 - - - -	395	98
1892-93 - - - -	474	113

As already explained, the import of Malwa opium during the period 1883-1885 was permitted subject to a duty of Rs. 175 a chest. During the period 1885-1888 it was entirely stopped by the full duty; and since 1888 it has been permitted, subject to a duty of Rs. 210 a chest. The supply of excise opium commenced in 1886-87.

18. It may be convenient at this point to make a comparison between the incidence of direct taxation on the various classes of opium. Incidence of direct taxation under existing arrangements on the various classes of opium which have been dealt with in the preceding paragraphs. A licensed vendor is at liberty to obtain his supply from any one of the sources mentioned that he finds it most profitable to do so, the incidence of the license fees being therefore the same on all sorts. On opium falling under classes (2) and (3) (see paragraph 2), i.e., imported into our districts from Kashmir, the Hill States and from independent territory to the west of the Indus, there is at present no direct taxation by us, and, so far as I can learn, there is none by the authorities of the Kashmir and native Hill States. Opium produced in our districts may be said to pay in direct taxation the acreage duty which is levied at the rate of Rs. 2 an acre; and the incidence of this comes to six annas or eight annas a ser. These are the facts that really determine the rate of duty that we can impose on Malwa opium, and the price at which excise opium is saleable. We find that there is a very considerable demand for the Malwa drug, subject to a duty of Rs. 3 a ser (as compared with six annas or eight annas a ser paid by that produced in our own districts) in consequence of the high cost of production of the latter. Any considerable enhancement of the duty over this figure, the home-grown supply being treated as at present, could have but one effect, viz., that of driving Malwa opium out of the market to a greater or less extent, and replacing it by the lightly taxed home-grown drug. Excise opium, the cost price and carriage coming to about Rs. 7-8, pays in direct duty, when sold at Rs. 15 a cake, Rs. 7-8., and, even where the price is reduced to Rs. 13, the incidence of direct taxation is Rs. 5-8.

CONSUMPTION.

Home-grown supply and total consumption in the province. 19. The excise returns show the production of opium in our own districts during the last 10 years as follows (in maunds):—

Year.	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
Produce - - -	1,787	1,396	1,150	1,209	1,282	1,572	2,117	1,813	2,083	1,341

As explained in paragraph 8, no great reliance can be placed on these figures as showing the actual out-turn, because there is no uniform standard of quality for the drug. The loss of weight by dryage and by the process of refining to which the crude opium is subjected before sale to consumers amounts to something between one

half and one third. The same remark applies to opium coming from Kashmir and the Hill States. It is an incident of our system that we can have no reliable statistics of the quantity available for consumption except in the case of Malwa and excise opium where we have a distinct record of the weight and of the destina-

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tion of every ser which enables us to follow it to the consumer. Again, as was pointed out by Mr. Dane (see paragraph 13 above), we have no means of distinguishing how much of the total quantity made up by the produce of our own districts and what comes in from Kashmir, &c. is retained for home consumption, and how much passes on to the native States in the plains.

Of consumption in our own districts we have statistics that are to some extent reliable (absolutely so with regard to the Malwa and excise drugs) of the weight of opium, refined for sale, which is retailed to consumers. The following are details (in maunds) for the last 10 years:—

Kind of Opium consumed.	Year.									
	1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.
Excise - - -	—	—	—	80	129	104	93	96	98	113
Malwa - - -	278	445	10	—	—	96	192	386	395	474
Other - - -	867	746	1,147	1,106	965	995	1,150	949	1,072	936
Total -	1,145	1,191	1,157	1,186	1,094	1,195	1,435	1,431	1,565	1,523

Up till within the last four or five years, and especially during the period (1885-1888) when the import of Malwa opium at a reduced duty was stopped, there was certainly a very considerable consumption of contraband opium—not less than several hundred maunds per annum.

20. The following is a classified statement of the population of the province by districts and of the consumption of opium in each district during the

last 10 years as shown in the excise returns. In giving these figures I would again repeat that it is an unavoidable incident of our open system of supply that we can have no very trustworthy statistics of consumption. In the case of excise and of Malwa opium we can tell the exact quantity going into consumption annually, but for returns of the consumption of the home-grown drug we must rely on the accounts which the licensed vendors are bound by law to keep.

STATEMENT showing the CONSUMPTION of OPIUM of all descriptions in each DISTRICT of the PUNJAB during each of the last 10 years (1883-84 to 1892-93).

STATEMENT showing the CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM of all descriptions in each

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
No.	District.	Population (1881).				Consumption			
		Muhamma- dans.	Sikhs.	Hindus and others except Sikhs.	Total.	1888-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	
						Mds. s. c.	Mds. s. c.	Mds. s. c.	
1	Hissar - - - - -	162,708	19,043	479,036	660,787	23 30 0	28 31 0	26 19 9	
2	Rohtak - - - - -	79,510	159	473,940	553,609	6 2 6	6 12 13	8 0 0	
3	Gurgaon - - - - -	198,610	127	443,111	641,848	6 0 0	6 0 0	8 0 0	
4	Delhi - - - - -	149,830	970	492,715	643,515	51 10 0	43 13 0	38 23 0	
5	Karnál - - - - -	156,183	8,036	458,402	622,621	50 0 0	41 21 0	34 0 0	
6	Umballa - - - - -	304,123	68,442	694,698	1,067,263	75 35 0	71 26 0	83 0 0	
7	Simla - - - - -	6,935	202	35,808	42,945	13 0 0	7 0 0	9 0 0	
8	Kángra - - - - -	39,148	738	690,959	730,845	13 6 12	15 3 12	13 36 14	
9	Hoshiárpur - - - - -	290,193	59,784	551,404	901,381	41 13 0	47 23 4	58 0 12	
10	Jullundur - - - - -	358,681	90,320	340,634	789,555	77 0 0	77 0 0	75 0 0	
11	Ludhiána - - - - -	213,954	127,143	277,738	616,835	88 13 8	129 8 8	59 3 0	
12	Ferozepore - - - - -	354,650	181,219	211,321	767,190	171 35 0	200 0 9	166 0 0	
13	Mooltan - - - - -	435,901	2,085	113,978	651,964	27 11 3	25 32 13	25 4 0	
14	Jhang - - - - -	326,910	1,477	64,909	395,296	5 39 12	4 34 0	5 30 0	
15	Montgomery - - - - -	830,495	11,967	84,067	426,529	13 23 8	19 35 0	20 34 0	
16	Lahore - - - - -	599,477	125,591	199,038	924,106	115 0 0	87 19 15	109 25 0	
17	Amritsar - - - - -	413,207	216,337	263,722	893,266	98 0 0	97 18 0	107 24 0	
18	Gurdáspur - - - - -	391,400	72,395	359,900	823,695	84 0 0	98 0 0	96 0 0	
19	Siálkot - - - - -	669,712	40,195	302,241	1,012,148	24 0 0	28 0 0	33 0 0	
20	Gujrát - - - - -	607,525	8,885	72,705	689,115	6 0 0	5 1 0	6 33 0	
21	Gujránwála - - - - -	452,640	36,159	128,093	616,892	39 17 0	34 9 0	26 3 0	
22	Shahpur - - - - -	357,742	4,702	59,064	421,508	5 11 0	4 23 8	5 17 0	
23	Jhelum - - - - -	516,745	11,188	61,440	589,373	12 0 0	12 0 0	10 17 0	
24	Ráwalpindi - - - - -	711,546	17,780	91,186	820,512	41 9 4	36 20 2	47 14 0	
25	Hazára - - - - -	362,264	1,377	19,890	383,031	6 34 1	4 22 7	6 34 5	
26	Pesháwar - - - - -	546,117	3,103	43,454	592,674	24 40 0	35 17 0	36 29 0	
27	Kohát - - - - -	169,219	2,240	10,081	181,640	4 0 0	4 0 0	5 0 0	
28	Bannu - - - - -	301,002	790	30,785	332,577	4 2 13	4 8 10	4 18 3	
29	Dera Ismail Khan - - - - -	385,244	1,691	54,714	441,659	6 14 15	5 0 1	7 22 0	
30	Dera Gházi Khan - - - - -	315,240	1,326	46,780	363,346	3 33 2	4 7 2	5 11 13	
31	Muzaffargarh - - - - -	292,476	2,788	43,341	338,605	6 13 12	6 10 0	8 2 0	
	Total - - - - -	10,409,307	1,120,259	7,198,654	18,818,220	1,145 26 0	1,190 37 15	1,156 32 13	

DISTRICT of the PROVINCE during each of the last 10 Years (1883-84 to 1892-93).

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Punjab Excise.

10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
of Opium in the Year.							Average Consumption of the 10 Years.	Average Consumption per 100 of the Population in 1892-93 in Ounces.	Average Consumption per 100 of the Population in 1892-93 in Ounces.	Remarks.
1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.				
Mds. s. c. 19 2 0	Mds. s. c. 17 24 0	Mds. s. c. 15 37 0	Mds. s. c. 24 33 0	Mds. s. c. 27 13 0	Mds. s. c. 26 38 0	Mds. s. c. 27 4 0	Mds. s. c. 23 31 2	4.6	4.4	
9 26 0	9 29 7	12 19 14	15 14 11	12 20 0	13 32 0	15 4 0	10 36 2	2.5	3.3	
6 1 0	4 34 0	5 26 0	6 33 0	7 15 0	9 10 0	10 28 0	7 2 10	1.4	2.0	
41 0 0	48 7 0	50 18 0	48 30 0	59 29 0	60 8 0	39 34 0	50 5 3	9.9	11.9	
40 23 8	22 10 5	30 10 0	22 22 15	28 0 9	39 4 8	48 39 8	35 29 4	7.3	9.2	
78 21 0	59 34 8	79 15 8	87 14 3	94 23 0	126 7 0	134 12 0	89 2 13	10.7	16.6	
9 34 0	9 13 0	9 13 12	8 18 13	9 35 5	11 14 0	10 23 1	9 31 0	29.0	30.3	
15 22 6	17 2 10	13 23 0	11 35 0	14 0 0	14 23 0	13 9 0	14 8 4	2.5	2.2	
68 38 7	47 34 12	48 28 0	72 33 13	71 22 0	76 37 5	58 34 15	59 10 10	8.4	7.5	
77 0 0	77 18 0	78 21 0	89 0 0	93 18 0	90 5 0	93 33 2	82 33 8	13.4	13.2	
68 36 4	71 25 0	97 10 4	170 21 1	184 11 8	193 36 2	199 6 3	126 9 2	26.1	39.3	
181 0 0	130 0 0	159 32 0	240 0 0	262 25 0	245 34 0	222 19 0	197 38 8	33.9	32.1	
23 8 0	24 17 9	23 11 0	25 22 0	19 0 0	22 26 0	19 0 0	23 21 4	5.4	3.8	
5 17 0	5 30 0	5 31 3	5 30 7	6 10 6	6 4 7	4 32 8	5 25 15	1.8	1.4	
15 20 8	13 0 0	17 0 0	14 34 0	19 7 3	20 34 7	20 24 6	17 21 5	5.2	5.3	
106 14 0	104 33 3	104 24 0	83 7 10	100 35 9	146 8 9	1 5 0	110 25 5	15.3	17.6	
113 9 0	86 6 8	129 20 0	168 18 0	113 18 0	116 9 0	140 3 11	117 0 10	16.7	18.0	
95 0 0	132 0 0	99 0 0	105 0 0	85 0 0	107 30 2	73 0 8	97 19 1	15.1	9.9	
38 0 0	40 0 0	41 0 0	60 0 0	48 0 0	53 0 0	41 37 0	40 27 11	5.1	4.8	
7 12 8	7 8 0	6 26 13	8 3 11	9 32 9	9 16 0	8 15 6	7 18 14	1.4	1.4	
29 33 13	30 17 6	30 2 2	32 25 10	34 34 8	35 25 0	35 26 0	33 35 9	7.0	6.6	
7 35 0	7 23 0	6 35 0	6 6 0	6 27 0	7 0 0	7 0 0	6 17 12	1.9	1.8	
13 0 0	11 18 0	15 4 0	14 9 0	13 13 0	13 25 0	17 14 0	13 10 0	2.9	3.6	
41 19 1	45 26 0	38 5 0	38 12 8	36 15 8	40 24 0	37 25 5	40 13 1	6.3	5.4	
8 24 9	8 12 15	10 28 13	6 12 15	10 35 4	11 27 0	11 0 0	8 23 4	2.8	2.7	
28 13 0	29 37 0	30 2 2	27 20 0	25 0 0	24 20 0	24 0 0	28 24 13	6.1	4.3	
6 0 0	5 15 0	4 25 0	4 30 0	4 32 0	7 25 0	6 20 0	5 10 11	3.7	2.7	
3 1 4	6 12 9	5 0 4	4 8 2	3 10 0	4 6 2	4 18 0	4 12 8	1.6	1.5	
8 30 1	10 14 5	9 8 10	11 1 6	9 0 10	8 38 0	7 27 11	8 15 12	2.4	2.0	
10 15 0	9 29 0	10 9 0	12 38 0	10 16 4	13 6 0	11 23 0	9 6 3	3.2	3.7	
8 0 0	8 28 0	7 38 11	7 39 11	8 23 2	8 13 8	9 24 15	7 38 12	3.0	3.2	
1,186 4 11	1,102 33 2	1,196 5 2	1,435 15 7	1,430 1 5	1,565 27 2	1,522 27 4	1,366 12 1	9.3	9.3	

APP. IX.
Punjab Excise.

In this statement the figures of population given are those of the census of 1881, except in column 19, where the figures of the census of 1891 are taken. The annexed two maps may be of use as illustrating the distribution of consumption over the province. Looking at the figures of the first and last years of this decade, it might appear that there had been a very considerable increase of consumption. This increase is, however, more apparent than real, and is due principally to the substitution of licit for illicit consumption and partly also to more correct statistics since the creation of an excise department five years ago. The best proof of this is, I think, to be obtained by a comparison of the figures of the two years 1888-89 (1,196 maunds) and 1889-90 (1,435 maunds). It is, of course, absurd to suppose that the consumption in Ludhiána increased from 97 to 170 maunds, and that in Ferozepore from 160 to 240 in a single year. In these two districts, which have always depended on Málwa opium for the principal part of their supply, the reported licit consumption was only 201 maunds in 1887-88, during which year the licit import of the Málwa drug was practically stopped. The arrangement for allowing the import at the present reduced rate of duty came into force rather late in 1888-89, and its full effect was not seen till the following year, when the reported licit consumption rose to 410 maunds, *i.e.*, more than 100 per cent. It is quite clear, I think, that these districts will have Malwa opium; and, if there is no arrangement for a licit supply the drug will find its way in from native territory. As remarked by Sir James Lyall, it is impossible to keep it out.

21. The high incidence of consumption in the Simla

The same continued. district is due to the fact that the census was taken at a time (February) when the hill stations

and cantonments which the district contains are nearly empty. Leaving it, therefore, out of account, the districts in which the consumption was heaviest are (average of 10 years):—

Districts,	Ounces per 100 of Population.
Ferozepore - - - - -	33.9
Ludhiána - - - - -	26.1
Amritsar - - - - -	16.7
Lahore - - - - -	15.3
Gurdáspur - - - - -	15.1
Jullundur - - - - -	13.4
Umballa - - - - -	10.7

These seven districts contribute 881,487 or nearly 80 per cent. of the total Sikh population of the province (1,120,259). A comparison of the figures in column 18 with those in column 4 of the statement given in the preceding paragraph will show that there is a close connexion between the strength of the Sikh element in the population and the consumption of opium. Without going very deeply into this matter, I may express the opinion that the explanation of this is to be found in the fact that with the Sikhs opium-eating takes the place of tobacco smoking, in which their creed forbids their indulgence.

22. Opium-eating is the almost universal form of consumption. The use of opst

Forms of consumption,

Opium-smoking.

or poppy-heads infused as a drink is practically confined to the Sikhs and ordinary Játis of the central districts (Lahore, Amritsar, Gurdáspur, Siálkot, and Jullundur). The practice of opium-smoking (*madak* and *chandu*) is of comparatively recent (and at all events in the Punjab proper, of foreign) origin. Except in the case of Delhi it may be said to have been introduced by down-country people (from the North-western Provinces) coming into the province as servants and camp followers, and it never spread beyond a few centres in the neighbourhood of cantonments or large civil stations. When Government took up the question of stopping the licensed sale of this form of the drug, licenses were held at 15 places. The licenses were separate, but they were disposed of along with those for the retail of opium. Some doubts were felt by Government with regard to the probable effect of closing the licensed shops; but orders were passed in 1884 that licenses should not in future be issued in Delhi, Lahore, and Pesháwar. The shops at Ludhiána, Ferozepore, Gujrát, Gujránwála, Jhelum, Hazára, and Kohát were closed from 1st April 1889; while the remaining five at Umballa, Amritsar, Siálkot, Ráwal-

pindi, and Bannu were closed in the following year, and since 1st April 1890 the licit sale of the drug in the form in which it is used for smoking ceased. It was of course to be expected that the practice would be carried on surreptitiously, that is, the practice of smoking opium in company; and the place of the one licensed shop at each of the centres mentioned was usually taken by several private "chandu khanas." The difficulty in dealing with these is that if a few people meet on private premises to smoke opium, each contributing or using his own preparation for the purpose, and no payment being made, there is no offence committed. With a view to discourage the practice by making its indulgence more difficult the quantity of the preparation (*madak* or *chandu*) which could be legally possessed by a person at one time has now been reduced from 3 tola to 1. The following remarks on the subject which appeared in the Government review of last year's Excise Report may be quoted: "The reports regarding the effect of the measures adopted against opium-smoking are satisfactory. In suppressing the establishments in which, as a matter of business, facilities were provided for those already disposed to smoke opium and temptations were held out to others to acquire the practice, and limiting to 1 tola the amount of any preparation of opium which a private person may possess, we have gone as far as, in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor, it is legitimate for a Government, and especially for a foreign Government like ours, to go towards repressing a vice of this kind. If, as has been suggested by some, we were to attempt to interfere with the smoking of opium in private houses the remedy would be infinitely worse than the disease."

LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS AND RETAIL PRICE.

23. Consumers of opium can only obtain the drug

from licensed retail vendors; Import and transport. the latter get their supplies either direct from the producers

Licensing arrangements. (and in the case of excise opium by purchase from the Treasury), or through the medium of wholesale dealers. A licensed vendor (wholesale or retail) wishing to import Málwa opium must obtain a permit from the Deputy Commissioner of his district which certifies that he is authorised to import a certain quantity of the drug. On the strength of this he purchases the quantity required from the local merchants, brings it to the scales at Ajmere, where it is weighed and the duty levied, and exchanges his permit for a pass which covers the import to his own district. In the case of home-grown opium (including that coming from Kashmir, &c.) transport from the district of purchase to that of vend is regulated by a system of passes.

The following is a description of the arrangements for licensing vend.

Licenses, for which a small fixed fee is charged, are granted by Deputy Commissioners to persons who purchase

Wholesale vend.

standing crops from the cultivators and extract the drug, or to wholesale dealers who purchase opium or poppy-heads from the cultivators or the licensees just mentioned. It is through these wholesale dealers who can only sell to each other or to licensed retail vendors that the produce of the opium-producing districts is for the most part distributed to the retail vendors of other parts.

Two systems of licensing retail vend are provided

Retail vend.

for by the rules. Under the first (Rule 52) the number and locality of the shops in each district are fixed beforehand, and the license fees payable for the right of selling at one or more than one of these shops is determined by the result of a public auction held before the commencement of each official year. The second system is that of farming the fees (Rule 59); and under this the fees leviable in a district, or in part of a district, on licenses for the retail sale of opium may be let in farm for a term not exceeding five years. Under this latter system power is given to make such reservations or restrictions with respect to the grant of licenses by the farmer as may be thought fit; and in practice the number and sites of the shops are fixed by the Deputy Commissioner for the few districts where the arrangements are under this rule.

24. The following statistics of the number of licenses in each of the last 10 years may be given.

Details of the number of licenses.

STATEMENT showing the number of WHOLESALE and RETAIL LICENSES for VEND of OPIUM
in each of the last 10 Years in the PUNJAB (1883-84 to 1892-93).

APP. IX.
Punjab Excise.

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of WHOLESALE and RETAIL LICENSES for VEND

No.	Name of District.	Population, 1891.	Number of Wholesale Licenses including Licenses for purchase of standing Crop.										
			1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	
1	Hissar - - -	776,006	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	Rohtak - - -	590,475	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	Gurgaon - - -	668,929	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	Delhi - - -	638,689	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	
5	Karnál - - -	683,718	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
6	Umballa - - -	1,033,427	96	81	81	85	79	91	81	143	147	131	
7	Simla - - -	44,642	39	35	26	28	26	33	29	71	65	33	
8	Kángra - - -	763,030	69	42	39	37	34	33	27	95	70	59	
9	Hoshiárpur - - -	1,011,659	8	5	5	5	5	5	6	9	9	8	
10	Jullundur - - -	907,583	5	4	2	3	5	2	2	4	2	—	
11	Ludhiana - - -	648,722	1	2	1	4	4	2	—	—	2	—	
12	Ferozepore - - -	886,676	3	2	2	3	5	—	2	4	4	—	
13	Mooltan - - -	631,434	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	
14	Jhang - - -	436,841	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	
15	Montgomery - - -	499,521	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	
16	Lahore - - -	1,075,379	2	2	3	3	2	1	2	2	4	2	
17	Amritsar - - -	992,697	24	20	20	15	10	8	8	14	16	16	
18	Gurdáspur - - -	943,922	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	
19	Siálkot - - -	1,119,847	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	
20	Gujrát - - -	760,875	5	6	6	1	3	2	3	2	2	1	
21	Gujránwála - - -	690,169	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	
22	Shahpur - - -	403,588	201	138	92	124	135	110	269	196	511	92	
23	Jhelum - - -	609,056	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
24	Ráwalpindi - - -	887,194	1	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	—	1	
25	Hazára - - -	516,288	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	
26	Pesháwar - - -	703,768	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	
27	Kohát - - -	203,175	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
28	Bannu - - -	372,276	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
29	Dera Ismail Khán - - -	486,201	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
30	Dera Ghízi Khan - - -	404,031	31	36	32	27	23	25	23	25	28	27	
31	Muzaffargarh - - -	381,095	2	1	3	2	—	—	3	2	2	3	
Total -		20,860,913	497	385	319	346	336	318	458	575	872	380	

of OPIUM in each of the last 10 Years in the PUNJAB (1883-84 to 1892-93).

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Number of Retail Licenses.										Average Population per Retail License in 1892-93.	Remarks.
1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.		
87	58	79	69	42	38	51	59	54	52	14,523	
13	13	16	15	16	16	15	15	15	15	39,365	
5	5	5	5	27	27	27	27	26	22	30,406	
44	44	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	15,578	
39	39	39	34	33	37	41	48	48	43	15,900	
81	81	81	81	81	81	73	70	72	86	13,965	
5	5	5	7	7	5	7	7	7	5	8,928	
5	5	5	5	107	107	108	108	77	77	9,779	
55	55	55	55	55	56	56	56	56	56	18,065	
78	78	77	76	76	76	76	76	76	76	11,942	
1	2	1	91	99	107	107	108	106	105	6,178	
207	192	169	164	167	167	175	175	174	175	5,067	
108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	76	76	8,308	
32	32	32	86	36	36	37	38	39	39	11,201	
31	31	31	31	31	31	33	33	34	34	14,692	
135	135	135	138	138	138	138	135	134	135	7,966	
29	29	29	29	29	156	156	156	150	150	6,618	
14	14	14	14	70	70	87	87	87	87	10,849	
13	13	13	13	80	80	80	80	80	80	13,998	
5	5	5	5	19	19	19	19	19	19	40,046	
65	67	66	66	66	66	66	67	66	66	10,457	
3	3	3	3	14	14	14	14	12	12	41,162	
4	4	4	4	39	39	39	39	39	39	15,617	
7	7	7	7	81	79	79	109	92	92	9,643	
3	3	3	3	75	75	80	26	26	24	21,512	
7	7	7	7	29	29	29	31	29	29	24,268	
1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	3	67,725	
2	2	2	2	9	9	13	13	11	11	33,843	
31	31	6	6	31	31	31	31	31	26	18,700	
4	4	4	4	46	47	54	54	54	54	7,482	
63	63	63	63	63	63	68	68	51	51	7,472	
1,177	1,136	1,106	1,185	1,717	1,849	1,910	1,901	1,785	1,780	11,799	

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These figures are taken from the annual Excise Returns, and the following explanation with regard to the increase in the number of retail licenses shown in the year 1887-88 and onwards is necessary. Previous to that year, it had been the practice in several districts, where one person had the monopoly of a number of different shops, to show him in the returns as holding only one license for them all; and in fact he did hold a single license, which covered several shops. From 1887-88 a separate license has been given for each shop; and the returns of the last six years in the above statement show the actual number of shops licensed, while those of the previous four years show only the number of licensed vendors in a good many districts. Thus, in Kangra there were 107 shops in 1886-87 as well as in 1887-88; but in the former year the entry is five, because all the shops were in the hands of five licensees. So also with Amritsar, Sialkot, Gurdaspur, and other districts. In most districts there has actually been a reduction in the number of licensed shops in the course of the last 10 years.

25. A very important point that has invariably, I may say, been lost sight of in comparing the system in force in the Punjab with that in other

provinces is the comparatively large amount of taxation which is, under the existing provincial system, taken in the form of license fees. It is only by comparing the total amount of taxation that the drug pays before it comes into consumption, that a just idea of the relative merits of the systems in force in any two provinces, so far as the principle of minimum consumption with maximum revenue is concerned, can be arrived at. It has repeatedly been objected to the Punjab system, practically without contradiction, so far, that it encourages "cheap opium." This is a matter that requires to be noticed in some detail; and I think that a closer examination of the facts will show that there has been a good deal of misapprehension with regard to them. Because the wholesale price of the drug in the Punjab is comparatively low, it has been concluded that the retail price is much lower than it ought to be; and the real incidence of the taxation has been lost sight of. The statement on the next page shows for the last 10 years total amount of revenue derived from excise on the drug in Bengal, the North-western Provinces and the Punjab.

Province.	Head.	Revenue derived during the Year of										Remarks.
		1883-84.	1884-85.	1885-86.	1886-87.	1887-88.	1888-89.	1889-90.	1890-91.	1891-92.	1892-93.	
Lower Provinces of Bengal.	License fees from retail vend of opium.	Rs. 3,13,065	Rs. 3,23,671	Rs. 3,22,871	Rs. 3,35,909	Rs. 3,76,688	Rs. 4,09,679	Rs. 3,83,365	Rs. 3,95,219	Rs. 4,44,167	Rs. —	Details of consumption in maunds for the last complete year (1891-92):
	Gain on sale proceeds of excise opium.	15,92,416	15,60,261	15,35,107	15,69,842	16,08,230	15,98,455	15,76,121	16,00,093	16,74,658	—	
	Total - - -	19,05,481	18,83,932	18,57,978	19,05,751	19,84,918	20,08,134	19,59,486	19,95,312	21,18,825	—	
North-western Provinces and Oudh.	License fees from retail vend of opium.	1,15,712	1,22,217	1,27,488	1,26,591	1,31,658	1,42,988	1,45,599	1,59,094	1,53,048	—	*The amount paid on account of discount at the rate of Re. 1 per ser has been excluded from these figures.
	Gain on sale proceeds of excise opium.	4,63,824	4,56,888	4,64,220	4,68,136	4,59,865	5,13,146	5,28,201	5,11,559	5,28,126*	—	
	Total - - -	5,79,536	5,79,055	5,91,708	5,94,727	5,91,523	6,56,134	6,73,800	6,70,653	6,81,174	—	
Punjab	License fees from retail vend of opium.	3,53,475	3,37,858	3,26,471	3,23,647	3,12,918	3,17,687	3,24,284	3,48,528	3,48,055	3,59,147	
	Gain on sale proceeds of excise opium.	—	—	—	13,598	23,160	18,588	18,189	26,607	28,694	31,996	
	Duty on Málwa opium	27,825	42,350	4,200	—	—	9,625	29,400	47,670	48,615	58,380	
	Acreage duty - - -	41,195	34,786	29,238	29,972	31,794	40,560	36,806	86,681	36,404	28,210	
	Total - - -	4,22,495	4,14,994	3,59,909	3,67,217	3,67,772	3,86,460	4,08,679	4,59,486	4,61,768	4,77,733	

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Thus the consumption in the Punjab pays more than double the taxation under this head (license fees) that the consumption in the North-western Provinces does, and till recently it paid more than was realised from this source in Bengal. Taking the figures of the last complete year (1891-92) for the three provinces, we have the following result :—

Province.	Total Consumption in Sers.	Amount levied in License Fees.	Incidence of License Fees per Ser.
Bengal - - -	80,232	Rs. 4,44,167	5.5
North-western Provinces and Oudh. - -	68,156	1,53,048	2.2
Punjab - - -	62,627	3,48,055	5.6

So that the consumption in the Punjab pays an average of 5.6 per ser in taxation under this head as compared with 5.5 and 2.2 respectively in Bengal and the North-western Provinces. The importance of this matter will be shown in the next paragraph. It may be mentioned that the reason for the comparatively high incidence of license fees in the Punjab is to be found in the history of the origin of the present system (see Appendix II.). Under that system the taxation of opium has from the first been levied almost entirely in the form of license fees, while in other provinces the revenue has been derived mostly from a direct duty on the drug.

26. In the case of excise opium Government fixes the wholesale price to be charged at the Treasury. For most of the opium of this kind consumed in

the Punjab the full price of Rs. 15 is charged. The quantity sold in Lahore and two or three other districts at the reduced price of Rs. 13 has been small. The price of Malwa opium is usually Rs. 7 to Rs. 9 a ser on the spot, varying according to season and quality, and with the duty, carriage, &c. it costs the importer Rs. 11 to Rs. 13 a ser. Punjab opium without any direct duty except that on cultivation, costs at least Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 a ser wholesale. It is in considering the price at which the drug can be purchased by the consumer that the importance of the subject dealt with in the preceding paragraph comes in. Owing to the heavier incidence of the license fees, excise opium, even if issued in the Punjab at a price of Rs. 13 a ser, is actually more heavily taxed by the time it reaches the consumer than the same opium for which the full price of Rs. 15 is paid by a licensee in the North-western Provinces. Thus, when we issue opium at Rs. 13 a ser from the Lahore Treasury the licensed vendor has to pay Rs. 13 as the price and Rs. 5-4-3 in license fees, a total of Rs. 18-4-3; the corresponding figures for the North-western Provinces being Rs. 15 and Rs. 2-3-3, total Rs. 17-3-3. For all the districts (the first five in the statement below) in which opium is issued at the full price of Rs. 15 a ser the incidence of price + license fees is upwards of Rs. 20 a ser. The retail price charged to the consumers is determined by (1) the wholesale price which the vendor has had to pay, and (2) the amount that he has to pay for his license. There is enough competition for the licenses in most places to keep down the rate of profit which the vendor derives from the business.

The annexed statement, taken from the annual Excise Returns, shows for each district in the province the incidence in 1892-93 of the license fees, with the wholesale and retail prices charged :—

STATEMENT showing the INCIDENCE of LICENSE FEES on OPIUM, with the WHOLESALE and RETAIL PRICES during the YEAR 1892-93.

Division.	District.	Consumption of Opium in Sers.	Demand on account of License Fees.	Incidence of License Fees per Sér.	Wholesale Price per Sér.	Total Cost per Sér.	Retail Price per Sér.
			Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Delhi -	Hissar - - -	1,084	9,579	8 13 5	15 0 0	23 13 5	16 10 0
	Rohtak - - -	604	4,222	6 15 10	15 0 0	21 15 10	23 0 0
	Gurgaon - - -	428	3,642	8 8 2	15 0 0	23 8 2	25 0 0
	Delhi - - -	2,394	16,000	6 10 11	15 0 0	21 10 11	21 4 0
	Karnál - - -	1,960	11,953	6 1 6	14 0 0	20 1 6	25 0 0
	Umballa - - -	5,372	23,820	4 6 11	7 0 0	11 6 11	12 0 0
	Simla - - -	423	4,470	10 9 0	11 0 0	21 9 0	22 13 9
Jullunder -	Kángra - - -	529	6,775	12 13 0	11 0 0	23 13 0	22 0 0
	Hoshíarpur - - -	2,355	14,144	6 0 1	12 0 0	18 0 1	28 0 0
	Jullundur - - -	3,753	18,041	4 12 11	10 14 5	15 11 4	16 8 0
	Ludhiána - - -	7,966	16,159	2 0 5	13 0 0	15 0 5	17 5 4
	Ferozepore - - -	8,899	40,410	4 8 8	10 15 0	15 7 8	15 11 0
Lahore -	Mooltan - - -	760	16,900	22 4 0	16 0 0	38 4 0	35 0 0
	Jhang - - -	192	2,129	11 8 5	11 13 9	22 15 2	23 0 3
	Montgomery - - -	824	4,583	5 9 0	13 4 0	18 13 0	20 6 0
	Lahore - - -	5,925	31,223	5 4 3	12 12 0	18 0 3	19 0 0
	Amritsar - - -	5,604	31,995	5 11 4	10 3 10	16 3 4	18 0 0
	Gurdáspur - - -	2,921	15,465	5 4 9	11 10 8	16 15 5	16 4 7
Ráwalpindi-	Siálkot - - -	1,677	12,263	7 5 0	12 0 0	19 5 0	20 0 0
	Gujrát - - -	335	2,364	7 0 10	12 8 0	12 8 10	20 0 0
	Gujránwála - - -	1,429	8,379	5 13 9	12 8 0	18 5 9	20 0 0
	Shahpur - - -	280	1,290	4 9 9	12 0 0	16 9 9	18 0 0
	Jhelum - - -	694	3,110	4 7 8	12 0 0	16 7 8	20 0 0
	Ráwalpindi - - -	1,505	20,400	13 3 11	13 0 0	16 8 11	29 0 0
Pesháwar -	Hazára - - -	440	4,545	10 5 3	18 0 0	28 5 3	30 8 0
	Pesháwar - - -	960	10,464	80 14 5	13 0 0	23 14 5	27 0 9
	Kohát - - -	260	3,120	12 0 0	14 0 0	26 0 0	28 0 0
Derajat -	Bannu - - -	178	2,710	15 3 7	14 0 0	29 3 7	32 0 0
	Dera Ismail Khan - - -	308	6,880	22 6 6	12 5 0	34 11 6	33 2 2
	Dera Ghazi Khan - - -	463	7,177	15 9 0	10 4 0	25 12 0	29 0 0
	Muzaffargarh - - -	385	5,070	13 2 8	16 0 0	29 2 8	36 0 0
	Total - - -	60,907	3,59,282	5 14 4	11 11 5	17 9 9	18 14 4

The figures of the important district of Umballa are vitiated by the fact that the wholesale price shown is that of crude opium. Taking the standard of excise opium, the wholesale price there is certainly not less than Rs. 10 or Rs. 12 a ser; but I have left the figures as they appear in the Excise Returns.

Apart from the above statistics, the recognised price of opium, what is actually charged for the drug as sold by the licensed vendor is usually 4 annas or 5 annas a tolah (*i.e.*, Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 a ser) except in the frontier districts, where it is higher. I doubt if inquiry at any ordinary licensed shop in the province will show that it is lower than this, unless here and there in the vicinity of native territory, where the price is forced down by the

competition of the vendors in that territory. It is by such inquiry, rather than by calculations like those given above, that the price actually charged to consumers can be ascertained. If a purchaser asks for a rupee's worth of opium he will in most districts get 3 or 4 tolahs according to the extent of the competition in the neighbourhood; but sales are usually of very minute quantities, and the price charged is then a good deal higher, at the rate, probably, of $2\frac{1}{2}$ tolahs for the rupee (Rs. 30 a ser). In the frontier districts, and in one or two others where there is keen competition for the monopoly, and the incidence of license fees is consequently high, retail prices are also a good deal higher.

APP. IX.
—
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APP. IX.
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STATEMENT giving DETAILS of CONSUMPTION of OPIUM, REVENUE derived

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
—	Name of District.	Population (Census 1891).				Consumption of Opium (in Sers).			
		Muhamma- dans.	Sikhs.	Hindus and others except Sikhs.	Total.	Málwa.	Excise.	Other.	Total.
1	Hissar - - -	199,010	22,151	554,845	776,006	—	874	210	1,084
2	Rohtak - - -	85,515	154	504,806	590,475	—	604	—	604
3	Gurgaon - - -	209,931	102	458,896	668,929	—	428	—	428
4	Delhi - - -	149,741	382	488,566	638,689	273	1,080	1,041	2,394
5	Karnál - - -	171,712	8,037	503,969	683,718	614	121	1,225	1,960
6	Umballa - - -	300,856	93,679	638,892	1,033,427	3,035	—	2,337	5,372
7	Simla - - -	7,152	517	36,973	44,642	—	—	423	423
8	Kángra - - -	39,709	1,461	721,860	763,030	—	—	529	529
9	Hoshiárpur - - -	328,668	70,709	612,282	1,011,659	—	—	2,355	2,355
10	Jullundur - - -	413,469	110,790	383,324	907,583	1,023	—	2,730	3,753
11	Ludhiána - - -	226,687	141,603	280,432	648,722	5,558	—	2,408	7,966
12	Ferozepore - - -	404,977	226,361	255,338	886,676	5,115	15	3,769	8,899
13	Mooltan - - -	503,962	2,832	124,640	631,434	—	—	760	760
14	Jhang - - -	344,433	3,941	88,467	436,841	—	—	192	192
15	Montgomery - - -	361,923	16,032	121,566	499,521	—	332	492	824
16	Lahore - - -	645,083	152,023	278,273	1,075,379	—	421	5,504	5,925
17	Amritsar - - -	452,237	261,452	279,008	992,697	3,342	—	2,262	5,604
18	Gurdáspur - - -	459,039	85,837	399,046	943,922	—	—	2,921	2,921
19	Siálkot - - -	685,342	49,872	384,633	1,119,847	—	—	1,677	1,677
20	Gujrát - - -	669,347	19,018	72,510	760,875	—	—	335	335
21	Gujránwála - - -	475,494	45,316	169,359	690,169	—	—	1,429	1,429
22	Shahpur - - -	417,661	9,777	66,150	493,588	—	—	280	280
23	Jhelum - - -	542,645	15,169	51,242	609,056	—	—	694	694
24	Ráwalpindi - - -	768,368	27,470	91,356	887,194	—	400	1,105	1,505
25	Hazára - - -	488,453	3,609	24,226	516,288	—	—	440	440
26	Pesháwar - - -	654,443	9,125	40,200	703,768	—	240	720	960
27	Kohát - - -	187,661	4,474	11,040	203,175	—	—	260	260
28	Bannu - - -	337,269	1,062	33,945	372,276	—	—	178	178
29	Dera Ismail Khan - - -	420,189	2,840	63,172	486,201	—	—	308	308
30	Dera Gházi Khan - - -	349,587	1,424	53,020	404,031	—	—	463	463
31	Muzaffargarh - - -	327,727	2,715	50,653	381,095	—	—	385	385
	Total - - -	11,628,290	1,389,934	7,842,689	20,860,913	18,960	4,515	37,432	60,907

A.

from it, &c., in each DISTRICT of the PUNJAB during the Year 1892-3.

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11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Licenses.		Average Population per Retail License.	Revenue.					Remarks.
Number of Wholesale Licenses, including Purchase of Standing Crops.	Number of Retail.		License Fees.	Duty on Malwa Opium.	Gain proceeds on Excise Opium.	Other Items.	Total.	
—	52	14,923	Rs. 9,579	Rs. —	Rs. 6,773	Rs. —	Rs. 16,352	
—	15	39,365	4,222	—	4,812	—	9,034	
—	22	30,406	3,642	—	3,317	3	6,962	
1	41	15,578	16,000	840	8,370	—	25,210	
—	43	15,900	11,261	1,890	938	—	14,089	
131	86	13,965	24,475	9,345	—	—	33,820	
33	5	8,928	4,583	—	—	—	4,583	
59	77	9,779	7,070	—	—	—	7,070	
8	56	18,065	14,184	—	—	—	14,184	
—	76	11,942	18,041	3,150	—	—	21,191	
—	105	6,178	16,159	17,115	—	—	33,274	
—	175	5,067	39,960	15,750	86	2	55,798	
2	76	8,308	16,910	—	—	3	16,913	
—	39	11,201	2,129	—	—	—	2,129	
1	34	14,692	4,588	—	1,909	2	6,499	
2	135	7,966	30,668	—	2,111	—	32,779	
16	150	6,618	32,075	10,290	—	—	42,365	
1	87	10,849	15,470	—	—	—	15,470	
1	80	13,998	12,268	—	—	—	12,268	
1	19	40,046	2,369	—	—	5	2,374	
1	66	10,457	8,200	—	—	—	8,200	
92	12	41,162	1,663	—	—	—	1,663	
—	39	15,617	3,110	—	—	—	3,110	
1	92	9,643	20,405	—	2,300	—	22,705	
—	24	21,512	4,545	—	—	—	4,545	
—	29	24,268	10,464	—	1,380	—	11,844	
—	3	67,725	3,120	—	—	—	3,120	
—	11	33,843	2,710	—	—	—	2,710	
—	26	18,700	6,880	—	—	—	6,880	
27	54	7,482	7,312	—	—	—	7,312	
3	51	7,472	5,085	—	—	—	5,085	
380	1,780	11,799	359,147	58,380	31,996	15	449,538	

T. GORDON WALKER,
Commissioner of Excise, Punjab

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ANNEXURE B.

HISTORICAL SKETCH of the SYSTEM of EXCISE on OPIUM in the PUNJAB.

1. Before annexation there was no interference of any sort with the cultivation of the poppy or the manufacture and consumption of opium. On annexation (1849) the Board of Administration made the first attempt at taxation by disposing to farmers of the monopoly of retail vend over fixed areas, the producers being allowed to sell to none but the farmers. In 1853 a proposal was started to substitute for this system of taxation by license fees the levy of an acreage duty on poppy cultivation at the rate of Rs. 2 an acre, the grower being allowed to dispose of his produce as he liked, *i.e.*, direct to consumers. This proposal was carried into effect by Mr. Cust in 1860, the system being applied to the four divisions (as then constituted) of Umballa, Jullundur, Amritsar, and Lahore (except the hill districts of Simla and Kangra).

2. The original object of the acreage system was either lost sight of or abandoned. It was later on decided that free sale was not the intention, but that producers must sell to the licensed vendors (*see* Punjab Government Notification, No. 58, dated 17th April 1869). From that time the system has been a combination of cultivation, subject to an acreage duty and taxation by means of license fees.

3. In 1873 new opium rules were introduced by the Punjab Government, and they perpetuated the system, as above described, of an acreage duty combined with license fees. The acreage system was (Rule 2) extended to the whole province except the Delhi and Hissar divisions (as then constituted).

4. The home-grown supply of the Punjab was apparently never sufficient for the requirements of the province; and it was supplemented by import from Nepal, the Rajputana States, Malwa, Kashmir, and the native States under the political control of the Punjab Government. On this import there was no restriction. From 1880 the licit import from Nepal was absolutely stopped, and that of Malwa opium practically so by subjecting it to the payment of the full duty of Rs. 700 per chest, or Rs. 10 a seer (*see* No. 32 of the rules passed in 1880).

5. During the period 1880-1888 there has been a good deal of uncertainty, and several changes of policy in regard to the sources from which the home supply should be supplemented. The alternatives were (1) Malwa opium at a reduced duty, and (2) Government excise opium from the Bengal factories, and the uncertainty is scarcely surprising, as the Local Government had to feel its way in the matter. From 1880 to 1885 the import was permitted of Malwa opium at the reduced duty of Rs. 175 a chest (Rs. 2-8 a sér) up to a maximum of 1,200 maunds per annum. In 1885 this arrangement was stopped, and a trial was given to the plan of substituting excise opium. From 1888 the present arrangement was introduced. This is a combination of the two plans, *i.e.*, the import of Malwa opium up to a fixed limit per annum (400 chests or, roughly, 700 maunds in 1892-3 for consumption in Punjab districts) was permitted at the reduced duty of Rs. 210 a chest (Rs. 3 a sér); while the Bengal Government agreed to supply up to 200 maunds of excise opium at the usual cost price of Rs. 7-4 a sér.

6. A good deal of misapprehension has been shown in the discussions with regard to the policy of the Local Government in respect of excise and Malwa opium; and this seems to have arisen principally from losing

sight of the facts stated in the above outline as to the origin and history of the system. The Local Government has always looked for its revenue to the license fees rather than to direct taxation on the drug. The system of taking most of the taxation in this form had become firmly established, *i.e.*, a comparatively low wholesale price of opium, with comparatively high taxation in the form of license fees. The following illustration of the misapprehension entertained with regard to the provincial system may be given. In 1886 the finance committee write in their report of the provincial system in the following terms:—

“While Government can supply opium to consumers who are willing to pay Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 a sér for it, it is clearly a fiscal loss to supply the Punjab consumers with opium at half the price.”

There never was any question of supplying the consumers with opium at Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 a sér. That was the highest wholesale price that the licensed vendor would then, it was supposed, pay for excise opium, because he had to pay in addition such a large amount in licensed fees. The actual retail price was little, if at all, below that prevailing in the North-western provinces (it was actually Rs. 22 in 1885-86, and Rs. 24 in 1886-87); only more of the taxation was under the established system taken in the form of license fee. Thus:—

Year.	Wholesale Price per Ser.	Incidence of License Fees per Ser.	Total Taxation per Ser.
1885-86 - -	Rs. a. p. 10 0 0	Rs. a. p. 7 0 0	Rs. a. p. 17 0 0
1886-87 - -	13 8 0	6 12 0	20 4 0

7. The opium rules of 1873, referred to in paragraph 3 above, remained in force till 1880, when new rules, framed under the Opium Act of 1878, were introduced. While dealing with the sources of supply from outside the province, in the manner described in paragraph 4, these rules left the arrangements with regard to opium produced in Punjab districts as they were. The rules of 1880 contained some grave defects, the most important being that which was discovered by the criminal courts, that it was no offence for a producer to consume his own opium. It was found that, although large areas were cultivated with poppy in the central districts (Lahore, Amritsar, Gurdáspur, and one or two others), little or some of the produce found its way into the hands of the licensed vendors, being consumed by the growers, or surreptitiously disposed of by them. After a good deal of discussion the existing rules were finally passed in 1889. These removed the defect with regard to consumption by producers, making it expressly an offence, and prohibiting disposal otherwise than to licensed vendors, while at the same time power was taken to enhance the acreage duty which had hitherto remained at the rate originally fixed of Rs. 2 an acre up to a maximum of Rs. 8 an acre. The object of this provision was to enable Government to deal with the cultivation in those districts where consumption by producers and other illicit practices were most rife. The steps taken in this direction are described in the body of the memorandum.

(Signed) T. GORDON WALKER,
Commissioner of Excise.

ANNEXURE C.

COPY of a LETTER, No. 265, dated 10th May 1887, from GOVERNMENT, PUNJAB, to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA.

No. 265, dated Lahore, the 10th May 1887.

From W. M. YOUNG, Esq., Secretary to Government, Punjab, to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, Foreign Department.

In continuation of my telegram, No. 283, of the 23rd instant. I am desired by the Lieutenant-Governor to

address you on the subject of opium arrangements in the Punjab. The consideration of the Ajmere Opium Rules could not be conveniently separated from the more general question of the opium system which should, at least for the present, be adopted in this province; and this question is largely, if not mainly, a political one.

2. This general question has also been for a good many months an open one. In former years the Punjab used to obtain part of its supply from Nepal and

native States to the south and east of the province, but both of these sources were closed by the proceedings of 1878 to 1880, which resulted in the prohibition of the import and transport of opium from Nepál and the imposition of the practically prohibitive duty of Rs. 700 per chest on the opium of Rájputána and Central India. It was at first intended to meet the requirements which cultivation in the Punjab could not supply by obtaining opium from the Gházipur factory. But experience showed that the price which could be obtained for this article in the Punjab was very much below what it would fetch in the Calcutta market or if exported to China; and on this and other grounds, more particularly because it was feared that, unless the duty of Rs. 700 per chest were reduced, opium would be smuggled into the Punjab from the Rájputána States to the south of the Punjab border, the Government of India in August 1881 agreed to permit as a temporary measure the import, under proper safeguards, of Málwa opium up to 1,200 maunds a year, on payment of one-fourth of the prescribed duty or Rs. 175 a chest, that is, Rs. 2-8 a ser. A report was required upon this experiment and furnished in January 1884. It was then decided to give up the quarter duty system and to revert to the plan of obtaining opium from Gházipur. Difficulties again arose about the price; and Sir Charles Aitchison, when inquiring last summer as to the desirability and possibility of extending the cultivation of the poppy in the Punjab, recorded the opinion that the arrangement for the purchase of opium from the Gházipur factory appeared to have in it elements of failure. The subject attracted the attention of the finance committee, who have made certain proposals which will be noticed below. Finally, in May, June, and July last the active inquiries of Mr. Maconachie, the Deputy Commissioner of Gurgaon, established the fact that recently an extensive opium trade had been secretly carried on between parts of the Jeypore State and certain portions of Patiala and Jind which are landlocked by the British territories of the Punjab. Three contraband consignments were seized, one of 72½ maunds at Sahúwas in Jind territory; one of nearly 57 maunds at Narnaul in Patiala territory; and one at Alwar of more than 12½ maunds. Altogether upwards of 140 maunds were stopped on the way up to Jind and Patiala. Information received this month suggests that the smugglers having sustained a severe check on the Gurgaon and Rohtak border are now intending to make their passage further west across the old Sirsa district at one or other of its two narrow parts, viz., below Sirsa or near Dabwáli. Though this opium was being smuggled into Jind and Patiala, it would have found its way in part into surrounding British districts. The complete stoppage of the legitimate import of Málwa opium has, as other information shows, made it very difficult for the Sikh States to supply their contractors.

3. The finance committee was not acquainted with the particulars of the smuggling cases, and the note of the committee, communicated to this Government for opinion by the Government of India in the Department of Finance, with its letter, No. 4460, dated the 3rd December last, does not advert to the political aspects of the matter. A copy of the note is annexed for facility of reference, and it will be seen that the proposals of the committee are contained in the 16th and 17th paragraphs of its paper. This note was sent to the Financial Commissioner for report, who has promised to reply after making inquiries and consulting local officers. A detailed reply to the note will be sent hereafter, but from his knowledge of the subject the Lieutenant-Governor is confident that it will be found that there are difficulties of a local nature in the way of the adoption of the suggestions made in the note, and that all events no immediate changes can be made without risk of serious loss. The inelasticity of the opium revenue in the Punjab in recent years upon which the committee remark is probably due to changes and uncertainties in the legitimate supply of opium caused by the orders of the Government of India with regard to import of Nepál, Gházipur, and Málwa opium. Uncertainties as to supply, of course, have a most depressing effect on the Punjab system of contracts.

4. In the Lieutenant-Governor's judgment the situation requires that, without waiting to decide as to possible future changes of system, prompt action should be taken, first, to ensure a sufficient supply to opium both for Punjab districts and for the Phulkian States; and, secondly, to stop the smuggling that has commenced on a serious scale. There is no chance of putting this down without the co-operation of the

Phulkian States, and it is impracticable to ask their co-operation unless we are prepared to say definitely what is to be our own system of supply, at least in the immediate future, and how we propose to assist them to get a supply.

5. The main proposal of the finance committee virtually amounts to a suggestion that the opium system which is in force in Bengal and the North-western Provinces shall be introduced into the Punjab. To remit the acreage tax, and to require the cultivators to sell to the Government only at a fixed price, would imply the existence of an Opium Agency, as the committee itself substantially admits. It has, however, always been held that the operations of the Opium Department ought not to be extended to the Punjab; and when the special conditions of opium production and supply in this part of India are understood, there appear to be strong reasons for this opinion. With regard to our position in relation to native States in and round the Punjab, and the Hill States in particular, it would, Mr. Lyall considers, be very difficult to change our system. This has been felt all along, or we should have changed it long ago. If the finance committee's proposal were adopted we should be obliged to have an Opium Department in the Punjab, working not only in the plains, but in Kulu and Kotgarh, and dealing with all the petty Hill States and with Kashmir and Afghanistan as the Opium Department deals with Nepál. On the Rájputána side also we should have a constant struggle to prevent smuggling, where outlying tracts or parganas of the Sikh States march with the Northern States of the Rájputána Agency. Moreover, in the interests of the North-western Provinces, poppy cultivation is prohibited in the districts of the old Delhi Division. Elsewhere it is much scattered; there is a good deal in the hills, some in Shahpur, some in Umballa, Lahore, and Amritsar and the Southern Derajat, and little patches in a great number of districts in every direction.

6. As to the various alternative courses mentioned in the 17th paragraph of the note, Mr. Lyall supposes that they have been enumerated for the purpose of ensuring that none of the bare possibilities of the case shall be overlooked in the discussion. In selecting from these alternatives the committee repeats the proposals already made in paragraph 16. One suggestion, namely, that cultivators should pay acreage tax and sell to licensed vendors only, is merely a description of the existing system; another, that licensed vendors should purchase duty-paid opium in Málwa, is known to be impracticable, because for the purposes of the Punjab market the full duty is prohibitive. Mr. Lyall, as already stated, does not think that any of the proposals of the finance committee could be accepted without considerable risk of loss of income; and the main proposal would involve extra expenditure—perhaps large expenditure—on establishment. In the present state of the provincial finances, Mr. Lyall feels that he would not be justified in running the risk; and for additional outlay he has not the funds. On the whole, therefore, it seems to him inevitable that for some time to come we must maintain the existing system, which has at least the merits of being locally understood and of having been in practical operation for many years.

7. If this conclusion is accepted, it remains to be decided from what source the Punjab is to obtain the supply required over and above its home production. Here Mr. Lyall must frankly own that he thinks it was a mistake to abandon the quarter-duty system. He is anxious, as already said in my telegram of the 23rd instant, to see that system revived; and unless it is revived he can suggest no satisfactory basis for the communications with Punjab native States, which, if we are to suppress the contraband trade, are eminently necessary. Mr. Lyall himself as Financial Commissioner proposed the quarter-duty system to the Punjab Government in 1880; and in his secretary's letter written on that occasion it was said:—

“Unless the pass duty is remitted or reduced the supply of Málwa opium is practically stopped like that of Nepál. If the open and lawful import of Málwa opium from Central India and Rájputána is stopped in this way, Mr. Lyall anticipates that two things will happen. In the first place a strong trade in smuggled Málwa opium will grow up all along the very frontier of the Punjab and Rájputána; the people are born smugglers, and our licensed vendors will themselves be engaged in the business, and will not therefore be able to help us to check it. Now that the said hedge is done away with, the Financial Commissioner does not see

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how opium smuggling once established could be stopped in such a country. Moreover, the fact that the protected Sikh States own territory on and near the border mixed with our own would add to difficulty. In the second place, the price of opium is likely to rise considerably in the Punjab, and the Financial Commissioner does not think this is, on the whole, desirable. Such a rise will reduce the bids for monopolies of retail vend, and a very large proportion of the benefit to the producer will go to the Hill States, from Kashmir to the Jumna, which grow opium. Moreover, a rise in price will be very unpopular with the Sikhs, who in some parts of the Punjab are opium eaters almost to a man. They firmly believe that moderate doses are necessary for their health and certainly it does not seem to do most of them harm. They often complain already that we have made opium both dear and bad by our system of excise."

8. Mr. Lyall still holds the opinions thus expressed, and recent events have certainly justified his anticipation that smuggling would result from shutting off the Rájputána supply. It is, he thinks, impossible to stop this smuggling, unless we keep a way open for lawful import. He has referred to the papers of 1884, which show the reasons why the concession of allowing the import of 1,200 maunds of Malwa opium at a quarter duty was, at the request of this Government withdrawn. It was supposed that consumers disliked the Malwa opium and that there was little demand for it; and Colonel Davies, the Financial Commissioner, mistakenly laid stress on "the loss of three-fourths of the duty formerly realised." Of course consumers do not like the Malwa opium as much as the first-rate Ghazipur excise opium or some other kinds; but they cannot always get the kinds they prefer or afford to buy the best opium if it is available. The Punjab used to get its opium partly home-grown; partly from the Punjab Hill States and Afghanistan; and, as said above, Malwa and, through the North-western Provinces, from Nepal. The Malwa kind was not generally liked, but was drawn on when other kinds were scarce. It never paid duty, so there was no such loss as in 1884 the Financial Commissioner supposed. With the closing of the Nepal and Ghazipur supplies the demand for Malwa opium was sure to increase, and the only way to prevent wholesale smuggling was to allow a supply in a lawful way at a moderate cost, and to give the Sikh States their fair share of this supply. The demand, it is true, when the quarter-duty system was in operation, did not exceed three or four hundred maunds a year, but it would have increased to some extent. The quarter-duty system was disliked by the Punjab buyers, who had previously paid no duty, and this checked the demand at first. The limit of 1,200 maunds was, of course, fixed as a maximum, and it was not supposed that there would be any advantage to Government if that limit were reached. However, the question of demand has been practically settled by events; we should not have captured 140 maunds of contraband Malwa opium last summer unless there had been an effective demand for this article on the part of consumers.

9. It is necessary, no doubt, to meet the objection that the Ghazipur opium being preferred, the whole of the Punjab demand for an outside supply might be met from the Ghazipur factory. The reply is that if the price fixed for this commodity is adequate with reference to the price obtainable for it in other markets it becomes unsaleable in the Punjab. If, on the other hand, it is supplied to the Punjab Government at cost price, as at Rs. 10-8 a seer, the price now fixed for future consignments, there may, indeed, be no loss in British districts; for the deficiency in price may be covered in part by the rates at which the article is sold and in part by higher sales of licenses for retail vend and better income from license fees. But in foreign territory there would be serious loss, and the Lieutenant-Governor could not expect the Government of India to agree to this Government sharing the Ghazipur supply on present terms with the Sikh States, whose requirements must nevertheless be admitted as an important factor in the whole problem. We are, Mr. Lyall thinks, morally bound to consider the loss of revenue to these States and the inconvenience to their opium consumers caused by shutting off the Nepal and Malwa supplies under the orders of the Government of India in 1878 to 1880. Yet if we give these States Ghazipur opium practically at cost price, the whole of the excise profits will be theirs, not ours; and the concession would be an extravagant one, far exceeding the limits of any legitimate claim to consideration.

10. All these reasons led the Lieutenant-Governor to make the recommendation expressed in my telegram of the 23rd instant. If that is accepted, permits would be given to some of our licensed vendors or farmers and to agents of the Phulkian States; and these men would take their permits to the collector under the Ajmere Rules, who would give them a special order in writing under Rule 5 (2), armed with which they would buy either in Ajmere territory or outside in Rájputána and bring in the opium to the Ajmere scales, and then get a pass for the Punjab on payment of quarter duty. It might be arranged that the passes given should be few in number and on Ajmere only, not on Indore. Should the Government of India so desire, the maximum amount of Malwa opium to be imported in this way from the Ajmere scales might be reduced to, say, 500 maunds, which would probably be sufficient. These points settled, the Lieutenant-Governor would then arrange with the Sikh States the maximum amount per annum for which each State might ask for permits and the Deputy Commissioner to whom it should send the persons it might authorise to apply for permits. The Sikh States would, the Lieutenant-Governor thinks, agree readily enough; they might demur to the quarter duty a little, but not strongly. They have never had any authority under any rules or understanding to grant import passes which would hold good through British territory. The arrangement would therefore be advantageous to them; and in consideration of their being allowed to share in the Malwa supply, as well as on the general ground that their excise arrangements must not conflict with those of the British Government, they would be urged to co-operate with us in the suppression of smuggling and to forbid the passage of opium into British territory from their outlying parganas along the Rájputána border. There would be no need, so far as the Sikh States are concerned, to revise the prohibitions issued by the Jeypore, Ulwar, and Bikanir States against the passage of opium into the Punjab and Punjab native States. These prohibitions would be quite consistent with the principle that Rájputána opium for the Punjab must be brought to the Ajmere scales. The case of Bahawalpur is somewhat different; and Mr. Lyall would be disposed to allow the passage of Bikanir opium into Bahawalpur territory on condition that (1) it should not pass through British territory, and (2) the Bahawalpur State would allow no opium to pass out of its territory to the British or foreign territory of the Punjab. To this extent it would probably be advisable to make an exception to the principle above mentioned; but before any final proposal is put forward in this behalf, Mr. Lyall would communicate with the Bahawalpur Darbar and ascertain its wishes and particulars of the Bahawalpur opium trade, which is not extensive. Having arranged in this way for the Malwa supply, Mr. Lyall would like to combine with it, for use in British districts only, a small supply, not to exceed 200 maunds, of opium from Ghazipur at Rs. 10-8 a seer as already agreed to. The orders therefore of the Government of India in the Finance Department, communicated to this Government by its endorsement, No. 1570, dated the 30th June 1886, would hold good. It would be necessary, however, for the Government of India to issue a notification similar to the Notification of the Finance Department, No. 1001, dated the 12th May 1882 (cancelled by Notification, No. 1178, dated the 1st June 1885), to the effect that in exercise of the powers conferred by section 6 of the Opium Act, 1878, the Governor General in Council directs that duty at the rate of Rs. 75 shall be levied on each chest of opium of 140½ lb. avoirdupois net weight imported into the Punjab with effect from the date of the issue of the notification. I am accordingly to request that this may be done. The Lieutenant-Governor requests that the whole arrangement may at any rate be made for one year certain, and till there has been time to communicate fully with the native States and to obtain and consider local opinions on the proposals of the finance committee. If, however, the Government of India is willing to sanction the present scheme as a permanent one, subject to the understanding that it may, if necessary, be modified after considering the finance committee's note and after ascertaining the views of the States concerned and working out the detailed arrangements, the Lieutenant-Governor would prefer that course.

11. In regard to the omission up to the present time to come to some understanding with the Sikh States on the subject of opium, Mr. Lyall feels that some explanation is called for. As Financial Commissioner, Mr. Lyall recommended in March 1882 that the Patiala,

Jind, and Nabha Darbars should be addressed; but the Punjab Government then felt precisely the same embarrassment that Mr. Lyall has himself experienced on the present occasion. There was obvious difficulty in commencing negotiations with the States before we had put our own system straight and were ready with detailed rules for working it. Sir Charles Aitchison, therefore, decided that when certain amendments in the rules had been made and sanctioned by the Government of India, he would address the native States and explain to them the exact provisions which would effect them in the matter of import and transport of opium. Mr. Lyall accordingly submitted a draft revising the opium rules, and in a letter, No. 1233, dated the 21st November 1882 (extracts from which are appended), explained fully the methods by which he proposed (as he proposes now) to give the Sikh States their fair share of the quarter-duty supply. The draft was sent on to the Government of India, which, however, was not satisfied with its form, and called for a revised edition. The Financial Commissioner was then desired to recast the draft, and he has not yet re-submitted it. Mr. Lyall is sorry that the Government of India was not prepared to sanction the draft temporarily

until a better draft could be prepared. He believes that the rules, though imperfectly drafted, would have been understood by the local officers and would have worked well enough; and he thinks that both then and still more now they were urgently wanted.

12. Intermediately the Financial Commissioner was instructed to omit from the revised draft of the rules the provisions relating to the quarter-duty supply of Malwa opium. He has now been asked to insert them again in accordance with the proposals made in this letter, and to submit his revised draft with the least possible delay. On receipt of it Mr. Lyall will lose no time in sending it on to the Government of India for approval; and he hopes that should it still be found to be somewhat rough from a technical point of view, the Government of India may nevertheless be able to pass it for a year at least, if Mr. Lyall can say that it will be understood and will prove workable.

13. On hearing that the proposals made in this letter are generally approved, Mr. Lyall will at once communicate with the Sikh States and Bahawalpur on the subject of opium.

14. A list of enclosures is annexed.

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APPENDIX X.

[Handed in by KHALIFA SYAD MUHAMED HASSAN, C.I.E., on behalf of the Patiala State.]

MEMORANDUM on the OPIUM QUESTION in the PATIALA STATE.

PRIOR to Sambats 1906-7=1849-1850, no particular duty was levied on opium and poppy, nor was any kind of restriction placed (on its sale or cultivation), and as a natural result of this freedom in trade, the consumers of opium and poppy used to get these articles very cheap. Poppy was sold at the rate of 15 to 19 seers per rupee, and after separating the seed from it there remained between 8½ and 9½ seers of pure poppy-heads, and purified opium was sold at 8 to 10 tolas per rupee.

2. People used to take poppy in this way. For nearly 10 or 12 hours poppy-heads were soaked in water, then strained through a cloth after squeezing them, and the decoction drunk either in the morning or evening, or twice a day, with or without sugar. Opium was taken in pills, as it is eaten in these days also.

3. The habit of drinking a decoction of poppies (post) is a very ancient one, and very injurious to health, because to take a tumbler full of an intoxicating decoction every morning and evening, regardless of seasons and thirst or hunger, impaired digestion and weakened the organs of the body. The injurious effects of this decoction are generally admitted. It appears from old historical works that during the Moghal Empire such princes as were suspected of making political disturbances, and whom it was considered advisable to keep under confinement, were forced to drink this poppy decoction in order to debilitate them and to destroy their material spirit, so that there be no longer any fear of their making disturbances.

4. Since the native States have followed the British system of excise administration, and have imposed a duty on opium and poppy, &c., which has been enhanced from time to time, partly owing to this, and partly because of the change for good in the habits of the people, the practice of taking the decoction of poppy (post) has nearly died away during the last 42 or 43 years, and its place has been taken by opium. But notwithstanding this, the price of poppy-heads has not fallen, and in these days poppy-heads without seeds are sold at 2½ seers per rupee. The high price of this drug is partly due to the increased duty mentioned above, and partly because opium is now taken instead of post, and therefore the zemindars extract larger quantities of opium from the poppy, which becomes useless, and is thrown away.

5. It is needless to explain the method of cultivating poppy because the Punjab authorities are fully acquainted with such matters.

Mode of preparing Opium.—When the poppy-heads are ripe enough for procuring opium, the zemindars make incisions in them with a knife, when opium in the shape of a white liquid comes out of the heads, and assuming a brown or blackish colour becomes viscid.

6. The cause of the increased consumption of opium as compared with post is that a much smaller quantity of the former gives more intoxication than a cupful of the latter, and it does not affect the digestion like post. For the above reasons, and because of the heavy duties on it, pure opium is sold at 3 tolas for a rupee in large towns of the State, and, in villages where people do not care much for its purity, it is sold at 4 tolas per rupee.

7. Regarding the cultivation of the poppy and manufacture of opium, I have to say that in that tract of the State called the Narnaul Nizamat, which is contiguous to the Jeypore and Alwar borders, poppy is not cultivated, because the country is dry, the wells are very deep, and the inhabitants being Jats, Ahir, and Gujars, with very few Rajputs, are much less addicted to the opium habit. Likewise in the western and southern portions of the State adjoining the Ludhiana, Ferozepore, Karnal, and Hissar districts, it is not cultivated for want of sufficient rains and the great depth of the wells; but the people of these tracts are much more addicted to opium-eating than the people of the other parts of the State. Since the opening of the Kotla and Bhatinda branches of the Sirhind Canal, some people in these dry tracts have commenced the experimental cultivation of poppy, but on such a small scale that it is not worth notice.

In the tracts which lie to the north alongside of the hill ranges, where on this account the rainfall is abundant, and water in the wells is near, poppy and opium are produced to some extent, and according to the statistics collected in 1891 the total area under poppy cultivation at different places in the said tracts was 286 acres, which yielded not more than 16 maunds of opium.

Although, owing to the quantity of opium produced being small, no acreage duty, besides the ordinary land revenue, is imposed on poppy cultivation, as is the case in the Punjab, yet according to the rules issued by the Patiala State for preventing the abuse of opium, the zemindars are not at liberty to sell their produce to other than licensed vendors called lessees by the State.

8. According to the last census the population of the State was as follows:—

Sikhs	-	-	-	243,362
Hindus	-	-	-	795,928
Mussalmans	-	-	-	352,046
Menial tribes, such as Chamars, sweepers, &c., who are included in the census papers among Hindus and Sikhs, but who are disowned by them	-	-	-	228,221

Though accurate statistics are not prepared by the State, a reliable calculation has been made that, out of

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the total amount of opium consumed in the State, one-third is consumed by the Sikhs and two-thirds by other races.

9. For the total requirements of the State, which amount to 1,100—1,200 maunds yearly, opium is imported from—(1) the Simla Hill States; (2) Ladwa and Jagadhri, &c., in the Umballa district; and (3) Malwa and Rajputana. One hundred and thirty maunds of Malwa opium are imported yearly (out of the total quantity fixed by the Government of India for the Punjab) subject to certain conditions and concessions, and the payment of a duty at the rate of Rs. 3 per seer, which is eventually refunded to the State from the British Treasury.

10. Opium from the Simla and Umballa districts is imported in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 22 and 23 of Financial Commissioner's circular. No. 62, dated 26th June 1889, and of Excise Commissioner's circular, No. 1, dated 3rd February 1891. Those who deal in opium in the State are given leases (sold by auction to the highest bidder) on payment of a certain amount of money, and subject to certain conditions and restrictions, for the monopoly to sell opium according to the conditions laid down by the State within a fixed area. The conditions bind them not to purchase or sell cheap and smuggled opium (*see* directions issued by the Patiala Wizarat Office, dated 21st Sawan Sambat 1947, submitted to Punjab Government in October 1890).

11. When these licensed vendors wish to import opium from British districts, mostly Umballa and Simla, besides the lease money which they pay yearly to the State, they have to make a written application for the import of the required quantity of opium on payment of a fee of Re. 1-4 for each application, and in accordance with the said application to receive a written permit, on which is noted the amount of opium required to be imported into the State from British territory. On the authority of the said permit, the licensed vendors have to submit a written application to the Deputy Commissioner of the district for the grant of a license for the despatch of opium, subject to the conditions applicable to such consignments in British districts (*vide* paragraphs 20 to 23 of Financial Commissioner's circular, No. 26, dated 26th June 1889). The

* *Vide* Punjab Government No. 2459, dated 21st November 1891, and Patiala Motamud's, No. 31, dated 16th April 1891.

above conditions are by no means light, yet additional restrictions* are placed by the State on the licensed vendors which greatly interfere

even with the lawful conveyance of opium freely.

12. The 130 maunds of opium which, in accordance with the instructions contained in the letters marginally noted, are yearly imported

Punjab Government, No. 457, dated 26th August 1887.

Punjab Government, No. 135, dated 23rd June 1888.

Punjab Government, No. 293 S., dated 30th July 1889.

Punjab Government, No. 293 S., dated 30th July 1889.

Murásla, dated 27th November 1889, to the address of his Highness the Maharaja of Patiala.

from Malwa and Rajputana, are at present purchased by the State at Ajmere, and are only sold to the licensed vendors of the State on payment of a moderate price. None of the opium which finds its way into the State from the three above-mentioned sources can be sold by any person other than the licensed vendors of the State. Even those persons who purchase opium and poppy for their personal use cannot legally keep more than 4 tolas of opium and 5 seers of poppy at a time without special permission, which is only given in very special cases. To keep all these administrative and preventive measures in working order, the Office of Excise and Abkari superintendent with the necessary establishment has been established in the State, and those who act in contravention of the rules are severely punished. (*See* his Highness the Maharaja's Murásla, dated 29th April 1890, No. 5, addressed to the Punjab Government.) Punishments are awarded according to the directions referred to in paragraph 10 of this memo. The provisions of the said directions are, with a few exceptions, identical with the opium rules issued by the Punjab Government, and are in some cases more stringent.

13. In Patiala territory, indeed throughout the Punjab, there is one uniform mode of eating opium, viz., by taking it in a pill after purifying it as stated before. Some people take it, as prescribed by native Hakims, in a compound called "Barsh" and "Jadwar" pills, &c. (of which opium forms a part), but this practice is rare. Here they do not dissolve opium in water, and then take it like the people of Rajputana, who called

it "Gholua," nor do they take it in the refined form called "Reni" in Kathiawar. People do not smoke chandu and madak in this country.

14. Mothers of infant children administer opium to their babies. So much is this the case that there would not be found a single child throughout the country who has not been given opium during its infancy, and no visible bad effect is produced by the use of opium on the health of such children. But, of course, in rare instances, if a boy who is approaching maturity begins taking opium it affects the general appearance of the body, creates paleness and symptoms of laziness, shortness of beard; and the growth and development of the body are also affected. The number of such youths is extremely small, perhaps one or two in every 1,000 persons, because parents insist on their children abstaining from using this drug. Those people who commence taking opium after the full development of their body, before they attain the age of 40, are also very few in number, because taking opium before the age of 40 is considered objectionable and a species of licentiousness by society; but no bad effects on the health or general appearance of such people are visible, while the use of opium after the age of 40 is not considered improper; but is, on the contrary, calculated to preserve health and prolong life.

Some persons who are between 40 and 60 years old, and who have been eating opium for years, and are very healthy, active, and industrious, can be produced for inspection in support of the statements herein made.

No change takes place in the appearance or bodies of people who eat opium after they are full grown, provided they use it moderately; and they can do all sorts of physical and mental labour. On the contrary, it is generally believed that after eating opium a man becomes fresh for doing every kind of labour; but, of course, if an opium-eater does not get his dose at the fixed hour, or gets a smaller dose than usual, his nose and eyes become watery, and he feels uneasy and fatigued, and in such a case he has little inclination for taking food, and feels shivery and sleepless. But the symptoms of laziness and fatigue are not peculiar to opium-eaters only, for persons addicted to liquor also feel lazy and unfit for work when they do not get their usual drink. Even those who are accustomed to take pan (betel leaf), tobacco, tea, or coffee also become inactive and sluggish, and feel a strong craving for those things when they do not get them at the fixed hour.

5. Opium-eaters, no matter how large their regular doses may be, should they even take unusually large doses at a time, do not become intoxicated or excited like those who drink liquor. Under the influence of this drug the eater does not become inebriate, nor does he talk nonsense or become quarrelsome as drunkards do, but its strongest effect is that the man goes to sleep.

16. The habit of eating opium can be traced to have prevailed in Asia for nearly 2,500 years, and unlike liquor or bang it is not prohibited by any Asiatic religion, which in other words means that the several nations in Asia did not consider its use objectionable, as by experience they did not find it injurious; and lawgivers have not forbidden its use socially or religiously. In short even if opium is not taken for the preservation of health, but for the sake of intoxication only, it is, in comparison with bang or spirits, a harmless and less expensive intoxicant used by respectable people. If an opium-eater cannot get his doses for a few days, his appetite and intestines, &c. are badly affected, and he suffers from looseness of bowel and watery eyes and nose.

17. As it is already the practice in the Punjab to eat opium in moderate and reasonable quantities, there is no real necessity for its total prohibition. To do so, or to impose further restrictions would not be beneficial in any way, and such a measure would spread dissatisfaction among the people, and would probably injure the health of the consumers without reducing their expenditure, while the Government revenue would also decrease, and the loss would have to be made good by imposing some new tax, which is always disliked in this country. To do so (*i.e.*, to abandon the opium revenue and impose new taxes) would be vexatious and unreasonable so far as the people are concerned, and would be a bad policy for Government to adopt. It is also probable that the stoppage of opium would necessarily increase the consumption of spirits and bang, which are much more

injurious to health and morality than opium, and are more costly. Ever since the appointment of the Opium Commission has been talked about, there are indications that the people will generally attribute the proposed stoppage of opium not to the good intentions of Government, but will, on the contrary, suspect that the English nation, under this pretext, wishes to increase their already large trade in spirituous liquors.

18. If the use of opium requires to be stopped by legislation, it is only when used in the form of "chandu" and madak, which people smoke, and this habit is considered a very bad one by all respectable natives, and is very injurious to health, but it is gratifying that this evil practice does not exist in the Punjab.

The use of madak and chandu is authoritatively prohibited in the State. In 1876 a resident of Delhi applied to the State authorities to lease to him the monopoly of selling madak and chandu, and the revenue authorities wished to grant the application, but as the matter was a new one, when it came up to the Wazarat Office for sanction, the Wazir, on the 11th December, represented to the Council of Regency that, though the lease would bring a little income to the State, the effect would be very injurious, as at Lucknow and elsewhere, where these drugs are smoked, they have proved very injurious to the people, and their use should therefore be forbidden. The Council of Regency approved of the Wazir's opinion on 14th December 1876, and addressed the revenue officers and the State Courts with the view to prevent the use of madak and chandu. If the matter be further considered, opium cannot be blamed on account of madak

and chandu, because the latter are improper form of using opium, and there are several useful articles in the world which, if taken in improper forms prove injurious.

19. In short, in all the native States, and, indeed, throughout the Punjab, opium is moderately used, and the object of all the administrative measures, in respect of opium, which are now in force, has been to limit in such a way the habit prevailing since centuries of the moderate use of opium, which is not injurious to health or morals or economy, so as to leave no room for objectionable consumption and injury to health by the immoderate use of the drug.

The Punjab authorities in general, and Sir James Lyall in particular, during his incumbency as Financial Commissioner of the Punjab and subsequently as Lieutenant-Governor, very prudently devoted attention to this subject, and the result of all the rules and procedure prescribed by them has been that this ancient habit of the people has not been interfered with; while, on the other hand, Government derives a large revenue from it, and the tendency of all the measures adopted is to restrict the use of opium to a reasonable amount, and not to increase it. With reference to these arrangements in the Punjab and in the native States, the Government and the native States cannot be accused of making a profit by giving poison to the people. Therefore, the Patiala Darbār thinks that the intentions of the resolution of Parliament, passed on 30th June 1893, are already met by the arrangements at present in force in the Punjab.

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APP. XI.
Nahan State.

LETTER from HIS HIGHNESS the RÁJA of NÁHAN, G.C.S.I., handed in by B. SAUDAGÁR LÁL, Mir Munshi of the Nahan State, dated Nahan, 3rd January 1894, to the OFFICIATING CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, Punjab.

In compliance with your desire conveyed in your letter, I have the honour to enclose herewith an abstract of the evidence which the two officials appointed by me for the purpose propose to give before the Opium Commission.

My own opinion is as follows:—

The anti-opium agitation seems to be based on the idea that the drug in question is a poison, but the conception is wholly groundless.

Experience has shown that opium in moderation is not pernicious in any way, and that it produces no ill-effect either on the health or wealth of the people. It never impoverishes a man; it is preventive of many diseases; the rich and the poor consume it with equal safety.

It is much more economical than intoxicating liquors. The greatest opium-eater can consume no more than one or two rupees' worth of opium a month, while an ordinary drinker will easily waste the same amount in a day on alcoholic liquors. Morally considered, no man is ever led under its influence to the commission of any criminal or immoral act; its moderate use never maddens, nor causes any of its consumers to lose their senses, but, on the contrary, encourages, and enables them to work hard.

Having such facts before me, I can find no reason why the proposal to prohibit such a harmless thing should receive my support. But I may be allowed to suggest that if a similar agitation were set on foot against alcoholic liquors, many a life would be saved in India as well as in Europe.

As regards the fiscal condition of India, it is well known that it is already very hard for the Government to make both ends meet; then what will be its difficulties if it is called on to make up a loss of seven or eight crores of rupee—a loss which is sure to result?

If further taxation is imposed, many people who have so far held aloof will probably join the National Congress and complain and agitate against Government, and with good reason.

There is another point which I wish to speak of. I think that the opium trade should never be allowed to pass out of the hands of the Government. Many a private company would come forward and take it into their own hands, caring for their own interests. Then very likely the purity of the drug would be neglected,

and adulteration would make it as hurtful as it is harmless at present.

I think that then the same persons who at present declaim against it would be the foremost in praising it.

As for the question of compensation, I beg to bring to your notice that about 200 maunds of opium are produced annually in this State, of which about 70 maunds are brought to the State Treasury; the rest is secreted and smuggled into other places.

The zemindars generally sell their crop at Rs. 8 per seer, so if the cultivation is prohibited, they will sustain a loss of Rs. 64,000 a year, and may fairly expect an adequate compensation for their loss.

A very small quantity of the 70 maunds brought to the State Treasury is sold to the local licensed retail dealers at Rs. 15 per seer, and the remainder to the retail dealers of other States at Rs. 14 per seer, a transit pass having first been obtained from the Deputy Commissioner of Umballa. This transaction brings to the State a net profit of Rs. 15,000 a year.

Now, from the above calculation, it may be estimated that the whole compensation to which this State will be entitled will amount to Rs. 79,000 per annum, for whatever loss the zemindars may suffer by cultivating other crops on the land at present devoted to opium will certainly have to be made up to them in the shape of a reduction of land revenue, and so will be a loss to the State, while the State will probably have to spend at least as much in preventing secret cultivation and sale of opium.

ABSTRACT OF EVIDENCE to be offered on the CONSUMPTION of OPIUM and its effects in Sirmúr State by Dr. M. A. NICOLSON and BABU SAUDAGAR LÁL.

(a.) Amongst the hillmen opium-eating is very rare. Zaidárs and Lambardárs of large villages in the hills have informed us there are no opium-eaters in their villages. Others know of one or two cases only. That this information is correct is shown by the fact that among the prisoners in the gaol it is extremely rare to find a hillman who is an opium-eater. At present among 47 prisoners there is only one opium-eating hillman; two others are Afgháns.

The Kahárs in Nahan use opium when they are getting old and unable to do their work. Their

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Chaudhri informs us that there are about 50 adult male Kabárs in Náhan, of whom about 10 use opium. He also informs us that without opium these men could not earn their living.

We have inquired into the circumstances which led to their commencing the use of opium, and found four chief causes—(1) as a substitute for alcohol; (2) to enable them to withstand the effects of cold and exposure; (3) for ill-health, especially for dysentery, rheumatism, and catarrh; (4) to enable them to endure fatigue and perform their work.

There are a few other opium-eaters in Náhan, but they, properly speaking, are not natives of the place, although many have resided here for some years.

(b.) Physically, opium appears to do very little if any harm. I, Doctor Nicolson, have treated, and am at present treating, cases of illness among opium-eaters, both in the city and in the gaol. I have found the usual treatment for their maladies just as successful as with other patients, and have never seen any reason to adopt special measures or even to prohibit opium. Morally, they are also like their neighbours, and are certainly much better behaved in every way than the consumers of alcohol.

(c.) There is not the slightest doubt that the people would resent any interference with the custom of opium-eating, and if it could be carried out—which we doubt—they would take to alcohol or gánja in its place. And these latter two articles are certainly much more harmful than opium.

(d.) The people would certainly object to being taxed in order to put a stop to the custom of opium-eating, and any such tax, however small, would certainly be very unpopular.

(e.) It would be very difficult, if not impossible, to prohibit the production and use of opium in native States.

In conclusion, we would add the following remarks as expressing our own opinion on the subject, and as being the results of our examination of opium-eaters of Náhan :—

We have found opium a most useful substitute for alcohol, and beneficial both morally and physically in two cases of extreme drunkenness.

We have found it used medicinally by many natives who live miles from any dispensary as a preventive of fever and a cure for dysentery.

It is largely used by mothers nursing children as an application to the breast under the belief that it prevents diarrhoea, dysentery, catarrh, &c. from attacking their infants.

We have found one case where a man, after eating opium for 20 years, gave it up of his accord, because he could not afford it any longer, and did so without suffering very much inconvenience, and we have, as before mentioned, found it used as a stimulant by men growing too old to perform their work, viz., Kabárs or water-carriers, whose occupation is a very laborious one.

Opium-eating never causes violent crime, as both alcohol and gánja are well known to do.

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Kashmir State.

APPENDIX XII.

MEMORANDUM on the OPIUM QUESTION in the Kashmir State, presented by RAI BAHADUR PANDIT SURAJ KAUL, C.I.E., Member of the Council in Kashmir.

1. If the cultivation and use of opium for other than medical purposes is prohibited throughout British India, it could be gradually extended to Kashmir, but such prohibition will be very much felt by the cultivators, who solely depend upon poppy cultivation and by the opium-eaters. Such interference is likely to produce the greatest discontentment among the opium-eaters, and prove extremely disastrous for the opium cultivators, for the time being at least.

2. The Kashmir State is divided into two provinces, i.e., Jammu and Kashmir. In Kashmir opium cultivation is at present very little, but as waste lands have lately been granted to the people with hereditary rights of cultivation, and the people are coming to know day by day that poppy cultivation pays best, it is expected that its cultivation will increase. In the Kardi district opium has been cultivated from old times. The opium is partly consumed in the province and partly taken away by the Punjabi license-holders. These license-holders can purchase opium in the Jammu province only under a certificate from the Deputy Commissioner of the Sialkot district allowing them to purchase the opium from the State. Such opium is weighed, packed, and sealed in presence of a revenue officer and a pass for Sialkot given to the license-holder. A small quantity of opium is exported by the State merchants to Yarkand, but there are no rules restricting it. If the export of opium from the Kashmir State to the British districts were totally prohibited, the State would in justice be entitled to a compensation equivalent to its loss of revenue on account of decrease in the sale of taxed opium.

3. The income of the State from opium is derived from two sources—

(i.) The revenue collected from the zamindars who pay to the State half the money realised from the sale of the opium to the contractor which is estimated at about Rs. 33,500 per annum, and

(ii.) The fees realised for licenses to sell opium which are about Rs. 13,500 per annum in round numbers.

The exact area under poppy cultivation in the Kashmir State is not known, as the districts in which the poppy cultivation is commonest have not undergone settlement operations. The total produce in both provinces,

however, is estimated at 16½ maunds 35 seers, and as one acre of land yields about four seers of opium, the total area under poppy may be calculated approximately at 1,678 acres. The price of opium paid to zamindars by the contractor is Rs. 10 per seer. If, therefore, the poppy cultivation is altogether prohibited, the loss of the State revenue will amount to about Rs. 47,000 per annum, while, if the export of opium into the Punjab only is stopped, the loss will be slightly less, as the chief portion of the opium produced in the State is meant for export to the Punjab. In either case the State will in justice be entitled to a compensation proportional to the loss sustained on account of the decrease in the revenue caused by the prohibition. The zamindars will also have to be compensated for being prohibited from cultivating poppy, in so far as they will be obliged to grow other crops, the best of which will not pay more than one-fourth of the poppy. The average yield of poppy comes to Rs. 40 an acre, which gives the zamindars Rs. 20 net, which no other crop can pay him more than Rs. 5 net per acre.)

4. For preventive measures it will be necessary to establish at least 12 stations in the two provinces of the State, having four sepoy in each with two inspectors, one for each province. The annual cost of which establishment will be about Rs. 6,300.

5. In the event of the sale and export of opium being prohibited, the State of Kashmir will be entitled to be repaid Rs. 13,435 which it receives from the sale of contracts and licenses, and Rs. 37,575, the estimated income received by it from the zamindars.

6. Reforms which are being inaugurated in the excise administration of the State will probably reduce the amount of untaxed opium which may at present be produced in the State, but the people are not in a position to bear any enhanced taxation.

7. Opium is not consumed in large quantities in the State, the total quantity consumed in Jammu being 32 maunds, while that in Kashmir amounts only to 2½ maunds. No particular class of people is addicted to opium-eating, but, comparatively speaking, the Dogras and the Panjabi Sikhs are the largest consumers. But the fact that the Dogras and the Sikhs are the strongest and the bravest people in the State shows that the use

of opium does not badly affect the physical constitution of the people, nor are there any facts to show that the moderate use of opium produces bad influence upon their morals.

8. People take to opium-eating—

(a.) To keep up their strength in advanced age.

(b.) Through the effects of the company of opium-eaters.

(c.) For sexual enjoyment.

9. The Kashmir State subjects will not willingly bear, in whole or in part, the cost of any preventive measures.

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APPENDIX XIII.

APP. XIII.

Rajputana.

ABSTRACT of EVIDENCE tendered by Miss C. A. SWAINE, M.D., Khetri, Rajputana, read by the Secretary on January 24th, 1894.

I CAME to India as a medical missionary in 1870. My observation has led me to form an unfavourable opinion of the opium habit. It produces the following bad effects:—

1. It interferes with the legitimate action of medicine in many cases, including fevers.
2. It affects the mental faculties unfavourably, and sometimes at a very early age.

3. It makes those who resort to it untruthful and untrustworthy.

4. It makes those who use it contented with their lot, or at least indifferent, and hence anxious to bear as few burdens as possible. In other words, it makes them indolent and thriftless.

5. In short, the habit is a bad one, and is so regarded by the people.

APPENDIX XIV.

APP. XIV.

Lahore.

MEMORANDUM on the use of OPIUM in the treatment of ANIMALS, by Veterinary Colonel J. A. NUNN, A.V.D., D.S.O., F.R.C.V.S., Principal Lahore Veterinary College.

My personal knowledge of India is confined to the Punjab, North-west Provinces, Bengal, and Assam. Opium is used in all four as a medicine for horses and cattle in intestinal disorders, such as diarrhoea and dysentery; also in cattle plague, "rinderpest." The poppy-heads are used as a decoction in the case of sprains and painful bruises as an anodyne fomentation. The use of opium for these purposes is chiefly confined to fairly well-to-do people, for although its medicinal properties are well known, its price puts it beyond the reach of the poorer class of cattle owners. They would, however, use it if it was cheaper. Small quantities of opium are used with the spices, "masalas," that are given to horses and ponies when going on a long journey, such as those owned by ekka drivers. These "masalas" are given to the horse or pony before starting on the journey and at intervals on the road when they stop to rest. The small quantity of opium given

in these cases acts as a stimulant, and enables the animal to undergo a greater amount of fatigue than he would be able to do without it. I have never seen or heard of any ill results from this practice. In my opinion opium is one of the few drugs that can be obtained in any ordinary village shop that is of much value in veterinary medicine, and if it cannot be obtained I fail to see what can be substituted for it. Of the use and therapeutic action of opium in veterinary practice it is unnecessary for me to speak except to say that it and its alkaloids are perhaps more largely prescribed than any other drug. Full accounts of its actions and uses can be found in any standard work on veterinary medicine or therapeutics, such as "Williams, Veterinary Medicine," "Robertson's Equine Medicine," "Cruze's Traité pratique des Maladies de l'espèce Bovine," "Finlay Dun's Veterinary Medicines," "Kaufman's Précis de Thérapeutique Vétérinaire."

APP. XV.
Delhi Gaol.

STATEMENT showing the PRISONERS in the DELHI GAOL who were confirmed OPIUM-EATERS and in by Surgeon-Major DENNIS

Serial No.	Register No.	Name of Prisoner.	Father's Name.	Caste.	Age.	Occupation.	Residence.			Crime.	Class of Prisoner.	Date of Admission into Gaol.
							Village.	Tehseel.	District.			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.				9.	10.	11.
1	7478	Sital Parshad	Shoo Lal	Bakal, Hindu.	38	Service	Delhi	Delhi	Delhi	Lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night, Sec. 457, I.P.C.	Casual	17 Nov. 1893
2	6854	Bani Singh	Dowlut Singh	Jat, Hindu	28	Cultivator	Bahara, Kaseen.	Gurgaon	Gurgaon	Escape from custody, Sec. 224, I. P. C.	Do.	18 March 1893
3	7223	Toonda	Basao	Goojur, Hindu.	55	Do.	Beri Futtehpoor.	Balah-gurh.	Delhi	Dishonestly receiving stolen property, Sec. 411, I. P. C.	Do.	17 Aug. 1893
4	7340	Sham Lall	Thakur Dass	Bania, Hindu.	57	Shop-keeper.	Dasuab	Meerat	Meerat City.	Cheating, Sec. 420, I. P. C.	Do.	21 Sept. 1893
5	5806	Mohur Singh	Tek Ram	Jat, Hindu	50	Cultivator	Kasni	Jhajjar	Rhotak	Murder, Sec. 302, I. P. C.	Do.	30 April 1891
6	7342	Ganga Din	Madari	Jolah, Hindu.	45	Service	Anoroha	Bonge	Cawn-pore.	Dishonestly receiving stolen property, Sec. 411, I. P. C.	Do.	22 Sept. 1893
7	7320	Ahmad	Mahdi Bux	Sheikh, Mohamedan.	20	Shop-keeper.	Rewari		Gurgaon	Bad livelihood, Sec. 107, C. P. C.	Do.	12 Sept. 1893
8	7123	Gandal	Bhakhari	Dhobi, Mohamedan.	30	Labour	Maldoth	Balah-garh.	Rhotak	Bad livelihood Sec. 109, C. P. C.	Do.	5 July 1893
9	Under trial.	Rahim Bux	Khuda Bux	Mogul, Mohamedan.	35	Faqir		Delhi City		Under trial	Do.	8 Dec. 1893
10	5450	Karim Khan	Aziz Khan	Sheikh, Mohamedan.	48	Service		Amballa City		Theft, Sec. 379-75, I. P. C.	Habitual	26 June 1889
11	6519	Elahi Bux	Ala Bux	Do.	13	Labour	Delhi City.		Sadar-Bazar	Theft, 379, I. P. C.	Do.	25 Oct. 1892
12	7092	Fazla	Wajiullah	Do.	22	Dyer		Delhi City		Do.	Do.	14 June 1893
13	7083	Abdulla	Khuda Bux	Do.	22	Labour		Do.		Theft in building, Sec. 380, I. P. C.	Do.	6 June 1893
14	5516	Abu	Amir	Do.	—	Do.		Do.		Theft, Sec. 379, I. P. C.	Do.	8 Sept. 1891
15	5074	Kallu	Munna	Barber, Mohamedan.	40	Do.		Do.		Do.	Do.	8 April 1891
16	5992	Chandu	Gilzari	Bakal, Hindu.	40	Do.		Do.		Do.	Do.	1 April 1892
17	7285	Bup Singh	Teka	Rajput, Hindu.	22	Service		Do.		Dishonestly receiving stolen property, Sec. 411, I. P. C.	Do.	1 Sept. 1891
18	6702	Burkat Ali	Pir Ali	Syed, Mohamedan.	26	Do.		Meerut City		Theft, Sec. 379, I. P. C.	Do.	13 Jan. 1893
19	5788	Abdul Ghafor	Abdulla	Pathan, Mohamedan.	30	Service	Patodi State		Gurgaon	Sec. 457, I. P. C., lurking house-trespass or house-breaking by night.	Do.	15 Dec. 1892
20	6817	Abdul Hamid	Nabi Bux	Sheikh, Mohamedan.	30	Labour		Delhi City		Theft, Sec. 379, I. P. C.	Do.	28 Feb. 1893
21	4080	Shamsudin	Abdul Rahman	Do.	50	Do.		Do.		House-breaking by night, Sec. 454, I. P. C.	Do.	4 March 1891
22	6849	Alladad	Tooran	Pathan, Mohamedan.	43	Cultivator	Bannu		Bannu	House-breaking by night, Sec. 458, I. P. C.	Do.	30 March 1890

DIX XV.

APP. XV.

Delhi Gaol

SMOKERS when admitted into the Gaol, prepared on 10th December 1893, and handed on January 22nd, 1894.

Quantity of Opium-eating Daily in Grains.	What sort of Sickness occurred after leaving Opium.	How long Sickness lasted after leaving Opium.	On what Account Opium was commenced and since when.	Admission into Hospital for Fever, with Dates.	Whether suffering from Spleen or not; if so, since when.	Any defect in Temper after leaving Opium.	Present state of Health.	Weight on Admission into Gaol in Pounds.	Present Weight in Pounds.	Remarks.
12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.
Smoking opium, 90 grains.	Bonesache, dysentery, and pains in chest.	1 month	Pain in chest, and catarrh, &c., 8 years.	Nil - -	No - -	No - -	Bad - -	88	91	Released before January 22nd 1894.
Eating opium, 90 grains.	Diarrhoea, dysentery, slight fever, bonesache.	1 "	Cheerfulness, 6 years.	Nil - -	No - -	No - -	Fair - -	156	155	
Eating opium, 2 grains.	Dysentery, bonesache, slight fever.	15 days -	Bleeding nose, 3 years.	Nil - -	No - -	No - -	Indifferent	106	111	
Eating opium, 1½ grains.	Headache and catarrh.	1½ months	Asthma, 3 years.	Nil - -	Slight spleen.	No - -	Bad - -	112	107	Had spleen before commencing opium.
Eating opium, 45 grains, 60 grains.	Diarrhoea, dysentery, bonesache, exhaustion.	2 "	Cheerfulness, 20 years.	Nil - -	No - -	Indifferent	Fair	139	136	Was also a bhang-drinker and charus-smoker, and has been more or less insane since admission into gaol.
Eating opium, 8 grains.	Dysentery, bonesache.	1 month	Sleeplessness, dyspepsia, and cough, 9 months.	19 Oct. 1893	No - -	No - -	Indifferent	88	88	
Eating opium, 4 grains.	Diarrhoea, dysentery, bonesache.	20 days -	Cough, 2 years.	7 Nov. 1893	Very enlarged spleen, 10 years.	No - -	Bad - -	96	98	Cough has only ceased since he came to gaol and discontinued opium.
Eating opium, 8 grains.	Diarrhoea, bonesache, &c.	15 " -	Cheerfulness, 4 years.	Nil - -	Slight spleen, 1 year.	No - -	Fair - -	118	120	Enormous spleen since 10 years which has not decreased since he commenced opium-eating.
Eating opium, 45 grains.	Dysentery - -	3 months	Diarrhoea, and dyspepsia, 1 year.	Nil - -	No - -	—	Bad - -	88	88	Released before January 22nd, 1894.
Eating opium, 90 grains.	Diarrhoea, dysentery, bonesache.	3 "	Cheerfulness, 35 years.	5 Sept. 1890, 15 Oct. 1891, 20 Dec. 1891, 6 Jan. 1892, 17 Mar. 1893, 15 Sept. 1892, 7 Sept. 1893, 14 Sept. 1893.	—	Indifferent	Indifferent	134	125	Died on 22nd December 1893 of perforation of intestine by dysenteric ulcer toricula.
Eating opium, 10 grains.	Diarrhoea, dysentery, bonesache, slight fever.	4 "	Cough, rheumatism, 4 years.	9 March 1893, 23 Nov. 1892.	Slight spleen, 3 years.	Do.	Bad - -	84	89	This man never stopped eating opium, more or less, after coming into gaol, for he admits that he obtained it surreptitiously through the gaol officials and that he sold his milk for opium.
Eating opium, 22 grains.	Diarrhoea, dysentery, bonesache.	2 "	Lumbago, 4 years.	2 Dec. 1893 -	No - -	No - -	Fair - -	88	127	Had spleen before he commenced taking opium. It has considerably increased since he came
Eating opium, 24 grains.	Diarrhoea, dysentery, &c., bonesache.	2 "	Catarrh and dyspepsia, 6 years.	Nil - -	No - -	No - -	Indifferent	102	107	Released before 22nd January 1894.
Smoking opium, 90 grains.	Diarrhoea, catarrh, and bonesache.	1½ "	Rheumatic pain, 12 years.	15 Nov. 1893	No - -	No - -	Fair - -	116	123	Released before 22nd January 1894.
Eating opium, 48 grains.	Diarrhoea, dysentery, and bonesache.	2 "	Asthma ague (b) 7 years.	2 Dec. 1893 -	No - -	No - -	Indifferent	105	113	Transferred to Montgomery.
Eating opium, 12 grains.	Bonesache - -	6 "	Asthma, 13 years.	6 June 1893	No - -	No - -	Do. - -	102	107	
Eating opium, 4 grains.	Dysentery and bonesache.	2 "	Cough and syphilis, 2 years.	Nil - -	No - -	No - -	Do. - -	104	106	
Eating opium, 12 grains.	Diarrhoea, dysentery, and bonesache, slight fever.	3 "	Rheumatic pain, 3 years.	18 Nov. 1893	Slight spleen, 2 years.	No - -	Bad - -	109	110	Has developed spleen since he came to gaol.
Eating opium, 24 grains.	Diarrhoea, dysentery, bonesache.	1½ months	Ophthalmia, 4 years.	30 June 1893	No - -	No - -	Fair - -	124	123	Released 19th January 1894.
Eating opium, 90 grains.	Do. - -	1 month	Ulcer on his legs, 10 years.	9 May 1893 -	No - -	No - -	Fair - -	98	122	
Eating opium, 45 grains.	Do. - -	3 months	Syphilitic rheumatism, 22 years.	20 Nov. 1893	No - -	No - -	Bad - -	100	100	
Eating opium, 15 grains.	Nil - -	Nil - -	Hysteria, 13 years.	Nil - -	No - -	No - -	Bad - -	125	119	He left off opium on account of pneumonia in gaol last month. Before that he used to get more or less opium in gaol daily through the officials.

APP. XV.
Delhi Gaol.

Serial No.	Register No.	Name of Prisoner.	Father's Name.	Caste.	Age.	Occupation.	Residence.			Crime.	Class of Prisoner.	Date of Admission into Gaol.
							Village.	Tehseel.	District.			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.				9.	10.	11.
23	6712	Mohamed Usman.	Nanni Khan -	Pathan, Mo-hamedan.	24	Labour -	Delhi City	-	-	Theft in building, Sec. 380, I. P. C.	Habitual	17 Jan. 1893 -
24	6842	Jagan Nath -	Bihari Lall -	Sovar, Hindu.	53	Do.	Do.	-	-	Do.	Do.	14 March 1893
25	6300	Mannu	Elahi Bux -	Sheikh, Mo-hamedan.	28	Do.	Do.	-	-	Do.	Do.	29 July 1892 -
26	7533	Shersis -	Imam Ali -	Syud, Mo-hamedan.	51	Do.	Do.	-	-	Theft, Sec. 379, I. P. C.	Do.	18 Dec. 1893 -
27	7096	Mashalla -	Abdar Rahman	Sheikh, Mo-hamedan.	28	Coolie -	Do.	-	-	Dishonestly receiving stolen property, Sec. 411, I. P. C.	Do.	17 June 1893 -
28	7230	Janqi -	Chanda -	Jat, Hindu	70	Cultivator	Mabeda	Delhi	Delhi	Theft, I. P. C., Sec. 379-75.	Do.	21 Aug. 1893 -
29	7024	Elahi Bux -	Ahmad Khan	Sheikh, Mo-hamedan.	62	Beggar -	Delhi City	-	-	Sec. 380, I. P. C., theft in building.	Do.	23 May 1893 -
30	6919	Jatta -	Srigopal -	Bokal, Hindu.	45	Shop-keeper.	Do.	-	-	Cheating, Sec. 417, I. P. C.	Do.	24 April 1893 -
31	7493	Kunja -	Nouba -	Barber, Hindu.	30	Labour -	Do.	-	-	Sec. 457, I. P. C., house-breaking by night.	Do.	22 Dec. 1893 -
32	7414	Mira -	Basti -	Sonar, Hindu.	24	Do.	Amballa Cantonment	-	-	Theft, Sec. 379-75, I. P. C.	Do.	16 Oct. 1893 -
33	7256	Nizamuddin	Ali Bux -	Mogul, Mo-hamedan.	26	Begging -	Delhi City	-	-	Sec. 457, I. P. C., house-breaking by night.	Do.	31 Aug. 1893 -
34	3893	Behari -	Mousa -	Gomar, Hindu.	20	Labour -	Do.	-	-	Theft, Sec. 379, I. P. C.	Do.	7 Jan. 1891 -
35	7299	Moula Bux -	Fooja -	Mahigr, Mo-hamedan.	24	Do.	Rufar -	Umballa	-	Do.	Do.	12 Sept. 1893 -
36	7304	Karori -	Ram Parshad	Bakal, Hindu.	40	Do.	Delhi City	-	-	9 Act I. of 1878, 41 Act XXII. of 1881.	Do.	14 Sept. 1893 -
37	6825	Lal Chand -	Jiwan -	Kunjar, Hindu.	27	Do.	Delhi City.	Sarani Rohelkhan		Robbery, Sec. 395, I. P. C.	Do.	8 March 1893
38	8721	Hurnam -	Jia Ram -	Carpenter, Hindu.	48	Do.	Thajjor	Thajjor	Rhotak	Sec. 411, I. P. C., attempt of offence.	Do.	18 Jan. 1893 -
39	6847	Ghulam Nabi Shah.	Amir Shah -	Syed, Mo-hamedan.	45	Cultivator	Shabidgarh	-	Gujrat	Sec. 457, I. P. C., house-breaking by night.	Do.	10 Aug. 1880 -
40	7026	Nathun -	Jabrah -	Sodah, Hindu.	50	Carpenter	Delhi City	-	-	Sec. 454, 411, I. P. C., house-breaking.	Do.	25 May 1893 -

App. XV.
 Delhi Gaol.

Quantity of Opium-eating Daily in Grains.	What sort of Sickness occurred after leaving Opium.	How long Sickness lasted after leaving Opium.	On what Account Opium was commenced and since when.	Admission into Hospital for Fever, with Dates.	Whether suffering from Spleen or not; if so, since when.	Any defect in Temper after leaving Opium.	Present state of Health.	Weight on Admission into Gaol in Pounds.	Present Weight in Pounds.	Remarks.
12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.
Eating opium, 2½ grains.	Diarrhoea, bones- ache.	3 months	Syphilis, 4 years.	Nil - -	No -	No -	Indifferent	90	101 104	
Eating opium, 90 grains.	Diarrhoea, dysen- tery, bonesache, slight fever.	2 "	Catarrh, 7 years.	Nil - -	No -	No -	Do. -	86	116	
Eating opium, 24 grains.	Diarrhoea, and bonesache.	2 "	Rheumatic pain, 5 years.	Nil - -	No -	No -	Fair -	99	105	
Smoking opium, 180 grains.	Diarrhoea, cough, bonesache.	1 month	Rheumatic pain, 11 years.	Nil - -	No -	No -	Bad -	87	87 93	Is being broken of the habit now and is in hospital as a result suffering from diar- rhoea, cough, aching bones, and general feeling of wretchedness.
Eating opium, 45 grains.	Diarrhoea, dysen- tery, bonesache.	1 "	Do. -	Nil - -	No -	Fair -	—	98	105 109	
Eating opium, 8 grains.	Do. - -	2 months	Catarrh, 24 years.	Nil - -	Nil -	No -	Bad -	118	130 133	
Do. -	Dysentery, bones- ache.	4 "	Rheumatic pain and catarrh, 6 years.	Nil - -	No -	No -	Bad -	100	109 107	
Eating opium, 2 grains only cold season.	Dysentery and bonesache.	1½ "	Rheumatic pain and catarrh, 5 years.	Nil - -	No -	No -	Indifferent	101	105	
Smoking opium, 90 grains.	Dysentery and bonesache.	1½ "	Rheumatic pain and catarrh, 5 years.	Nil - -	No -	No -	Do. -	110	108 107	
Eating opium, 8 grains.	Bonesache -	1 month	Cheerfulness and lumbago, 2 years.	Nil - -	No -	No -	Do. -	123	126	Transfer to Montgomery Gaol on 24th December 1893.
Smoking opium, 90 grains.	Bonesache, catarrh.	1 "	Dysentery, 7 years.	Nil - -	Very slight spleen.	No -	Bad -	92	103 105	Spleen commenced about 10 months ago, <i>i.e.</i> , while he was still taking opium (smoking).
Eating opium, 16 grains.	Bonesache -	3 months	Toothache, 2 years.	Nil - -	No -	No -	Indifferent	98	107 103	
Eating opium, 22 grains.	Cough, bonesache, diarrhoea, dys- entery.	2 "	Ague (c) and cough, 9 years.	Nil - -	Very slight spleen, 6 months.	No -	Bad -	96	101 104	Spleen commenced since ad- mission into gaol.
Eating opium, 45 grains.	Dysentery, bones- ache, lumbago.	3 "	Cough and hydrocele, 7 years.	Nil - -	No -	No -	Bad -	101	108 112	
Eating opium, 8 grains.	Bonesache -	1 month	Cough, 1 year.	Nil - -	Very slight spleen, 1 year.	No -	Indifferent	98	100 102	Spleen commenced since ad- mission into gaol.
Eating opium, 2 grains.	Do. - -	15 days -	Catarrh, 2 years.	Nil - -	No -	No -	Do. -	102	104	Released before 22nd January 1894.
Eating opium, 2½ grains.	Dysentery, diarr- hoea, bonesache, slight fever.	2½ months	Lumbago, 15 years.	Nil - -	No -	No -	Do. -	127	113 115	
Eating opium, 1 grain.	Bonesache -	15 days -	Cough, 1 year.	Nil - -	Very slight spleen, 6 years.	No -	Bad -	85	85 84	Has had spleen for about six years. It has much de- creased in size of late.

APP. XVI.

Suicides.

APPENDIX XVI.

STATEMENTS REGARDING THE NUMBER OF SUICIDES ATTRIBUTED TO OPIUM IN INDIA.

I.

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of SUICIDES in the MADRAS CITY during the past FIVE YEARS.

Years.	No. of Suicides.	Proportion due to Poisoning by Opium.	Remarks.
1889 - - - -	24	Nil	One case of poisoning by opium occurred during the year. It was self-administered, but verdict of death by misadventure was returned.
1890 - - - -	32	"	
1891 - - - -	44	"	
1892 - - - -	50	"	
1893 - - - -	31*	"	
			* Up to date.

Note.—In April 1893, an East Indian attempted to commit suicide by drinking tincture of opium. He recovered (under treatment) and was prosecuted and convicted under section 309, Indian Penal Code.

(Signed) H. W. H. Cox, Colonel,
Commissioner of Police.

II.

STATEMENT of SUICIDES in the MADRAS PRESIDENCY (excluding Madras City) during the Years 1888 to 1892.

Districts.	1888.			1889.			1890.			1891.			1892.		
	Suicides.	Suicides by Opium Poisoning.	Proportion.	Suicides.	Suicides by Opium Poisoning.	Proportion.	Suicides.	Suicides by Opium Poisoning.	Proportion.	Suicides.	Suicides by Opium Poisoning.	Proportion.	Suicides.	Suicides by Opium Poisoning.	Proportion.
Ganjam - -	102	—	—	101	—	—	98	—	—	80	—	—	94	—	—
Vizagapatam -	84	—	—	87	—	—	111	—	—	86	—	—	90	1	1.1
Jeypore - -	21	—	—	15	—	—	18	—	—	15	—	—	14	—	—
Godavari - -	150	2	1.3	150	1	.7	174	—	—	156	—	—	134	—	—
Kistna - -	114	—	—	117	—	—	120	—	—	112	—	—	89	—	—
Nellore - -	133	—	—	133	—	—	132	—	—	117	—	—	112	—	—
Kurnool - -	81	—	—	69	—	—	92	—	—	81	—	—	76	—	—
Bellary - -	41	—	—	60	—	—	40	—	—	49	—	—	43	—	—
Anantapur -	40	—	—	35	—	—	52	—	—	42	—	—	26	—	—
Cuddapah -	193	—	—	165	—	—	146	—	—	150	—	—	177	—	—
North Arcot -	137	—	—	153	—	—	118	—	—	130	—	—	143	—	—
Chingleput -	62	—	—	59	—	—	64	—	—	41	—	—	61	—	—
South Arcot -	76	—	—	72	—	—	51	—	—	62	—	—	84	—	—
Tanjore - -	36	—	—	45	—	—	40	—	—	45	—	—	55	—	—
Trichinopoly -	56	—	—	65	—	—	55	—	—	40	—	—	55	—	—
Madura - -	90	—	—	112	—	—	102	—	—	49	—	—	101	—	—
Tinnivelly -	143	—	—	132	—	—	167	—	—	136	—	—	146	—	—
Salem - -	78	—	—	59	—	—	57	1	1.8	82	—	—	72	—	—
Coimbatore -	110	—	—	95	—	—	133	—	—	112	—	—	111	—	—
Nilgiris - -	4	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
Malabar - -	109	—	—	94	—	—	110	—	—	129	—	—	111	—	—
South Canara -	89	—	—	63	—	—	58	—	—	54	—	—	79	—	—
Total - -	1,949	2	.1	1,883	1	.05	1,930	1	.05	1,840	—	—	1,874	1	.05

Chief Office of the Inspector-General of Police,
Madras, January 29, 1894.

(Signed) J. MEREDITH,
Assistant Inspector-General of Police.

(True copy)

(Signed) C. GALTON,
Secretary to Government.

III.

APP. XVI.
Suicides.

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of SUICIDES which have occurred in the BOMBAY PRESIDENCY during the past FIVE Years, and of the PROPORTION of them shown in each Year to have been due to POISONING by OPIUM.

Districts.	Total Number of Suicides during the Year.						Number of Suicides during the Year which have been due to Poisoning by Opium.						Proportion of Suicides by Poisoning by Opium to the Total Number of Suicides during the Year.					
	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Town and Island of Bombay -	—	89	67	86	87	84	—	33	27	26	26	19	—	1'24	1'24	1'3	1'3	1'44
Bombay Presidency -	663	735	758	749	794	—	37	48	57	44	66	—	1'18	1'15	1'13	1'17	1'12	—
Province of Sind -	—	35	44	31	27	40	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	1'22	1'8	—	—

IV.

STATEMENT* showing the TOTAL NUMBER of SUICIDES in BENGAL, and the PROPORTION of them reported to be due to OPIUM from 1888-92.

	Total No. of Suicides.	No. of Suicides by Opium.	Total No. of Suicides.	No. of Suicides by Opium.	Total No. of Suicides.	No. of Suicides by Opium.	Total No. of Suicides.	No. of Suicides by Opium.	Total No. of Suicides.	No. of Suicides by Opium.	Grand Total.	
	1888.		1889.		1890.		1891.		1892.		Total No. of Suicides.	No. of Suicides by Opium.
Calcutta and Suburbs.	84	26	83	24	84	27	64	23	87	47	402	147
All other districts.	2,327	153	2,317	261	2,509	150	2,903	394	2,836	423	13,392	1,381
Total -	2,411	179	2,900	285	2,593	177	2,967	417	2,923	470	18,794	1,528

* The following letter was received from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal with this Statement, dated 24th January 1894:—

SIR,
I AM directed to forward herewith a statement showing the total number of suicides, and the number due to opium poisoning which have occurred in the town of Calcutta and its suburbs, and all other districts in Bengal, during the years 1888 to 1892, both inclusive.

2. I am to add that the information has been obtained from police stations, and the Lieutenant-Governor fears that, with the exception of the Calcutta figures, it is far from accurate. From a few districts it has been found impossible to procure statistics of the number of deaths by opium, as the figures are not available.

V.

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of SUICIDES in the NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES and OUDH during the Years 1888 to 1892, and the PROPORTION due to OPIUM POISONING.

Districts.	Total Number of Suicides.					Proportion due to Poisoning by Opium.				
	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
Dehra Dun -	6	5	1	3	2	1	—	1	—	1
Saharanpur -	26	24	20	24	26	4	1	—	—	—
Muzaffarnagar -	40	18	35	34	38	1	—	1	—	—
Meerut -	65	85	70	65	110	0	0	1	3	4
Bulundshahr -	44	56	60	59	47	—	1	2	1	1
Aligarh -	72	79	73	73	56	6	3	2	4	3
Muttra -	37	42	37	28	24	2	—	3	2	—
Agra -	112	125	82	59	79	1	3	2	1	2
Farrakhabad -	170	141	120	150	105	105	89	73	100	80
Mainpuri -	100	83	86	77	74	11	9	15	9	25
Etawah -	64	58	53	58	32	24	24	12	25	8

APP. XVI.
Suicides.

Districts.	Total Number of Suicides.					Proportion due to Poisoning by Opium.				
	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
Etah - - - - -	114	85	68	56	50	10	17	6	18	12
Bijnor - - - - -	16	22	27	29	45	—	2	—	2	1
Moradabad - - - - -	21	23	23	17	21	—	1	—	—	3
Bareilly - - - - -	31	44	36	44	32	22	7	14	19	11
Pilibhit - - - - -	21	20	14	16	17	1	—	2	2	2
Shahjahanpur - - - - -	147	130	115	138	129	6	4	—	5	8
Budaun - - - - -	73	48	46	55	48	29	21	24	25	24
Cawnpore - - - - -	71	96	75	66	53	31	43	33	39	26
Fatehpur - - - - -	45	60	45	55	47	7	8	6	10	3
Hamirpur - - - - -	84	84	89	86	79	2	1	—	3	5
Banda - - - - -	62	67	56	54	52	3	0	0	1	5
Allahabad - - - - -	81	89	90	83	76	8	7	4	7	4
Jhansi - - - - -	78	103	116	82	95	1	2	—	1	3
Jalaun - - - - -	80	86	87	66	60	—	2	3	3	1
Ghazipur - - - - -	62	69	89	62	66	12	5	10	11	9
Ballia - - - - -	31	42	50	42	30	9	13	5	7	7
Benares - - - - -	29	63	44	49	23	1	1	1	2	—
Mirzapur - - - - -	63	58	87	67	60	3	2	1	1	1
Jaunpur - - - - -	71	87	60	95	72	—	—	—	1	1
Gorakhpur - - - - -	50	72	72	84	76	12	23	9	13	23
Basti - - - - -	21	29	19	22	27	1	5	4	3	3
Azamgarh - - - - -	123	159	155	203	151	3	13	8	17	6
Almora - - - - -	15	12	24	25	30	—	—	2	—	—
Garhwal - - - - -	45	27	25	48	43	—	—	—	—	—
Naini Tal - - - - -	3	1	1	2	8	—	—	1	1	—
Lucknow - - - - -	41	44	37	39	37	1	6	8	11	4
Unao - - - - -	44	44	51	43	61	4	2	5	4	8
Rae Bareli - - - - -	67	70	92	57	74	10	4	6	4	4
Sitapur - - - - -	85	107	81	96	102	12	18	21	24	19
Hardoi - - - - -	128	145	138	170	146	36	29	36	53	27
Kheri - - - - -	38	41	70	60	55	7	4	5	13	9
Fyzabad - - - - -	45	50	62	75	65	1	1	1	—	—
Gonda - - - - -	23	26	28	30	34	2	—	—	1	—
Baraich - - - - -	16	22	20	11	17	1	—	—	1	—
Bara Banki - - - - -	40	38	51	61	45	2	2	2	5	6
Sultanpur - - - - -	65	78	69	84	76	—	—	—	—	—
Partabgarh - - - - -	67	70	63	76	58	9	12	10	16	8
Total of North-western Provinces and Oudh -	2,832	3,027	2,882	2,985	2,753	401	383	339	468	363

VI.

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of SUICIDES by OPIUM POISONING in the DISTRICTS of the PUNJAB during the past FIVE YEARS.

Serial No.	Districts.	Number of Suicides.	No. of Suicides included in Col. 3, due to Poisoning by Opium.	Remarks.	Serial No.	Districts.	Number of Suicides.	No. of Suicides included in Col. 3, due to Poisoning by Opium.	Remarks.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
<i>Eastern Circle.</i>					<i>Western Circle.</i>				
1	Hissar - - -	92	—		19	Sialkot - - -	67	7	Doubtful whether the drug was opium.
2	Rohtak - - -	161	—		20	Gujrat - - -	31	2	
3	Gurgaon - - -	551	1		21	Gujranwala - -	37	3	
4	Delhi - - -	296	16		22	Shahpur - - -	6	1	
5	Karnal - - -	31	3						
6	Umballa - - -	88	13						
7	Simla - - -	21	12						
8	Kangra - - -	136	8		23	Jhelum - - -	14	3	
9	Hoshiarpur - -	172	19		24	Rawalpindi - -	28	3	
10	Jullundur - - -	138	21		25	Hazara - - -	3	—	
11	Ludhiana - - -	103	17		26	Peshawar - - -	19	1	
12	Ferozepur - - -	106	27		27	Kohat - - -	2	—	
13	Multan - - -	17	1		28	Bannu - - -	13	—	
14	Jhang - - -	11	1		29	D. I. Khan - - -	15	3	
15	Montgomery - -	14	—		30	D. G. Khan - - -	13	—	
16	Lahore - - -	87	18		31	Muzaffargarh - -	10	—	
17	Amritsar - - -	124	32						
18	Gurdaspur - - -	85	14						
Total -							2,491	226	

VII.

APP. XVI.
Suicides.

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of SUICIDES which have occurred in BURMA, and the PROPORTION of these due to POISONING by OPIUM, for the Years 1889 to 1893.

Name of District.	1889.		1890.		1891.		1892.		1893.	
	Number of Suicides.	Percentage due to Poisoning by Opium.	Number of Suicides.	Percentage due to Poisoning by Opium.	Number of Suicides.	Percentage due to Poisoning by Opium.	Number of Suicides.	Percentage due to Poisoning by Opium.	Number of Suicides.	Percentage due to Poisoning by Opium.
Akyab - - -	2	—	5	—	2	—	2	—	(a)	—
Northern Arakan - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	(a)	—
Kyaukpypu - - -	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	(a)	—
Sandoway - - -	2	—	4	—	3	33·33	2	—	—	—
Rangoon Town - - -	4	—	2	—	4	—	4	—	—	—
Hanthawaddy - - -	4	—	1	—	3	—	2	50·	—	—
Pegu - - -	3	—	3	—	14	—	11	9·90	15	—
Tharrawaddy - - -	11	—	10	—	8	—	8	—	—	—
Prome - - -	4	25·	1	—	2	—	4	—	—	—
Thongwa - - -	12	8·33	7	14·29	4	—	10	10·	16	6·25
Bassein - - -	9	—	6	—	6	16·67	13	—	6	33·33
Henzada - - -	5	—	14	14·29	9	22·22	11	9·09	6	—
Amherst - - -	12	8·33	17	—	5	—	6	—	—	—
Tavoy - - -	7	—	7	—	7	—	6	—	7	—
Mergui - - -	—	—	2	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
Toungoo - - -	3	—	2	—	1	—	2	—	(a)	—
Shwegyin - - -	5	—	4	—	10	—	4	—	(a)	—
Salween - - -	5	—	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Mandalay - - -	1	—	13	15·38	6	16·67	8	12·50	—	—
Bhamo - - -	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	3	—
Katha - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Shwebo - - -	—	—	4	—	4	—	1	—	—	—
Ruby Mines - - -	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Ye-u - - -	4	—	3	—	5	—	4	—	(a)	—
Sagaing - - -	7	—	5	—	3	—	9	—	(a)	—
Lower Chindwin - - -	3	—	7	—	5	—	7	—	(a)	—
Upper Chindwin - - -	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	—	(a)	—
Myingyan - - -	1	—	7	—	12	—	3	—	(a)	—
Pakokku - - -	—	—	1	—	4	—	4	—	—	—
Minbu - - -	8	—	1	—	13	—	5	—	—	—
Thayetmyo - - -	3	—	5	—	5	—	4	—	—	—
Magwe - - -	5	—	5	—	19	—	9	—	—	—
Kyaukse - - -	1	—	2	—	2	—	6	—	(a)	—
Meiktila - - -	5	—	6	—	7	—	4	—	(a)	—
Yamethin - - -	7	—	3	—	4	—	1	—	(a)	—
Pyinmana - - -	1	—	3	—	2	—	1	—	(a)	—

(a) Not available.

The figures given in the columns headed "Number of Suicides" for the years 1889 to 1892 are taken from Statement H, published in the Appendices to the Burma Police Reports. The figures given in that column for 1893 are taken from Reports of District Officers.

VIII.

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of SUICIDES, and the PROPORTION of them due to OPIUM POISONING in the CENTRAL PROVINCES for 1889-93.

Division.	Districts.	Number of Suicides reported during 1889-93.	Number of Suicides resulting from Opium.	Remarks.
NAGPUR - - -	Nagpur - - -	350	10	The statistics for 1893 are up to 21st December.
	Chanda - - -	157	Nil.	
	Wardha - - -	156	5	
	Bhandara - - -	282	1	
	Balaghat - - -	93	2	
JUBBULPORE - - -	Jubbulpore - - -	181	1	The statistics for 1893 are up to 18th December.
	Saugor - - -	222	7	
	Damoh - - -	230	6	
	Seoni - - -	68	2	
	Mandla - - -	43	4	
NERBUDDA - - -	Hoshangabad - - -	21	3	The statistics for 1893 are up to 22nd December.
	Nimar - - -	25	Nil.	
	Betul - - -	54	2	
	Narsinghpur - - -	115	Nil.	
	Chhindwara - - -	137	6	
CHHATTISGARH DIVISION	Raipur - - -	317	8	The statistics for 1893 are up to 26th December.
	Bilaspur - - -	71	Nil.	
	Sambalpur - - -	136	9	

APP. XVI.

Suicides.

IX.

STATEMENT showing the NUMBER of SUICIDES which occurred in the PROVINCE OF ASSAM, and the NUMBER due to POISONING by OPIUM during the Years 1888-92.

Districts.	Population according to the Census of 1891.	Number of Suicides.					Total.	Number due to Poisoning by Opium.					Total.	Remarks.
		1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.		1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.		
1 Cachar - - -	386,483	6	4	8	2	7	27	—	—	1	—	—	1	No records kept in 1888-89 from which the statistics could be collected.
2 Sylhet - - -	2,154,693	24	15	25	20	23	107	1	—	—	—	—	1	
3 Goalpara - - -	462,304	6	3	6	4	1	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	
4 Kamrup - - -	684,240	27	40	30	22	10	125	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5 Darrang - - -	307,761	10	8	13	13	15	59	—	2	2	2	1	7	
6 Nowgong - - -	344,141	2	2	2	2	4	12	—	—	3	—	—	3	
7 Sibsagar - - -	457,274	12	15	8	3	13	51	—	—	—	1	—	1	
8 Lakhimpur - - -	254,053	9	11	8	—	19	47	—	4	—	—	3	7	
9 Naga Hills - - -	122,887	—	2	—	1	4	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	
10 Khasi and Jaintia Hills	197,964	2	5	5	6	2	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	
11 Garo Hills - - -	121,570	—	—	7	18	9	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total - - -	5,433,199	94	105	112	91	107	509	1	6	6	3	4	20	
Proportion of deaths from opium poisoning to total number of suicides								1.06	5.71	5.35	3.29	3.73	3.92	

APP. XVII.

Behar.

APPENDIX XVII.

MEMORIAL from the BEHAR INDIGO PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION.

From the BEHAR INDIGO PLANTERS ASSOCIATION to the Right Honourable LORD BRASSEY, President, Royal Commission on Opium.

Dated, Mozufferpore, 28th January, 1894.

1. That the memorialists have collectively the largest interests in the land question in Behar, and are in daily business and social connexion with the landlords and tenants.

2. That your memorialists have an intimate knowledge of the cultivation of opium, and the circumstances attending it.

3. That they have no knowledge of such cultivation being a forced one in any sense of the term, but that they know as a fact that opium is grown willingly, that the crop is a remunerative one to the cultivators, that a large proportion of the field work is done by the female members of the family who would not work for a wage, and that consequently no estimate of cost on the basis of hired labour can reasonably be applied.

4. That it is unfair to limit the profit received by the cultivator to the amount of opium taken in by him to the godown, there is a large demand for poppy seed which forms an important article of commerce, and that the whole of the benefit derived from the sale of it goes to the cultivators.

5. That the general consensus of opinion is not opposed to the use of opium; that under certain conditions its action is distinctly beneficial; and that, without doubt, the prohibition of its use would arouse a keen sense of irritation, if not hostility among many millions of our fellow subjects.

6. That the ill-effects of the use of opium even in excess are not to be for one moment compared with those of alcohol, and that it acts rather as a preventive than an incitement to crime.

7. That in the present state of the country it will not be possible to supply the revenue now derived from opium, from any other source without resorting to extreme measures of taxation, which hardly any circumstances could justify.

8. That so far as your memorialists are aware of, no servant has ever been dismissed from his employment in an indigo factory for excessive indulgence in opium.

9. That your memorialists desire to protest most respectfully, but emphatically, against the views held by some members of the Royal Commission on Opium now sitting. That they believe these views to be erroneous, not founded on fact, and contradicted by the opinion of the country.

E. MACNAGHTEN,
General Secretary.

APPENDIX XVIII.

APP. XVIII.
N. W. Prov.

RESOLUTION PASSED by the NORTH-WEST PROVINCE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH CONFERENCE.

DEAR SIR, Lucknow, 27th February, 1894.
I HAVE been directed by the North-West India Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to forward to the Opium Commission the following resolution in regard to opium. Will you kindly lay it before the Commission?

Yours faithfully,

The Secretary, J. C. LAWSON,
Opium Commission, Secretary,
Bombay. North-West India Conference,
Methodist Episcopal Church,
Aligarh, India.

OPIUM.

The following resolution in regard to opium was presented and unanimously adopted:—

We, the native and foreign ministers of the North-West India Conference, connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church, wish to put on record that we are convinced that the manufacture and sale of opium for any purpose save for medical use is indefensible and morally wrong, and we deeply regret that the Government of India is entangled in this matter.

We have seen in our fields many cases of the ruin of men and their families by the use of opium, and in our experience we have not found any good to come from it in cases of fever.

We believe that the growth and manufacture of opium can be easily prohibited, and no harm will come from this prohibition to the land. The Secretary of the Conference is requested to forward a copy of this to the Opium Commission.

D. OSBORNE.	J. E. SCOTT.
P. M. BUCK.	C. H. PLOMER.
J. D. WEBB.	J. C. LAWSON.
C. LUKE.	ISARI PARSHAD.
J. CORNELIUS.	ROCKWELL CLANCY.
TAJ KHAN.	BHOLANATH.
D. RANSOM.	KALLU DAS.
RAM SAHAR.	Y. CORNELIUS.
ISA DASS.	JAMES LYON.
J. E. NEWSOM.	MAHBUB KHAN.
M. TINDALE.	H. R. KHAN.
R. HOSKINS.	FAZAL MASIH.
FAZL HAQQ.	D. BUCK.
J. SUMER.	J. F. DEATKER.
CHIMMAN LALL.	E. W. GAY.
CHUNNI LALL.	C. W. DE SOUZA.
PARBHU LALL.	T. HAQQ.
H. MANSELL.	E. T. FARNON.

APPENDIX XIX.

APP. XIX.
Burma.

MEMORIAL from the BURMA BRANCH, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

From Dr. N. N. PARAKH, Honorary Secretary, Burma Branch, British Medical Association, 52, Barr Street, to the SECRETARY to the Opium Commission.

DEAR SIR, Rangoon, 13th February, 1894.
I HAVE been asked to forward the accompanying draft, giving expression to the views of the Burma Branch of the British Medical Association, to your address, with a request that you will duly lay the same before the members of the Opium Commission.

I am, &c.

N. N. PARAKH,
Hon. Secretary,
B. B., B. M. A.

Rangoon, 13th February 1894.

The members of the Burma Branch of the British Medical Association being deeply interested in the questions now under investigation by the Opium Commission, and having many opportunities of observing the effects of the use of opium in this country, they desire to convey to them an expression of their opinion upon this subject, affecting as it does the welfare and happiness of the people among whom the members of this Association follow their profession either in the Government Service or as private practitioners.

They hold that opium is not only the most valuable medicine which Providence has bestowed upon the human race, but that its use is especially beneficial in

the treatment of many of the diseases peculiar to these climates and peoples, and that by its use a vast amount of suffering is relieved both by the hands of native practitioners as well as by those who follow European methods of practice.

While recognising the fact that the abuse of opium must be followed by injury, they believe that in small quantities it may be used for long periods without serious effects upon the system, and they feel convinced that the accounts which have been circulated in England concerning the effects arising from its habitual abuse have been greatly exaggerated by those engaged in promoting the agitation for its prohibition. They believe that the increasing use of alcoholic liquors in this country is giving rise to far more disease and crime than the use of opium.

The members of this Branch Association believe that the measures now adopted by the Government to regulate the traffic in and consumption of opium are in Burma more than sufficiently stringent to meet the necessities of the case, and that any effort of Government to prohibit or even to further to restrict its sale will only result in driving those who now use opium to take to much more harmful substitutes as alcoholic stimulants and hemp drugs.

N. N. PARAKH,
Honorary Secretary,
Burma Branch,
British Medical Association,
Rangoon.

APPENDIX XX.

From the VENERABLE the ARCHDEACON of LUCKNOW
to the SECRETARY TO THE OPIUM COMMISSION.

General No. 342.

SIR, Allahabad, March 13, 1894.
I HAVE the honour to forward to you, by the direction of the Lord Bishop of Lucknow, a memorial signed by 33 of the clergy of the Diocese. The total number of clergy in the Diocese is 81, of whom, however, 13 are absent on furlough. Of the remaining 68, 33 have signed the memorial; none have expressed their disagreement with it, but many of the younger men have felt themselves unqualified to have an opinion on the subject, while one or two have thought that no corporate expression of opinion was desirable unless directly called for by the Commission.

I have the honour to be Sir,
Your obedient servant,
BROOK DEEDES,
Archdeacon of Lucknow.

To the Right Honourable LORD BRASSEY, President
of the Opium Commission.

WE, the Bishop and undersigned Clergy of the Diocese of Lucknow, understanding that it is the wish of the Commission over which your Lordship presides to ascertain the opinion of representative classes of the community regarding the opium question, and knowing that it can be possible to examine as witnesses only a small fraction of those who have given attention to the subject, venture, as persons interested in all that concerns the moral welfare and general prosperity of the people of India, to lay our views before the Commission. In doing this we wish it to be understood that we confine ourselves strictly to that part of the subject upon which our residence in India and experience of its people give us some title to speak. We express no opinion here as to the morality of the relations of Government to the opium trade with China. Nor do we touch upon the question whether it was or was not, in the first instance, advisable to make opium a Government monopoly.

The view to which our experience and such inquiry as we have been able to make have led us, is that the question in its moral aspect is closely parallel to the alcohol question in Great Britain. Both opium and alcohol are liable to abuse, but we conceive that in the case of neither is Government justified in interfering with the liberty of the subject and promulgating any wholesale prohibitive measure unless it can be shown that the abuse is so widespread as to constitute a national danger.

We do not regard the abuse of opium, even by a limited number of persons, as a matter of small importance. The fact of such abuse, together with the considerable number of suicides which take place every year by means of opium-poisoning, and the common injurious use of the drug as a sedative for children, seem to show that there is need on the part of the authorities of the most careful watchfulness, and that additional legislative precautions as to its sale and use may possibly be required. On the other hand, there is evidence that large numbers of people in this country use opium medicinally with a view to resisting hurtful climatic influences, and that a still larger number, who do not take it for this purpose, yet use it in such moderation that it cannot be truly affirmed that they either physically or morally injure themselves by so doing.

As persons who have some knowledge of missions in this country, we may add that so far as our personal experience and our inquiries have gone, we are of opinion that it cannot be truly said that the connexion of Government with opium has hindered the success of mission work in India.

Under these circumstances we are disposed to think that a general prohibition of the use of opium in those parts of India of which we have any experience is uncalled for, and would produce greater evils than it was intended to remedy, and that Government can best serve the interests of morality, not by abolition, but by keeping a firm hand upon the production and distribution of the drug. General prohibition would mean hardship to a very large number of Her Majesty's subjects who now use opium temperately and without prejudice either to themselves or others. It would,

without sufficient cause, provoke discontent, and possibly lead to political disturbance. Among the more prosperous classes if opium were forbidden its place would probably be taken by more injurious stimulants. Among the poorer classes the increased taxation which would of necessity follow upon the loss of the opium revenue would be a genuine and serious grievance.

Signed—

- A. LUCKNOW, Bishop of Lucknow,
Bengal, 1874-92; N.W.P. and Oudh, 1893-4.
- BROOK DEEDES, Archdeacon of Lucknow,
Bengal, 1877-82; N.W.P., 1882-94.
- C. BAUMANN, Ph D., C.M.S. Missionary, Benares,
Bengal, 1868-87; N.W.P., 1892-4.
- E. M. BEASLEY, Chaplain of Faizabad,
Punjab, 1873-4, 1877-8; N.W.P., 1875-7,
1879-94.
- A. E. BOWLBY, C.M.S. Missionary, Aligarh,
N.W.P., 1884-94.
- H. BROWN, C.M.S. Missionary, Chunar,
Bengal, 1887-93; N.W.P., 1894.
- E. BULL, A.C.S. Chaplain, Tundla,
N.W.P., 1893-4.
- T. CARMICHAEL, C.M.S. Missionary, Dehra Dun,
N.W.P., 1886-94.
- F. J. CLARKE, Chaplain of Dehra,
N.W.P., 1885-94.
- J. I. B. COCKIN, Chaplain of Meerut,
Bengal, 1880-2; Central India, 1883-4;
N.W.P., 1885-94.
- R. A. CUMINE, Chaplain of Bareilly,
Bengal, 1881-2; N.W.P., 1882-6, 1889-94;
Punjab, 1886-9.
- G. B. DURRANT, Secretary C.M.S., Allahabad,
N.W.P. and Oudh, 1876-94.
- T. M. M. GRIFFITHS, Chaplain of Agra,
Bengal, 1881-7; N.W.P., 1887-9, 1892-4;
Punjab, 1890-1.
- J. W. HALL, C.M.S. Missionary,
Bengal, 1881-91; N.W.P., 1894.
- W. A. HAMILTON, Chaplain of Rurki,
Bengal, 1879-80, 1883-5, 1886-9; N.W.P. and
C.P., 1880-3, 1889-94.
- W. HOOPER, D.D., C.M.S. Missionary, Lucknow,
N.W.P., 1861-7, 1873-4, 1880-7, 1892-4;
Bengal, 1867-8; Punjab, 1874-9.
- F. H. T. HÖPFNER, S.P.G. Missionary, Rurki,
N.W.P., 1853-94.
- E. JERMYN, Chaplain of Chakrata,
Bengal, 1875-76; N.W.P., 1876-94.
- W. KITCHIN, Chaplain of Cawnpore,
Bengal, 1885-9; N.W.P., 1890-4.
- L. KLUGH, Chaplain of Jhansi,
N.W.P., 1889-94.
- R. J. LANGFORD, Chaplain of Lucknow Cants,
Bengal, 1874-9; C.P., 1879-83; Punjab,
1884-5; N.W.P., 1886-94.
- W. LATHAM, C.M.S. Missionary, Allahabad,
C.P. 1883-6; N.W.P., 1893-94.
- C. G. MOORE, Chaplain of Ranikhet,
Bengal, 1877-9; Burma, 1879-80; N.W.P.,
1880-90, 1883-4; C.P., 1890-3.
- H. MURRAY, Chaplain, retired,
Bengal and Punjab, 1868-94.
- J. G. B. PERMIEN, Assistant Curate, Allahabad,
N.W.P., 1890-4.
- L. F. PHILLIPS, Chaplain of Lucknow Civil,
N.W.P., 1872-7, 1879-94; Bengal, 1877-8.
- T. A. RAMBART, Second Master, Mussoorie School,
N.W.P., 1867-94.
- Nihal SINGH, C.M.S. Missionary, Allahabad,
N.W.P. through life.
- H. STEEN, C.M.S. Missionary, Gorakhpur,
N.W.P., 1851-94.
- A. STOKES, Head Master, Mussoorie School,
N.W.P., 1869-94.
- J. THOMAS, Missionary Curate, Allahabad,
N.W.P. through life.
- O. D. WATKINS, Chaplain of Mussoorie,
N.W.P. 1876-94.
- C. B. WESTORHOUT, A.C.S. Chaplain, Saharanpur,
N.W.P., 1871-94.

Copied from the original signatures forwarded to me,

BROOK DEEDES,
Archdeacon of Lucknow.

APPENDIX XXI.

APP. XXI.
Behar.

Dated Bankipur, the 7th January 1894.

From the SECRETARY to the ROYAL COMMISSION ON
OPIMUM, to SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
in the Department of Finance and Commerce.

SIR,

I AM directed to say that in the course of this inquiry at Patna the attention of the members of the Royal Commission on Opium was called to the Kabuliyaat, into which a ryot may be required to enter to secure the repayment by him of advances made to him for the construction of wells. The form of Kabuliyaat is in Hindi, and it is published in the new opium manual for Behar. The Kabuliyaat appears on the face of it to require submission to arbitrary conditions, and was condemned by an officer representing the opium department who appeared as a witness before the Commission. I am desired to say that the Royal Commissioners would be glad to learn whether the form of Kabuliyaat was brought to the notice of superior authority and received the approval of the Government of India.

No. 1,038. Ex., dated Calcutta, the 26th February 1894.

From GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Finance and Commerce
Department, to the SECRETARY to the ROYAL OPIMUM
COMMISSION.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter dated the 7th January 1894, regarding the form of Kabuliyaat for well advances in use in the Behar Agency, I am directed to forward a copy of a letter from the Government of Bengal, No. 9,440, dated the 20th February 1894, with a copy of its enclosures.

2. The form in question was not approved by either the Government of India or the Government of Bengal, and will now be altered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. F. FINLAY,
Secretary to the Government
of India.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT—OPIMUM BRANCH.

No. 9,446, dated Calcutta, the 20th February 1894.

From C. E. BUCKLAND, Esq., C.S., the Secretary to the
Government of Bengal, to the SECRETARY to the
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, Finance and Commerce
Department.

SIR,

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 236 Ex., dated the 15th January 1894, with enclosure in which the Government of India ask for a report from this Government on the subject of the form of Kabuliyaat for well advances in use in the Behar Agency.

2. In reply, I am to submit, for the information of the Government of India, a translation of the form of Kabuliyaat referred to. I am to say that the form was not brought to the notice of this Government, and that it must have been passed by the Board of Revenue through an oversight, the vernacular having been carelessly perused. I am to add, however, that in point of fact the provisions contained in the form in respect of interest, and fine in case of default, have remained a dead letter. It is nevertheless desirable that these provisions as to interest and fine in case of default should be clearly defined, and I am to say that the Board of Revenue have accordingly been instructed to make the necessary changes in the form.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. BUCKLAND,
Secretary to the Government
of Bengal.

No. 253, dated Calcutta, the 30th January 1894.

From BABU KALLY COOMAR MITTER, Hindi Translator
to Government, to the Under-Secretary to the
GOVERNMENT OF BEHAR, Revenue Department.

With reference to your letter, No. 4890., dated 25th instant, I beg to send you an English translation of the opium form No. 27. I have made the necessary corrections in the original Hindi form, which contained several mistakes. The copy of Bihar Opium Manual, Part II., which you had sent me, is also returned.

OPIMUM FORM No. 27.

AGREEMENT FORM (WELL ADVANCES).

AGREEMENT FORM APPENDIX B.

I am the son of resident of village
am the khatedar or cultivator of village
pargana zilla

I wish to construct a new well or repair a *pucka* (masonry) well situated in the village for the advancement or improvement of poppy cultivation. I therefore borrow the sum of Rs. from Government for the said purpose, and bind myself to pay the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of sub-division the said amount as per instalments stated below, according to the terms mentioned below.

1. I shall construct or repair a *pucka* well in the village which shall be hands deep, and will complete the work according to section A.

2. After the construction of the well mentioned in the lease, I shall increase the quantity of land under cultivation by bigahs, and "owing to the increase fertility of the old land the produce of opium expected can be estimated at."

Translation of the note in the margin of the 2nd condition.

NOTE.—Where there is no condition of increasing the cultivation, those words only should be written, which are within the marks of quotation.

3. I shall repay the whole amount within two-and-a-half years from the date of receipt of loan and the payment of the first instalment.

4. In case of my failure to make the well for which I borrow money, "or if I do not increase the quantity of land under poppy cultivation" and do not construct the well according to the terms of this agreement, I hereby promise that I and my heirs will without any excuse pay on demand to the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent the amount advanced to me together with the interest due thereon. If I do not pay the said amount, the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent will be at liberty to realise from me my heirs and successors interest for such period as he may think proper, until the said amount, together with its interest, is fully paid off. The said officer, in case of non-payment of the sum advanced to me, will also have the power to realise from me, my heirs and successors, such fine as he may think proper; and neither I nor my heirs and successors shall make any objection to pay either the interest or the fine.

NOTE.—Where there is no stipulation for increasing cultivation, the words within marks of quotation must be omitted.

(True copy),
W. C. MUKEY,
Registrar, Finance and
Commerce Department.

APP. XXII.

Behar
Cultivation.

APPENDIX XXII.

Bankipur, the 7th January 1894.

From the SECRETARY to the ROYAL COMMISSION ON
OPIUM to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
in the Department of Finance and Commerce.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of evidence placed before the Royal Commission on Opium at Patna, containing allegations that certain irregular proceedings were recently taken by a subordinate official of the Behar opium agency at the village of Barni in the Patna district. I am desired to say that, as this evidence impugns the conduct of an official of the Opium Department, the Royal Commission consider it desirable to forward it to the Government of India for inquiry, and would be obliged if they could, in due course, be informed of the result of the investigation into the matter.

No. 1236.—Ex. Calcutta, 9th March 1894.

From FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT to the
SECRETARY, ROYAL OPIUM COMMISSION.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter dated the 7th January 1894, regarding alleged irregularities on the part of an official of the Opium Department, I am directed to forward a letter No. 134 B., dated the 15th February 1894, from the Board of Revenue, L.P., to the Government of Bengal, together with a copy of a report of Mr. A. A. Wace, additional Commissioner of Patna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. FINLAY,
Secretary to the Government
of India.

No. 134B., dated Calcutta, the 15th February 1894.

From T. INGLIS, Esq., Secretary to the Board of
Revenue, L. P., to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

IN continuation of the Board's letter No. 124B. of the 13th February 1894. I am directed to submit a copy of a letter from the Additional Commissioner of Patna, No. 1153 R. of the 12th idem, with its enclosures, in original, reporting in connexion with certain irregular proceedings of Mr. E. A. Gennoe, Assistant Sub-Deputy Agent at Patna, brought to the notice of the Royal Opium Commission, and to say that the report was received after the issue of the Board's letter cited above, and that when that letter was issued the Board were under the impression that Mr. Wace's report had been forwarded direct.

2. The Board have little to add to the letter already submitted. The date of Mr. Gennoe's visit is, I am to point out, wrongly stated in that letter.

3. The Board agree with Mr. Wace that the rules do not justify Mr. Gennoe's action, but the inquiry goes to show that that action was taken with the raiyats' consent.

No. 1153R., dated Bankipore, the 12th February 1894.

From A. A. WACE, Esq., Additional Commissioner of
Patna, to the SECRETARY to the BOARD of REVENUE,
L.P.

WITH reference to the orders of Government calling for a report on an incident brought to the notice of the Royal Commission on opium here by Mr. Wilson, I have the honour to submit a full report of the case. The Opium Agent has informed you that I undertook the inquiry into it with the sanction of Government received by telegram. I submit the report through the Board, as the Government's written orders calling for the report have been issued through that channel.

P.S.—I send copies of Mr. Gennoe's explanation and of the depositions recorded by me, leaving it to the Board to decide if it is necessary to forward these to Government for submission to the Royal Commission.

REPORT.

At Mr. Forbes' request, I took up the investigation of the case brought to the notice of the Royal Commission by Mr. Wilson on 6th January. The Chairman announced at the time his intention to move Government to institute an inquiry, and it seemed to us advisable that in anticipation of orders I should without delay proceed to the village of Barni, in which it was said to have occurred, and which is about 20 miles from Patna, while the case was fresh in the villagers' minds, and the condition of the ground might throw light on the real facts. I requested Dr. Blair, the Deputy Opium Agent, to accompany me. I also asked the Reverend D. Jones, a missionary, with whom Mr. Wilson stopped here, to accompany me to the village, and, if possible, to bring the Bengali merchant who had gone out with Mr. Wilson, junior, about the case. He was good enough to go with me himself, but the Bengali to whom he said he had sent word did not appear then or throughout my inquiry. We arrived at the village about 7.30 a.m. on the 9th January, and Mr. Jones and Mr. Blair agreed with me that our arrival was a surprise. They had been asked not to disclose my intention to those interested on either side.

2. I took with me the gomastah and the zilladar in whose beat Barni lies, but I was not able then to secure the attendance of Mr. Gennoe, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, complained against. Mr. Blair, however, is his immediate superior. On the way to the village, I stopped on the road and recorded what each of the two subordinates had to say about the matter, examining each apart from the other. Their statements are appended. Each said the potatoes complained about covered 10 or 12 dhurs.* The gomastah declared the raiyat had taken them up himself with his own labour. The zilladar talked of children and others being called in to clear the field of these potatoes and of other extraneous vegetables scattered about. I may here note that the raiyats are fond of scattering in with the poppy seeds red spinach, garlic, broad beans, coriander, and such like garden produce. Mr. Pease may remember that I showed him the first-named in the poppy we rode through on the 5th. Mr. Blair tells me that he does not object to this if done in moderation, thinking the raiyat knows his own business best, and will not for a dish of vegetables spoil a lucrative crop, but that when these garden plants are numerous and grow so as to overshadow the poppy it of course injures the latter, and some officers would object to the "dirty" look they give the cultivation.

3. On the arrival at the village I went straight to the field in question. The first glance at it showed roughly what had happened. The whole plot was 12 cottahs. There was poppy on the whole of it in three stages of growth, the most backward being on the south. The raiyat, a khatadar (Jhari Mahton, not Jer Mahton), stated that he first sowed the bit to the north measured to be 9 cottahs 13½ dhurs. He then sowed another strip adjoining this on the south, which I found to be 1 cottah 10 dhurs. This he did not pretend to have ever meant to use otherwise; and I may note that raiyats with any considerable area under poppy purposely sow it in batches, so that all the tending of it in each stage may not fall on their household together. To the south of this was an irregular strip, the western end of which lies rather lower than the rest of the plot, and is shaded by some tall grass. This Jhari said he put into potatoes, and there could be no doubt about this, because on two or three places there were fresh sproutings from the roots left. The gomastah asserted that though there were potatoes on this strip, poppy had been also scattered on it when the rest of the plot was sown. This the raiyat denied, as I believe the latter. Here, again, it was easy to see how the opium people and the raiyat differed as to the area under potatoes. The western corner was damp and could never have given a good crop of potatoes. The gomastah put some of this out of account in trying to make the best of his case. The raiyat of course having spent money and time on it prized it just as much as the higher and

* 20 dhurs=1 cottah; 20 cottahs=1 bigha; 1 Bigha of Opium Department=¼ of acre.

drier bit to the east. As a matter of fact, the whole area originally under potatoes, good and bad, was 16½ dhurs, or less than 1 cottah not 2 cottahs as the Bengali witness stated to the Commission. Poppy seedlings about ten days' old covered the whole when I saw it, and from the Sub-Deputy Agent's initials and date on the licence which indicated the date of his visit, I concluded that it was sown on 19th December.

4. A reference to this licence showed that Jhari had taken an advance for 2 bighas, and I then proceeded to measure up with the help of Mr. LeMesurier, C.S., and Mr. Blair, and in the presence of Mr. Jones, who heard our calculations, Jhari's other three plots. I found all four to come to 1 bigha, 18 cottahs, 18 dhurs, or 1 cottah 2 dhurs short of the area he engaged for. This included the strip on which the potatoes had been. The zilladar then drew my attention to the facts that there was still red spinach, beans, and coriander and garlic growing here and there in the poppy plots of other raiyats which he had not interfered with, and that several plots had strips in them with poppy and barley growing together—the latter predominating largely. These plots belonged to Itwari Sanar, Luchan Paede Chulai Singh. In these cases from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of what had been measured had a thriving crop of barley quite overpowering the poppy, which latter had evidently been deliberately sown on the land, and had been measured as poppy cultivation. I record the fact as showing first that the action taken as regards the potatoes had not been applied all over the village, and as suggesting the inference that Jhari could have kept his potatoes if he had been as pliable as these smaller raiyats. Finding a good deal of barley in patches on the fields of Tegu Mahton, another khatadar, I measured up his land. The zilladar appealed to the existence of this as showing how independent the raiyats really were, and it seemed advisable to test his story that these barley plots were within the area on which they had engaged to sow poppy. Tegu had five different patches of poppy. He had received advance for one bigha. The land which carried poppy alone came to 17 cottahs 3 dhurs only, and about 2 cottahs held poppy utterly overgrown with strong barley.

5. While I was wandering about doing this, Jhari's nephew crept up to me and said that Jhari's potatoes had been dug up because he would not give the zilladar a bribe. This had of course suggested itself to me, and I then proceeded to investigate the point, separating at once the nephew and the uncle. Their statements are on the record. They are hopelessly discrepant, and there is as usual no evidence to bring home bribery. This is one's constant experience with charges against the police. Bribes are not asked for in the presence of witnesses. The old man, Jhari, was, I believe, speaking the truth, when he said the demand was indefinite—"Give something." I have very little doubt that he lost his potatoes because he did not fee the zilladar.

6. Sir James Lyall, in examining Mr. Wilson's Bengali companion, naturally, in view of the heavy penalty to which short cultivation is liable, pressed the point whether the potatoes were on an area in excess of what Jhari had engaged for. That witness said they were, and I daresay he believed. They were because the licence showed that Jhari had shown 2 bighas 5 cottahs 15 dhurs. But as a matter of fact the area, including the plot on which the potatoes were dug up, was under 2 bighas, and had Mr. Wilson measured the fields he would have discovered this as I did.

7. I must, however, notice that that fact was not known to the Sub-Deputy Agent, Mr. Gennoe, when he had the potatoes dug up. The paper he then initialled showed that the khatadar had himself sown more than 2 bighas, and that the whole area which Jhari Mahton had got sown by others was also in excess of what they had taken advances for. I may note that a raiyat who is recorded on measurement as having sown more than he engaged for can get an additional advance for the excess if he thinks it worth while.

8. Having recorded the statement of Jhari and his nephew and having re examined the gomastah and the zilladar as to what became of the potatoes, I asked Mr. Jones and Mr. Blair if they considered any further evidence necessary to elucidate the facts. Each agreed that the case was clear, and I returned to Bankipore, I then forwarded to the Opium Agent copies of (a) the preceding six paragraphs of this report, (b) of the depositions recorded by me, and (c) of an official extract from the Royal Commission's Proceedings which I receive after my return, and I requested that

Mr. Gennoe might be called on to submit any statement he had to make regarding his action in the matter. I added: "You will observe that the Bengali witness also alluded to a complaint made by one Bhulan Pasi that his chillies had been uprooted. The statement was not in my hands yesterday when I went out. I therefore made no inquiry about that case, but it is advisable that Mr. Gennoe should also state if he can account in any way for that charge also."

9. I attach a copy of Mr. Gennoe's reply. It shows that he acted on the information of the zilladar. He justifies the removal of the potatoes on the ground that they were on a bit of a field which had been assigned by the khatadar for opium, and alleges that the man admitted that he was at fault and agreed to the removal of the crop. On receipt of this I asked Mr. Gennoe if he could cite witnesses to prove this assertion, drawing attention to the statements of his gomastah and zilladar as somewhat inconsistent with this. I also drew attention to his omission to answer my inquiry about Bhulan Pasi's case. Mr. Gennoe replied that if I considered the evidence of a peon and a muharrir who were with him worth having, he would send them to me. I had previously told him that I could not give an opinion as to whether he should cite these men or not, and referred him to his departmental superiors for advice. The men have not been produced, and I do not think this report need be delayed any further.

As regards the matter of the chillies Mr. Gennoe writes: "I have no recollection of Bhulan Pasi's chillies, but if there were any chillies in his poppy field I have not the least doubt I ordered the chillies to be removed; further, I have no recollection who Bhulan Pasi is."

10. This remark and the general tenor of Mr. Gennoe's first reply render his position quite clear; and it is evident what happened. If Mr. Gennoe insisted on the potatoes being removed, it is practically immaterial whether the khatadar acquiesced at the time silently or in so many words. The evidence taken in the village leads me to the belief that on the order being given, others besides the khatadar joined in the digging them up, and that there was a scramble for them, and that the khatadar did not get the benefit of the crop which was immature. The real point in the case is whether Mr. Gennoe was justified in insisting in the removal of all crops other than opium from fields which had been measured for poppy cultivation. He justifies his action under section 179 of the Opium Manual, Part II. That lays down that—"An officer should see that good and suitable lands are brought under cultivation, and that the lands are properly irrigated and weeded. He should note carefully instances where inferior lands have been sown, or sufficient care is not taken of the crop by the cultivators in order that unproductive cultivation may be struck out of his charge." This rule does not cover this case. Neither potatoes, nor the stray plants of garden produce which, as I have said, a raiyat occasionally scatters about his field, are weeds. The words italicised also clearly show that the motive of this supervision is not so much to keep the raiyat with absolute strictness to his bargain for the particular year, but to prevent abuse of the Government advance in the future. In the form of agreement to be found at page 149 of Part II. of the Opium Manual to which Mr. Gennoe also appeals, and of which I append a translation, the raiyat, it is true, engages that "he will let nothing else grow in these lands," but the context seems to show that the clause is directed against short cultivation, not against the minor malpractice in question. There is no penalty attached to "dirty" cultivation, and the failure mentioned further down in the agreement clearly relates to the dishonesty aimed at in section 19 of the Act there quoted.

11. I have gone at length into the contention of Mr. Gennoe in order to show that there is nothing in the Government rules specifically authorising the removal of crops other than poppy from fields for which an advance has been taken, and which have been measured as assigned to poppy cultivation. As regards garden produce scattered over a poppy field, Mr. Blair's opinion quoted in paragraph 2 above seems to me the reasonable one, and that I believe represents the general practice of most Opium Officers. The habit of mixing crops from a deluded idea that more will so be made out of a field is common with the raiyat of all districts. If, as a result of this, the area under poppy is less than the raiyat agreed to sow, Government has its legal remedy

APP. XXII.

under section 10. An overzealous or thoughtless officer may in the knowledge of this occasionally apply the stricter remedy adopted by Mr. Gennoe of compelling the removal of the encroaching crop, but for these excesses the Government rules are not at fault. In this particular case the khatadar lost $\frac{1}{2}$ of a cottah of potatoes worth perhaps R2. He had taken R10 advance for 2 bighas, and really rendered himself liable to a penalty of three times the advance in respect of $\frac{1}{2}$ of about 1 cottah, or say, 10 annas, though that is no measure of the loss of time and money the levy of this would have cost even if he had pleaded guilty. But as I have pointed out in paragraph 7, Mr. Gennoe did not know of this deficiency in area then. The papers in his hands showed a full area against Jhari Mahton. These, I fancy, he did not look at, but acted hastily on the appearances of the field, which indicated that a strip intended for opium had been put into potatoes.

11. Such a long report as this may seem out of proportion to the particular wrong done, but I have thought it well to bring out fully various points in the case as illustrating the relations between Government, the raiyat and the Opium Officials which, though familiar to us, might not be fully appreciated by all the Members of the Royal Commission.

A. A. WACE,
Additional Commissioner.

The 12th February 1893.

PETITION of AGREEMENT executed by the khatadars and cultivators under section 8, Act XIII. of 1857.

WHEREAS we, the khatadars and cultivators named below, inhabitants of mauza _____, pargana _____, voluntarily wish to do poppy cultivation; we file this petition for the grant of a patta, and make the following declarations:—

We, the asamis, appoint _____ Mahton (approved by Government) or khatadar and agent to carry out all transactions with the Opium Officials on our behalf, will sow poppy at the proper time on the best lands specified against our names _____, and will take proper care and attend fully to weeding, irrigating, &c., and will let nothing else grow on those lands. In case of our short cultivation Government has the power, under section 10, Act XIII. of 1857, to impose on us fines to the extent of thrice the proportionate amount of advances in respect of the deficit quantity of land. When the poppy is in flower we will have the leaves collected and weighed wherever ordered, and receive the price thereof at the fixed rates. As required by section 11, we will, after collection, take the whole of the opium wherever ordered and have it weighed through an amlah of the *kothi*. Weighment will be made with weights of 80 tolahs a seer according to the standard laid down in section 7 of Act XIII. We will get value for this at the prescribed rates. Along with the opium we will give up to Government all the vessels *kafa* and pieces of cloth used at the time of pricking and collecting opium. In accordance with the provisions contained in section 12 of the said Act, the weighment and testing of the opium shall take place in the presence of ourselves and the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent or any other officer. We will accept the classification and the value determined by the Factory Superintendent or any other Government official. Should the opium be confiscated on the ground of anything having been mixed in it, we will make no objection. We hold ourselves liable to punishment under section 19 of the Act in case of any failure in growing poppy on the settled and the measured lands. We shall receive no advances or final payments without the amount being noted on the back of the patta and having it signed by the gomastah. No erasures or alterations will be made in the patta. Any erasures or alterations will be against our interest. We will pay to the gomastah the amount falling due from us after settlement of account, and shall take receipts of payment. Government is empowered by section 16 of the Act to recover from us any amount

outstanding on account of advances by attachment of our moveable and immoveable property. We shall have no objection to the fulfilment of any of the conditions laid down in this kabuliya. We hold ourselves liable to the payment of the compensation specified in the Act in the capacity of opium cultivators engaged under section 8 of the Act.

We therefore write this petition of agreement for grant of patta in order that it may be of use when necessary.

Dated _____

No. A., dated Bankipore, the 17th January 1894.

From E. A. GENNOE, Esq., Assistant Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, Patna, to the OPIUM AGENT of BIHAR.

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your memorandum dated 14th January 1894, together with the proceedings before the Opium Commission, regarding a complaint made against me for removing a potato crop from the field of one, Jhari Mahton, khatadar of mauza Barni. The following is the true fact of the case:—

On the 17th December last, zilladar Ramadheen Singh reported certain cultivators, and among them the khatadar of mauza Barni, for sowing in their fields for which they had engaged to cultivate opium other crops. In the course of my tour on 19th December, I came to their village and found the zilladar's report in respect of Jhari Mahton's kheit true. I questioned the khatadar and would have prosecuted him but for the fact that he begged to be pardoned and agreed that the potatoes be removed. I considered that it would have been more to the interest of Government to merely cause such mixture of crops to be cleared, as in cases of prosecution the whole local establishment have to be taken away to attend court, while the work of the department would suffer, and any neglect at this time of the year means a serious loss to the out-turn and also to the cultivators. I beg to refer you to section 179 of the new Opium Manual, Part II., from which you will see that it is part of the duty of the touring officer to see that the fields are weeded of all foreign matter, so that the usual practice of growing other crops with opium having met with an effectual check, cultivators in order to meet this adopt another course. They apply and obtain advances for sowing a certain area of land with opium. The land is measured and settlement concluded later; instead of sowing the entire plot measured and settled for, a portion is set apart for other crops [this is used Government advances*]. It is impossible for a touring officer to measure every field during his tour, and it is only when he gets information that a particular cultivator has so abused his contract that he can deal with the case, and the only reasonable way to meet such tricks is to cause the crop to be removed. This obviously not only meets the requirements of the case, but leaves the cultivator a less loser than if he were prosecuted; for then he not only has to meet the expense of making a defence as against Government, but the time he is away from his cultivation ruins the rest of his crop.

I submit there can be no moral wrong in insisting upon the cultivators to comply with their contracts, and knowing what the natives of India are, it is difficult to lay down a hard-and-fast rule to meet their cunning. I beg to refer you to application form on page No. 149 of new Opium Manual, Part II. Thus you will see that I was quite within the law as accepted by the cultivators to remove any foreign crop from an opium field.

Trusting this explanation will meet the requirements of the case.

* The words between brackets seem redundant.—A. A. WACE.

(True copy.)

W. C. MUTLEY,

Registrar, Finance and
Commerce Department.

APPENDIX XXIII.

APP. XXIII.

Hong Kong.

From EDWARD FAIRFIELD, Esq., to the SECRETARY TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM, dated Downing Street, 28th December 1893.

REFERRING to previous correspondence on the subject of evidence required by the Royal Commission on Opium, I am directed by the Marquis of Ripon to transmit to you copy of a letter from Sir G. W. Des Voeux, late Governor of Hong Kong, and to request you to be good enough to forward to Lord Brassey the letter enclosed therein.

I am to add for his Lordship's information that the death rate in Hong Kong, quoted from memory in Sir G. W. Des Voeux' letter as 28 per 1,000, is higher than the death rate for the last two years, which was given at about 23 per 1,000 in the Reports of the Registrar-General of Hong Kong, transmitted for the information of the Royal Commission on Opium in the letter from this Department of the 19th of October last.

From Sir G. WILLIAM DES VOEUX, to the UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES, dated Grand Hotel Guichard, Pau, Basses Pyrenees, France, 16th December 1893.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for the consideration of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, a letter which I have addressed to Lord Brassey, President of the Opium Commission. I should be much obliged if his Lordship would move the India Office to forward the letter to its destination.

Perhaps you would kindly have checked before transmission my statement of the Hong Kong death rate, which is given from memory.

From Sir G. WILLIAM DES VOEUX, to the Right Honourable LORD BRASSEY, President, Opium Commission, dated Hotel Guichard, Pau, Basses Pyrenees, France, December 1893.

I HAD intended to offer my evidence orally to the Opium Commission during its sittings in England; but unfortunately I was at that time confined to my bed in the Engadine by a dangerous illness, from which I am only now slowly recovering. Perhaps, under the circumstances, I may be permitted to give the result of my experience by letter, and it is with this object that I now have the honour of addressing your Lordship.

I should mention, in the first instance, that during all my early life I was affected by the ordinary British prejudice against opium—a prejudice that was strengthened by the perusal of De Quincey's "Confessions." My first contact with opium consumption did not weaken this feeling, when, years ago in Guiana, I used to see on the public roads Chinese beggars, who, with bodies as near an approach to skeletons as is possible to the living, were represented as examples of the miserable results of opium-smoking. Further experience, however, quickly brought a modification of previous beliefs. The first shock which they received was from the discovery that a Chinese whom I had occasion to see frequently, a man some 35 years old, was then, and said he had been for years past, in the habit of smoking daily a quantity of opium such as would probably produce eternal sleep in the unaccustomed European. And yet he appeared thoroughly healthy, while he was certainly most intelligent, active in work, and assiduous in his family duties. This put me upon inquiry, and as the result I found that his case was by no means exceptional, and that other men who had good characters for work were confirmed, and what would be commonly called immoderate, opium-smokers. Indeed, such was the costliness of the drug in the West Indies, that, except by occasional good fortune in begging or gambling, it was only by hard work that men in the condition of Chinese immigrants could obtain the necessary money for its purchase. And I found further that some, if not most, of the miserable beggars above referred to used opium in order to alleviate the pain of some incurable disease, or to soothe the pangs of hunger engendered of physical incapacity to undergo the work of the sugar plantation.

After an interval of some 20 years, during which I had little contact with opium consumption, on becoming Governor of Hong Kong I had a still more favourable opportunity of forming a judgment on the subject. And here I may at once reply to an objection which I anticipate as likely to be urged against my evidence. As a large portion of the revenue of Hong Kong is raised from the license to sell opium, it will be said that my judgment is warped by a natural interest in the prosperity of the colonial exchequer. To the reply that I am now entirely divorced from official life, it would possibly be rejoined that that was not the case when my judgment was formed. So happily I have a better answer, viz., that if the anti-opium enthusiasts were to succeed in their object, and if the export of opium from India were to be suppressed, such a measure, however vital in its importance to the Indian Empire, would have no effect at all on the consumption of opium in Hong Kong.

The Indian product of the poppy being regarded as superior in flavour, is used in China as the luxury of the comparatively rich. An enormously greater proportion of the opium consumed in that empire is the product of its own soil, and being considerably cheaper than the imported article, is already used largely by the poorer classes in Hong Kong. If the flow of the Indian drug were stopped altogether, the home product would thus inevitably fill the void, and could not be prevented doing so by any practicable legislative or executive measures. As it is, all the vigilance prompted by the powerful self-interest of the wealthy opium farmers, and assisted by the Government, cannot prevent a large amount of smuggling from the mainland of China, though an unlimited quantity of the drug can be obtained at but slightly increased cost without any of the risk thus incurred. If opium importation were prohibited, and the drug could be obtained in no other way, this smuggling would inevitably receive an enormous impetus, and with Chinese interest wholly in its favour, would very rarely be detected. The mainland of China surrounds Hong Kong, and approaches it closely on three sides, while numerous islands belonging to the same empire stud the sea on the fourth side. It will be thus readily seen how impracticable it would be in the case of an article of such small bulk to prevent the surreptitious introduction of all, or nearly all, that is required for consumption, while the attempt at prevention would certainly cause intense bitterness against our rule on the part of a people now remarkably well affected to it, involving, as it would necessarily do, the personal examination of every one of the many thousand persons who land in Hong Kong daily coming from the mainland.

For the above reason, even if I were still Governor of Hong Kong, I should really have no interest in the question whether the export of opium from India should be permitted or not, except that which must be felt on a matter of such grave importance by any British subject of ordinary intelligence. Having thus, I hope, cleared the ground, I proceed to say that my experience has led me to the deliberate belief that, apart from the specially evil effects which are alleged as likely to be produced in the Indian Empire, the suppression of opium consumption, even if it were practicable, would be an evil rather than a good; and I have been led to this conclusion not at all *per saltum*, but by a slow process of conviction from the accumulating evidence of years.

For the consideration of the opium question the colony of Hong Kong furnishes an object lesson the value of which could hardly be surpassed. Of its 220,000 inhabitants some 200,000 are Chinese, and wages, as compared with those of the mainland, being high, they are thus enabled to indulge more freely in the habit of opium-smoking, and they certainly do not fail to avail themselves of this ability. The quantity of opium sold by the opium farmer to enable him to pay so highly for his privilege—in my time 37,000 dollars per mensem—would alone provide for a very large consumption per caput. But to this has to be added the large quantity which is notoriously smuggled from the mainland. All things considered, it is probable that the population of Hong Kong smokes

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*more opium than any other of equal number in the world, and yet relatively to the conditions of its existence it is extraordinarily healthy, while for activity and industry it could scarcely be surpassed. I say relatively to the conditions of its existence because these are such as would ordinarily be held to be exceptionally deadly. In a portion of the town of Victoria under two miles in length, and averaging about a quarter of a mile in width—an area of less than half a mile square—there live some 150,000 people, though a considerable portion of this space is occupied by European houses, tenanted not more thickly than elsewhere, and by barracks, recreation grounds, naval yard, &c. The Chinese houses are so crowded together that a large, probably the greater, number of them have no open spaces behind them, and have their back walls touching one another. Only the front rooms get any light at all from outside. Eight to ten others on each of several storeys are absolutely without daylight, and without any air except what comes from a narrow passage; and yet the occupants are often so numerous that when they are lying down the floor space could hardly contain more. When it is considered that cholera and small-pox are continually being introduced by the thousands arriving daily from the mainland, and by the shipping of a port which surpasses in its tonnage any other in the world (London not excluded), and, finally, that during a considerable portion of the year the heat, produced by radiation from the granite, is more trying than that of even higher temperatures elsewhere—such conditions, it might be supposed, would be accompanied by a very high death rate. And yet this is only about 28 in the 1,000, and thus compares very favourably with that of other tropical cities. As regards the activity and industry of the people, no intelligent observer could fail to notice it as exceptional. Save on the few holidays, an idler during the hours of daylight is a rarity; and where work is by the piece it is done with a dogged continuousness that I have never seen surpassed, or even equalled, elsewhere. During the years 1887-90, when extensive building operations were going on at The Peak (the hill on the spurs of which the town of Victoria is built), a stream of several hundred coolies might be seen any day carrying upon their backs great loads of bricks, and though the height they had to scale, on a gradient so steep as to be quite impracticable for carriages, is from 1,200 ft. to 1,600 ft., yet by making several trips a day they were able to work at a price which rendered competition on the part of the steam tramway quite hopeless. Even more under my personal observation were the 40 servants and coolies employed about Government House, all, or nearly all, of whom were opium-smokers. The work of some of these was by no means light—indeed that of the chair-coolies in the hot season was very severe—and yet it was, as a rule, done with remarkable alacrity, and with a complete absence of incapacitating fatigue. Our experience in respect of servants was very similar to that of others; and I, at all events, am able to say that after an exceedingly varied experience of native and other servants in different parts of the world, I have never known any who so largely combined good health, willingness, activity, and intelligence as these Chinese opium-smokers.

But apart altogether from my personal observation, it seems to me that the general sanitary condition of the people of Hong Kong, under the circumstances above described, is by itself strong evidence that the habit of opium-smoking is not as generally injurious as it is ordinarily represented to be—indeed, I venture to think that it lends to the theory that this consumption saves more life and health than it destroys sufficient support to throw the burthen of proof on the other side. If it is not opium, it might not unfairly be asked, what is it that renders normally healthy a population living in conditions which would ordinarily produce exceptional mortality? This, however, is a matter of comparatively little moment. For any practical purpose the only question to be considered is not whether there is a balance of good or evil in the effects of opium consumption, but whether the balance of evil, if any, is sufficiently great to compensate for the unquestionable evils and risks which must inevitably attend the attempt at its suppression. The serious consequences,

NOTE.—In saying that in all probability the population of Hong Kong smoke more opium than any other of equal number in the world, I do not ignore the fact that the opium farms of the Straits Settlements sell for a higher price than that of Hong Kong. My attention was drawn to this circumstance soon after my arrival in the east, and I made inquiries in consequence. I found the cause to be the large amount of smuggling into Hong Kong; the great distance of Singapore from China rendering it incomparably more difficult there to escape the vigilance of the farmers.

financial, social, and political, of such a measure in India, many of which appear obvious to the outside observer, I leave to those who, unlike myself, have personal experience of that country. I will only touch on one point with respect to which a somewhat varied experience may possibly attach a certain weight to my opinion. I hold that even if the growth of the poppy were brought to an end, and even if the inevitable efforts of Chinese and others to supply the place of the home-product were completely frustrated, the ground which had been occupied by opium would be quickly taken by some other intoxicant. My service in different parts of the world has given me special opportunities of observing the general tendency of mankind, savage as well as civilised, to seek the pleasure or the freedom from care to be obtained in the process of intoxication. Though the use of ardent spirits by aboriginal races is no doubt due to contact with Europeans, it is certain that in many, if not in most cases, the stronger forms of alcohol have been preceded by a native product requiring only greater excess to be equally sense-destroying. When travelling in the interior of Guiana, I found the natives, who had little or no contact with white men, using drinks of their own manufacture, the products of cassava and the sweet potato, with which they frequently became drunken, though the point of complete intoxication was reached only after disgusting debauches lasting from 24 to 36 hours. Similarly in the Pacific I found that the natives of all, or nearly all, the islands had their kava or their coconut spirit, the making of which they had learned before the coming of white men; and, speaking generally, the use of these declined only from the increased consumption of gin. If, then, the proclivity to the pleasure of intoxication is so strong where the maintenance of life is so easy as it is in Guiana and the Southern Pacific, how much stronger is it always likely to be with the peoples of India and China, to whom continued existence means a struggle of such extreme severity. This consideration seems to me to render the probability extremely strong that if the products of the poppy were suppressed the result would be only a proportionately increased use of the various forms of alcohol which are already known to the peoples of the east. Such a change, I have not the slightest doubt, would be greatly for the worse. Unless to the average man excess in opium is much more injurious than excess in alcohol, it is evident that the balance of evil and good is largely in favour of the former. For the consumer of opium at worst does harm only to himself; he is quiet and inoffensive to his neighbours, and costs the community nothing for the maintenance of order. His habit gives rise to none of the offences against society—the brawling fighting, brutality, and murder which are the common accompaniments of excess in alcohol. But even as regards the consumer himself, the great majority of Europeans with experience of the Far East would, I am certain, agree with me as to the comparative harmlessness of opium. I say nothing of Europeans in India, whose testimony the Commission will have the opportunity of hearing from themselves. It is no doubt commonly asserted in England that European opinion in the east is prejudiced by self-interest, and that the only testimony worth regarding as impartial is that of the missionaries. But as regards China there could hardly be a greater mistake, for as a matter of fact exceedingly few Europeans in the Far East are now interested at all in opium. Trade in the article is now almost, if not quite, exclusively confined to Parsees, Armenians, Hebrews, and others who have been brought up and educated in the east. If there is any preponderance of prejudice, therefore, I venture to think it is on the side of the missionaries. All, or nearly all, of them go out to the east imbued with a strong partisan spirit on the subject; and without in the smallest degree questioning their complete *bonâ fides*, I am satisfied that many of them from the first look at the matter through coloured spectacles, and I regard it as only natural that they should incline to a view which so conveniently accounts for, or diverts attention from, the enormous disparity between the efforts and money spent upon missionary enterprise in China and the results obtained. But for the anti-opium agitation in England, it can scarcely be doubted that funds for Chinese Missions would cease to flow in equal profusion, and the missionaries would scarcely be human if a knowledge of this probability did not, however unconsciously, affect their judgment. But giving them, as I am quite willing to do, the benefit of the doubt, and supposing them to be quite impartial, I am unable to understand why men who, in other respects, so frequently show themselves to have ordinary human failings, should

be solely regarded as against the great majority of Europeans of Chinese experience, who, like myself, are equally disinterested, and at least equally capable of forming a trustworthy judgment.

A great preponderance of opinion would, I know, agree with me not only as to the comparison of advantages and disadvantages between opium and alcohol, but also in the general view of the subject above expressed. This may be briefly summarised as follows, viz., that opium no doubt does harm in a few cases of inordinate excess, but to the great majority of consumers it is, to say the least, innocent. If this view be correct, the feeling which prompted a distinguished Bishop to say that he preferred an England free to an England sober becomes specially applicable to the case of opium suppression. It would, I hold, be an act of intolerable despotism to place to the least restraint upon freedom in such a matter, while it would be a monstrous wrong and injustice to deprive millions of men of one of the very few, perhaps the principal pleasure of their very cheerless existence.

In conclusion I wish to say that I am painfully aware the reasons given for my opinions are by no means as strong as they might have been, if I were not so completely separated as I am from books of reference, statistics, and memoranda on the subject of China, as well from all persons acquainted with the Far East. I have been compelled to trust entirely to a memory for the moment weakened by ill-health, and my statement is thus unduly defective in facts. In any case it would have been impossible within reasonable compass to present all the innumerable incidents, information, and admissions, which, in the course of years, have contributed to produce my conviction. I trust, however, that some weight may be given to an opinion from the mere fact of its having been formed at all by one who has had exceptional opportunities for observation, who now expresses it under a grave sense of responsibility, and who, far from being naturally inclined to the ordinary European view of native questions, has always been known, and has at times incurred much odium, for his sympathy with, and his strenuous protection of, the various subject-races committed to his care.

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APPENDIX XXIV.

From G. S. M. O'BRIEN, Esq., Colonial Secretary, Hong Kong, to the SECRETARY, ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM, dated Hong Kong, the 23rd November 1893.

SIR,

WITH reference to the Despatch,* of which a copy is annexed, from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Royal Commission on Opium, that it is not possible to state with precision the amount of opium annually consumed in Hong Kong.

The following amounts of raw opium have been boiled by the farmer (who has the monopoly of prepared opium in Hong Kong) during each of the last six years, viz :—

	Chests.
1888 - - - - -	3,771
1889 - - - - -	1,746
1890 - - - - -	2,511
1891 - - - - -	1,878
1892 - - - - -	1,620
1893, January to October inclusive	1,467

But it is open to the farmer to export any quantity of boiled or prepared opium that he pleases without rendering any account or return thereof, and there are, therefore, no means of ascertaining with certainty what portion of the opium boiled by him is exported and what portion remains for local consumption.

It is estimated by some persons who are interested in the subject that the local consumption of opium in Hong Kong averages about three chests a day. This estimate is probably approximately correct, but it cannot be guaranteed. The amount of opium which the present farmer, whose monopoly commenced on March 1st, 1892, is allowed to boil for all purposes, whether of export or of local consumption, is limited to a maximum of 300 chests in any two consecutive months. He, therefore, cannot boil more than 1,800 chests in the year, and can boil that amount only if he boils the maximum of 300 chests in each period of two consecutive months.

I have, &c.

G. S. M. O'BRIEN,
Colonial Secretary.

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APPENDIX XXV.

QUESTIONS issued by the ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM regarding OPIUM CONSUMPTION and OPIUM REVENUE in the COLONIES and DEPENDENCIES of SINGAPORE, PENANG, and HONG KONG.†

1. Is opium commonly consumed by people of Chinese, Malay, or other Asiatic race in your colony?
2. What proportion, should you conjecture, of the adult males of each race are consumers? Do women consume opium to any extent? Do children?
3. What have you observed to be the effects of opium, moral, physical, and social, on its consumers? Is the effect the same on consumers of each race, or can you draw distinctions between the effects on consumers of different races?
4. Do consumers chiefly smoke, or do they eat opium, or do they drink a decoction of opium? If opium is taken in two or all of these forms, can you distinguish between the effects of each?
5. Do the great majority of opium consumers become slaves to the drug and eventually become "opium sots," or do you find the majority, or a considerable proportion, of consumers to be moderate consumers?
6. Is it correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium? Do you know any or many cases of consumers who have

taken their opium for years without harm to themselves? If so, please give a description of one or two such cases in detail.

7. Do a majority of the labourers, or of the merchants or of the artisans, belonging to any Asiatic race with which you are conversant consume opium? If so, what is generally the effect of the opium habit on their efficiency in their calling?

If possible give details and examples in reply to this question.

8. How does the use or abuse of opium among any Asiatic races with which you are conversant compare with the use or abuse of alcohol among such races, in regard to the effect on consumers?

9. Is the habit of consuming opium condemned as degrading or injurious by the general opinion of the Chinese, Malay, or other Asiatic race? How would such races regard the opium habit as compared with the alcohol habit?

10. Can and do opium consumers break themselves of the opium habit?

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off, what would be the effect on opium consumers and on the Asiatic population of your neighbourhood? Would they supply themselves with opium from elsewhere, or would they take to alcohol or to some narcotic other than opium? or would they abstain altogether?

12. What proportion of your colony's revenue accrues from opium? If the opium revenue were extinguished could your colony raise the needful revenue otherwise?

† These questions were issued in supplement of evidence given before the Royal Commission in London. In the case of those issued to Her Britannic Majesty's Minister in China, a few additions were suggested by the Government of India, and adopted by the Commission.

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What would the people say to the loss of the opium revenue and the obligation to make up the deficit?

13. Do people of European race contract the opium habit in any numbers? If not, why not? And what makes Asiatics more liable to contract the habit?

14. How are opium consumers led to use the drug? Do they usually or often take it in the first instance to allay physical pain? Is opium, within your knowledge, a prophylactic against fever, or rheumatism, or malaria? Or is it so regarded commonly by any Asiatic race with which you are conversant?

15. Does opium consumers themselves usually desire to get free of the opium habit?

16. Is there among any Asiatic race in your colony a feeling of hostility against England for allowing opium to be exported from India? If so, how does that feeling display itself?

17. Have you any other remark to make in regard to opium consumption among the people around you?

SPECIAL TO SINGAPORE AND PENANG WITNESSES.

18. Please state how far opium consumption is common among the native states around the colony. Do the rulers of those states discourage its use, or do they raise revenue from it? What is the public or general opinion of the native states regarding the drug, its use or abuse, and its effects on the consumers and on the people at large?

N.B.—It is desired that gentlemen who kindly undertake to deal with these questions should answer as many as they can.

October, 1893. By Order of the
Royal Commission on Opium.
PART I.

The preceding paper of questions, received from the Royal Commission on Opium through the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, was circulated in the colony and the native states of the Malay Peninsula, and answers have been received from the following gentlemen:—

1. Mr. Gan Nghoh Bee, Singapore.
2. „ F. G. Penney, Province Wellesley.
3. „ W. Evans, Penang.
4. Dr. G. D. Haviland, Singapore.
5. Hon. Martin Lister, Negri Sembilan.
6. Mr. Chiu Sin Yeng, Penang.
7. „ Koh Seang Tat, Penang.
8. „ J. Miller, Singapore.
9. „ M. Meyer, Singapore.
10. „ F. A. Swettenham, G.M.G., Perak.
11. Dr. W. C. Brown, Penang.
12. Mr. W. H. Treacher, C.M.G., Selangor.
13. „ A. Gentle, Singapore.
14. „ W. G. Saellabear, Singapore.
15. „ H. Riccard, Penang.
16. „ A. Hüttenbach, Penang.
17. The Rev. A. Lamont, Singapore.
18. Dr. T. S. Kerr, Singapore.
19. Mr. J. Y. Kennedy, Penang.
20. „ H. Clifford, Pahang.
21. „ G. C. Wray, Singapore.
22. „ Sheikh Yusuf, Penang.
23. „ A. W. S. O'Sullivan, Penang.
24. „ Seah Liang Seah, Singapore.
25. „ J. Anderson, Singapore.
26. „ J. K. Birch, Penang.
27. Surgeon-Major D. O'Sullivan, Penang.
28. Dr. W. Gilmore Ellis, Singapore.
29. The Honourable A. M. Skinner, C.M.G., Penang.
30. The Honourable J. M. B. Vermont, Province Wellesley.
31. Mr. G. T. Hare, Singapore.
32. The Honourable the Dato Mantri, Johor.
33. The Honourable W.C. Sneyd Kynnersley, Malacca.
34. „ H. A. O'Brien, Singapore.
35. Dr. T. C. Mugliston, Singapore.

The following gentlemen (to whom copies of the questions were also sent) have not furnished replies:—

- Dr. W. R. C. Middleton, Singapore.
His Honour Mr. Justice Logan, Singapore.
Mr. R. W. Hullett, Singapore.
„ T. Sohst, Singapore.
„ Tan Jiak Kim, Singapore.
„ Tan Keong Saik, Singapore.
Dr. J. H. Robertson, Penang.
Mr. R. Yeats, Penang.

MEMORANDUM BY THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

I SUBMIT a hastily-prepared resumé of the general results of the answers received in reply to the questions circulated in this colony on behalf of the Royal Commission on Opium, and I have added, in some places, facts which are within my own knowledge, remarks suggested by the statements of some of the witnesses, and opinions, which a residence of 29 years in the Straits Settlements has enabled me to form. I do not profess to have made a special study of the practice of using opium, but it is a feature of Asiatic life which is more or less forced upon the attention of anyone who has to live and work among such a population as we have.

CONSUMPTION OF OPIUM.

1. Is opium commonly consumed by people of Chinese, Malay, or other Asiatic race in your colony?

Opium is imported almost exclusively for the use of Chinese. It is, no doubt, from the Chinese that the Malays have acquired the habit. The consumption of opium in the colony is very common, but it would be much more common but for the wholesome check of our excise laws. By making opium dear, we to some extent restrict its use. In the colony the sole right of importing opium (except for re-export) and of manufacturing and retailing chandu, the prepared drug, is farmed out to a monopolist known as the opium farmer. The maximum retail price which he may exact is fixed by Government. It is at present \$2.20 per tahlil (1½ oz.), and per chi (one-tenth of a tahlil) 26 cents.

The prices at which the opium farmer retails chandu at present (1894) are as follows:—

Singapore	- Wholesale,	-	- \$2.20 a tahlil.
	Retail,	-	- 0.26 a chi.
Penang	- Wholesale,	-	- 2.20 a tahlil.
	Retail,	-	- 0.26 a chi.
Malacca	- In town, wholesale,	-	- 2.00 a tahlil.
	Do. retail,	-	- 0.24 a chi.
	Up-country, wholesale,	-	- 1.70 a tahlil.

In the native states the restrictions are less severe, for in all mining districts there is no monopoly of the right to retail and manufacture. A tax of \$8 per ball of opium is levied, but this is trifling compared to the tax upon opium which is the result of the colonial system. Ball opium which has paid this import duty may be freely manufactured into chandu by anyone, and it can be retailed at a large profit at a much lower price than that which prevails in the colony. The result is that the consumption of opium is much larger at the tin mines than anywhere else in these parts.

The extent of the consumption of opium in the Straits Settlements and native states may be roughly gathered from the import and export returns.

In 1893 these show the following quantities:—

	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
Imports of Benares Opium from India (cheests).	7,127	3,540	—
Do. do. from Hong Kong.	281	10	—
Do. do. from other places.	1	—	—
Do. do. Inter-Settlement.	160	85	138
Do. Malwa Opium from Hong Kong.	—	15	—
Do. Patna Opium from India.	3,524	265	—
Do. do. from Hong Kong.	358	18	—
Do. do. Inter-Settlement.	49	—	—
Do. Persian Opium from Hong Kong.	187	26	—
Do. Turkey Opium from Hong Kong.	—	39	—
Do. do. from other places.	6	—	—
Do. do. Inter-Settlement.	—	4	—
Total	11,693	4,002	138
Exports of Benares Opium to Netherlands India.	2,150	777	—
Do. do. to China.	741	5	—
Do. do. to Native States.	1,565	1,881	58
Do. do. to Hong Kong.	584	30	—
Do. do. to Siam and Siamese States.	501	571	—

	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca.
Exports of Benares Opium to other places.	253	—	—
Do. do. Inter-Settle-ment.	223	185	—
Do. Malwa Opium to Hong Kong.	—	5	—
Do. Patna Opium to Nether-lands India.	300	—	—
Do. do. to China.	1,610	10	—
Do. do. to Native States.	180	188	—
Do. do. to Hong Kong.	665	—	—
Do. do. to Siam and Siamese States.	343	2	—
Do. do. to other places.	51	—	—
Do. do. Inter-Settle-ment.	—	29	—
Do. Persian Opium to Hong Kong.	2	—	—
Do. do. to Nether-lands India.	—	21	—
Do. Turkey Opium to other places.	6	—	—
Do. do. Inter-Settle-ment.	8	—	—
Total - - -	9,177	3,704	58
Chandu imported from Hong Kong (tahils).	—	5,000	—
Do. from Inter-Settle-ment	—	—	3,500
Total - - -	—	5,000	3,500
Chandu exported to Hong Kong - -	669,030	—	—
Do. to Netherlands India	2,950	—	—
Do. to Native States -	1,800	—	—
Do. to other places -	500	—	—
Total - - -	674,280	—	—

showing a balance (excluding inter-settlement trade) of 2,898 chests to be accounted for. It must not, however, be supposed that this balance was wholly consumed in Singapore. The opium farmer for the Straits Settlements is also the opium farmer for the Native State of Johor and for the Dutch settlements Rionw and Karimung. He exports chandu to other places also.

The consumption of opium in the native states may be more accurately gathered from the import and export returns than in the case of the colony, for practically all the opium is imported for local consumption, and there is little or no re-export.

The published returns give the following results:—

Benares opium - - -	3,504 chests.
Patna opium - - -	368 „
Total - - -	3,872 chests.

PER-CENTAGE AND CLASS OF CONSUMERS.

2. What proportion, should you conjecture, of the adult males of each race, are consumers? Do women consume opium to any extent? Do children?

The difficulty of arriving at a fair estimate of the proportion of opium-smokers to non-smokers in our population will be readily recognised. Opium retailers in particular districts can, no doubt, as far as their own trade extends, make a fairly close conjecture, and employers of labour can, of course, say, in respect of a limited number of men, how many smoke and how many abstain. But the general difficulty remains, and is illustrated by the diversity of opinions given in the answers to question 2, the per-centage of smokers ranging from 7 per cent. (the Dato Mantri of Johor) to 85 per cent. (Mr. Clifford). An attempt has been made by some witnesses (e. g. Mr. Anderson) to classify the consumers and to give a per-centage for each class, and this is perhaps the method which is likely to give the most accurate results. One thing that appears pretty clear from the evidence is that the proportion of smokers is higher in the native states than in the colony. Another is that a mining population furnishes a larger proportion of consumers of opium than an agricultural population. This was to be expected, and is partly explained by what I have already said as to the comparative cheapness of chandu in mining districts.

Here are the per-centages of male smokers among Chinese, as given by the witnesses:—

Per cent.

7	The Dato Mantri.
12	Shellabear.
15	Vermont.
15 to 20	Riccard.
20	{ Chew Sin Yong. Kennedy.
20 to 25	Penny.
20 to 30	Hare.
25	{ trading class—Gentle. Treachner.
	{ above coolie class—Mugliston. Dr. O'Sullivan.
30	{ Lamont. Meyer.
30 to 40	{ Kynnersley. Anderson.
35	Skinner.
40	{ planters only—Lister. Seah Liang Seah.
40 to 50	{ Birch. Ellis.
	{ Evans. coolie class—Gentle.
50	O'Sullivan.
60	{ coolies—Mugliston. Swettenham.
60 to 70	Kerr.
70	foreign Chinese—O'Brien.
75	Miller.
80	miners only—Lister.
85	Clifford.

It is generally admitted that opium-smoking is not common among women. The Chinese women who smoke have generally acquired the habit in brothels, in which establishments half of the Chinese female population of the Colony are, according to one witness (Rev. A. Lamont), to be found. The women in the country districts mentioned by Mr. Seah Liang Seah are probably ex-inmates of brothels. It is of course next to impossible to obtain any trustworthy information of the habits of Chinese women of the better class, and it may be assumed that opium-smoking is rare among them. One witness (Dr. Brown, Penang) thinks that 2 or 3 per cent. of respectable Chinese women smoke opium, and that 70 per cent. of the prostitute class do so. I have known, in the native states, instances where Malay ladies of the highest rank have been habitual opium-smokers. Opium-smoking among children is unknown, though a parent may put a pipe to a child's mouth (see Mr. Lamont's evidence) just as the child of an injudicious parent in Europe may be allowed to sip from a glass of beer or spirits.

The per-centage of Malays who smoke opium is admitted on all hands to be small; it is probably larger in the native states than in the colony. The estimates given are as follows:—

Per cent.

1	{ Ellis - - -	} In the Colony.
	{ Skinner - - -	
2	{ O'Sullivan - - -	
	{ Kynnersley - - -	
2 or 3	{ Kerr - - -	
5 to 8	{ Dr. Brown - - -	
10	{ Miller - - -	
5 per 1000,	Lister, Negri Sembilan - -	} Native states.
3 per cent.,	Clifford, Pahang - -	
5 per cent. to 10 per cent.,	Swettenham, Perak - -	
90 per cent.,	Dr. Brown—Rajas and native chiefs - -	

Some of the principal rajahs and chiefs in the native states in the Malay Peninsula are confirmed opium-smokers, and their example is followed by their immediate relatives, followers, and confidential servants. Malay elephant-mahouts are a class who are, almost without exception, opium-smokers. They lead a life of considerable hardship and some danger. Opium-smoking among the Malays, therefore, may be viewed as either a fashionable and aristocratic dissipation, or as a solace and relief to those leading an exceptionally rough life.

EFFECT OF OPIUM-SMOKING.

3. What have you observed to be the effects of opium, moral, physical, and social, on its consumers? Is the effect the same on consumers of each race, or can you draw distinctions between the effects on consumers of different races.

i. *Physical Effects* (Chinese).—The evidence tends to show that, indulged in in moderation, opium-smoking is not injurious; it is, in fact, held by several witnesses to be distinctly beneficial, and one medical witness (Dr. Brown) declares that it increases the capacity for muscular exertion.

The following seems to be a fair analysis of the opinions of the witnesses as to the physical effects of opium-smoking:—

No effect	- - - - -	Lamont. Kennedy. Clifford. Mugliston.
No ill effects if used in moderation, injurious in excess.		Penney. Evans. Haviland. Chew Sin Long. Meyer. Gentle. Riccard. Dr. Kerr. O'Sullivan. Birch. Dr. Ellis. Harc. Kynnersley. O'Brien.
Beneficial	- - - - -	Lister.
Beneficial in moderation, injurious in excess.		Gan Ngoh Bee. Miller. Swettenham. Dr. Brown. Treacher. Wray. Anderson. Vermont.
Generally injurious	- - - - -	Koh Seang Tat. Shellabear. Dr. O'Sullivan. Dato Mantri.

Personally I agree with those who think that opium-smoking does no harm if practised in moderation, and moderation is, of necessity, the rule among Chinese in the colony, for the bulk of the population of that nationality cannot afford to indulge to excess. One witness (Mr. Shellabear) has found that, among jinrikisha men, those "who have the appearance of being opium-smokers" are not good pullers. Against this there is the evidence of Dr. Brown that "coolies" who use opium in moderate quantities are distinctly "longer-winded and more capable of prolonged fatigue than others who do not." Possibly the explanation is that the men who seemed to Mr. Shellabear to have the appearance of being opium-smokers were really physically weak from other causes, for as Mr. Hare (31st witness) says, "you can no more pick out the opium-smokers from a crowd of ordinary Chinese than it would be possible to pick out those who take alcohol from those who do not among an equal number of Europeans."

Loss of flesh is described as a result, but not by any means a universal result, of opium-smoking, and this corresponds with what I have myself observed. Leanness is not always a disadvantage. The table furnished by Mr. Birch (page 45) is not very instructive, for the difference between the respective weights of prisoners (opium-smokers) on entry and discharge from prison is in several cases very slight, and may in some cases be referable to improved diet and a healthy life rather than to the mere discontinuance of opium-smoking.

ii. *Moral Effects* (Chinese).—I do not believe that the moral effects of opium-smoking, indulged in in moderation, are injurious, and this seems to be the opinion of the majority of the witnesses. A healthy man who only spends on opium what he can afford is not necessarily tempted to steal. Excessive indulgence in opium, like other excesses, may, it is generally admitted, weaken or destroy the moral fibre and ruin a man's character.

On this subject the evidence may be summarised as follows:—

Effects degrading morally.	{ Lamont. Seah Liang Seah. Dr. O'Sullivan. Koh Seang Tat. Shellabear.
No moral injury, when used in moderation.	{ Evans, Swettenham, Dr. Brown, Dr. Kerr, Wray, Dr. Ellis, and many others who, without alluding specially to moral effects, have reported generally that moderate smoking is not injurious.

iii. *Social Effects* (Chinese).—There is little evidence on this point. One witness (Mr. Swettenham) probably states the utmost that can be alleged when he says that there is a "prejudice" against smokers. It would be curious indeed if, in a community where opium-smoking is so generally practised and tolerated, the practice of it involved social condemnation or ostracism, or even loss of influence.

It is not very clear whether, in inquiring what are the "social effects" of opium on its consumers, the Royal Commissioners wish to ascertain the effect upon the smoker from the judgment of society, or the action of opium upon him in a social aspect. There has been evidently a misunderstanding among the witnesses as to the exact purport of this part of the question. Mr. Swettenham's evidence just quoted may, for instance, be compared with that of Mr. Meyer (ninth witness), who says that the effect of opium is to make a man less social, of Mr. Miller (eighth witness), who says that men who indulge in opium to excess are "less inclined to social intercourse," and of Mr. Seah Liang Seah (24th witness), who says, "I believe they are sociable." Mr. Skinner (29th witness) notices the doubtful nature of the question, but reads it, no doubt, in its true sense. According to him, "respectable Chinese merchants, shopkeepers, clerks, and domestics are, in a marked degree, indisposed to confess to any opium-smoking" or to admit opium-smokers to their employment." I do not think that too much stress should be laid upon this. Chinese are well aware of the prejudice against opium that exists among most Europeans, and know that the latter do not practise what they regard as a disgusting and injurious habit. That is quite enough to make "respectable merchants and shopkeepers" shy of admitting to Europeans that they themselves indulge daily in a pipe or two of opium. Again, it is not unreasonable that a man who wants a trustworthy servant should prefer one without taste for an expensive indulgence, which may land him in debt and difficulty. Even the opium-smoker would rather have a servant who does not smoke and will not be tempted to lay hands on his master's store of the drug. I notice that one witness (Mr. Shellabear) has quoted as an instance of social disqualification in consequence of opium-smoking that "any employé of the Opium Farm in Singapore who is known to smoke opium is at once dismissed." The fact is that the opium farmer prefers, in his own interest, to employ to make up packets of opium for sale by retail men who are not likely to help themselves to the article passing through their hands. It can hardly be argued that a moderate drinker is a social outcast if he is refused employment by a publican who prefers to trust the sale of his beer to a woman.

On Malays.—Of the effect of opium-smoking upon Malays, some of those best qualified to speak have given evidence. The physical effect is the same as in the case of Chinese, and where reasonable moderation is observed physical deterioration does not necessarily take place.

Mr. Swettenham, resident of Perak, who does not distinguish between physical and moral effects in his answer, says: "I think the effect on Malays is decidedly worse than on Chinese, because the Malay is naturally indolent, and the smoking of opium makes him more lazy and useless than he would otherwise be. On those who have to work, and work hard—elephant-drivers for instance—the evil effect is not noticeable, and in some notable instance of smokers who are wealthy men of rank, with practically no work to do, though they have smoked for the greater part of

"their lives, it would be very difficult to say they have suffered from the habit."

Mr. Clifford, acting resident of Pahang, says of Malay opium-smokers: "Their natural indolence is considerably increased, they appear to degenerate physically, becoming emaciated and, in many cases, suffering severely from chronic constipation and piles. The habit brings them into constant familiar intercourse with the Chinese, to whom the Malays usually consider themselves superior, and it tends to cause them to lose much of their customary self-respect. Their fear of cold often makes them more or less personally uncleanly, which is not usual among Malays under ordinary circumstances."

Mr. H. A. O'Brien, Acting Auditor-General, whose connexion with the native states has been but slight, says: "I look upon a Straits Malay who takes to opium in any form as a lost man. His natural indolence and indifference to the ordinary exigencies of a responsible life are by opium intensified with a rapidity and to a degree absolutely startling. I have personally known exceptions to this rule, and notable exceptions are familiar to all old residents here. But such exceptions are, to my mind, rare in the extreme."

These three opinions agree in one point, namely, that the Malay, being by nature an unsatisfactory worker, and incapable of the steady, continuous, diligent labour which is characteristic of the Chinaman, opium-smoking acts unfavourably upon a temperament already sufficiently lethargic, and the effects are more noticeable than in the case of Chinese. In other respects, I agree with Mr. Swettenham rather than with the others. I have had some acquaintance with Malay opium-smokers in the native states. It was difficult to get them up early in the morning; they frequently shirked a cold water bath or left the water shivering when others were enjoying a swim, and business with them was best transacted in the afternoon, evening, or late at night. But I cannot say that their capacity for physical exertion was impaired, and in Perak and Selangor I certainly did not look upon Malays who smoked opium as useless or ruined.

The moral effects of opium on a Malay are bad, because he is practising what he knows to be condemned by the professors of his faith (Islam), and he has sometimes to resort to concealment and evasion in order to indulge in the habit.*

Except where men of high rank set the example, and social disapproval can, therefore, be set at naught, a Mohammedan opium-smoker runs the risk of being condemned as a sinner by his co-religionists. There is thus a very powerful anti-opium influence among Malays. But for this check upon the habit, many more Malays would take to opium-smoking than do at present. The proportion is really very small, a testimony, in my opinion, to the beneficial operation of the Mohammedan prejudice in this particular.

In 1892 very careful inquiries were set on foot with a view to ascertaining the extent to which the opium habit is in vogue among our Malay population. The results were as follows:—

Singapore.

The Superintendent of Police reported that about 500 Malays (including Javanese) in Singapore smoke opium. The estimate of the Protector of Chinese was from 400 to 600—Malay population, 35,000.

Malacca.

The District Officer, Jasin District, reported that only seven Malays in his district smoke opium. In the town of Malacca a few Malays frequent the licensed shops; they are mostly seafaring men. A few smoke at home. The District Officer, Alor Gajah District, reported that the practice can hardly be said to exist. There are not more than half a dozen smokers in the district—Malay population, 21,000.

Penang.

The district officer, Balik Pulau district, reported that there are hardly any smokers in his district. The superintendent of police estimated the total number of Malays resorting to licensed shops at 230—Malay population, 14,000.

Province Wellesley.

The number of Malay opium-smokers was found to be very small, less than $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The few found lived near the frontier of Kedah, a native state, where the habit is said to be more common (owing probably to an admixture of Siamese in the population)—Malay population, 68,000.

Dindings.

The district officer, Dindings, reported that about 25 Malays use opium in one form or another. Malay population, 2,400.

I do not think that the use of opium among Malays is on the increase. On the contrary, I think that the social disqualification which the indulgence involves will tend to further repress it.

FORM OF CONSUMPTION.

4. Do consumers chiefly smoke, or do they eat opium, or do they drink a decoction of opium? If opium is taken in two or all of these forms, can you distinguish between the effects of each?

The use of opium in this colony being almost entirely confined to Chinese, it is from the Chinese witnesses that the most accurate information as to the form in which the drug is consumed is to be expected. These (Messrs. Gan Ngoh Bee, Chew Sin Yong, Koh Seang Tat, and Seah Liang Seah) practically agree in saying that the favourite method is smoking, but that it is common also to swallow pills of opium-dross. The latter practice is adopted by poor men who cannot afford the more expensive luxury of smoking, or by those who, by reason of their occupations, have not the leisure or facilities for smoking chandu.

There is evidence that a decoction obtained by boiling the leaves, of which the external shell or wrapping of a ball of opium is composed, in water, or by mixing opium-dross with water, is sometimes employed. Such a decoction is used medicinally.

Raw opium undergoes an elaborate process of cooking before it is retailed in the form in which it is smoked. After this process or series of processes it becomes chandu, a thick brown treacly substance. From a ball of opium 30 tahils of chandu* are obtained (Mr. Swettenham's evidence).

Opium-dross, or tai chandu or tengko, is the refuse of chandu (after smoking), and consists of charcoal, empyreumatic oil, some of the salts of the opium, and a part of the chandu not consumed.

As to the relative effects of smoking chandu and swallowing opium-dross, Dr. Kerr (18th witness) regards the latter habit as the more injurious of the two.

"OPIMUM SOTS."

5. Do the great majority of opium consumers become slaves to the drug and eventually become "opium sots," or do you find the majority, or a considerable proportion, of consumers to be moderate consumers?

The Royal Commission have asked (Question 5) whether the great majority of opium-consumers become slaves to the drug and eventually opium sots, or whether moderation is the rule.

The expression "opium sot" has not apparently conveyed the same meaning to the minds of all the gentlemen who have answered the question. It seems to be one of those denunciatory phrases which are meant not only to describe a condition but to convey disapproval of it. Those who condemn gambling from a moral standpoint are not satisfied to speak of a "gambling room," or "gambling house." The place must be described as a "hell." So, a licensed opium shop becomes a "den," though it may be a clean and comfortable room, with little in common with certain squalid places in the East End of London. The phrase "opium sot," judging from the context in the question, is intended to mean something more than a slave to the habit. The Chinese recognise a stage, which they call yin (Mr. Hare's evidence), of "unsatisfiable craving," but this is reached by very few. To those alone who have reached it can the expression "opium sot" be

* "Opium and other drugs which produce a similar effect are considered unlawful, though not mentioned in the Koran, and persons who are addicted to the use of these drugs are regarded as immoral characters."—Lane's *Modern Egyptians*, 1-35.

* The word chandu is probably of Indian origin. In a recent Blue Book containing correspondence with India about opium, the word is spelt chandal. I do not find it in Yule's *Glossary* or in any Hindustani Dictionary, but Shakespeare's Dictionary (Hindustani) has chandu, a ball.

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applied. Mr. Hare found 10 such people out of 80 smokers after visiting 20 licensed opium shops in Singapore.

Twenty-seven out of 35 witnesses state that the majority of opium-smokers in this colony are moderate consumers. I do not see how it can be otherwise. Moderation is, of necessity, the rule, for the price of opium precludes the possibility of excess in the case of the vast majority of the inhabitants of the colony.

Two witnesses (Messrs. Koh Seang Tat and Shellabear) declare their opinion that there is no possibility of moderation, and that all consumers become "opium sots," but perhaps by this phrase they, as well as some of the other witnesses, mean "slaves to the habit." If they really mean that every smoker must ultimately become what another witness (Mr. Lamot) calls an "opium wreck," they are, I feel sure, mistaken. The most ordinary instinct of self-preservation would prevent the commencement of indulgence if ultimate physical wreckage were a certainty. Chinese are, as a race, a shrewd and sensible people, and, as Mr. Hare pertinently remarks, "reason, pocket, and self-control" ordinarily prescribe the limit within which opium-smoking may safely be indulged in.

Three witnesses (Messrs. Riccard, Lamont, and O'Brien), in addition to the above, think that the majority of smokers are slaves to the habit.

I have only to add my own opinion in answer to the question. I feel sure that with the majority of consumers moderation is the rule, and that "opium sots" (a phrase which I do not recognise as having any accepted meaning, though I take it to mean an opium-smoker who has reached a stage of "unsatisfiable craving") are rare, even among heavy smokers. I do not think that Mr. O'Sullivan has gone far enough when he says that "the opium sot is a rarer sight than the habitual drunkard in England."

INSTANCES OF HABITUAL MODERATION IN CONSUMPTION.

6. Is it correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium? Do you know any or many cases of consumers who have taken their opium for years without harm to themselves? If so, please give description of one or two such cases in detail.

Twelve witnesses have given brief descriptions of 21 cases of consumers who have taken their opium for years without, as far as can be perceived, harm to themselves. Two witnesses (Mr. Shellabear and Dr. O'Sullivan) have mentioned three cases in which the result has, in their opinion, been injurious.

I do not think it necessary to add any cases in detail, but I know many opium-smokers (especially among Malays) who have smoked opium for years without any outward apparent change, and I hold with those who, in answer to Question 6, declare moderation to be not only possible but the rule.

ADDICTION TO OPIUM BY PARTICULAR CLASSES, AND ITS EFFECT UPON THE EFFICIENCY OF LABOURERS, MERCHANTS, AND ARTISANS.

7. Do a majority of the labourers, or of the merchants, or of the artisans, belonging to any Asiatic race with which you are conversant consume opium? If so, what is generally the effect of the opium habit on their efficiency in their calling? If possible give details and examples in reply to this question.

Comparatively few of the witnesses have mentioned particular classes of Chinese (the race to which the answers almost exclusively apply) who are specially addicted to opium.

Among artisans are mentioned goldsmiths, house-builders, bricklayers, painters, carpenters, blacksmiths, boiler-makers, and rivetters. Opium is consumed by all of these, and the weight of the evidence goes to show that the efficiency of the consumers as workmen is not impaired. One witness (Mr. Anderson) speaks of the opium-smokers of certain trades as the best and most capable workmen.

Among labourers are specially named, tin miners, gold miners, rikisha pullers, plantation coolies, coaling coolies, hawkers, porters, and dock labourers. Of these, the majority seem to be consumers of opium, and, with few exceptions, the witnesses who think that any effect

at all is caused declare the effect of opium on the working classes to be beneficial, stimulating, invigorating, or comforting. In the case of miners and others who are exposed to malarious influences the beneficial effect of opium seems to have many supporters, and it is described as in some measure protecting painters from the injurious results of their trade. Mr. Hare, speaking of labourers and artisans, says that, under press of work, an opium-smoker will outlast a non-smoker.

Only a minority of the mercantile class seem to smoke opium. Several of the witnesses credit business men who smoke opium with special acuteness and intelligence. Mr. Koh Seang Tat says "that with fewer 'hours' work a smoker can on an average do as much 'brain work' as the non-smoker can."

On the other hand, the following witnesses think the effects injurious:—Messrs. Lamont, Shellabear, Riccard (as regards the labouring class), and Dr. Brown (as regards the mercantile class).

OPIUM versus ALCOHOL.

8. How does the use or abuse of opium among any Asiatic races with which you are conversant compare with the use or abuse of alcohol among such races, in regard to the effect on consumers?

Curiously enough, the only witness who, in considering the relative harm done to consumers by opium and alcohol, is not inclined to condemn the latter as the more hurtful of the two, is a Malay, the Dato Mantri of Johor. He believes opium and alcohol to be equally injurious when abused. Another witness (Mr. Lamont) considers "the opium vice" to be "more inexorable" than drunkenness.

The most interesting evidence on this subject is naturally that of the medical witnesses. Dr. Ellis, the Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, reports that out of 1,236 admissions and re-admissions into the asylum 75 have been stated to be due to alcoholism and 24 to opium-smoking. Of the alcoholic patients, some were only temporarily delirious, and quickly recovered. In others he recognised alcoholic insanity, and post-mortem examination proved the existence of advanced alcoholic disease of the cerebral blood-vessels.

Of the opium-smokers, he was able to reject, in three-fourths of the cases, the supposition that their mental breakdown was due to opium. As to the remaining fourth he could not satisfy himself, but he remains sceptical as to insanity being ever caused by opium-smoking.

Dr. Mugliston says: "I am not prepared to say that 'any disease is produced by opium, whereas every organ 'and almost every tissue is morbidly affected by 'alcohol.'"

Dr. Brown says: "Alcohol affects all Asiatics much more injuriously than opium."

Several witnesses (Messrs. Gan Ngoh Bee, Miller, Meyer, Swettenham, Vermont, and Kynnersley) dwell upon the turbulent and disorderly conduct of men under the influence of alcohol as compared with the harmless inaction of the devotee of opium. Mr. Kynnersley is no doubt right when he says that if the Chinese, instead of smoking opium indulged to the same degree in alcohol, crime would seriously increase.

There is an overwhelming weight of evidence in these replies against alcohol.

NATIVE PUBLIC OPINION ON OPIUM HABIT AND ALCOHOL HABIT.

9. Is the habit of consuming opium condemned as degrading or injurious by the general opinion of the Chinese, Malay, or other Asiatic race? How would such races regard the opium habit as compared with the alcohol habit?

Native witnesses are obviously the best qualified to give evidence as to this. Out of four Chinese witnesses, two (Messrs. Gan Ngoh Bee and Chew Sin Yong) state that the Chinese do not regard the opium habit (when moderation is observed) as degrading or injurious. The other two (Messrs. Koh Seang Tat and Seah Liang Seah) say that it is regarded both as degrading and injurious. Mr. Chew Sin Yong says: "In China the 'use of opium is very general, and it is considered a 'mark of respect to offer the opium pipe to the visitors 'or customers who call at a friend's house or shop.' This does not look as if it was discountenanced by

Chinese society. (See also similar evidence of Mr. Seah Liang Seah and Mr. Hare, in answer to Question 14.) Two Mohammedans (the Dato Mantri of Johor and Sheikh Yusuf) are of opinion that the opium habit is regarded as degrading and injurious both by Chinese and Malays. The officers of the Chinese Protectorate, who have studied the Chinese language in China, and are in constant communication with Chinese in the colony, have exceptional facilities for getting trustworthy information on the subject. Of these, Mr. Wray finds that the Chinese condemn the opium habit as possibly leading to abuse, which is degrading and injurious; Mr. Hare's opinion is practically the same. Mr. Evans says that opium-smoking is looked on with disfavour. Both Mr. Hare and Mr. Evans speak of the disinclination of a Chinese father to give his daughter in marriage to an opium-smoker.

The prevailing opinion among the other witnesses, as regards Chinese public opinion, is that there is no general condemnation of moderate opium-smoking, though excess is considered to be degrading. Several remark on the fact that Chinese seem ashamed to confess to the habit, but this is possibly ascribable to a knowledge of English prejudices. Two witnesses (Messrs. Anderson and Meyer), find that the condemnation of the opium habit is confined to non-users.

My own opinion is that opium-smoking is looked upon by the better classes of Chinese as a vice, and, therefore, degrading, and I found this on the fact (also spoken to by Messrs. Swettenham and Kynnersley) that it is common to hear it said of a man as a matter of reproach, "he is an opium-smoker." But, of course, this may sometimes be said in order to arouse antipathy in the Englishman, without being an index of the real feelings of the speaker. The opium habit is certainly no bar to high official employment among the Chinese. The instance given by Mr. Hüttenbach, in his answer to Question 6, is not an isolated one. Where any answers have been given on this point, the opinion seems to be that among the Chinese the alcohol habit would be considered to be more degrading than the opium habit, and in this I agree.

As regards Malays, all the witnesses who answer this part of the question agree that the opium habit is condemned as sinful and degrading. This does not, as I have already remarked, prevent opium-smoking from being a fashionable vice at the Courts of many of the Malays Rajas of the Malay Peninsula. I entirely agree with those who think that the opium habit would be regarded indulgently by Malays in comparison with the alcohol habit. One witness (Mr. Shellabear), who does not perhaps know the native states, thinks that the opium habit would be regarded by Malays as more scandalous and degrading than the alcohol habit. This is true of town-bred Malays and Jawi-Pekans (Mohammedan half-breeds, Indian and Malay), among whom the consumption of beer, wine, and spirits is common.

IS CURE POSSIBLE?

10. Can and do opium-consumers break themselves of the opium habit?

One Chinese witness (Mr. Koh Seang Tat) says that he has never known or heard of an opium consumer breaking himself of the habit, and this view is supported by one medical man (Dr. Kerr). Twenty-three witnesses, including three Chinese and five medical men, say that opium-smokers can break themselves of the habit. Four witnesses (Messrs. Evans, Meyer, Swettenham, and Dr. Ellis) give instances which have occurred within their own experiences. Four (Messrs. Shellabear, Lamont, Clifford, and O'Brien) think that cure is rare, but by at least one of these witnesses it is stated that this is because it is rarely desired or attempted. The experience of our gaols, hospitals, and lunatic asylum sufficiently shows that an opium-smoker can, with comparative ease, adapt himself to sudden and absolute deprivation of the drug. This is conclusive evidence that cure is possible, and that strength of mind, in the case of a man who is a free agent, is all that is required. But in the desire to spare themselves the inconvenience and suffering involved by such a strong method, it is common for opium-smokers who have reasons for desiring to discontinue the habit to inquire from medical practitioners (European and native) for some panacea which will enable them to leave it off gradually. I have constantly heard of this being done, and most subordinate medical practitioners in the colony must have experience of such cases.

The following is recorded as a cure which occurred in the practice of a Singapore doctor nearly 50 years ago, the patient being a native of India, whose habit was to take 40 grains of solid opium daily, 20 in the morning in the shape of two pills, and 20 before his evening meal. Instead of these pills he was ordered to take, at the accustomed times:—

Battley's sedative solution	-	-	1 dram.
Tincture of opium	-	-	1 "
Tincture of gentian	-	-	1 "
Distilled water	-	-	1½ oz.
to be washed down with—			
Essence of ginger	-	-	1 dram.
An aromatic stimulating tincture	-	-	2 drams.
Water	-	-	1 oz.

He was also ordered gentle walking exercise morning and evening.

The quantity of Battley (liquor opii sedations, containing 50 per cent. more opium than laudanum does) and tincture of opium was diminished daily, but the bitter tincture of the first bottle and the strength of the second bottle were increased, until at last no opium at all was administered. A decoction of black pepper, ginger, and grassia was gradually substituted for the bitter tinctures. The man is said to have been cured of the habit, but I do not find from the narrative that the doctor really ascertained this. Dr. Brown (11th witness) says that the opium habit can be easily cured by gradually decreasing doses of morphia by mouth hypodermically, but in the hands of unskilled men the gradual decrease, upon which the success of the remedy depends, may perhaps be doubtful. As to this, Mr. O'Brien (35th witness) has some remarks in reply to Question 15.

PROBABLE RESULT IF INDIAN OPIUM WERE UNOBTAINABLE.—SUPPLY FROM ELSEWHERE.—ADOPTION OF A SUBSTITUTE.—TOTAL ABSTINENCE.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off, what would be the effect on opium consumers, and on the Asiatic population of your neighbourhood? Would they supply themselves with opium from elsewhere, or would they take to alcohol or to some narcotic other than opium? or would they abstain altogether?

It is practically agreed by all the witnesses, representing many shades of opinion about opium, that the stoppage of the Indian opium supply would not operate as the reformation of the opium-consuming population of this colony. They would certainly obtain a supply of opium from elsewhere, and the following places are named:—China, Annam, Turkey, Malwa, Persia. An impulse would be given to the cultivation of the poppy in every country not under British rule where it will grow. By degrees a sufficient supply of such opium would probably take the place of the article no longer produced in India, and the condition of the consumer would remain unaltered, except that he would not be able to gratify himself with the superior drug of Indian manufacture.

Question 11 does not invite any consideration of the question of excluding foreign opium from our ports, in the case of a self-denying measure prescribing cessation of cultivation in India. I may say, however, that to penalise the importation of such opium would, in my opinion, be a suicidal measure, and I agree with those who think that it would be followed by serious trouble, requiring armed force to repress it, and by an exodus of the most valuable part of our Chinese population to neighbouring countries, under Dutch or native rule, where foreign opium at least could be obtained.

Few express an opinion that alcohol would be adopted by the Chinese as a substitute for opium. Several witnesses, however, think that the consumption of alcohol would increase. I agree with those who think that it would be terrible to contemplate the substitution of spirit-drinking for opium-smoking as the national vice of our population, if vice there must be, and, human nature being what it is, there is little hope of inducing total abstinence from opium and spirits. It is to be noticed, however, that one Chinese witness (Mr. Koh Seang Tat) views with equanimity the supposition that "by the stoppage of the use of the "opium drug the consumption of spirits would be "increased."

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Only two witnesses indulge in any hope of total abstinence from opium as the result of the stoppage of the Indian supply. Mr. Lamont thinks that the opium-smoker "might abstain altogether," and the Dato Mantri of Johor thinks that "some might be able to free themselves altogether from the habit."

REVENUE OF THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS FROM OPIUM.—
POSSIBLE SOURCES OF REVENUE TO REPLACE IT.—
PUBLIC OPINION OF SUCH A STEP.

12. What proportion of your colony's revenue accrues from opium? If the opium revenue were extinguished, could your colony raise the needful revenue otherwise? What would the people say to the loss of the opium revenue and the obligation to make up the deficit?

The sums paid annually to the colony for the opium and spirit monopoly for the present triennial period (1892, 1893, 1894) are as follows:—

	\$
Singapore - - -	1,110,000
Penang and Dindangs - - -	588,000
Mulacca - - -	122,400
Total - - -	\$1,820,400

The total estimated revenue of the colony for 1893 was \$3,635,780. The opium and spirit monopoly contributes therefore one-half of the total revenue of the colony.

The opium revenue could only be extinguished by prohibiting the import of foreign opium, after stopping the cultivation of opium in India. While foreign opium could be freely introduced into the Dutch possessions, into Siam, into the Malay States tributary to Siam, and perhaps into Johor, it would be idle to suppose that it would not be smuggled into the colony, even if it were possible to maintain a very large preventive establishment. Supposing such a measure carried out, and the only "opium revenue" to be that derived from fines levied on smugglers (which would not probably cover the cost of the preventive staff), the loss of revenue would not be merely the loss of the money now paid by the opium farmer. With the inevitable diminution of population, consequent on the diminished popularity of the colony as a place of residence for Chinese, there would be a shrinkage of the general revenue in almost every department.

From the point of view of one whose duty it would be to try to carry on the efficient government of the colony under such conditions, I have searched the answers to Question 12 with the utmost care in order to find any practical suggestion for the raising of a revenue to take the place of that supposed hypothetically to have been voluntarily abandoned. I can find none which I could recommend for adoption, and I can make no suggestion.

It is generally recognised that the only way to raise a revenue would be to impose import and export duties, but this would reduce the ports of Penang and Singapore from the position of *entrepôts* doing a vast transit trade with foreign countries into petty trading towns serving only the islands on which they are situated and the adjacent Malay States. The free ports, which would immediately spring up on the neighbouring Dutch possessions, would soon take away our merchants and our trade. Mr. O'Brien (34th witness) puts the case well when he says: "The revenue could not be raised from other sources without the practical extinction of the colony, whose vital existence depends upon the freedom of its ports."

One witness (Mr. Koh Seang Tat) expects more than it is possible to obtain from doubling the duty on spirits. To raise the duty on spirits from 75 cents a gallon to \$1.50 a gallon would not, by any means, result in doubling the revenue payable by the spirit farmer, for the latter pays for three things: the sole rights to manufacture; the right to retail or to license retail shops; and the right to levy a duty of 75 cents on all spirits imported for consumption. It is, of course, only in respect of imported spirits that the raising of the duty would add to the revenue. And if, under the state of things described above, there were a very marked diminution in the Chinese, and consequently in

the European, population, the spirit revenue might be expected to fall seriously.

One witness (Mr. Vermont) mentions, with disfavour, a land tax. In the present state of the colony land might perhaps be made to pay more than it does. But, in a colony disorganised by the measures consequent on repressive legislation, and threatened by the loss of the most valuable part of its population, he would be a sanguine administrator who would expect much additional land revenue from the 1,300 square miles included in the term "Straits Settlements."

As Mr. Kynnersley (33rd witness) says: "It would be as difficult for the colony to raise the needful revenue otherwise (than from opium) as it would be for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give up excise revenue." No way out of this difficulty is pointed out by those most opposed to opium. Mr. Lamont (17th witness) can make no suggestions, and Mr. Shellabear (14th witness) can only say "the deficit could undoubtedly be made up."

As for the judgment of native public opinion upon the sacrifice of opium revenue, and the levy of fresh taxes to replace it, no witness has been sanguine enough to suppose that it would be favourable to the Government which carried out such a measure. One witness (Mr. Koh Seang Tat), while admitting that Europeans and Asiatics alike "would certainly object," thinks that eventually the philanthropic motive would be appreciated, and "the new taxes" acquiesced in. No other witness is so hopeful, and the attitude of mind of the native public towards the policy sketched in the question is variously conjectured by the following witnesses, and is indicated according to such conjectures in the words or phrases placed opposite the following names:—

"object to increased burden"	{ Kynnersley.
"gravest discontent"	- Gan Ngo Bo.
"displeased"	- Lister.
"unjust"	- Chew Sin Yong.
"silly and incomprehensible"	- Meyer.
"frivolously creating disturbance and inconvenience"	- Treacher.
"mad"	- Hüttenbach.
"inexplicable caprice"	- Kennedy.
"unwise"	- Clifford.
"nation of fools"	- Seah Liang Seah.
"unjust and improper taxes"	- Vermont.
	- Dato Mantri.

REASONS WHY EUROPEANS DO NOT CONTRACT THE OPIUM HABIT AND ASIATICS DO.

13. Do people of European race contract the opium habit in any numbers? If not, why not? And what makes Asiatics more liable to contract the habit?

Europeans do not contract the opium habit in any numbers. Only two of the witnesses (Messrs. Swettenham and Miller) have mentioned cases of European opium-smokers among their own acquaintances. I myself can remember three, one of whom abandoned the habit after a year's trial. He described it as quite incompatible with European manners. The recumbent position requires the adoption of Oriental dress of some kind, for nothing can be more uncomfortable than to lie down for any length of time wearing a pair of tight trousers and ordinary boots or shoes. One of the chief charms of opium-smoking is the social chat which goes on between the occupants of the contiguous couches, but unless the European smoker is a very ardent student of Asiatic languages or manners and customs, he is not likely to enjoy very long the society of the Chinese or Malays with whom he smokes.

Other reasons are named:—Heredity, race, food, associations, and surroundings (Dr. Mugliston); Christianity (Dr. O'Sullivan); the fact that any craving for stimulant is sufficiently supplied by tobacco and alcohol (Penny, Lister, Swettenham, Lamont, Ellis, Vermont, and Kynnersley); and the love of Englishman for an active life (Gentle, Kerr).

In the case of Asiatics, the following are suggested as predisposing causes for addiction to opium:—Heredity (O'Brien); belief in its medicinal virtues (O'Brien and Chew Sin Yong); race peculiarities and temperaments

and easy access to the article (Lamont); want of healthy means of amusement (Vermont). Some or all of these might be suggested as reasons for indulgence on the part of Europeans in alcohol or tobacco.

HABIT, HOW AND WHY COMMENCED.—OPIUM AS A PROPHYLACTIC.

14. How are opium consumers led to use the drug? Do they usually or often take it in the first instance to allay physical pain? Is opium, within your knowledge, a prophylactic against fever, or rheumatism, or malaria? Or is it so regarded commonly by any Asiatic race with which you are conversant?

The prevailing causes, in the majority of cases, for the commencement of opium-smoking are example, the sociable man easily dropping into the ways of his friends, and a belief—very wide-spread among Chinese—in the medicinal virtues of the drug. The influence of example and desire for sociability is spoken of by at least a dozen of the witnesses, and it is easily intelligible that a man who is brought up among, or thrown into the society of persons who habitually smoke opium with apparent gratification to themselves, soon makes the experiment himself, and adopts the habit.

The opium habit may also commence during the illness, where opium pills have been recommended by friends or native physicians to allay pain.

The action of opium on the generative organs (Dr. Ellis) encourages a belief in its aphrodisiac virtues (Koh Seang Tat, Hare, Kerr, Clifford, Shellabear), and this may account for the commencement of the habit in a comparatively small number of cases.

Rightly or wrongly, the faith of the Chinese in the medicinal virtues of opium is great. It is, to a very considerable portion of the community, a necessity of life, and any political action which would deprive them of it would be regarded in the light of cruel oppression. It is a fact that the larger portion of the labouring population believe it to be necessary to them both to stimulate them to energy in their daily occupations and to ward off attacks of illness when they are working in unhealthy situations. The tin miners of Perak and Selangor and the gambler and pepper planters in the interior of Johor are, perhaps from the arduous nature of their work and the conditions of their exile to remote places, greater consumers of opium than any class of labourers in the colony.

It is more important to ascertain whether opium is generally believed in by our Asiatic population as a prophylactic against certain diseases, than to know whether scientific men accord any support to such a belief. Taking the medical witnesses first, Dr. Haviland (fourth witness) does not regard opium as a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, or malaria, nor does he believe that its influence on disease is to any extent the cause of its consumption amongst Chinese. Dr. Brown (11th witness) says that opium may be looked upon as a prophylactic against malaria, but declines to speak as to rheumatism. He is inclined to believe that it is useful against the effects of chills, catarrh, diarrhoea, &c., and has very strong proofs of its efficacy in preventing seizures in the case of the last-named disease. Dr. Kerr (18th witness) speaks of the use of opium to allay the pain of chronic rheumatism, and reports that the Sikhs, who serve as policemen in this colony, regard it as a prophylactic against malaria. Dr. O'Sullivan (27th witness) gives no opinion of his own. He has not heard that Chinese regard opium as a prophylactic against malarial fever, and finds that smokers profess to have taken to the habit to relieve cough or rheumatic pain. Dr. Ellis (28th witness) says that he has had no experience as to the prophylactic powers of opium, but testifies that the majority of Chinese here regard it in that light as to malaria and bowel complaints, and also as being an aid to digestion. Dr. Mugliston (35th witness) is informed by those capable of judging that it is a prophylactic against malaria and diseases associated with planting and jungle-workers.

As to the belief of the Chinese themselves in opium as a prophylactic against various diseases, many witnesses have given evidence. The diseases named are the following:—

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Malaria and fever - - -

Rheumatism - - -

Bowel complaints - - -

Cough, chills, catarrh, consumption, &c. - - -

Beri-beri - - -

Gan Ngoh Bee.
Meyer.
Lister.
Chew Sing Yong.
Miller.
Swettenham.
Dr. Brown.
Treacher.
Dr. Kerr.
Anderson.
Dr. Ellis.
Dato Mantri.
Vermont.
Hare.
Kynnersley.
Dr. Mugliston.
Gan Ngoh Bee.
Chew Sin Yong.
Dr. Kerr.
Birch.
Dr. O'Sullivan.
Vermont.
Chew Sin Yong.
Swettenham.
Dr. Brown.
Clifford.
Birch.
Dr. Ellis.
Dr. Mugliston.
Chew Sing Yong.
Dr. Brown.
Birch.
Dr. O'Sullivan.
Hare.

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One Chinese witness (Mr. Koh Seang Tat) says: "Opium is not taken in this colony as a protection or relief from fever, rheumatism, or malaria, nor is it regarded by the Chinese, useful in any such cases"; and another (Mr. Seah Liang Seah) says: "To my knowledge opium is not prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, or malaria."

DESIRE ON THE PART OF CONSUMER FOR FREEDOM FROM THE OPIUM-HABIT.

15. Do opium consumers themselves usually desire to get free of the opium habit?

The question is whether there is generally a longing on the part of the opium-consumer to rid himself of the tyranny of a bad habit. As to this the evidence is very conflicting. Six witnesses (Dr. Kerr, Sheikh Yusuf, Koh Seang Tat, Shellabear, Seah Liang Seah, and Dr. O'Sullivan) answer in the affirmative, and four others (Miller, O'Sullivan, Kynnersley, and Dr. Mugliston) in the negative. The other witnesses qualify their answers in some way or other. It is an undoubted fact that there is a demand for a "cure" for the opium-habit, and this demand would not exist were there not a desire on the part of some smokers to give up the habit. I agree with those witnesses (Messrs. Gan Ngoh Bee, Lister, Chew Sin Yong, Meyer, Wray, Gentle, Anderson, Lamont, and O'Brien) who think that this desire is to be found only among those who exceed, and not among moderate smokers, who indeed need seldom have reason for it. Malay opium-smokers, when they find it desirable to rehabilitate their characters among their co-religionists (Swettenham) or to reduce their expenses (Clifford) often desire freedom, and inquire for a cure. So Chinese, from an impression that excess in opium is doing them harm, or from fear of losing self-control in its use, or from the necessity for retrenchment, or from other reasons, may desire to get rid of the habit, and that under such circumstances opium-smokers do give effect to their wishes is easily susceptible of proof. But that there is any general desire on the part of the great bulk of opium-smokers for "freedom" I do not for one moment believe. There need be no desire for freedom where no slavery exists, and no slavery is established except in the case of those who exceed, and these are, fortunately, a small minority.

HOSTILITY AGAINST ENGLAND ENGENDERED BY ALLOWING EXPORT OF OPIUM FROM INDIA.

16. Is there among any Asiatic race in your colony a feeling of hostility against England for allowing opium to be exported from India? If so, how does that feeling display itself?

There is absolutely no such feeling in any Asiatic race in the colony. This is the opinion of 29 witnesses

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out of 32 who have answered this question. Probably very few of the consumers have any kind of information as to the place or manner of the production of opium, or connect England in any way with its distribution.

Three witnesses (Evans, Lamont, and Ellis) trace a feeling of injury in an educated few, who have perhaps imbibed the special prejudices of a class of European thinkers or writers, and as regards Malays, one witness (Shellabear) speaks of indignation on the part of some at the thought of the use of opium being spread among their race by Chinese influence. This is, however, a separate question altogether.

That a real feeling of hostility would be aroused against England, or the Colonial Government representing England in these parts, if there were any interference with the import of opium is the opinion of several (Haviland, Lister, Meyer, Hüttenbach), and having had personal experience of a serious rising (necessitating resort to fire-arms to repress it) on the part of Chinese in consequence of a threatened excise measure in Perak which would have made chandu dear, I entirely agree with this prognostication.

Two witnesses (Dr. Ellis, Hare) think that, as it is, the Chinese consider that the inhabitants of the colony are hardly treated by having opium so heavily taxed by Government.

GENERAL REMARKS.

17. Have you any other remark to make in regard to opium consumption among the people around you?

Thoughtful observations on the subject of opium-consumption in the Straits Settlements are contributed by Messrs. Swettenham, Gentle, Way, Anderson, Hare, Kynnersley, and O'Brien. To these I do not desire to add much. I believe that a great deal of the prejudice against opium which undoubtedly exists in Europe, where the use of this narcotic has never become general, is founded upon ignorance. It is doubtful, though, if the feeling of horror with which the enemies of opium may regard it is equalled by the feeling of disgust with which a good Mohammedan regards the consumption of pork or intoxicants. *Autre pays autres mœurs.*

Those who live in eastern countries where opium is habitually consumed do not see, to shock and horrify them, the shameful sights which the Asiatic visitor to Europe can see in alcohol-consuming communities. The prohibition of the cultivation of the poppy in India (if such a step can be admitted as possible, even in argument) should be preceded by the abandonment of the cultivation of the vine in Europe and of the manufacture of spirits.

Any Government which should decide to put down the consumption of opium in the Straits Settlements would have to suppress by armed force the resistance of the Chinese and to face unpopularity and bankruptcy, while seeing the colony lowered in the estimation of the Asiatic trading public in almost every particular in which it is now superior to surrounding ports.

I believe that life in one of the eastern colonies under the British flag is the freest and safest that a Chinese can enjoy anywhere. It is not merely from a desire to be pleasant to Englishmen that Chinese enlarge on the freedom they enjoy in Singapore and Penang as opposed to the restrictions and disqualifications which meet them in the neighbouring colonies of the French, the Dutch, and the Spanish. Interference with the opium trade would be interference with this freedom; it would disgust those whom we should be professing to benefit, and would directly benefit the commerce and colonies of other European nations.

NATIVE STATES.

18. Please state how far opium consumption is common among the native states around the colony. Do the rulers of those states discourage its use, or do they raise revenue from it? What is the public or general opinion of the native states regarding the drug, its use or abuse, and its effects on the consumers and on the people at large?

As to native states, reference may be made to the evidence of Mr. Swettenham for Perak, Mr. Treacher for Selangor, and Mr. Clifford for Pahang.

Malay rulers do not, in any State that I am acquainted with, discourage the practice of opium consumption.

The sale of the monopoly of the trade in opium is a feature in the fiscal system of every native state. The system is older than British government in the Straits of Malacca.

Public opinion regarding opium in the native states does not differ from that already described as prevailing in the colony, except that among Malays in the native states perhaps more indulgence is shown towards the opium habit than among those in the colony. On the other hand, the consumption of spirits by Mohammedans is probably much more common in the colony than in the native states.

I am of opinion that opium is too cheap in the native states, and that a higher import duty than \$8 a ball might not unreasonably be imposed in the mining districts, though it need not be as high as \$21, the duty imposed in the agricultural district of Negri Sembilan.

WILLIAM MAXWELL,
Colonial Secretary,
Straits Settlements.

Singapore,
February 28th, 1894.

ANSWERS to QUESTIONS regarding OPIUM CONSUMPTION and OPIUM REVENUE in the STRAITS SETTLEMENTS and DEPENDENCIES.

First Witness.—Mr. Gan Ngoh Bee, one of the partners in the Opium Farm, Singapore, a native of the Straits Settlements.

1. Yes. Opium is very commonly consumed by the Chinese, and to a small extent also by the Malays and Siamese in this colony.

2. I think not less than one-third of the adult male Chinese in this colony are opium consumers. It is difficult to risk a conjecture regarding the proportion of the adult male consumers of the Malay and Siamese races, but suffice it to say that the proportion is small.

Women also consume opium to a small extent, but I think children do not.

3. Opium, consumed moderately, is beneficial to the constitution, but when taken in excess produces various ill-effects on its consumers the chief characteristic features being laziness and physical weakness.

I believe the effects are the same on consumers of every race.

4. Consumers chiefly smoke prepared opium, and swallow the dross, the latter method of consumption being stronger in effect than the former.

5. Generally, opium consumers, with a few exceptions, are moderate consumers. Opium consumers who indulge in excess eventually become slaves to the habit.

6. Moderation in the consumption of opium is possible, and is the general rule.

I instance one case in which a man has taken opium for years without harm to himself. One of my Chinese clerks, now aged 65 years, has been addicted to the opium habit since he was 30 years old, but there is nothing to show either in his feature, manners, or habit that he is an opium smoker. I may as well state that his appetite is quite good.

7. Yes. Mining labourers, who from the nature of their vocation live in damp surroundings, generally cannot work without some doses of opium to stimulate them. The effect of the opium habit on the efficiency of all, when taken in moderation, seems to be to stimulate the energy of the brain-worker, and to give relief and comfort to the labourer in the evening after his day's work. If taken in excess, the opium smoker becomes weak and not able to work sustainedly.

8. Comparing the abuses of alcohol and opium, I believe the former is the more harmful of the two evils, for the reason that, while the drunkard generally causes dangers and accidents and boisterously creates disturbances by displaying his physical powers to the injuries of others, the intoxicated opium consumer loses his bodily strength, lies down quietly, and sleeps away the intoxication.

9. The Chinese do not look upon the habit in moderation as degrading or injurious.

The Malays condemn both the opium habit and the alcohol habit.

10. Yes. With much self-denial even confirmed opium smokers of many years' standing can break

themselves of the habit, but only in exceptional cases do moderate consumers break themselves of it, probably because they are better with the drug than without it.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off, the people would no doubt get the supply from other sources, such as Turkey, Annam, China, &c.

I do not believe opium consumers would resort to alcohol or any narcotic, though a certain proportion might try to cure themselves of the habit.

12. About one-half of this colony's revenue accrues from opium.

If the opium revenue were extinguished, the needful revenue could not be easily supplemented by other new sources of taxation, such as duties on beer, wine, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, and other articles of luxury, &c.

The general public would certainly object to bear the burden of new or increased taxations with a good grace. At present the opium consumer is willing to pay for his luxury because he likes it. The question of making up the deficit is extremely puzzling, and I would rather leave its solution to others more qualified than myself.

13. I think Europeans in this colony do not contract the opium habit because it does not suit their national habits and customs.

14. Probably about 30 per cent. of opium consumers come to it in the first instance from indulging in it in society at the invitation of friends, and 65 per cent. resort to its use through belief in its curative and medicinal qualities.

Opium is commonly believed to allay pain, and is recommended by the Asiatics as a prophylactic against rheumatism and malaria, but not against fever, so far as I know.

15. Very few, if any, moderate consumers wish to cure themselves of the habit, unless they have any special reason, such as poverty, fear of loss of self-control over its use, &c.

16. As far as I am aware, Asiatics in this colony do not evince any feeling of hostility against England for allowing opium to be exported from India.

17. No special remarks.

18. Opium consumption in the native states of the Malay Peninsula is as common as in this colony, if not more so. Rulers of those states do not discourage its use, but, on the contrary, raise a considerable revenue from it.

There opium is generally taken by the mining labourers as a stimulant for work, and as a prophylactic against sickness in mining quarters. The public opinion, as far as I know, of the Chinese people in this colony and in the native states on the effects of opium on its consumers is the same as that given above.

GAN NGOH BEE,
Opium Farmer.

Singapore,
4th December 1893.

Second Witness.—Mr. F. G. Penney, Straits Civil Service; has been 17 years resident in the colony.

1. Opium is consumed largely by the Chinese, and occasionally by Malays; in the latter case usually by well-to-do Malays.

2. It depends on the occupation followed, *e.g.*, miners use it more freely than most other classes. All round, I should say that 20 to 25 per cent. of the Chinese in the colony smoked opium. I have not had personal experience of women and children smoking opium.

3. The physical effect of moderate opium-smoking may be said to be practically *nil* in the majority of cases, just as in the moderate use of tobacco and alcohol; though, of course cases are met with where men have wrecked themselves with opium. In such cases the moral effect would be bad. But, generally speaking, the use of opium does not lead to crime.

4. Consumers *smoke* almost exclusively.

5. The great majority are moderate smokers, as is shown by the physical condition of those using it.

6. Moderation is certainly possible.

8. I should say that the use of alcohol instead of opium among the native races would have immeasurably worse effects.

9. By all but the lower classes of Chinese, I should say it was condemned. The better classes, especially those who come into contact with Europeans, would not like it to be known that they smoked opium.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off, the Chinese would doubtless obtain it from China, and if this source of supply were closed they would possibly take to the use of "morphia" or some such substitute.

12. I do not know how the colony could raise the needful revenue without opium. The only means would be the imposition of customs dues, which would mean disaster to a free port. The cessation of the opium revenue would, I suppose, mean that it could be freely imported. This would tend, by the lowering of the price, to convert moderate smokers into immoderate users of the drug.

13. Europeans do not contract the habit. They have tobacco and alcohol, which are the racial stimulants or sedatives, just as opium is of the Chinese. It is merely a question of the "form" of the means of satisfying a world-wide craving.

16. I have never heard of any such feeling.

FRED. G. PENNEY,
Senior District Officer,
December 5th, 1893. Province Wellesley.

Third Witness.—Mr. W. Evans, Straits Civil Service, Assistant Protector of Chinese; has been 11 years resident in the colony or in China.

1. I can only answer for the Chinese. Opium is commonly consumed by them in this colony.

2. I should say that 50 per cent. of the adult Chinese consume opium, but I have no statistics.

Very few women consume opium.

No children.

3. I have observed no moral effects of moderate opium-smoking on the consumers. Of course when indulged in to excess the consumer becomes perfectly untrustworthy and cannot be believed in any way. I have observed exactly the same effect produced on an Englishman who was a victim to the morphia habit.

The physical effect manifests itself outwardly in yellow shrunken skin, thin cadaverous appearance, and general debility. I refer to opium taken to excess.

I have observed no social effects. Well-known opium-smokers appear to hold social positions equally as good as non-smokers.

4. Consumers chiefly smoke opium. When, however, the consumer finds that he can no longer afford to smoke, he makes a decoction of opium, which is much cheaper, and which has the same effect of staving off the craving and relieving the unpleasant effects (such as running at the nose, looseness of the bowels, &c.) consequent on a delayed dose.

Opium is occasionally eaten when the circumstances are such that smoking cannot be indulged in.

No.

5. No. The majority of consumers are moderate consumers.

6. No.

During the years 1884-85, which I spent in China studying the Amoy dialect, I spent about 10 or 12 months up-country, in different parts of the district. I was always accompanied by my teacher—Mr. Liao, an old man of 70. He was to my knowledge a constant opium-smoker, but during the two years in which he worked with me I never once had to complain of irregularity of attendance or of neglect of work. He informed me that, being in his father's shop, he began to smoke with the customers when he was about 20 years old. It soon became a habit and he continued until he was about 30 years old, when, being engaged as teacher to a missionary on the understanding that he must be a non-smoker, he gave up the habit without any difficulty for three or four years. When his engagement terminated, he again took to smoking, and had continued the habit until I knew him, when he was about 70 years old. He was clear-headed, active and an admirable teacher, and apparently a much better man than the average Chinese at 70 years of age.

During these same years I frequently visited a little village, Soan Sia, about 90 miles up the river from Amoy. While there I made the acquaintance of the Mandarin in charge of the salt revenue at the neighbouring town of . . . and frequently visited him and accepted the hospitality of his house. He was a constant opium-smoker, I myself having seen him smoke pipe after pipe and immediately rise and come

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out walking with me. He was a man of about 40 years old, and the finest specimen of a Chinese that I have ever seen. He stood about 6 feet high and was broad and well set up. He had a son of 16 who was growing up on exactly the same lines as his father. I asked him if he would allow his son to smoke. He said "not till he is 21, and then he may if he likes." The effect of four or five pipes of opium on this gentleman was not to produce the drunken stupor depicted in novels and elsewhere, but, on the contrary, they appeared to act like a tonic, and endue him with fresh energy, physical and mental.

7. The majority of outdoor labourers, such as rikisha coolies, estate labourers, and godown coolies smoke opium after their day's work.

Amongst the better class of merchants, particularly the Straits-born, smoking is the exception, though the smaller shopkeepers are more addicted to it.

The artisans, too, as a rule do not smoke. Exceptions, however, are to be found, *e.g.*, goldsmiths are generally opium-smokers, bricklayers and house-builders working by the job, too, are frequently smokers.

The general effect of this, when in moderation, seems to be greater efficiency. To the labourer it brings relief after fatigue, to the merchant greater acuteness.

8. I have had very little opportunity of studying the effects of alcohol on the Chinese, as it is very rarely taken by them to excess.

9. Opium-smoking is looked on with disfavour by the Chinese, though a smoker is not in any way ostracised.

An opium-smoker is considered less reliable than a non-smoker, *e.g.*, a man would be unwilling to marry his daughter to an opium-smoker without compensating advantages. Smoking to excess is considered injurious by Chinese.

It seems to me that the Chinese have more contempt for a drunkard than for an opium-smoker, though I have had very few opportunities of noticing the abuse of alcohol among Chinese, as it is unusual.

10. Yes. Of course the longer the habit of opium-smoking has continued the less likely it is to be given up, owing, no doubt, to greater necessity for it medicinally and to an increased weakness of purpose which will prevent the smoker really making the attempt.

I might instance my teacher in Amoy, Mr. Liao, who after some years' smoking gave it up for a time in order to procure a situation.

11. The Chinese would no doubt obtain a supply of opium from elsewhere. Perhaps a few of the Straits, born Chinese might take to champagne or brandy, but it would be a very small proportion.

12. —

13. Not in the Straits Settlements.

14. Opium is frequently taken in the first instance to allay physical pain. It is also taken occasionally by way of being sociable, *e.g.*, when visiting a brothel with friends, or when in charge of a business a pipe is offered to a customer to facilitate the transaction, and the merchant himself smokes out of politeness.

I do not think opium is regarded a prophylactic against fever, &c. It is taken occasionally medicinally, but it does not appear to me that its regular use is considered a prevention of any illness.

15. Yes; in a feeble kind of way, and they no doubt would be able to do so if they had sufficient strength of mind. The late inquiry in Hong Kong as to the use of morphia injections proves that a large number of persons wish to get rid of the habit of opium-smoking, though a large majority will no doubt be content to substitute the "morphia habit."

16. Not among the Chinese, except perhaps a few who have been educated at our schools, and have been taught that England is to blame for the introduction of opium to China.

These few conceal their feelings, and do not display them in any way.

17. No.

18. I have never resided in the native states.

W. EVANS,
Assistant Protector of Chinese.

6th December 1893.

Fourth Witness.—Mr. G. D. Haviland, M.B., M.R.C.S. Curator, Raffles Museum; formerly Medical Officer, Sarawak.

1. By Chinese commonly, by Malays uncommonly.

2. Women to a small extent.

3. When taken in moderation not much effect. When taken in excess very bad, the consumers then lose all self-respect, are much more given to deceiving and stealing, they are unable to attend to their affairs, lose their appetites, and often the means of getting food; they become miserable objects.

They do not, however, cause so much crime and injury to others as those who take alcohol in excess.

I have no personal knowledge of opium consumption amongst Malays. I have seen a few opium consumers in England, and the effect on Chinese seems less injurious than on Europeans, but Chinese habit and conditions of life are so different from those of Europeans that it is difficult to compare the mere effects of the opium.

In particular, a Chinaman is not going against the strong opinion of all his fellows in taking opium, whereas a European is so, and if he takes it must either not have much self-respect to begin with, or must soon lose it, independently of the actual effects of the drug.

4. Smoke and eat, very seldom drink a decoction.

5. The majority do not become "opium-sots"; the majority remain moderate consumers.

6. Incorrect.

My knowledge of the effect of opium on Chinese is chiefly derived from my experience as principal medical officer at Sarawak, which post I held for a little less than two years, the conditions at Sarawak being identical in this matter with those at Singapore. Although I then went into the history of some of the patients carefully, I could not give detailed description of any case extending over several years. The number of patients in the hospital who were suffering in any way from the effect of opium was very small compared with those who were in for other reasons, and in the habit of taking opium.

7. —

8. I have not seen any Chinaman suffering from permanent ill-effect of too much alcohol; the temporary influence of too much alcohol on Chinamen seems different from the influence on the majority of Europeans.

9. I believe it is generally regarded as degrading, certainly a Chinese servant would try and hide from a European master that he took opium.

10. Some opium consumers can break themselves of the habit, if they are moderate consumers.

11. They would surely get opium or some nearly allied narcotic from elsewhere if they could. They would hardly take alcohol as a substitute for opium, but if the opium habit were extinguished, the alcohol habit would probably increase.

12. —

13. Europeans do not, as a rule, adopt Chinese habits, nor the opium habit in particular.

14. Opium certainly seems more suited to Chinese than to European constitutions.

Opium consumption having once become customary amongst a number, others would be sure to try it.

The present method of letting opium farms gives a strong inducement to the farmer to push the sale of the drug.

I do not think that Chinese often take it in the first instance to allay pain. I have never known Chinese, as I have English patients, pretend to be in pain to get opium given them, though I have known them leave the hospital when not allowed to smoke opium.

I do not regard opium as a prophylactic against the diseases mentioned, nor do I think its influence on disease is to any extent the cause of its consumption amongst Chinese.

15. I have several times been applied to by Chinamen for medicine to cure them of their opium habit.

16. With the exception of a few educated Chinamen, the Asiatics would not consider the matter at all.

Feeling of hostility amongst Asiatics is generally reserved for acts of commission. Hostility would show itself amongst the opium consumers against England if she took active steps to prevent them buying opium. It

would probably also show itself against the Government if it collected the opium tax itself directly instead of indirectly through the opium farmer.

17. No.

G. D. HAVILAND, M.B., M.R.C.S.,
Curator, Raffles Museum.

Raffles Library and Museum, Singapore,
December 6th, 1893.

Fifth Witness.—Hon. Martin Lister, British Resident, Negri Sembilan; for nine years in the service of the native states; previously a planter in the native states.

1. Opium is used by Chinese. More by miners than planters. Miners probably 80 per cent. Planters possibly 40 per cent. Only about 5 per mille of Malays use it. Other Asiatics possibly the same per-centage as Malays.

2. As above. Women consume very little, children do not.

3. Opium tends in no way to immorality, quite the contrary. Physically, a heavy smoker becomes thin, but I have seen heavy opium-smokers in usual condition. I believe it to be a valuable febrifuge. The ordinary smoker is strong, and works well. Socially, it may be annoying to the heavy consumer, but not to the ordinary one. I cannot tell the difference in effect on the races. Probably the effect is less felt by the Chinese.

4. They chiefly smoke. The very poor eat opium-dross. I have seen concoctions by Chinese, but these are said to be used medicinally. As there is so little eating and drinking of opium, I do not think that the effects could be analysed.

5. Possibly 5 per cent. become what is termed "opium-sots," but I have never seen a heavy opium-smoker whom I could thus describe. He is always able to carry on his business, travel and walk considerable distances. I know many who are 60 years old and upwards. The large majority is of moderate consumers.

6. Quite incorrect. It is altogether the exception. Certainly (*see above*). I am unable to give the details.

7. The Chinese do in all classes. As far as I can judge, it is quite harmless, and interferes very little with their calling—not more than a pipe of tobacco after meals.

8. Among such races, opium is, in my opinion, far preferable to alcohol. I might even say that if opium was smoked by all races, it would be far preferable to the use of alcohol.

9. By the Chinese in this state it is not condemned, except when it is used immoderately. Only the rich can use it so, and it is thought to be a pity by others when so used. It is far preferable to immoderate alcohol, which is much condemned by Chinese. The Malays condemn opium as they condemn alcohol, being Mohammedans.

10. Yes.

11. I should say for the time it would be disastrous to the consumers in the same way as if salt was cut off. They would certainly supply themselves from elsewhere if available. If not, they would doubtless take to something else, probably something far worse—alcohol, narcotics, and immorality. They would not abstain altogether.

12. About one-third. No. The State Council would decline altogether to extinguish the opium revenue, unless forced to do so by the imperial Government. To make up the deficit it would have to be in import duties on all merchandise, and on land, and the gravest discontent would be found amongst all classes.

13. No. They probably drink more and smoke stronger tobacco, and a great deal more of it. Probably because they do not drink.

14. I think in this state very often as a febrifuge.

In some cases possibly to soothe the pain. It is used against fever and malaria. I do not know about rheumatism, but I should say it was most probable.

15. Not moderate smokers.

16. None whatever. The hostility would be very great if the opium revenue was extinguished, and the deficit had to be made up by other taxation.

MARTIN LISTER,
British Resident, Negri Sembilan.

Kuala Pilah,
7th December 1893.

Sixth Witness.—Mr. Chew Sin Yong, J.P., Opium Farmer, Penang; a native of Penang.

1. Opium is more generally and more extensively consumed by the Chinese residents in the colony. The Malays and other Asiatic races consume very little in proportion, as only very few amongst them indulge in the drug.

2. The proportion of Chinese adult males is about 20 per 100 of the population, and the rest about one per 100.

No women of any class are known to consume opium except in rare and exceptional cases. No children at all have anything to do with opium.

3. Opium moderately taken, as is done by the better classes of Chinese, has not been observed to produce any effect, whether for good or evil, either morally, physically or socially; on the contrary, a very considerable number of persons who have had some experience of the subject are of opinion that those who use opium moderately and systematically have clear heads and keen memory, and they are equal to a great deal of physical and hard work. As regards consumers of other races, it is difficult to arrive at a correct decision, because Malays and any other Asiatic race in the colony do not use as much opium as the Chinese do, hence no distinction can be drawn.

4. Chinese, as a rule, always smoke opium; they would not take it in any other form, except when pressed by necessity from want of suitable accommodation for smoking; the Malays and other Asiatic races generally take it in the form of pills. Opium is taken in the form of a decoction by boiling the opium skin or leaves, with which the balls are wrapped, in water. This is used by coolies who are engaged in opening up new land in the interior, and are subject to attacks of beri-beri. No distinction can be made as regards the effects of smoking and drinking opium at the same time, as it would depend entirely on the quantity used, some people can take more than others without any harm.

5. The majority of opium consumers do not become slaves to the drug, as they never exceed a reasonable limit. Only the few amongst the lower classes who continue indulging recklessly without any consideration. As regards the rest, it may be safely stated that they are moderate consumers.

6. It is not at all correct to say that "there cannot be such a thing as 'moderation' in the consumption of opium," for the large majority of consumers of all races in the colony are moderate consumers. I have known of many cases who have taken their opium for years without any harm whatever to themselves. In several cases I have known of men who continued to take opium for more than 20 years without experiencing any difficulty in the conduct of their business—they dealt very largely in shipping and other trade, and enjoyed always strong and robust health.

7. Only a small proportion of merchants of any Asiatic race consume opium. Even amongst labourers and artisans the majority do not take any opium. The efficiency of their calling is in no way affected or interfered with by the opium habit.

8. As far as my experience and observations go, I believe that the use or abuse of opium amongst Asiatic races compares most favourably with the use or abuse of alcohol, for in the one case the votaries are almost altogether free from any evil consequences, while those addicted to the use or abuse of alcohol are subject to and suffer in one way or another from the ill-effects of alcohol.

9. In the opinion of the Chinese, the opium habit is not reckoned as degrading or injurious. I believe, however, that amongst the better and respectable classes of Malays and other Asiatic races they hold it in that light. Such races would consider the opium habit very much less injurious and degrading than the alcohol habit.

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10. Yes, all those who desire to break from the opium habit can, and do so without much difficulty. A determination on their part to become free will enable them to resist the temptation.

11. If the supply of Indian opium be struck off, the habitual consumers of that drug residing in this colony will anyhow find means to procure what they want from elsewhere, either by smuggling it from the neighbouring Malayan States or by purchase. They will not, especially the Chinese, take to alcohol as a substitute, for they know that it will not act as a satisfactory substitute for opium, and besides alcohol is open to certain objections which opium is not. There are no narcotics that consumers of opium are aware of except certain expensive preparations of that drug, which are beyond their reach. The other narcotic the Chinese know of is bang and its preparations. They will not have anything to do with it, owing to the dangers it is surrounded with. The low classes of Malays and Indians may take to bang, as they are now indulging in it, but I cannot say that they would do so as a substitute for opium. I cannot say whether or not consumers of opium will abstain from its use altogether, as it will not be easy for a great many of them to do so.

12. The revenue accruing to the colony from the opium and spirit farms of Penang, which are leased together, is at present \$852,000 per annum. If the opium revenue be abolished, the colony will absolutely have no other resources to raise the needful revenue, otherwise to carry on the business of the Government. The people would be displeased and protest against being called upon to provide for the deficit if the opium revenue be removed.

13. I am not aware of any Europeans residing in Penang having contracted the opium habit. I cannot assign any reason for it beyond suggesting that it may be against their customs and habits. The Asiatics contract the habit from their youth from various causes. In the case of many of them, it is recommended by way of medicine, and they acquire a liking for it and continue using it.

14. Chinese opium consumers are led to use the drug in various ways. For instance, a man may call at his friend's house who is an opium smoker, and may be offered a whiff of the pipe. He may take it during his visits for a few days, acquire a taste and liking for opium. Others, again, are recommended by their medical attendants to take opium for the cure of dysentery, diarrhoea, consumption, &c., and thus contract the habit. Many of those who come to the colony from China are already opium consumers, and on their arrival here they continue to use opium. In China the use of opium is very general, and it is considered a mark of respect to offer the opium pipe to the visitors or customers who call at a friend's house or shop. The Chinese, and even Malays and Asiatics, very often take opium to allay physical pain. I know to a certainty that opium is extensively used by the large number of people employed in cutting down jungle and opening newland in the interior, as a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, malaria, and certain other ailments which they become liable to by reason of their long residence in the locality. They have great confidence in the efficacy of opium to cure them and give them relief. I believe the Asiatics also regard it in the same light.

15. It is very seldom for any moderate consumers to desire to get free, except in cases where they are short of funds or pressed by any other special circumstances.

16. There is not the slightest feeling of hostility against England for allowing opium to be exported from India to this colony; on the contrary, they are grateful to the Government for the facilities and convenience at present enjoyed by them.

17. None of any consequence.

18. It cannot be stated exactly how far opium consumption is common among the native states, but there is no doubt that a considerable quantity is used by them. The use of opium in those states is not discouraged by their rulers; on the contrary, a large revenue is annually raised by them.

CHEW SIN YONG.

Penang, 9th December 1893.

Seventh Witness.—Mr. Koh Seang Tai, merchant and estate owner, Penang; formerly opium farmer; Municipal Commissioner, Penang; a native of Penang.

1. Opium in the form of chandu is commonly used by the Chinese of this colony, but not by any other Asiatic race except in a very small degree, and then only by Malays.

2. I cannot form an estimate of the proportion of males, but only few women and no children use opium or chandu.

3. My observation of the effects of the use of chandu convinces me that (when used to any considerable extent) the consumer becomes worthless morally, physically, and socially. The demoralisation is the first effect, and is in fact also the first object of using chandoo, the consumption of which gives no pleasure to beginners, who use it to increase the desire for sexual intercourse. After becoming confirmed consumers, they lose that desire almost wholly, and become slaves of the drug, which leads to their complete ruin.

4. In the beginning, all consumers smoke chandu. In the case of rich people, that form of consumption is adhered to, but in the case of the poor (most of whom become poorer in consequence of using the drug) smoking gives place to eating, not chandu, but the refuse of smoked chandoo, which is returned by consumers to the farmers, who sell it to the poor for a price which reimburses them and leaves a profit. The refuse (usually termed dross) is very seldom drunk with water, but the eating of it is common. The difference in the effect is that the eating of the dross ruins more rapidly than the smoking of prepared chandu.

5. Not the majority, but all consumers I have ever known, go on, and after a time become "opium-sots." There seems to be no possibility of moderation, but an ever-increasing desire and a proportionate increase in the consumption by, and demoralisation of, each consumer.

6. The answer to Question 5 applies to this.

7. Not the majority, but a large portion of the business men, artisans, and unskilled labourers, consume chandu. In the case of business men, the effect does not appear to impair their mental energy or clearness of thought, but the habit of consuming chandu makes them prefer smoking to working, so that often duties are delegated to juniors that would be attended to by a non-smoking principal, but at the same time it appears, that with fewer hours' work, a smoker can on an average do as much brainwork as the non-smoker can. Skilled labourers smoke after meals. The effect on their physical energy seems to sustain them between each meal hour; at the end of such a period their energies fall away, but are renewed again by smoking the drug after the meal. In the case of the labourers, who carry heavy weights, they carry in their pockets or purses chandoo dross, a portion of which they eat about half-an-hour before beginning work, and thereby have their impaired energies renewed for a few hours.

8. Few Chinese abuse alcohol, and I do not know of any case of demoralisation in the colony through the use of it. I have not observed the effect of alcohol on the other Asiatic races.

9. The consumption of opium is certainly considered both injurious and degrading, not merely by the Chinese generally, but by all of them, consumers themselves not excepted, for though they cannot stop the habit, they admit the evil.

As in this colony the use of alcohol has not demoralised the settlers, the habit of using it is not regarded as improper.

10. I know of hundreds who have tried, but I have never known or heard of one who succeeded.

11. I believe opium consumers would adopt any course to obtain their favourite drug, because present experience shows that opium-smokers—rich and poor alike—resort to theft, forgery, and all manner of lying in order to obtain a supply of chandoo when, either from want of money or stoppage of allowances, the supply of chandoo is cut off, and I therefore think, that it would be necessary to rigidly guard against smuggling, if the stoppage is to effect any good.

12. My information is, that the revenue returned this year on account of opium averages:—

Singapore - - -	\$ 94,000 per month.
Penang - - -	51,000 "
And Malacca, say, - - -	9,000 "
Approximate monthly average	\$154,000

I believe the colony can raise that sum otherwise, but as to the best manner of raising it, that could, I think, be deduced from the facts which would be brought out by a careful inquiry into the nature of imports and exports, as also the articles consumed by the settlers. It may, however, be pointed out that, assuming the stoppage of the opium traffic would involve the institution of a new staff of officials, and so render it necessary to raise not only \$154,000 per month, but the cost of the new establishment as well, then probably \$164,000 per month would cover what would be necessary, but, on the other hand, the new staff could at the same time attend to the matters bearing on the revenue from spirits, and as by the stoppage of the use of the opium drug it may be expected that the consumption of spirits would be increased, there would probably be a large increase in the revenue on that account alone. In any event, it is known that the present revenue of the colony from spirits is, roundly, \$43,000 per month, that is at 75 cents per gallon, and if the duty were increased to \$1.50 per gallon, as has been suggested by His Excellency the Acting Governor, there would be at least an increase of \$43,000 derived from that source, leaving \$121,000 to be made up, a sum representing less than 30 dollar cents per month per head of the population, and which could probably be obtained from the other sources indicated. The people would certainly object to the new taxes—Europeans and Asiatics alike—for most of them are not at present able to bear any considerable drag, but when they realized that the object was a good one, which, besides saving a people from ruin, would result in a great decrease in crime and greater efficiency of the workers, while the whole burden would not be felt locally, I believe all would agree to the new taxes.

13. People of the European race in this colony do not consume opium. "Why not?" is a question I cannot answer.

14. Most consumers are led to use the drug from a belief that it will lead to pleasure as explained in answer to Question 3. Others drift into the habit accepting the hospitality of opium concerning friends, just as it is said some Europeans are led into the use of alcohol. Opium is not taken in this colony as a protection or relief from fever, rheumatism, or malaria, nor is it regarded by the Chinese as useful in any such cases.

15. The desire appears to be constant, but along with it there seems to be a conviction that they are powerless to free themselves.

16. Among the thinking portion of the Chinese it is felt that England is too good a nation to engender a feeling of hostility among any except rivals, and as besides the Chinese in this colony quite understand the just intentions of the Imperial Government, there is no probability of a hostile feeling being created among the Chinese towards England, but it is felt that the opium traffic is a stain on the fair fame of the British people, and that owing to her power in the matter it is England's duty to mankind to efface that stain if it be within the limits of possibility to do so.

17. None, except that it will be to the advantage of the whole if the opium traffic can be entirely stopped.

18. Most of my knowledge of native states affairs come to me at second hand, and though I have no doubt that it is quite reliable, yet I think it better to leave these questions to be answered by those who frequently see things as they are in the states.

Edinburgh House, Penang, KOH SEANG TAT.
11th December 1893.

Eighth Witness.—Mr. James Miller, J.P., partner, Messrs. Gilfillan, Wood, & Co.; 25 years resident in the Straits Settlements.

1. By Chinese commonly. To a small extent by Malays and Asiatics.

2. Of Chinese, at least 75 per cent. Of Malays, perhaps 10 per cent. Women and children none.

3. Taken in moderation it, has no apparent effect, and what effect it has is probably beneficial. In excess it

makes a man neglectful of his work, dreamy, and silent; he grows pale and thin; he is less inclined to social intercourse. Malays are more affected than Chinese in the few cases when they take it.

4. I should say smoke, but I cannot speak with confidence.

5. No. The majority are moderate consumers.

6. It is not correct. I know many cases where men have taken opium for years without apparent harm to themselves. A Chinese servant of mine has, to my knowledge, smoked opium since 1868; occasionally I have noticed him to be slightly dreamy and stupid, but he is active, intelligent, and thoroughly trustworthy. He is a Cantonese. I have almost daily dealings with a trader who smokes regularly every day, and has done so for years, who is one of the best business men among the Hokkien Chinese in Singapore, and I could give many other similar instances that have come under my observation.

7. Practically all the Chinese coolies, fewer of the artisans, and only a limited number of merchants.

The Chinese coolie, after a hard day's work, is enabled, by the use of opium, to enjoy more refreshing sleep, and arise more invigorated the following morning, than he would without the use of it. This is what coolies tell me.

I have already stated that the traders who smoke opium that I have known, are not affected in the efficiency of their calling.

8. There is less tendency among the races where opium is used to abuse the drug than to abuse alcohol, and the abuse of opium does not manifest itself in anything like so objectionable a manner. Further, while a drunkard is frequently given to immorality and crime, a man under the influence of opium is never so inclined.

9. An "opium-sot" is regarded among Asiatic races as we regard a drunkard, but the moderate use of the drug is not considered degrading or injurious.

10. I cannot answer this question from my own knowledge or observation.

11. There would be riots amongst the Chinese coolies. A temporary scarcity has now and then occurred in the native protected states, and riots have always resulted, which have ceased on receipt of supplies. They would certainly not abstain altogether.

12. This question has doubtless been already answered by members of the Legislative Council. I have not got the figures by me.

13. No, I know of no case of Europeans contracting the opium habit. They prefer alcohol.

14. It is regarded as a prophylactic against fever, malaria, &c.

15. Not to my knowledge.

16. None whatever.

17. No.

18. The consumption of opium in the native states and around the colony goes on to much the same extent as in the colony itself. The rulers do not discourage its use further than by taxing the drug heavily, and thereby deriving a revenue from it. The public or general opinion of the native states regarding the drug, its use, &c., is much the same as in the colony.

JAMES MILLER.

Singapore,
19th December 1893.

Ninth Witness.—Mr. Manasseh Meyer, merchant; partner, Meyer Brothers; Municipal Commissioner, Singapore. First visited the Straits in 1862, and has been permanently established in Singapore since 1873.

1. Opium is consumed by Chinese and some of the other Asiatic races. I am not aware that Malays consume it, except some Javanese.

2. About 30 per cent. of the Chinese adult males, and 5 per cent. of the natives of Bengal and its north-western provinces, consume opium. As to women, I have made several inquiries, and find that the habit amongst that sex is entirely confined to an ill-famed class of Chinese only; no children of any race consume it.

3. The effect of opium on consumers:—

Moral.—They seem to me are very quiet and law-abiding people.

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Physical.—On Chinese as smokers of opium it is rather detrimental when taken in excess. No bad effect on Indian consumers is perceptible.

Social.—They are less social.

4. Chinese chiefly smoke, artisans (Chinese) during the day drink a decoction of opium, other Asiatic race eat it; the effect on the whole is hardly noticeable in moderation.

5. A considerable proportion of opium consumers are moderate in their use of the drug, but those who use it in excess are slaves to it.

6. It is not correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in opium. I know of a man named Nassim Reuben (who left India a few years ago for his native land in Turkish Arabia), who had been a habitual eater of opium for about 30 years, and he did not increase the dose during the period, nor did it do him any harm; on the contrary, he declared its use to be greatly beneficial.

7. There are certain classes of labourers and artisans, the majority of whom do consume opium.

The rikisha and coal coolies, miners, bricklayers, hawkers, and painters claim that they cannot be efficient in their calling without its use. The sudden changes in the temperature, say from 150° to 80°, and *vice versa*, are conducive to the habit among this class. Of other labourers and merchants, only a small percentage use opium.

8. The effect of opium on those that use it, as compared with the effect of alcohol upon drinkers amongst the Asiatic races, is that while the former are quiet, calm, and harmless, the latter become quarrelsome and violent.

9. Not amongst the Chinese who come from China, but amongst the Babas, or Straits-born Chinese, to a certain extent, it is considered degrading.

The fact that the Malays of this colony are not opium consumers goes, I think, to show that they are afraid of acquiring the habit.

10. Yes. Mr. Lim Cheong Sian, of 26, South Canal Road, broke himself of the habit after several years' regular use.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off, consumers would supply their wants from elsewhere—China-grown opium, Malwa, Turkish, and Persian.

The stoppage of Indian opium would not prevent consumers obtaining it.

12. About half of the colony's revenue is derived from the use of opium; if the revenue from opium was extinguished, the colony could not possibly raise the needful revenue otherwise, except by direct taxation, while, on the other hand, the use of opium would continue just the same, if not increased. The people would say that Government were unjust and acting unfairly towards the large class who look on it as a necessity, and who are willing to pay for it.

13. I am not aware of any European here who has contracted the habit of smoking opium. Asiatics are more liable to contract the habit, as they believe it to be a necessity in many cases.

14. Opium consumers are led to the habit, partly as a luxury and partly to allay physical pain, and to withstand exposure. Opium, within my knowledge, is a prophylactic against rheumatism, malaria, and its consequences.

15. Those who indulge in it to great excess do desire to get free from it, or at least to reduce the quantity, but those who take it in moderation and for medicinal purposes would not think of leaving off the habit, on the contrary, they recommend its beneficial effects to other sufferers.

16. None whatever. England is not forcing the opium upon the people, but consumers are using and buying it of their own free will. In my opinion, the Asiatic races would, on the whole, be hostile to the opium being stopped, both consumers and non-consumers, the former because of depriving him of his wants, and the latter owing to compensating taxation.

17. Opium consuming in excess is not more injurious than any other intoxicant when taken in excess.

M. MEYER.

10th December 1893.

Tenth Witness.—Mr. F. A. Swettenham, C.M.G., Straits Civil Service, British Resident, Perak; 23 years resident in the Malay Peninsula.*

[N.B.—Except where otherwise stated, these replies refer to the people of the State of Perak, in the Malay Peninsula.]

1. Yes.

2. I can only make a rough guess, but my own view, and that of well-informed natives is that 60 per cent. of the Chinese in this state are opium-smokers; from 5 to 10 per cent. of Malays, and about one-tenth per cent. of Northern Indians eat opium. A very large per-centage of Javanese and Buggis (natives of the Celebes) are opium-smokers, probably over 50 per cent. I have even heard it said that 75 per cent. of the adult male Javanese and Buggis smoke opium. About 4 to 10 per cent. of Chinese women are opium-smokers, and perhaps 1 to 2 per cent. of Malay women. Children do not smoke, but Chinese boys begin from 18 and upwards, and Malays from about the same age.

3. The opinion of Chinese on smokers of their own race is that morally they are not injured by it, physically they are only injured after years of the habit, when they are consuming large quantities, while socially there is a prejudice against smokers, though it is stated that the habit sharpens a man's wits. The "prejudice" is that a deal of time is wasted in smoking, that the habit grows on a man, and after years weakens him physically and emasculates him, while he finds it difficult to smoke if travelling, and cannot, therefore, work so hard as a non-smoker. On the other hand, they all maintain that its good effects are wonderful on a man afflicted with almost any ailment, overcome with fatigue of body or mind, or suffering from hunger, and they say when, for the first five to ten years, only small quantities are smoked, the man is physically as strong as, or even stronger than, the non-smoker.

I agree with these views.

As to effects on different races, I can only speak as to Chinese and Malays, and I think the effect on Malays is decidedly worse than on Chinese, because the Malay is naturally indolent, and the smoking of opium makes him more lazy and useless than he would otherwise be. On those who have to work, and work hard—elephant-drivers, for instance—the evil effect is not noticeable, and in some notable instances of smokers who are wealthy men of rank, with practically no work to do, though they have smoked for the greater part of their lives, it would be very difficult to say they have suffered from the habit.

4. Almost invariably they smoke, not opium, but a preparation of opium called chandu, in which there is a very small per-centage of raw opium. One ball of Indian opium is made into 30 tahlil of chandu, and one tahlil is equal to 10 chi or 100 hun. A moderate smoker will only consume from three to ten hun in 24 hours, while a very heavy smoker can manage a tahlil, or even more. The price of five hun of chandu is five cents of a dollar, or three halfpence. Amongst Chinese and Malays opium is hardly ever eaten, except on a journey or under circumstances which make smoking (an elaborate process) difficult or impossible.

I cannot speak to the different effects of smoking or eating opium, because the latter is so rare here; but it seems natural that it would be less deleterious to inhale the smoke of a burning preparation than to eat the same preparation.

What I believe is certain is that the worst form of taking opium is the hypodermic injection of morphia.

5. By far the majority of opium-smokers indulge moderately in the habit; immoderate smokers are the exception. The Chinese say that the wretched, wasted-looking skeletons of men that are occasionally seen are decrepit paupers, who, owing to some infirmity, have been unable to work, and so unable to procure a sufficient supply of opium, and not that their appearance is the result of immoderate use of the drug. That this is correct is highly probable, because it would cost a man 80 cents a day to smoke one tahlil of opium, and the wages of a good Chinese labourer are from 30 to 50 cents a day, the latter being very high, though tin miners can earn even a larger wage.

6. It is not incorrect but absurd to say so, but the general tendency is for a man after five to ten years of the habit to increase the quantity he consumes. Even so he can be moderate.

I know a Chinese who has been in my own employment as cook for 15 years, and he has been an opium-smoker all the time and long before he came to me, and

* For other communications from Perak, see page 346.

I cannot remember that he has ever been off work for a day. He is a very intelligent, respectable man, and always ready to do more work than a European would do if similarly employed.

I have known for nearly 20 years a Malay Raja, who is said to be nearly 80 years of age (a phenomenal age for a Malay), and though he has been an opium-smoker from his youth, and is by far the heaviest smoker I know, he is exceptionally active and intelligent, and no one could tell from his appearance or conversation that he is an opium-smoker.

I know any number of other instances of the same kind, and I certainly also know cases of opium-smokers who are very useless members of society, but some of them I did not know before they took to the habit, and others that I did know were just as useless before they began to smoke opium.

7. Of Chinese labourers, probably a majority. Of Chinese merchants, no. Of Chinese artisans, doubtful.

When smoked in moderation I should say the habit interferes very little, if at all, with their efficiency. In the case of labourers exposed to the weather, malaria, &c., I believe the moderate smoking of opium acts as a preventive against those forms of disease to which they would be most liable.

The labourers and the artisans have fixed hours of work, and their smoking is not allowed to interfere with them, but if the merchant sacrifices to smoking the time that should be given to affairs, no doubt his business will suffer, even though, as Chinese smokers and non-smokers equally maintain, his habit sharpens his intelligence.

8. Malays hardly ever consume alcohol; if they do so in moderation it has no special effect on them, but as it is forbidden by their faith, they certainly lose caste. Opium is also forbidden, but the opium-smoker is regarded with indulgence, while the drinker of intoxicants is distinctly condemned and despised, the more so, of course, if he indulges to excess. A drunkard makes a noise and becomes a nuisance to others; the opium-smoker desires only absolute quiet for the thorough enjoyment of his smoke. Instead of swearing, insulting, or assailing others, he only thinks and sleeps and dreams. It is under the influence of the opium pipe that a clever Chinese trader often conceives his most successful schemes.

Chinese drink spirits; sometimes, but very rarely, they smoke opium as well. As a rule, the labourers smoke, the shopkeepers and better classes drink. I asked a Chinese headman, a non-smoker, who has been 48 years in this state, and whom I have known for 20 years, why this was. He said, "You cannot give coolies spirits; they would fight and decline to work. People who drink usually want to make a row. No one wants his coolies to fight and make rows, so employers prefer to see them smoke opium. Wealthy Chinese rather like to see their male children take to opium when they begin not too young, say at 18 or 20 years of age; it keeps them at home, and saves them from getting into trouble." That was said to me yesterday.

It is a fact within my own knowledge that many of the Chinese merchants in the Straits drink spirits, and in quantity, and I have heard it said by experienced medical officers that they often shorten their lives by the practice. The Chinese Straits-born women also drink spirits. They may or may not do it to excess—I should be sorry to say that there can be no such thing as moderation in the consumption of spirits by the Chinese because some few within my knowledge have drunk to excess. Racial characteristics count for something: Chinese do things with their whole heart—that is how they make money—and that is how they gamble and sometimes lose it.

9. Asiatic races are more concerned with their own individual business than with the moral obliquity of classes. In 20 years' residence among the Malays and Chinese I have not heard anything like a general condemnation of the use of opium as a degrading habit. I do not think that is the light in which they regard it. They do not think of general effects so much as how certain circumstances affect themselves, their relations, or friends. I never heard the opium habit spoken of in general terms, but if either a Malay or Chinese speaker referring to any one says, "he is an opium-smoker," it is not intended to be a compliment.

The second part of this question I have answered in reply to No. 8. Malays undoubtedly consider it is more degrading to drink intoxicants than smoke opium. The Chinese who themselves habitually drink spirits and do not smoke opium very likely consider the latter

a bad habit, but, as I have already said, they prefer to employ an opium-smoker rather than a man who, in his cups, is likely to give trouble.

10. Yes. I know a celebrated Malay Raja who for over 20 years had been an opium-smoker, but three years ago he broke himself of his habit. Chinese find it more difficult, but say that many do break themselves of the habit with the help of something which is given them at the hospital dispensaries.

In the State prisons opium is forbidden, except to certain patients in the gaol hospital. This compels total abstinence from opium, but most of those who have perforce abstained go back to the habit on their discharge from gaol.

11. I put these questions to a very experienced non-smoking Chinese headman. His first answer was, "It cannot be done, it is impossible," and that he repeated over and over again; but I pressed him, and said, "Never mind, suppose the supply is absolutely cut off, what then?" "Then," he said, "the Chinese will follow the opium to wherever they can get it, and you will certainly ruin this country, for all the Chinese, both those who smoke and those who do not, will leave it, for even the non-smokers depend upon the smokers to such an extent that they cannot carry on business without them."

To the Chinaman "business," i.e., the pursuit of money, is the whole duty of man. I speak, of course, of the Chinese emigrant, not of the literary classes, who seem to prefer to stay in China.

As to getting a supply of opium from elsewhere than India, my Chinese friend said they no doubt produced opium in China, but it was a very different article to the Indian preparation, and Chinese smokers accustomed to the other would certainly not have it. He said that what they liked about the Indian opium was its delicate aroma, which the Chinese opium did not possess.

As to exchanging opium for alcohol, he seemed rather astonished at such a suggestion, and said that intoxicants aroused all the worst passions in men. If, however, such an exchange were desired, he said the opium-smokers would not have it, for many Chinese could not stand the burning sensation in their throats caused by swallowing spirits.

At the idea of total abstinence he smiled, and asked me what pleasure in life was to be provided in exchange for the thousands of labourers whose horizon is practically bounded by the mine or the field on which they work, and whose house is a few boards with a protecting roof.

I also consulted a Malay chief, himself an opium-smoker of 20 years' standing. As regards the Chinese, he expressed an opinion identical with that of my Chinese friend. As to himself and other Malay smokers, he said, "We must either have the opium or some medicine that will supply its place."

I hardly think that either of these men realized that it was possible to seriously consider the absolute stoppage of the opium supply.

My own view is that it is a practical impossibility to prevent opium-smokers obtaining opium, that neither Malays nor Chinese (especially the former) would exchange opium for alcohol, but that if any form of missionary enterprise could bring that about the effort could only be regarded as a transcendental crime against millions of people to whom the miseries which follow the drunkard are as yet almost unknown.

Even people who but rarely give way to the use of superlatives must, if they know the East with true knowledge, be appalled at the very idea of millions of Asiatics, with their tempers and in their climate, being urged to the consumption of spirits and other exciting intoxicants in anything like the same proportion that prevails in the West.

It may be said that Eastern people, earning small wages could not afford to buy much spirit. That is true; they could not buy much of the least harmful kinds of spirit, but once implant the taste for drink, and means will be found to procure enough of the cheapest and most poisonous forms of alcohol to spread crime and misery throughout the land.

As to total abstinence from opium, smokers will not be made to abstain as long as the drug can be got. Even though capital punishment were inflicted for smoking opium, it would still be smoked. So much might be said and written on the desire of a section of human beings to impose their wills and opinions on other, and possibly larger, sections of similar beings, that it is well better to leave this part of the subject. Only it is well to realise that the consumers of opium are a fairly

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numerous body, and they are not confined to the natives of China. They can probably be counted by millions in India, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, the Malay Peninsula, and what is known as the Malay Archipelago, and it is certain that they can no more understand why their consumption of opium should be interfered with than the consumption of intoxicants and tobacco, or bread and meat, by the European. To force them to put up with the interference would be a sufficiently difficult task.

12. Perak is not a colony, but a native state. About one-sixth of the revenue is raised from a duty on opium. If that revenue were extinguished by shutting out opium, the general opinion, with which I concur, is that no intelligent form of government could be maintained, for the Chinese would leave the State, and the mines and plantations would be closed. The state would relapse into jungle, with Malay hamlets by the rivers, but their inhabitants would only produce just sufficient for themselves, as there would be no outside demand. The roads and railways would hardly be used, administrative machinery would scarcely be wanted, and the public buildings would fall to pieces.

Not only would there be no opium revenue, but without Chinese there would be none from tin, or, indeed, from almost any other source, and under those circumstances it would certainly be difficult to raise a revenue.

If the Chinese were kept, and the opium revenue abandoned, that is, if the drug were admitted free of duty, and the population generally asked to make good the loss, those who were not opium-smokers would say they did not see why tobacco, or tea, or rice, or salt, or letter-writing for instance, should be taxed in order that opium-smokers might indulge themselves more cheaply. The opium-smokers would probably prefer to pay a duty on the drug rather than be subject to more direct taxation, such as a poll-tax, which once was in force here.

13. No. First, because they have from early years been taught to look upon it as a most vicious and degrading habit. In youth, when bad habits are, perhaps, most often acquired, Europeans have no opportunity of trying this one. By the time they are brought in contact with opium-smokers they are probably themselves tobacco smokers, or moderate or immoderate consumers of some intoxicant, and do not want opium. Besides, it is an indulgence that has little attraction for a European, and the very fact that Chinese and other Asiatics are given to it would set a European against it. To really enjoy opium-smoking means to give to it many hours of the day or night, which Europeans prefer to employ in other ways. Most Europeans, one might almost say all, have other forms of pleasure open to them, even under the most trying conditions of life; but many Chinese have literally no distraction to occupy the hours of leisure between work and sleep, and often they have no money with which to go out and seek amusement, but by the Chinese system their masters will give them opium on account, and they are often glad to do so, because they believe it protects the men from malaria, bowel complaints, and other ailments. I should add that one or two Europeans have told me they had tried opium-smoking to see what it was like, and got from it no sensation whatever.

The above are only some of the reasons why Europeans do not contract the habit of opium-smoking, and why Asiatics are more liable to it. Others may be read between the lines, especially if it be borne in mind that the proportion of Malay smokers in their own country to Chinese smokers, when out of China, is probably not more than as one is to six or ten. I am assured by Chinese that if 50 or 60 per cent. of Chinese labourers in the Malay Peninsula are opium-smokers, 30 to 40 per cent. of them were not smokers when they arrived from China, but have contracted the habit since they left their homes and came under the influence of specially monotonous conditions of work in a trying climate.

14.—I. I have already said how Chinese labourers come to use the drug. The force of example (for there are always some who smoke), the monotony of existence, and the want of something in the shape of pleasurable sensation, the facilities given by Chinese employers for indulgence in this form of excitement rather than any other, such as alcohol, its comparative cheapness, its reputation as a prophylactic and reliever of pain. I have also said that well-to-do Chinese fathers look with an indulgent eye on the contraction of this habit by their sons if they do not begin too young. Chinese women who live with, or are married to, opium-smokers, sometimes adopt the habit to keep the men company.

They also sometimes take to it on the advice of people who tell them it will protect them from sickness and relieve them from pain. Chinese prostitutes are mostly smokers.

Malay women become smokers under similar circumstances. Malay men almost invariably begin when quite young, by smoking a few pipes with friends for "the fun of the thing," and to see what it is like, just as Western boys begin to smoke tobacco.

II. Yes; not, I think, usually, but very often.

III. I do not know that I am entitled to say it is within my knowledge, but many experienced medical men have assured me that such is the case, and I believe it, especially as regards malaria and bowel complaints.

IV. Yes, by all, Chinese, Malays, Indians, and Siamese.

15. Some Chinese do, but they are the exceptions. Of Malays of the Peninsula, I think usually, yes; it is condemned by the Mohammedan religion, which they profess.

16. Emphatically no. I have never heard of such an opinion being expressed by any Asiatic here.

17. Only this, that I consider the Europeans who wish to put down the consumption of opium by Asiatics persistently exaggerate their case. The habit is not, in my opinion, so vicious or degrading as these people represent it to be, and it is a fact that by far the majority of Europeans who are entitled to speak on the subject from personal knowledge do not sympathise with those who are engaged on a crusade against the consumption of opium.

The immoderate use of opium is distinctly hurtful, so is the immoderate use of wine or spirits, or the most excellent food. The most healthy forms of physical exercise, if indulged in to excess, will seriously injure the body, while mental exercise, even religious excitement, may by immoderate indulgence injuriously affect the mind, and possibly develop into mania.

It should not be forgotten that, as I stated in the answer to Question 4, in the preparation of the raw opium to make it into *chandu* for smoking, the drug is raised to a great heat some three or four times, so that when it is used by the smoker the hurtful properties of the active principle have been reduced by successive boilings, and what remains is burnt in the pipe with fire, and only the smoke is inhaled.

The hospitals in this State are free, and they are largely patronised by the Chinese labouring classes, the majority of whom are opium smokers. I recently called by telegram for a return of the Chinese patients in all the State hospitals at noon on that day, and the result was that, with about 1,000 Chinese patients, just over 50 per cent. of them were opium-smokers. The conclusion to be drawn is that proportionately fewer opium-smokers than non-smokers are obliged to seek the hospital.

In the last annual report of the Principal Civil Medical Officer of the Straits Settlements, it is stated (page 5) that out of 119 cases of poisoning admitted to the colony's hospital during the year 1892, 96 were cases of poisoning by alcohol. At page 19 of the same report there is a "table showing the probable causes, " apparent or assigned, of the disorder, in the admissions, discharges, and deaths of the year 1892." The table gives intemperance in drink, 10 cases; opium-smoking, three cases.

Opium-smoking in moderation is not particularly reprehensible; indeed, it has advantages, and seems suited to the circumstances of the Asiatics who are addicted to the habit. An immoderate opium-smoker is not likely to be a useful member of society, and everyone must deplore the spectacle of a man who is so besotted with opium that he has no interest in life but the indulgence of his passion for the drug. It must, however, never be forgotten that even in these very exceptional cases the immoderate smoker, while injuring his own health, is not a danger to his family and society in the way that a drunkard is. It would be hard to prepare a catalogue of crimes committed by men or women whose worst passions had been aroused by the immoderate use of opium. Nor have I heard that an immoderate opium-smoker transmits any legacy of disease, mental or physical, to his descendants. The immoderate opium-smoker is his own enemy.

How does the drunkard's record compare with this?

I personally do not understand what good claim a section of humanity can establish to interfere with another section in the indulgence of a habit which at its worst cannot be shown to imperil the liberty,

property, or well-being of citizens who prefer some other form of indulgence or to live lives of asceticism.

When the interference comes from an alien race, dwelling 10,000 miles away, with hardly one sympathy in common with the people sought to be thus dragooned, the assumption of a right to say, "This you shall and that you shan't" seems hardly tolerable.

If the majority of the English people determined that no more opium should be produced in or exported from India, that would not put an end to the consumption of opium by the Chinese, and it is hard to see how it could be enforced against natives of India. But granting that it could be done, and the object was simply one of self-sacrifice and morality, the rest of the world would hardly appreciate either the excellence of the motive or the magnitude of the sacrifice, unless England first removed the drink beam from its own eye.

18. I have already answered this question with reference to the native state of Perak, and that is a type of the other Malay States. Over 50 per cent. of the Chinese population are opium-smokers, and perhaps less than 10 per cent. of the Malays. The Malay rulers do not discourage the practice of opium-smoking. They do raise a revenue from the consumption of the drug. It is paid in the shape of an import duty on the raw opium, and amounts at present to 320 dollars a chest of 40 balls in the two largest states, Perak and Selangor.

There is probably no native "general opinion," in the ordinary acceptance of the term, regarding the drug. If a Malay is asked, he will say it is a bad habit for Malays, and contrary to the Mohammadan teaching. I have already given the Chinese view.

I do not think the consumption of opium has any effect "on the people at large," if by that is meant the feelings of non-smokers towards those who do smoke. I do not think the moral atmosphere is perceptibly tainted by the fact that a large number of the community are opium-smokers. Amongst people who indulge in any habit which gratifies the senses some are certain to indulge to excess. That is the case with a small per-centage of opium-smokers, and no one seeks to defend them.

(Signed) F. A. SWETTENHAM.

The Residency, Perak,
4th December 1893.

Eleventh Witness.—Dr. W. C. Brown, J.P., the oldest established private medical practitioner, Penang.

[N.B.—Only questions of a statistical and medical nature are answered.]

1. Principally by Chinese, but the better class of Malays, that is, wealthier classes and native chiefs, are much addicted to the habit. Natives of India to a small extent.

2. Of Chinese adult males, about one-half, probably slightly under than over, are consumers. Malays, probably 5 to 8 per cent.; the proportion would be much higher, but they are not to any extent wage-earners, and cannot afford to purchase it. Its consumption among them is, therefore, limited almost entirely to men of independent means. Of rajahs and native chiefs 90 per cent. smoke opium. I should compute the proportion of opium-smokers in Tamil and natives of India at 1 per cent.; in Straits-born men of mixed descent (principally Malays and Moslem natives of India), at 5 per cent. This latter class are fairly well off.

ii. Chinese women smoke to some extent, 2 or 3 per cent. of respectable women, but probably 70 per cent. of the prostitutes smoke. No children of any race smoke opium. Women of other races than Chinese very rarely.

3. Opium, as taken by 95 per cent. of its consumers, is taken in limited quantity, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ chi per day. A chi is the tenth part of a tahl, a little over an ounce. It is taken in the form of a watery extract, not unlike ext. opii. of the Pharmacopoeia Britannica, prepared by the opium farm, and known as chandu. This is smoked in opium pipes. A chi of chandu weighs about 50 to 52 grains apothecaries' weight. A coolie generally smokes half a chi a day. A chi costs about 26 cents of a dollar.

In quantities up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ chi daily, it in no way interferes with the power of doing work. It is generally taken in two smokes, one at 10 to 11 a.m., the other about

7 p.m., by average smokers; but sots will smoke eight or 10 times a day, and consume 6 or 8 chi or more.

Its effects in moderate quantities are:—Moral: Not deteriorating. It acts, to some extent, as an aphrodisiac, and is, therefore, much consumed in brothels. Apart from this, it is in no way antagonistic to the normal exercise of the moral faculties. Physical: It increases the capacity for muscular exertion. There is no diminution of muscular tissue or absorption of fat, as there is in consumers of large quantities. It acts by directly checking tissue waste, and the rapid metabolism that arises from hard muscular exertion. Coolies who use opium in moderate quantities are distinctly longer-winded and more capable of prolonged fatigue than others who do not. They do not, as a rule, go to sleep after smoking. When they stop work they lie down, and in resting smoke a little opium, and afterwards rest for half an hour to an hour. They usually smoke after eating, not before. It has no constipating effect after they become accustomed to its use. At first it has, and its use is accompanied by headache, and sometimes nausea. It does not increase the secretion of the skin. It increases the relief that is afforded to a tired system by rest after hard work. Coolies and others who use it in moderation, however, get accustomed to have it, whether they are at work or not, and there is very great discomfort and restlessness if they do not get their usual regular dose.

The social effects of opium-smoking in moderation may be taken as nil. It is very different when taken in excess.

The effects are the same in each race; conditions are altered by the fact that amongst the Chinese the great bulk of the consumers are labourers, the reverse being the case with Malays.

4. The only method of opium consumption that I know of in the Straits is smoking chandu.

5. About 3 per cent. of Chinese opium-smokers become slaves to the habit; they smoke from 2 to 5 chi a day, and sometimes more. If they smoke more than 4 chi a day they may be regarded as "sots"; it becomes impossible for them to throw off the habit, and a cure may be regarded as impossible. Cures (with smokers up to 3 chi) are practicable, easy, and frequent. Only a very small proportion of opium-smoking Chinese labourers become "sots," about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Of merchants and men of independent means, the proportion is much greater, about 10 per cent. According as the necessity of wage-earning and daily manual labour is felt, the proportion of smokers who become "sots" is smaller; and as circumstances are easier, and necessity for regular work less, it is greater. Seventy-five per cent. of Malay Rajas who smoke may be regarded as opium "sots."

It is, therefore, quite incorrect to say that there is no such thing as moderation. I know of many cases (that I am quite sure of) where opium has been taken for years without hurt of any sort, and with benefit. From 50 to 60 per cent. of the coolies employed in manual labour come under this category.

7. As far as labourers are concerned who take it in small quantities, it is, as I have said, distinctly beneficial. As to merchants, the circumstances are altered by the fact that they do not so carefully limit their consumption, and the reverse is the case.

8. Alcohol affects all Asiatics much more injuriously than opium. They do not appear to have the same power of restraint in consumption that they have with opium. About 50 per cent. of the lower class of Tamils (who do not use opium, but consume *Cannabis indica*) are addicted to alcohol, in the form of coco-nut tree toddy and rice spirit.

9. It is not condemned by any race as a habit. If not taken in moderation, or when such quantities are taken as to hinder a man carrying on his duties or business, the condemnation is universal by all races.

They consider the alcohol habit more degrading.

10. It entirely depends on the dose usually taken. (See above, question 5.) It depends on this much more than on the length of time the habit has been contracted. No doubt, when the consumption rises to about 3 chi a day, opium-smokers find it an expensive habit, and endeavour to stop it. If they really mean to try to stop it, it can be easily cured by gradually decreasing doses of morphia by mouth or hypodermically.

11. They would supply themselves with opium from elsewhere. No drug could take its place. They

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certainly would not abstain altogether, and as certainly would not take to alcohol.

12. ———

13. Europeans do not contract the opium habit to any extent. I believe the idea that in smoking opium they would be putting themselves on a level with Asiatics, and confessing a partiality for similar tastes is repugnant to Europeans, and acts as a deterrent. In cases of isolation, where a European has to live more or less as a native, it is not uncommon to find the opium-smoking habit established. A European regards (erroneously) a Chinaman as a foul feeder, and he regards opium-smoking with aversion, simply because it confesses a similarity of tastes.

14. There is sociability about opium-smoking, and young men of good position often take to it, with other forms of dissipation, purely for social reasons. To some extent this is true with coolies also, but they believe strongly in its effects as helping to make work easier, and as a prophylactic against various diseases.

It is an undoubted fact that mortality and sickness amongst opium-smoking coolies on unhealthy work, opening jungle, clearing land for plantations, &c., is much less than amongst non-smokers. This has been established by statistics again and again, and is well-known to the coolies themselves. It may be looked upon as a prophylactic against malaria. I should not like to say it is so against rheumatism as this is too unfrequent a disease here to allow reliable statistics to be deduced, but it is so regarded by coolies. It is also claimed for opium that it is prophylactic against the effects of chills, catarrh, diarrhoea, &c., and I am inclined to accept this theory. I have, as far as diarrhoea is concerned, very strong proofs of its efficacy in preventing seizures.

All Asiatic races make these claims on its behalf. Indeed, they urge its efficacy for most diseases.

16. No.

17. No.

18. ———

W. C. BROWN, M.D.

Penang,
20th December 1893.

Twelfth Witness.—Mr. W. H. Treacher, C.M.G., British Resident, Selangor; formerly Governor of British North Borneo; 23 years' service in Borneo and the Malay Peninsula.

1. Opium is commonly consumed by Chinese in Selangor, and by a very few Malays and Indians.

2. As a conjecture only, I should say that 25 per cent. of Chinese adult males here are consumers. Very few Malays and Indians are consumers.

I know of no Malay women in this state who use opium. I have known cases in Borneo of women of Malay race acquiring the habit from Chinese men with whom they lived.

It is exceptional to meet a Chinese woman who consumes opium, perhaps $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. may do so.

Children do not consume opium.

3. Amongst the Chinese, the not immoderate use of opium appears to have no observably bad effects, moral, physical, or social, with, perhaps, the exception that opium consumers are said to be not so desirous or not so capable of becoming fathers. Chinese labourers in mines and on railway works are the best and strongest labourers we have, and a large number of them consume opium.

I know, however, of European employers of Chinese labour who give the preference to those who do not use opium, and I am of opinion that the same holds good as regards some Chinese employers.

It appears to be undoubted that the use of opium is beneficial to those who are exposed to malarial influences, as is the case with our Chinese tin miners.

I have known the keenest Chinese traders and the strongest labourers to be large consumers of opium.

If a Chinaman meets with misfortune or reverses, and takes to the excessive use of opium to solace himself, the consequences are disastrous, and he may become an "opium-sot" in the same way that a European may become an "alcohol sot."

I consider that the use of opium is more likely to affect Malays injuriously than Chinese, who are a more

robust race and live better. As a rule, it is only good-for-nothing Malays who take to opium. I know, however, Malays of rank who consume opium to a considerable extent, and who retain their mental faculties undiminished.

4. Opium is chiefly smoked in Selangor, but the poorer Chinese eat opium dross, that is to say, the residue of opium that has been smoked and has been reprepared for consumption.

It is said that it is more difficult to abandon the habit of eating than of smoking opium.

5. A majority of opium consumers in this state are moderate consumers. (See reply to Question 3.)

6. It is quite incorrect to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium.

In Borneo and in the Malay Peninsula I have known many Chinese merchants and traders who had taken their opium for years, without, so far as I could perceive, harm to themselves. With the time at my disposal just now, I am not able to give descriptions in detail.

7. I should say 25 per cent. of the Chinese of all professions and trades, including labourers and artisans, consume opium. If the consumers are naturally energetic, hardworking men, their efficiency is not diminished. In the case of miners and others exposed to malarial influences the working efficiency of the consumer is probably increased.

8. The Chinese are very abstemious in the use of alcohol, and the Malays are abstainers by their religion. I cannot make the required comparison.

9. Chinese who do not smoke opium sometimes refer disparagingly to those of their countrymen who are consumers.

With Malays it is considered a degrading habit as regards their own countrymen, but it must be remembered that there are Rajas and Sultans who consume the drug and are looked up to by their subjects.

I consider that the opium habit and the alcohol habit would be compared on the same footing. If carried to excess, both would be equally condemned.

10. I believe consumers do break themselves of the habit, and that the longer the habit has continued the more difficult it naturally is to break it off.

Immoderate consumers probably experience the same difficulty in abandoning the habit that an immoderate alcohol user is said to experience in abandoning the alcohol habit.

11. Were the supply of Indian opium cut off, I should say that consumers in the Straits would endeavour to procure opium elsewhere. They would not become total abstainers.

12. The total revenue for the ensuing year, 1894, is estimated at \$2,733,465, of which it is estimated that \$383,400 will be derived from opium.

So long as the tin mines hold out, Selangor could manage without opium revenue, but expenditure on such useful works as roads and railways it would be necessary to curtail. So long as the importation of opium is not universally prohibited the people would consider the relinquishment of the revenue therefrom a silly and incomprehensible course of action.

13. I have not met any European who has contracted the opium habit in the East. The reason is that it is not a custom practised in European countries, and Europeans come to the East with their habits more or less formed.

In China, opium, I understand, is consumed. The European takes alcohol, to which he has been accustomed in Europe, the Chinese opium.

14. Few of the newly-imported poor Chinese labourers are opium consumers on arrival. They contract the habit as they obtain good wages and as they see others of their class and nationality indulging in it, and find that, exposed as they are to malarious influences, the use of opium is beneficial. I cannot say of my own knowledge that opium is a prophylactic against fever or rheumatism or malaria, but I consider that it allays pain in rheumatism and it is certainly a partial prophylactic against malaria. Chinese miners believe it to be such a prophylactic.

15. Probably a considerable number of the better class consumers of opium amongst the Chinese would be glad to free themselves of the opium habit

16. In Selangor there is not a vestige of a feeling of hostility against England for allowing opium to be exported from India.

17. No, but I should wish to point out that I have replied to these queries without making any special inquiries in the matter (not having been requested to do so), but have relied on my general impressions, gained after a residence of over 20 years in the East.

18. Answered in the replies to the above queries, so far as regards the State of Selangor.

W. H. TREACHER,

Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, British Resident, Selangor.
28th December 1893.

Thirteenth Witness.—Mr. Alexander Gentle, President of the Municipal Commission, Singapore; formerly a merchant; 29 years resident in the Straits Settlements.

1. Opium is commonly smoked by the Chinese in this colony, especially by the lower classes, artisans, and coolies. There are, however, many exceptions. Most of the trading classes use it very moderately, and many of the Straits-born Chinese do not use it at all. Its use is rare among Malays, and involves loss of character and good name among all Muslims. Among other Asiatic races its use is exceptional.

2. I conjecture that about 50 per cent. of our adult male Chinese of the coolie and working classes smoke opium more or less, and perhaps about 25 per cent. of the trading and wealthier classes. Among respectable women it is much less common, and I think unknown among children.

3. Chinese have told me that opium when first indulged in acts as a stimulant; the smoker gains weight and becomes fat. In course of time the stimulating effect wears off, and the sedative alone remains. I cannot generalize as to the effects of its moderate use; nor could I tell by looking at him whether a Chinese used opium or not, unless he used it to great excess, and had done so for years. I have known many Chinese who have smoked moderately for 20 years, and during all that time have been punctual in the discharge of their duties. The same could hardly be said of Malays, who have less self-command, but the Malays who use opium are generally men of bad character, and no general inference can be drawn from their habits.

4. Smoking is the usual form of consumption among Chinese. I have heard that Indians and other Asiatics take it in other forms.

5. My experience is that the vast majority of smokers continue moderate consumers all their lives. Two causes contribute to this—first, the drug is an expensive luxury; a moderate consumer must spend 10 to 15 cents of a dollar a day, that is \$3 to \$4½ a month—a large proportion of a labourer's earnings, which seldom exceed \$9 a month and are often not more than \$6; secondly, the Chinaman knows perfectly well that opium dissipation means to him poverty, privation, and sickness. The worst cases of abandonment to the drug I have known, outside the criminal classes, are where a man having made a small competence or having sons to work for him, retires to idleness and self-indulgence.

6. Those who doubt that a moderate use of opium is possible should correct their impressions by observing the boatmen, wharf and warehouse coolies, market gardeners and planters of Singapore. With rare exceptions these men use opium, it is their only solace after a hard day's work; but (if they have escaped syphilis) their physique is invariably good, and their industry, frugality, and contentment are remarkable.

7. (See the reply to Question No. 2.) The use of opium tends to sedentary habits, and excess, no doubt, impairs energy, activity, and enterprise.

8. Opium is the less hurtful of the two, both to the state and the individual.

9. No Chinese willingly admits the habitual use of opium. He is ready enough to allow that his friends and countrymen indulge. A Chinese would be more ashamed of being called a drunkard than an opium-smoker; he loses in public esteem by the former more than by the latter.

10. Yes. Many fight against it, and I believe successfully.

11. The effect would be much the same as if a gang of British navvies or coal heavers had the public-houses suddenly closed to them, and they could get neither beer nor spirits. They would first sulk; then knock off work, then riot and loot the shops. If overpowered by force, they would betake themselves to the neighbouring countries, where they could gratify their tastes, and the word would be passed on to every port in China to avoid Singapore as no longer the land of freedom and good wages.

12. The estimated revenue of the colony for 1894 is \$3,818,170, towards which opium and spirits (which are farmed together) contribute \$2,364,000.

It is impossible to conceive of the opium revenue as extinguished by a stroke of the pen. If, in the course of generations, men voluntarily cease to use or abuse the drug, such a social revolution will bring with it new fiscal conditions and opportunities and in the long run the state might not be the loser.

13. Europeans almost never; their active habits demand stronger excitements. The Asiatic does not look on physical exercise as a relaxation; the comfort and *insouciance* produced by opium are more to his taste.

14. Imitation and a desire to share in what comforts others are no doubt incentives. Many of the Chinese live among such physical discomforts that anything that deadens them to external influences may be welcome. Some Chinese employers are not averse to paying their coolies partly in opium, on the "truck" system, and probably make a profit thereby. Others refuse to employ coolies or workmen who smoke opium; this is the strongest fact I know against the habit. Men who are sick or in pains do use opium as a solace; it is also resorted to in order to stave off hunger and fatigue by those who have to make extra demands on their strength and endurance. I cannot say if it will ward off fever and rheumatism or malaria from the healthy, but I believe that men suffering from these complaints will be rendered indifferent to them for the time being by opium.

15. Those who go to excess sometimes ask for medicine to allay the craving.

16. No.

17. The most striking feature in the situation is this: It is not to the Malay or the Indian, who has comparatively no vices, but to the opium-smoking Chinese that we owe almost the whole material prosperity of this colony. It is he who fells the jungle and tills the soil and extracts the metals and pushes his way into solitary places, where others would starve. He is the most patient fisherman and gardener, the hardest sailor, and the most enterprising trader. This may be in spite of, not because of, his opium. Yet I doubt if without that ready and unfailing comforter he would endure the privations he does.

18. The above remarks apply to the "native states," whether "protected" or solely under Malay rule. I do not think the rulers actually discourage the use of opium, nor do I see how they could if they would. The revenue is generally "farmed."

(Signed) ALEX. GENTLE.

Singapore,
30th December 1893.

Fourteenth Witness.—Mr. W. G. Shellabear, late R.E., missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church of America; six years resident in the Straits Settlements.

Preliminary Remarks.

I am a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church of America. My work is among the Malays and, to some extent, among the Malay-speaking Chinese. I am not acquainted with the Chinese language, but through the medium of Malay I am able to converse with a considerable proportion of the Chinese population.

I first came to Singapore seven years ago, and for the first three years of my residence in Singapore I was serving as lieutenant and local captain in the Royal Engineers. During that period my work lay entirely among Malays, the company of which I was in command consisting of 54 men of that nationality. I had a Malay servant, and I hardly ever spoke to a Chinaman.

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While I was in the army I had no particular interest in the opium traffic, and, like the great majority of residents in Singapore, I took no trouble to inform myself on the subject, and was never inside an opium shop but once, and then could not make myself understood, as the men there did not understand Malay.

In the year 1890, after a period at home, I returned to Singapore as a missionary, and it was then for the first time that I began to come across the opium question. I first heard about opium chiefly from the Chinamen employed in our mission press and in conversation with other missionaries with respect to definite cases which had come under their observation.

I soon found that, in consequence of the violent attacks made upon missionaries in the local papers on account of their opposition to the opium traffic, it would be necessary for me to make a personal study of the question in order that I might be able to take my stand upon my own personal knowledge. Since then I have made every endeavour to acquaint myself with the facts of the case, have conversed with many Chinamen on the subject, and have visited a large number of opium shops, accompanied by a qualified interpreter.

In my replies to the questions asked by the Opium Commission, I have endeavoured to confine myself to the facts as I know them from personal observation, and I have sought to avoid hearsay evidence.

Answers.

1. Opium is commonly consumed (smoked) by Chinese in this colony; a small proportion of the Indian population consume opium, and a very small proportion of Malays.

2. I should conjecture that about 12 per cent. of the Chinese adults smoke the pure opium. In addition to this number, there are very many who cannot afford to buy the pure opium, and therefore smoke the highly injurious opium-dross.

A large number of Chinese women smoke opium in their homes; women do not smoke in the opium shops, they are there sometimes for the purpose of exciting the sexual passions of the men who are smoking. Opium is smoked in the brothels, but not by the women; its use in the brothels is for the purpose of exciting the sexual passions.

I have seen children in opium shops suffering from the effects of the fumes, but I never saw a child smoke. Young men when they attain the age of puberty frequently begin to smoke for the purpose mentioned above.

3. The chief outward sign of the physical effects of opium with which I am acquainted from my personal observation is a flabbiness of the muscles and a paleness of the skin; I have noticed these characteristics in opium shops, and have had my observation in this respect corroborated by natives. These effects are noticeable after a few months of smoking, and the majority of the men found smoking in any of the opium shops will be found to be in this condition, for on inquiry it will generally be found that most of the smokers in Singapore have not been smoking very long. This is perhaps to be accounted for by the rapid immigration.

Men who have been smoking for a long period, if they have been too poor to buy nourishing food, become terribly emaciated; many such cases may be seen in the opium shops and walking about the streets of Singapore.

Lassitude is another effect of opium-smoking. I have found that when men are habitually drowsy and unfit for their work the natives at once suspect them of smoking opium. The Chinese are ashamed of the opium habit, and many of them try to conceal the fact that they are smokers.

When going long rides in rikishas I am always careful to avoid men who have the appearance of being opium-smokers, because after the first mile or two they are very slow runners, and seem to have no strength to pull the rikisha. Sometimes these men will confess to being smokers, but not always, as they are ashamed of the habit. When I have asked those rikisha pullers who are in the best training and are the fastest runners whether they smoke opium, I have invariably received an indignant denial.

The moral and social effects of opium on those who consume it may best be inferred from the suspicion with which the Chinese universally regard the opium-smoker. To such an extent is this the case that any employé of the opium farm in Singapore who is known to smoke opium is at once dismissed.

4. I have no knowledge of any method of consuming opium other than smoking.

5. The universal testimony of the Chinese is that those who once take to the habitual use of opium are unable, except in very rare cases, to leave it off.

As stated above, I have been struck with the fact that a very large proportion of the smokers in Singapore state that they have not been addicted to the habit very long; such men smoke from 20 to 30 cents worth of opium a day, and as they earn as coolies on the average 40 cents a day, their consumption can hardly be considered moderate from a financial point of view. I should think there is not the shadow of a doubt that such men must eventually become "opium-sots," if they are not so already.

6. When opium is taken to excite the sexual passions, as it most frequently is, the object is to produce a kind of intoxication which, as I understand the word, is inconsistent with moderation; for if a man drinks whisky in order to get drunk, he cannot be considered a moderate drinker.

When opium is smoked as an antidote for pain, the object with which it is smoked is different, but the result is the same; hence I cannot understand the appropriateness of the word "moderation" when applied to the smoking of opium.

At the same time it is, no doubt, true that in some cases men have continued to smoke opium for a number of years in comparatively small quantities, and when they have been able at the same time to supply themselves with a sufficiency of nourishing food, the physical effects have been produced more gradually than in the typical case.

Cases of this kind occur among the wealthy and influential class of Chinese, and I do not feel at liberty to insult any Chinese family by mentioning names. But I have in mind a well-known Chinese resident of Singapore, whose office I have frequently visited. As often as not I have found him lying on his couch and smoking, and in such a case it was impossible to get anything out of him. His customers, no doubt, had the same experience as I had, and the natural result was that his business went to the dogs. He was a very rich man, and no doubt had plenty to eat, which would account for the fatness of his body, as the opium would account for its flabbiness. To the casual observer there was no apparent ill effect from his smoking, but as a matter of fact he was little else than a useless lump of fat, incapable of attending to his business or anything else, and hardly ever leaving the house. A few weeks ago a young Chinaman was speaking to me about this same man, and without any suggestion on my part attributed the failure of his business to opium.

7. The consumption of opium is not to my knowledge peculiar to any particular class of the Chinese. Most of the opium-smokers here are coolies simply because coolies form the majority of the population.

The effect of opium on the efficiency of labourers and merchants has been described above. But I might add that I once employed an opium-smoking carpenter for some weeks in our mission press; I should not have kept him so long but that I had taken some trouble to instruct him in the particular class of work that I was having done, and I have taken very good care to avoid opium-smokers since then. The objection to this man was that he was hardly ever fit for work, and never did a real day's work all the time he was with me; and also he was frequently sneaking off to have a smoke.

8. I cannot speak of the effect of the abuse of alcohol upon the Chinese, because I have never come across any cases of the kind.

9. As regards the Malays, it is well known that both opium and alcohol are prohibited by their religion; but whereas the use of alcohol among them is not very uncommon, and is not looked upon as a scandal, the opium habit is very uncommon among them, and is looked upon as most degrading.

In the native mind the use of opium appears always to be connected with debauchery, hence they are ashamed of it, for the Chinese have quite as much sense of sin as Europeans when the subject is treated in a serious manner. But when a European whose life the Chinaman knows is not spotless treats the subject of opium-smoking with levity, it is not surprising that the debauched Chinaman tells the not-too-particular European that opium is "banyak bagus," a splendid thing; so it is truly, a splendid thing for lust. Anyone who has had a very little experience of natives is aware that their first inclination is not to answer according to

their convictions, but to give the answer which he thinks will best please the European.

10. Answered above under (5).

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off, the Chinese would undoubtedly supply themselves with the drug from elsewhere, if it were not prohibited.

The experience of the gaols shows that the sudden cutting off of the supply of opium from individuals produces only temporary pain and inconvenience.

I have been supplied with the details of several cases of men in Singapore who have been cured of the opium habit, but I never heard of any tendency on the part of these men to take to alcohol when the opium was kept away from them.

12. Over 50 per cent. of the revenue of the Straits Settlements is derived from opium. If this source of revenue were abolished, the deficit could undoubtedly be made up, the wealth of Singapore being very great.

The wealthy people would strongly object to the abolition of the opium revenue, because they feel that it will very largely fall upon them to make up the deficit. The wealthy Chinese bewail the demoralisation of their fellow countrymen, and in many cases of their kinsmen; but in spite of this some of them will uphold the opium revenue rather than submit to taxation.

13. I have heard of Europeans being seen smoking in opium dens in Victoria Street, but I have never seen one.

14. The testimony of the natives is that lust is the chief inducement to the use of opium. Opium-smokers find that the drug allays pain, and for that reason they frequently recommend its use to others.

I never heard a native suggest opium as a remedy for fever, but they thoroughly understand the value of quinine for that purpose.

15. I have asked a number of smokers, both in Malay and by interpretation, whether they desired to get free of the opium habit, and I have never yet received an answer in the negative.

16. I have heard Malays complain more than once of the extension of the opium habit among their race by the agency of the opium farm.

I remember especially the words of Munshi Ismail, formerly interpreter at the Supreme Court, who is now dead. He spoke very bitterly of the way in which the farmer sent opium up the rivers, giving it away to the Malays, knowing that if they acquired the habit he would have a sale for his opium on a second occasion.

17. I have no further remarks to offer.

18. I have no personal knowledge of the native states.

W. G. SHELLABEAR.

Fifteenth Witness.—Mr. H. Riccard, Superintendent of Police, Penang; 12 years resident in the Straits Settlements.

1. Opium is consumed by Chinese, Malays, Indians, and Armenians.

2. I would say from 15 to 20 per cent. of Chinese, 1 per cent. Malays, and 1 to 2 per cent. Indians. Women consume opium, but those who do so are mostly Macao Chinese women, Siamese and Malay women.

3. Opium consumers of the poorer class soon become physically unfit for labour, owing to not having means to support themselves with proper food, as they will spend their money on opium, although they have nothing left to get food with. Opium-smoking appears to have the same effect on the different races, with the exception of the well-to-do Chinese, a great many of whom have smoked opium for years, and it does not seem to affect them much.

4. Consumers chiefly smoke opium, except the Sikhs, who eat it.

5. The majority of opium-consumers become slaves to the drug, but a considerable proportion of the consumers are moderate consumers.

6. There is such a thing as "moderation" in the consumption of opium. I know several cases where consumers have taken opium for years, and it does not appear to have harmed them in any way. Li Ah Yeang, a goldsmith in Bishop Street, is one who has smoked

opium for years, and it does not seem to have affected him. There are several others whom I know.

7. A large majority of the Chinese artisans and labourers consume opium, but a smaller number of the merchants do so. With regard to artisans and merchants, it does not seem to affect them as to the efficiency in their calling, but to labourers it does.

8. Very few of the Asiatics are consumers of alcohol to any extent.

9. Consuming opium is not considered as degrading by the Chinese, Malays, or Asiatic races. They consider the use of alcohol far more degrading.

10. A number of consumers of opium have been trying lately to break themselves off from the use of opium by having morphia injected into their arms.

11. In my opinion, consumers would try and procure it from elsewhere. I am certain they would not abstain from the use of it if it were possible to get it.

12. No. Opium-smokers very often commenced the use of it from being in company with friends who consume the drug.

I have known instances where consumers have been led to the use of it from sickness, but more often from custom or being led to it by others.

15. Lately, a number of Chinese have been trying to break off the use of opium by having morphia injected into their arms, and they think that in a short time they can break this off, and it seems to have the same effect as smoking, and is less expensive.

16 and 17. No.

H. RICCARD.

Sixteenth Witness.—Mr. August Hüttenbach, Merchant, Partner Messrs. Hüttenbach, Liebert & Co., Messrs. Hüttenbach Brothers, Agent, British India Steam Navigation Company, 20 years resident in the Straits Settlements.

I am a merchant, and my profession has not led me to acquire so close a knowledge of all the points which go to make up the 18 questions, as would make my evidence deserve special weight. I will, therefore, only reply to those questions upon which I believe my experience justifies me in forming an opinion.

5. The great majority of opium smokers do not become "opium-sots," but only an infinitesimally small proportion, if any. I have found the majority to be moderate consumers.

6. That there is such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium I consider to be beyond the shadow of a doubt.

I know many cases of consumers who have taken their opium for years without harm to themselves.

A good local case is at the moment consul here for one of the empires of the East.

8. The use or abuse of opium by Asiatics—as regards its physical and moral effect—is to be highly preferred, according to my opinion, to the use or abuse of alcohol.

If it could be supposed that I personally had only the choice left between becoming either afflicted to the vice of opium or alcohol in its worst or any form, I would assuredly prefer and unhesitatingly choose the former.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off, consumers would, I believe, certainly supply themselves from elsewhere, just as tobacco smokers in England would supply themselves from elsewhere if supplies of tobacco from any given country were cut off. If the supply were cut off from all ports, i.e., if the import of opium were to be prohibited, I think it would lead to serious disturbances, falling off of immigration, and—in the Straits—general retrogression.

12. The colony, I think, could, were the opium revenue extinguished, raise the needful revenue otherwise. Of the people who make up the population of this colony, very few would ever know and still less understand loss of opium revenue and the obligation to make up the deficit.

Of those who do, I venture to opine that the majority would believe the Government to be frivolously creating disturbance and inconvenience without benefit to any section of the community.

16. The Asiatic races in this colony are not aware that England can allow or disallow the export of opium.

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from India, and there can thus be no feeling of hostility on that score.

Were it, however, to be forbidden and become understood that England is responsible for prohibition, the probabilities are that such a feeling of hostility would then arise. In fact it may be considered certain.

How such hostility would manifest itself is difficult to forecast, but with an article in such constant use as opium, it would probably lead to riot and bloodshed.

18. If taxing the use of opium means discouraging the use of opium, the rulers of the native states do discourage it, although they raise revenue from it.

The public or general opinion of the native states, as far as such an opinion can be said to exist, I would take to be, that the drug and its use is doing no real harm, satisfies the appetite of the users and the cravings for a tickling of the palate to many who but for the drug would probably go in, to excess, for the satisfying of other and more lowering and enervating cravings.

I take it, for instance, that but for opium the deplorable ravages caused by the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Ordinance, the injustice of which is a source of serious and bitter feeling against the Government, among the community would be still greater.

A. HÜTENBACH.

Penang, 5th January, 1894.

Seventeenth Witness.—The Rev. A. Lamont, Missionary, Presbyterian Church; 3½ years resident in the Colony of China.

1. Yes, by Chinese. I do not consider myself competent to speak of any other section of the Asiatic races.

2. Thirty per cent. of adult males from among the Chinese. The question of women consuming opium is inseparably bound up with the social evil. Women of the prostitute class are trained in the brothels to prepare the opium pipes for men. A proportion of these women (what proportion it is difficult to say) eventually become opium consumers. Of the entire Chinese female population here in Singapore (among the Chinese there are five or six men for every one woman in the Colony), there are two important subdivisions—(1.) the Straits-born Chinese female population; these represent the permanent Chinese family life, and opium consumption is rare among them; but it is otherwise with (2.), the prostitute class, which is about as great numerically as the former mentioned class.

Children do not consume opium. The children of opium consumers in infancy suffer irritation, and the parent occasionally makes the child inhale whiffs of the opium pipe. Beyond the stage of infancy the child seems to be free from hereditary incubus in the matter of opium smoking.

3. The effects of opium are degrading in all three senses specified in this question. Morally and socially opium degrades the Chinese as well as any other race. Physically this is not so. The Chinese as a muscular people have greater powers of physical endurance, and the opium habit in destroying a Chinaman's physique accomplishes a result which is all the greater in proportion to the amount of extra physical endurance which it has had to overcome.

4. Chinamen who have money to spend smoke opium and continue to smoke it. The coolie classes eat opium dross, which is opium in its cheapest and deadliest form. The effect of eating opium dross—the almost inevitable end of the inepecunious coolie who has previously learned to smoke opium—is rapidly disastrous. The monied Chinaman who consumes opium—(1.) smoking the drug in its least harmful form, and (2.) having nutritious food at his command—can remain an opium smoker for a very long time without evident prejudice to his bodily health.

5. The best answer to this question is that opium smoking—the normal use of opium—is a growth, which is relatively rapid or gradual according to the character, temperament and circumstances of the individual consumer. Beyond a preliminary stage, at which stage the habit may be voluntarily relinquished, this growth is an inexorably real one. Beyond this preliminary stage, a man is a slave to the opium habit in the sense in which any man is a slave, say, to a tumour which grows in his body. As the result of the

preliminary stage, a craving for the drug has been created, and only by external force (such as a man being put into prison) can the consumer be weaned from the habit which keeps growing and increasing as it grows. Any distinction that there may be between the physical and psychical world ceases to be in the career of the opium smoker. An opium smoker would rather starve than do without his opium.

I do not think that the phrase "opium sot" is a happy one as applied to a fully developed opium smoker; "sot" implies the maximum of animalism, and this is much more applicable to a confirmed drunkard. The opium "wreck" is rather a species of disembodied spirit beyond the range of possibilities, either for morality or immorality, except in so far as his own life is an utterly wasted one.

As a student of a man's life not merely viewed as that life is at isolated points of time but viewed as a whole, i.e., as a connected series of successive intervals of time, I believe that the average opium consumer becomes at a comparatively early stage in his career a slave to the drug.

6. "Yes" and "No" are both correct as answers to this question. "Opium in moderation" is true in the sense of its being the quantum necessary to satisfy the craving, which increases in intensity on the individual subject, and more or less rapidly demands an increase in the dose of opium consumed.

The phrase "moderation" is most misleading; "moderation" is true in the sense that it is co-extensive with the full measure of the consumer's capacity.

Beyond the playing a preliminary stage as I have indicated, opium is indulged in mainly for purposes of intoxication. "Opium in moderation" is, therefore, as regards the full grown opium smoker, a contradiction in terms.

Among my personal friends I have many opium smokers who have taken opium for years. He would be a bold man who would assert that these have "taken" opium without harm to themselves, such an assertion in the case of any one of these smokers could only emanate from a most superficial acquaintance with his life and circumstances.

7. Opium consumption, as I have indicated, is prevalent among the coolie classes. The rikisha coolie in the midst of his toilsome life takes refuge in opium. Opium dross eating is particularly prevalent among rikisha coolies.

The subject matter of this answer encroaches on a great economical question. That an opium dross eater becomes unable to pull or push his rikisha is what ordinarily happens. The only difficulty involved here is the consideration (presumable) that, to some extent, the opium habit may be the consequence, not the cause, of physical infirmity, created really by other causes. But as regards the Chinese labourer subject to an employer, e.g., in a workshop or factory, the subject is more complex. There is, e.g., an important sense in which the opium smoker is more valuable, in some cases, to his employer than the non-smoker. The non-smoker, thrifty and able to save money, soon goes back to the bosom of his family in China. To the extent to which the Chinese immigrant realises his own expectations as a progressing being, discontented on that account with his lot or constantly seeking to better it, to that extent is he deemed unsatisfactory by the employer of labour to whom a change of labourers is unwelcome on account of extra expense incurred in procuring men to take their place. The opium smoker paying for his luxury cannot save money, and is, therefore, more acceptable to his employer, to whom absolute dependence on the part of servants is most desirable. This economical consideration has, I believe, a vital bearing on the true answer to this question.

8. The customs of the Chinese, besides the quality of Chinese intoxicants, prevent drunkenness from being a national vice among the Chinese. Drunkenness, however, is growing among the Straits Chinese, who are, on account of their circumstances, the children of two distinct civilisations. Nor is such a growth of drunkenness diminishing the appetite for opium as amongst the Straits-born Chinese. The opium vice is less palpable assuredly, yet it is more inexorable than drunkenness.

9. The habit of opium-smoking, or the use of opium in any other way, is universally condemned by the Chinese. Many Chinamen, however, whom I have met here, have, speaking from a national pride, extolled opium-smoking as a vice as compared with drunkenness as amongst Europeans. But such praise of opium is a purely relative praise. A Chinaman will invariably

admit that both opium-smoking and drunkenness are bad.

10. Very rare.

11. This is a difficult question. Chinese opium consumers would rather have a bad time of it, thus forcibly deprived of their opium. My opinion is that there is no hope for the regular opium-smoker. Repressive legislation, if judicious, would be of advantage only to future generations.

The opium-smoker would, if he could, supply himself with opium from elsewhere. When he could not get Indian opium, he would do the next "best" thing—he would smoke Chinese-grown opium. If that were stopped, he would, like a prisoner in the gaol, just have to do without it.

A confirmed opium-smoker is capable of doing a great many things. It is, therefore, difficult to prophesy exactly what he would do without his opium. He would consider alcohol a poor substitute. In disgust at not having opium, he might "abstain altogether."

12. Over 50 per cent. of the entire revenue of the colony.

As to raising revenue otherwise, I cannot make any suggestions.

With regard to the last part of this question, public opinion in Singapore lacks solidarity. "What the people would say," &c., involves a generalised answer necessarily equivocal as representing the people as a whole, and therefore most misleading.

13. No; because (1) there are proportionately few Europeans altogether; (2) European social habits are more friendly to drunkenness than to opium-smoking; (3) the Europeans as immigrants from England and elsewhere are the creatures of a different civilization, including different external circumstances, *e.g.*, opium is not obtainable in England as it is in China and the Straits.

In addition to other considerations already mentioned, Asiatics are more liable to contract the opium habit on account of—

- (1) Race peculiarities and race temperament in particular.
 - (2) Climate and other external environment.
 - (3) Easy access to the use of the drug.
- All of these causes act and react on one another.

14. A question for medical experts.

15. Habitual consumers invariably desire to get free from the habit at such times, as they exercise the prerogative of "looking before and after."

16. There is, as regards the Straits-born Chinese, a distinct absence of national sentiment. In a few only of those Chinese in the colony is there such a feeling of hostility as that indicated in this question. Social distinctions and caste notions as inculcated theoretically and practically by the members of the European community have naturally done much to produce anti-foreign feeling in the more educated Chinese, and Britain's opium policy towards China is, professedly, one of the main foundations on which this feeling rests.

17. If Her Majesty's Imperial Government, as the result of the work of their Commission, can do anything to alter the *status quo*, such fresh legislation can be effectual only in view of the interests of posterity. There is no hope to be entertained for the present generation of opium consumers.

ARCHIBALD LAMONT.

English Presbyterian Mission to the Chinese,
Singapore, 9th January 1894.

Eighteenth Witness.—Mr. T. S. Kerr, M.B., C.M., Acting Principal Civil Medical Officer; 10 years in the medical service of the Straits Settlements; for three years previously a private practitioner in Singapore.

1. Opium is largely consumed by the Chinese in the Straits; it is also consumed by the native races of Malaya, *e.g.*, Malays, Javanese, Bugis, &c., and other Asiatic races, though to a much less extent.

2. Of Chinese adult males, I believe between 60 and 70 per cent. use opium; of Malays, including Javanese and Bugis, about 2 or 3 per cent.; of other Asiatics, about 5 per cent.

Women use opium, though markedly less so than men; its use amongst Chinese women is chiefly confined to the prostitute class, but Javanese and Malay women use it

also. No instance of children addicted to opium has come under my observation.

3. So far as I have been able to determine, the moderate use of the drug, beyond waste of time, produces no deleterious effects, either morally, physically, or socially; immoderate use induces enfeeblement of mental powers, perversion of moral faculties, and physical incapacity.

4. Smoking is the chief mode of consumption, though a few eat it, the latter mode being chiefly affected by natives of India. I believe the effects of eating the drug to be more marked than those of smoking. This is perhaps specially noticeable if from any cause the consumer is suddenly deprived of his drug. The smoker recovers more rapidly than the eater.

5. The great majority of consumers I believe to be moderate in their use of the drug, but only from necessity. Opium sots are the exception. If a smoker can get more of the drug, he will do so, and if, having contracted the habit, he has unlimited means at his disposal, the tendency is to go on increasing the quantity until eventually he is a wreck bodily and mentally. This is, however, the exception, the consumer adapting himself to the quantity his means permit him to purchase.

6. Strictly speaking, I believe there is no such thing as moderation in the consumption of opium; but, as already explained in answer to question 5, the large majority limit their supply to their purchasing power, and this practically amounts to a moderate use of the drug.

I have met with cases of coolies who have taken opium for years, apparently without injury to themselves. They looked well, and were able to do a hard day's work. As an instance amongst the better classes, a clerk and accountant in a large firm has used opium for 10 years, latterly, I should say, moderately. Beyond a sallow look and being somewhat thin, he enjoys good health. His employer assures me he is always capable of doing his work, and does it well.

7. The majority of labourers and artisans amongst the Chinese consume opium; the merchants in a minor degree. As used by the majority, it does not appear to affect their calling.

Carpenters, as a class, I believe are large consumers. They are, generally speaking, very industrious, and turn out excellent work.

8. Much in favour of the former. The moderate use of opium, so far as I have seen, does little if any harm. The use of alcohol by a native is almost invariably followed by varying degrees of intoxication, detrimental alike to the consumer and to the community.

The evil effects of the immoderate use of opium are long in making themselves felt, and can be recovered from without permanent damage resulting. Such is not the case with the abuse of alcohol.

9. The better class of Chinese, I believe, regard the opium habit as objectionable; at all events they do not care to employ as house servants opium-smokers. As regards their coolies, they are indifferent from necessity.

10. I believe not.

11. If the Indian opium were cut off, they would supply themselves from elsewhere. Even now, I believe, a large quantity of the opium in use is grown in China.

Presupposing opium unobtainable, they would probably take to some other narcotic, or alcohol; if to the latter, so much the worse.

12. —.

13. No. Climatic influences, imitation, and the fact that the Asiatic prefers to take his pleasures, generally sensuous, in a way which gives least trouble to himself, induces him to use opium. The European, on the other hand, as influenced by early training and environment, prefers recreation involving intellectual work, skill, or physical exertion.

14. Amongst the Chinese it is practically a national habit, on a par with the use of tobacco or alcohol in other countries. Imitation influences some, while others take to it from vicious motives. In some cases it is first used to allay physical pain, chiefly the pain of chronic rheumatism, here very prevalent. Only one instance of the use of opium as a prophylactic against malaria has come under my observation; in this instance the consumers were Sikhs, who, I believe, regard it as a prophylactic in malaria.

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15. Yes.

16. —————.

17. Opium I regard as the alcohol of the East.

T. S. KERR.

Nineteenth Witness.—Mr. J. Y. Kennedy, J.P., Merchant, Partner Messrs Allen and Kennedy; president of the Municipal Commission, Penang; formerly M.L.C.; 19 years resident in Java and the Straits Settlements.

1. Opium is largely consumed by Chinese in the Colony, and, to a smaller extent, by Malays. I do not know about other Asiatics.

2. From what I have heard and seen (I have no statistics to guide me), I should say that about 20 per cent. of the Chinese in the colony smoke opium. I believe the number of Malays who smoke it to be much smaller.

3. I have observed no particular effects on the great bulk of opium consumers. They appear to me to be physically, morally, and socially neither better nor worse than non-smokers. I know opium smokers who are physically feeble, and who possibly injure themselves by smoking; but in every instance that I can call to mind the men are naturally physically weak. From what I have seen, I think it would be about as reasonable, when a non-smoker is physically weak, to say it is because he is a non-smoker, as to say, in most cases of physically weak smokers, that they are so because they are smokers. I refer here entirely to Chinese. I cannot speak from experience about Malays.

4. The only opium consumers I have met have been, I believe, smokers.

5. I should think that not one opium-smoker in 100 (again I refer to the Chinese) becomes an opium sot; and personally I have only known one man whom I believe to have been a slave to the drug, and to have hastened his end by excessive use of it. Nearly all smokers are moderate consumers.

6. It is absolutely wrong to say that there cannot be moderation in the consumption of opium.

7. The majority of the Chinese (who form the bulk of population of the Straits Settlements) with whom I have come in contact are not opium-smokers. They have chiefly been merchants and traders, and some of the shrewdest of them have been moderate smokers. I have, however, in my mind's eye now a man who smokes and has smoked opium for years in large quantities. Physically he is a miserable looking man, but this, I think, is constitutional. Mentally he is one of the clearest headed men I know. About his morals and social qualities I can say nothing.

8. My experience, ranging over a period of more than 19 years in Java and the Straits, leads me to believe the abuse of opium is rare. There can be no comparison between the harm done by alcohol and that done by opium, either in the number of those who suffer or in the extent of the suffering in individual cases. Just as some men injure themselves by eating too much butcher's meat, others, probably, injure themselves by taking too much opium. But the injury in both cases is physical. Opium-smokers do not, so far as my experience goes, either go mad or commit crimes in consequence of smoking to excess, as excessive drinkers of alcohol do in consequence of excessive drinking.

9. I have heard Chinese condemn opium-smoking as degrading, but always, it appeared to me, more because they had been brought up to think it so than because of conviction founded on evidence. All natives that I have met look upon the excessive use of alcohol as degrading.

10. I cannot answer this from personal knowledge.

11. I cannot say.

12. Nearly two-thirds of the revenue of the colony is derived from opium. Were this source of revenue extinguished, I do not know what could take its place without causing injury to the industries and trade of the colony, and discontent among the people. They would think the Government mad to abolish it.

13. I have only known one European opium-smoker. He contracted the habit some years ago, and it appeared

at one time to have completely demoralised him; but he managed to break himself of it, and is now a respectable member of society.

14. I cannot answer this.

15. Not to my knowledge.

16. There is no hostility towards England among the inhabitants of the Straits Settlements for allowing the export of opium from India.

17. I have no remarks to make.

18. I cannot say how far the consumption of opium is common in the neighbouring native states. The rulers of those of them with which I am personally acquainted all raise revenue from it, and I believe those with which I have no personal acquaintance do the same.

J. Y. KENNEDY.

Penang, January 8, 1894.

Twentieth Witness.—Mr. Hugh Clifford, Acting British Resident, Pahang; 10 years' service in the Malay Peninsula.

1. Opium is very commonly consumed by the Chinese in Pahang, and more rarely by the Malays. Other Asiatic races in this state are not often addicted to its use.

2. Of Chinese, a proportion of probably not less than 85 per cent. are consumers. Of Malays, the proportion is probably not more than 3 per cent.; many Chinese and some Malay women smoke opium. Children do not indulge in the habit.

3. On the Chinese the habit has no appreciable effect, except in very exceptional cases. On the Malays, as a rule, the effect is far more marked. Their natural indolence is considerably increased, they appear to degenerate physically, becoming emaciated, and in many cases suffering severely from chronic constipation and piles. The habit brings them into constant familiar intercourse with the Chinese, to whom the Malays usually consider themselves superior, and it tends to cause them to lose much of their customary self-respect. Their fear of cold often makes them more or less personally uncleanly, which is not usual among Malays under ordinary circumstances.

4. Consumers almost invariably smoke opium, except when travelling, when opium is sometimes eaten as a substitute, but all appear to prefer the former method of consumption.

5. The majority of both races appear to be moderate smokers, though they are all unable to discontinue the habit at will.

6. No. I know of several such cases. One case of a Malay Raja of my acquaintance is particularly remarkable. The man in question is over 60 years of age, and has indulged in opium for the last 40 years. He shows no sign of the supposed effects of the drug, and has within the last year had a child born to him. All his children are perfectly healthy, and he himself is more hale than many non-opium smokers of the same age. His case among Malays is certainly an exceptional one, but among Chinamen many parallel cases could be found with little difficulty.

7. The majority of Chinese labourers, merchants, and artisans smoke opium. The habit does not appear to affect their efficiency in any way. At the present time there are a number of coolies employed underground in the gold mines of this state, the majority of whom are opium-smokers, who work eight hours a day with perfect ease. A number of coolies in this state earn their living by carrying loads, weighing as much as 120 lbs., distances of 15 miles a day. With hardly an exception, these men are moderate opium smokers. The merchant and the artisan appear to be no more affected by the habit than are the labourers.

8. It compares very favourably. A native who is a confirmed drunkard could not be employed in any position of trust. This does not apply to the opium smoker. Drink appears to have a far more marked effect on Asiatics than on Europeans, just as opium seems to affect the latter more seriously than the former. The physical effects of drink on Asiatics are more marked than any which are produced by opium. The habit of drunkenness is, however, comparatively speaking, rare.

9. It is condemned by the Malays because it is contrary to Mohammedan law and is, therefore, regarded as sinful. By the Chinese it is not regarded as degrading or injurious, unless it is taken in excess. By both races the alcohol habit is regarded as infinitely more degrading than the opium habit.

10. Occasionally, but very rarely.

11. The price of opium would rise, and money which moderate consumers now devote to the expenses of their wives and children would be employed to purchase the amount of opium to which the consumer had accustomed himself. In very few cases would it lead to the reduction of the amount of opium consumed. Those who could afford it would buy the same quantity of opium elsewhere. Those who could not afford to do so would probably take to eating it, when a smaller quantity is required to obtain the soothing effect which is induced by smoking opium. Others would very probably take to alcohol or some other narcotic. Few, if any, would break themselves of the habit.

12.—(1.) About \$15,000 per annum.

(2.) No.

(3.) They would object to additional taxation which was necessitated by what they would regard as an inexplicable caprice of the Government.

13. No.

14.—(1.) Among Malays the habit is usually begun by the consumer smoking small quantities of opium in order to increase his virility. The habit thus formed is not usually abandoned.

Among the Chinese the habit is largely due to the force of example, and much as men drink "for company."

(2.) Not usually.

(3) and (4.) No, but the habit is sometimes formed by being taken medicinally by natives suffering from dysentery.

15. Only in the case of Malays, who often regret the habit because it is expensive.

16. Certainly not.

17. (1.) In the native states of Tringganu, Kelantan, and Patani, opium smoking prevails among the Chinese and Malays in about the same proportion as is the case in Pahang.

(2.) No.

(3.) A considerable proportion of their revenue is raised from the opium farms.

(4.) The general opinion of the natives in this state appears, as far as my knowledge of the people goes, to be the same as that which I have already expressed.

HUGH CLIFFORD,

Acting British Resident, Penang.

British Residency, Pahang,
21st December, 1893.

Twenty-first Witness.—Mr. George C. Wray, Straits Civil Service, Protector of Chinese, Straits Settlements; 12 years resident in the Straits Settlements and China.

1. Yes, commonly by Chinese, not so commonly by Malays.

2. Perhaps 50 per cent. of our Chinese males over 20 years of age.

Few women smoke; children not at all.

3. The moderate use of opium does not (more than does the moderate use of food and drink) affect the moral and social condition of its consumers, and is beneficial physically.

Excessive opium smoking (like excessive eating and drinking) is, of course, baneful.

4. Consumers in the Straits generally smoke opium.

5. No. The vast majority remain moderate consumers, and are in no way slaves to the drug, or "opium sots."

6. It is wildly incorrect to make such a ridiculous statement.

I know many cases of consumers in every rank of life who have smoked for years, are still moderate consumers, and enjoy their opium without apparent harm to themselves. The only description possible of such cases is that some are personal friends of mine with whom I have smoked opium on occasion. They have taken their "quantum" of the drug for years

without appearing to suffer in health, or to have a morbid craving for increasing the dose, just as people of Western origin can take a certain number of cigars or glasses of wine daily for years without apparently suffering in health or becoming drunkards.

7. The majority of our Chinese labourers and artisans (and, I believe, the best and healthiest of them) are moderate opium smokers. The drug appears to benefit them and compensate in some way for the poorness of the rice diet with savouries, which is the national heritage of the Chinese poorer class. We Occidentals, with flesh diet and our national use of alcoholic stimulants, do not require opium. The jinrikisha pullers, dock labourers, and cooling coolies are moderate consumers, and are splendid workmen.

8. The use of opium is, I consider, not open to the same medical objections as those which are made against the use of alcohol, and the cases of abuse of opium here are far less common proportionately and infinitely less disastrous than are cases of abuse of alcohol in Europe. A large amount of alcohol is consumed here by natives, especially by the Straits-born Chinese, but I only know isolated cases of the abuse of it visibly affecting the health of the consumers. As the majority consume opium, and the minority alcohol, it is not easy to make a comparison between the effect of the two habits.

9. Chinese are unanimous in condemning the abuse of opium as degrading and injurious, and the use of it is, therefore, frequently condemned as being possibly introductory to the abuse of the drug.

Orientalists have a greater dread of the alcohol habit than of the opium habit.

10. Yes, frequently, when they find they are smoking to excess, or beyond their means. Numbers are also broken of the habit in jails and hospitals.

11. Opium would temporarily go up in price enormously; immigration of Chinese would stop, the Act would be a real hardship to the majority of our Chinese labourers, who would throng to the country or port where opium was most easily obtainable. They would not take to alcohol, "or abstain altogether" if they could help it.

12. See official returns.

The people generally would blame the Government and desert the colony, which would suffer irretrievably from such a fatal policy. The Straits Settlements are a popular resort for Chinese and others, because they get what they want, (e.g., just government, well-lighted and watered streets, opium, &c., &c.) at a fair cost. Remove these conditions, and we court unpopularity.

14. Partly from curiosity, and partly because seeing others indulging in the luxury they elect to try it themselves.

(2.) No.

(3.) I have no personal knowledge of the effects of opium as against the diseases mentioned.

(4.) Some Chinese believe in opium as a prophylactic.

15. I have heard those who smoke opium excessively say so, and I have observed cases in which they have given up the habit. Moderate opium smokers have no cause for complaint, unless they find smoking too expensive.

16. I have never heard of it.

17. I think that an infinite variety of rubbish and mis-statements is promulgated on the subject of opium-smoking. The Chinese whose anti-opium opinions are quoted by agitators are mainly the converts of European missionaries, whose intolerant views they have adopted on becoming Christians. I have frequently heard preachers inveigh against opium-smoking in the category of the deadly sins.

It is a poor argument against opium for missionaries to quote, as an independent expression of Chinese opinion, the views which they have with difficulty forced their converts to accept as part and parcel of Christianity.

The crusade (as is the teetotal movement) is more-over conducted unfairly. Individuals in the last stage of disease, whose lives would be intolerable were it not for the benefit derived from opium, are picked out and even photographed for exhibition as typical opium-smokers; no notice is taken of the thousands of healthy, sturdy labourers whose photographs are not projected on screens at anti-opium meetings, but who take opium moderately, and apparently thrive on it; probably few

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in these audiences have dreamt of the existence of such a class !

It is easy to detect an excessive opium-smoker as it is to detect a confirmed drunkard, but it is unfair to lead the easily-persuaded European philanthropist to infer that the excessive smoker is the ordinary type of opium-smoker.

I consider that it is as unreasonable to think of cutting off the supply of Indian opium because a certain number smoke it to excess as it would be to contemplate stopping the import of tobacco because a minority ruin their digestion by excessive smoking.

GEORGE W. WRAY,
Protector of Chinese, S.S.

10th January 1894.

Twenty-second Witness.—Shaik Eusooff, Merchant, Penang; a leading member of the Mohammedan community.

1. Yes.

2. —

3. —

4. People chiefly smoke and eat and even drink decoction of opium. The smokers ruin their health.

5. Those who consume greatly become slaves to the drug, and eventually turn out "opium sots," and others who use moderately do carry on their trade.

6. There is moderation to everything, and those who are idlers stick to it day and night. Yes; I have known a respectable Asiatic Mohammedan Kling merchant consuming opium for years secretly, yet without harm to himself. I have also known a Bengali Asiatic who had been using opium for many years, and he kept up himself well up to his death. I have also known a Penang born Eurasian, he looked well. He was very regular in his duty. His son, when young, took to consume opium and became useless, and used to go about with very dirty dress, and even in Chinese dress, and sometimes Malay's, and now he became a physician, dressing well in his style and looking well.

7. Labourers, to my understanding, never use. The one I have mentioned in the foregoing paragraph was a merchant, and the other was a physician.

8. —

9. Almost all the races consider the habit of consuming opium to be condemned and injurious.

10. They can hardly break themselves from the habit.

11. If the supply of opium is cut off, it would be very hard on every nation of consumers; the strong consumers would depart from the colony and go to a place where they can obtain opium. They can hardly obtain from elsewhere when the Government stops it, and they will also stop importing, that is why the reason many consumers leave the colony. They can never abstain from it, and there will be also riots in the colony.

12. Colony derives revenue from opium enormously, and if it is extinguished it would be very difficult to raise the needful revenue from other sources, particularly at the present time. I think to accrue such a large income like opium revenue, there will be no other chance than to impose taxes on import and export goods. The people will no doubt grumble when the Government imposes the new tax, but gradually will become accustomed to it.

13. No, because the Europeans have much in their way to take liquors of different sorts, because they know well that opium will make them dull, but liquors will keep them alive. The Asiatics fall and addict to it more because in many places they have heard or known very little about liquors.

14. People become used to it by friendly associations, and very seldom they do take to allay any physical pain. In my knowledge opium by itself is of no good to any sickness, except for doctors who use this with their prescriptions when required. The Asiatics never regard it so, but they mix it in medicine.

15. Opium-consumers generally try to get free from the habit, because they found it makes them dull.

16. I have never heard of any such hostile feeling.

17. Consuming opium is as bad as many other things, such as drinking, gambling, &c. One that falls in its habit excessively, it will do him a great injury in this world.

18. Opium is mainly consumed in native states. Some of the rulers and their relations are consumers. They do not discourage its use, they do largely raise revenue from it. Malay inhabitants, who are generally idlers of those native states, when once they become accustomed to it never abstain from using it and particularly this class of people eat very poorly and it brings them down at once.

SHAIK EUSOOFF.

Twenty-third Witness.—Mr. A. W. S. O'Sullivan, Straits Civil Service, ten years resident in the Straits Settlements.

1. Commonly by Chinese and Siamese, much less so by Malays and other races. By Tamils hardly at all, as they prefer alcoholic stimulants.

2. About 50 per cent. of Chinese males and 5 per cent. of Chinese females are opium consumers. Of Malays perhaps 2 per cent. I know no instance of a Malay woman taking opium; the betel-chewing, which is universal among them, seems to take the place of other stimulants. Nor am I aware that children of any nationality indulge in the drug, but to this there are no doubt exceptions.

3. I have only watched the effect of opium on the Chinese coolie. I should say that it was soothing and not deleterious, especially to men engaging in hard physical labour, provided it is not indulged in to excess, but excessive opium smoking is the exception.

4. They generally smoke in this colony.

5. The majority are moderate consumers. The "opium sot" is a rarer sight here than the habitual drunkard in England.

6. To the best of my belief wholly incorrect. I have not, however, ever followed out any special case.

7. A majority of the Chinese labourers do certainly consume opium. I know that many of the merchant class are addicted to spirits, having myself seen them in various stages of intoxication. It is my opinion that opium affects men of sedentary employments more than those whose occupations involve much physical exertion.

9. I believe that the majority of Malays, being Mohammedan, look on opium eating (in common with the consumption of alcoholic liquors) as objectionable, as being opposed to the tenets of their religion. Respectable Chinese regard excessive opium taking as both injurious and degrading, as it no doubt is.

10. I believe so.

11. I have no doubt that those who could afford it would, in the case supposed, get opium from elsewhere. Those who could not afford to buy the drug at an enhanced price would probably take to alcohol.

13. I know of no case of a European contracting the opium habit. I think this is probably because the taste for alcoholic stimulant is, to a greater or less degree, hereditary in most Europeans, and they naturally adhere to their national habit, just as the Chinese do to theirs. Spirits too are cheaper and less troublesome to absorb. Opium smoking requires considerable patience on the smoker's part, much preparation being required for a few whiffs.

15. No, as a rule they prefer to continue.

16. Not that I ever heard of.

18. I have no experience of opium consumption in the native states.

A. W. S. O'SULLIVAN.

Twenty-fourth Witness.—Mr. Seah Liang Seah, J.P., Merchant, formerly M.L.C.; one of the principal Chinese in Singapore; a native of Singapore.

1. Opium is commonly consumed by people of Chinese, Malay, and other Asiatic races, especially Chinese, as they are the majority of the population in our colony.

2. The proportion I venture to say that the adult males of Chinese are about 40 per cent., Malays and other Asiatics are about $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. There are women

(Chinese) consumers of opium about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., most of them are in the country districts. Children : none consume opium.

3. I observe opium effects moral and physical, they have lazy propensity always, when smoking must be lying down; most of the consumers are poor, they generally bear in their minds wild thoughts and act against morality; I believe they are sociable; as far as I know the effects on each race are the same.

4. Generally consumers smoke opium (as people smoke tobacco in pipe) but the poor consumers eat and smoke the dregs; I am not aware that they drink decoction of opium in the colony, probably physicians use it for medicinal purposes; as I am not a smoker of opium, I am unable to explain its effect taken in all these forms.

5. Yes, and become "opium sots"; generally they use moderation, but when they get free they indulge it.

6. Cannot if they get free; about 10 per cent. of the consumers without harm.

7. Yes, as to the effect on their efficiency in their calling I believe all of them, more or less, are affected because, they become weak and languid and require much rest; but Chinese fishermen, consumers of opium, it seems does not affect them for they go through their work laboriously and efficiently.

8. In comparison to my observation that the consumers of alcohol are worse than the consumers of opium.

9. Yes, they are to my knowledge—so is with the alcohol consumer's habit.

10. If they wish to abandon the habit, they can, but gradually.

11. Should the supply of Indian opium were cut off, opium consumers would suffer by its effect, *i.e.*, by getting different kind of sickness, and would certainly find means to supply themselves with opium from elsewhere; as to substitute alcohol or other narcotic I have no knowledge of it; they cannot abstain at once.

12. Large proportion of the colony's revenue accrues from opium; if the opium revenue is extinguished, our colony cannot raise the needful revenue otherwise, and if the loss of opium farming and the obligation to make up the deficit, I think, people would say the scheme is unwise; it would benefit other nationality, and would cause burden to the colony.

13. I am unable to answer this question fully, but there are to my knowledge of a very few. I hope the European will give its right answer.

14. To my knowledge opium consumers led to use the drug when they are invited to a party (it is the fashionable custom with the Chinese), the guests are offered with a smoking of opium, thereby, they get into the habit; also when they take it to allay physical pain; to my knowledge opium is not prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, or malaria, but when craving for opium they feel different kind of sickness were upon them, and when they smoke opium all feelings of sickness leave them.

15. With my knowledge opium consumers desire to get free from the habit.

16. I suppose there is no feeling of hostility in our colony by any Asiatic race against England for allowing opium to be exported from India, but the opium consumers regret themselves to get into the habit of opium smoking.

17. Generally people of the opium consumption are disliked to be engaged as employés.

18. To my knowledge almost the whole of the native states around the colony is common to opium consumption. The rulers of those states encourage its use, for they raise revenue from it. As far as I can learn the public or general opinion of the native states that, opium affects its consumers and on the people at large.

L. LIANG SEAH.

11th January, 1894.

Twenty-fifth Witness.—Mr. John Anderson, J.P., Merchant, Consul for Siam; thirty-two years resident in the Straits.

1. If, by the expression "commonly consumed," it is meant to ask—"Is the consumption or use of opium common to the whole community of Chinese, Malay and other Asiatic races in this colony and peninsula?"—then the answer is, "No"; and this negative reply applies whether these nationalities or races be taken collectively or separately.

2. From what I have observed, I give the following as my impressions, *viz.* :—

(a) The percentage of Malays who use opium is very small indeed. I am inclined to believe that the Malay of Singapore (so called) having, practically, nothing to do with the use of opium, is due to (1) that he does not enter into continuously hard and trying physical labour calling for special stimulation to the system; and (2) that it would in many cases be considered as clashing with his creed as this construed by most, or many of them.

(b) *Other Asiatic Races.*—Coromandel Coast races and other Southern India people who come here may, I think, be said to have practically no connexion with the opium question.

(c) *As to other classes of Indians or other races (except Chinese)*, their consumption of opium is, I should say, insignificant in quantity, as far as Singapore and the Malay Peninsula is concerned. I am speaking of opium in the form in which it is prepared in the Straits Settlements and Malay Peninsula for smoking, commonly known in Malaya as "chandu." Speaking generally, and at guess, I should say that the use of the drug, other than in the form of chandu might be put at under 1 per cent. of the whole population.

(d) *As to the use of opium by Chinese*, I would divide the Chinese into three classes, *viz.* :—

(1)—*Straits-born Chinese.*—Of these I should say that opium smokers did not exceed $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of that class. The Straits-born Chinese almost invariably earn their livelihood as clerks, store-keepers and light workers (*i.e.*, in the sense of physical labour).

(2)—*Chinese from China*, who have established themselves here in trade and shop-keeping and who (from a monetary point of view) are in circumstances from fair to well-to-do. Among these, I would put, by approximation, users of opium at between 15 per cent. to 20 per cent.

(2)—*Chinese of the Colony and hard labour class.*—I would judge that from 30 per cent. to at the outside 40 per cent of these use opium.

In my observation the use of opium by women is exceptional.

I have not known it used by children.

3. The answer to this question in large measure depends on the extent to which the consumer uses opium. If its use be abused by excessive indulgence, the effects morally, physically and socially must decidedly be prejudicial to the consumer. Its use in moderation, as a stimulant to the system of men who engage in constant hard and trying physical labour, in my opinion, helps to the maintenance of the working powers of such consumer.

I do not think that the effect on consumers of each race is or would be the same. Chinese, as a race, are naturally active, determinedly persevering, and physically energetic. The Malay is quite differently constituted, being naturally inclined to indolence. While a working Chinaman might use opium to an advantage, the Malay, if he used it habitually in the same quantity as the Chinaman, would, I should say, certainly find it to his detriment. A Chinaman, if of naturally indolent disposition and sluggish temperament, would, I should say, be detrimentally affected by its use in the same way as would a Malay consumer.

I should say that the use of opium by Malays generally (if such a thing could happen) would be detrimental and injurious.

4. My observation and knowledge applies chiefly to the use of opium (chandu) as smoked. Smokers sometimes also eat opium. Of its use drunk, as a decoction, I have no knowledge.

5. I should say that the great majority of opium smokers become "slaves" to the drug, but I only adopt the expression in the sense and to mean that once they come to it they usually continue to use it. As to the question: "Do I find that the great majority of opium consumers eventually become opium sots?" I say, as my impression, "No." It would, however, be very difficult to prove this either in the negative or in the affirmative; for the great majority of opium smokers in Malaya cannot be followed individually. They come mostly from China, work, earn, and go back to China, there to spend or retire upon their earnings; and it is significant that most of them returning to their mother-country take accumulated earnings with them.

I have reason to believe that opium smokers in the Straits (speaking generally) reduce their habitual

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consumption of opium when reduction in their earnings takes place.

6. I do not believe it to be correct to say that "there can be no such thing as moderation in the consumption of opium." In Singapore there are, among the non-smoking Chinese, men who claim to know of consumers who have taken opium for years without apparent harm.

The class of Chinamen who, individually, are constantly under my observation from year's end to year's end, are not opium smokers, so I cannot, from my own certain knowledge, give descriptions in detail of any instances such as are referred to in the last preceding paragraph.

7. This question has, to some extent, been dealt with by answers under 2 (d 1, d 2, and d 3).

Some of the best and most capable Chinese artisans at the dock and machine-shop works and foundries in Singapore (blacksmiths, boiler-makers, rivetters, &c.) are opium users.

As a class, most painters are opium users. In their case, I think it reduces the effect of poison inhaled into the system from paint.

8. I answer this by saying that if it were desired and if it were possible to stamp out the use or abuse either of alcohol or of opium, I should certainly urge the stamping out first of the use or abuse of alcohol. Of the two, the latter, in my opinion, is productive of the greater harm and misery.

9. Speaking generally, Malays and other Asiatic races (I do not here embrace Chinese), non-users condemn the habit. Non-using Chinese, to a great extent, condemn it. Consumers say it would be a hardship to them to be without it.

10. Some opium smokers have broken themselves of the habit.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off, the effect on the labouring Chinese population of this neighbourhood, who are consumers, would be hardship, inasmuch as they would be deprived of what they themselves find by use and experience to be a stimulant, useful and more or less necessary for the maintenance of physical working power and energy, and a preventive of fevers and illness.

The consumption of alcohol would probably increase. But if the Chinese opium using labourer could get opium from elsewhere than India, he would get it.

If he could not get it in these Settlements, he would, by preference, go to work in a country where he could get it, and the Chinese labourer in these Settlements and in British Malaya being, by his work, one of the main pillars to their prosperity and progress, if he be forced (by prohibition of what he finds to be and may consider to be a necessity for his welfare) to seek his living and money-making elsewhere, prosperity and progress in this neighbourhood must cease.

The Indian labourer will not and cannot do work that the Chinese are suited for. They are differently constituted.

12. For the proportion of revenue derived from opium, see Blue Books.

If opium revenue were extinguished, I cannot see how the colony could otherwise (in the colony) raise the equivalent difference and "carry on" successfully. Its supply of cheap and efficient labour would decline seriously, property would depreciate, and, under existing system of government, bankruptcy would be speedy.

As to "what the people of the colony would say to the loss of opium revenue and the obligation to make "up the deficit," there would not, under such circumstance be many people (of the revenue creating class) left to say anything, let alone to exact deficit of revenue from.

13. Europeans do not, in any numbers, contract the habit of opium use.

If they were constituted, and worked as Chinese labourers are and do, and worked under same conditions of system, living, habits, and surroundings, Europeans might perhaps find the use of opium of some benefit.

14. I should think that opium consumers of the labouring classes are often led to first use of the drug from being given to understand that is a stimulant which gives them staying power.

Doubtless, in many cases, it is taken in the first instance to allay pain.

From what I have been told by consumers, I believe that opium is a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, and malaria.

15. Some opium consuming Chinese (those who go to excess particularly) would desire to get rid of the habit. Others would not. Others again are indifferent.

16. No. No feeling of hostility against England. Such an idea is, to my mind, quite absurd if applied to these parts.

17 and 18. As in the case of alcohol and tobacco, so also in the case of opium, there are abuses and excesses.

But, on the whole, opium, in my mind, is of benefit to the majority of the Chinese labouring classes who use it in moderation in the Straits Settlements and Native States of the Malay Peninsula.

If it were possible to absolutely cut off the use of opium, say, among the scores of thousands of Chinese coolies who on the Malay Peninsula produce every year more than half the whole world's output of metallic tin, these States and the Settlements would revert to poverty; not merely because excise revenue would be lost in the first instance, but because the Chinese labourer of the class that is found most efficient here would seek fields elsewhere, under rule that would not capriciously debar him from the use of what he not only considers to be a reasonable luxury, but what he also by experience finds to be a comforting and beneficial stimulant more or less necessary to his constitution and conditions.

If the British Government should ever pass legislation to prohibit the importation into and the use of opium in the Straits Settlements and the British Protected States of the Malay Peninsula, such prohibition would, in my opinion, ultimately produce a use of opium in these parts doubly greater than is the case under the present system of taxed permission.

Entire prohibition of opium would necessarily mean extinction of the present "farm" system, and with prohibition declared as a policy, the Government could not then recognize, nor permit either directly or indirectly importation of opium as at present.

Smuggling would, therefore, then commence on a large scale. And the geographical and topographical conditions of these countries and districts are such that if Government had to maintain an establishment to even check smuggling, it would be at a cost enormous and ruinous. And even then the check would be but partial, for when a Chinaman puts his hand and brain to smuggling, it would be difficult to find his equal in ingenuity, persistence, and success at that craft.

The extent to which smuggling can be carried on here, is, in some way, evidenced by its rampancy, notwithstanding strictest surveillance, some years ago, when the control of opium in Singapore, Johor, Rhio, and the Karimon Islands was in various competing hands, instead of, as at present, under one control, or almost so.

And even just now, with all the watch and guard that a system which, under the circumstances, is about as searching and well organised as it possibly can be (without involving more inconvenience to the public than is now the case), smuggling is, I believe, carried on to an extent not inconsiderable.

In the course of a long residence in this Settlement of Singapore (I have lived here from my boyhood continuously, except for one absence of a year and a-half, for 33 years) it has, in my later years of residence here, been my privilege to have had staying with me and introduced to me, passing-through travellers of missionary or ministerial calling, both men and women, and it has sometimes happened that these have expressed a wish that I would take them to see "something of opium."

In such a case I have taken my visitor to what Europeans and Americans call an "opium den," but what is commonly and more correctly spoken of as an "opium shop." With most of the people that I speak of, hurriedly passing through the Settlement to "see something of opium" means that they want to see the process of smoking opium; and the quickest and surest way of (in one sense) satisfying them is to take them to an opium shop, this being an establishment, the Chinese proprietor of which sells opium prepared for smoking, which the buyer can either consume on the premises, or can take away to smoke elsewhere. It follows that in most cases the smokers whom the visitor finds and sees indulging at these establishments common to a paying but low-class public, are men shrivelled, shrunken and decrepit, whose features and frames have clearly written upon them evidence of years of extreme indulgence and excessive abuse of opium, in fact, "opium sots" of the most extreme type that could be collected. I try to impress upon my visitor that this is

not an example of the use of opium, but is a picked concentration of "sots," and that what I have shown him or her in the opium smoking way is about the equivalent of a selected gathering of the most confirmed and besotted drunkards who cling to the doors and bars of gin palaces of a Saturday evening in the lower quarters of London. But in most cases I have felt certain that, upon what I have been compelled to show them, my visitors have left, believing in themselves that "now they know all about opium, and how evil a thing it is."

Last week I met a Church minister who has now had some years of experience and observation in this place. I asked if he had the Royal Commission questions on opium sent to him for replies. He said "No," and he added that if they had been sent to him the summary of reply that he would have given would probably have been that he had come out here strongly imbued with the idea (acquired in Britain from reading and hearsay) that the Chinese population in Singapore, or most of them, were victims to and ruined by opium, but that experience, observation, and knowledge on the spot of what actually existed had soon disabused his conceptions, and had shown him that the anti-opium agitators in Britain based their movement upon misconception.

I have travelled on both sides of the Malay Peninsula, over tin mining districts, and have seen thousands and thousands of Chinese miners working in swarms at tin mines, displaying physical energy and endurance that the white man, under similar conditions, could not have and apply, and at same time keep his full health. These mines are all open workings, and in the majority of them water is abundant, generally far too much so.

And when I have seen these Chinamen after working all but naked for hours together in water up to their knees, go back to their quarters and either before or after their meal, or both, smoke a pipe or pipes of opium, apparently without prejudicial effect, I have marvelled at the arbitrary inconsistency of some people in Britain who, with no true knowledge of the matter, certainly with no personal knowledge or experience, many of whom have never even seen a Chinaman, much less know what he is, or what he requires, would say to him, "Opium you shall not have."

What would happen were the same persons to legislate for the gentlemen who, for pleasure, fish in British streams, standing for some hours in water, to debar them absolutely from whisky or other stimulant! The Chinese opium-using tin miner under his conditions and circumstances needs or wants his opium fully as much as does the other his whisky.

What is one man's meat may be another man's poison. A Chinaman tin miner could not work on alcoholic stimulant. With opium he certainly can and does, and of those that can beat or compete with him at his work, in this climate, I know none.

Europeans and people of European extraction who are settled in these parts are what I would term our "responsible inhabitants." In number they are many; in numerous instances their term of residence has been long, their experience ripe, and their knowledge of the subject close; among them are men of education and high principles; they are men of thought, and men who are able to discriminate between evil and good, and who claim to side with the latter; they are not heathens, but mostly are Christians.

The responsible inhabitants, by residence and experience on the spot, and by contact with the population, have acquired personal knowledge of the country, of its climate and conditions and of its people, their constitution, disposition, habits and needs, to a degree which it is impossible to attain except under these conditions.

There would seem then to be at least reason in the suggestion that upon this opium question the personal experience and knowledge and the opinions of a very large majority of these responsible inhabitants should be accepted in arriving at a decision as to whether the use of opium is to be prohibited or is to be permitted.

If a consensus of opinion from this body of people, experienced and of common sense, be taken, opium will not be absolutely condemned.

That opium leads to the ruin of some who use it is undoubted, but these are certainly not in the majority, and I take it to be but reasonable that this disadvantage (which is certainly not limited to opium) must give way to the claims of a large majority.

Let any intelligent and inquiring man travel throughout Singapore and the Malay Peninsula, in high and low quarters, and let him make his observations and draw his conclusions from a complete and thorough examination into the matter, on all sides and as a whole. Then if he be completely unbiassed, that man will be

compelled to admit that opium is not the unmitigated curse to the people of these parts that some incorrectly informed people claim it to be.

Singapore, 2nd January 1894. JOHN ANDERSON.

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The Straits.

Twenty-sixth Witness.—Mr. J. K. Birch, Straits Civil Service; 21 years resident in the Straits.

1. Yes, by Chinese and Siamese. Not commonly by other Asiatics.

2. Estimated from 40 to 50 per cent. of males of Chinese race and 5 per cent. of females of same race and Siamese. Children do not.

3. I cannot say what the moral effects of opium are on a Chinaman. In excess, it tends to cause idleness, but so will indulgence in any narcotic or spirit. The most noticeable physical effect is the reduction in flesh of consumers of opium, which is promptly put on again if the consumption is temporarily stopped. [See Prison Table below.]

4. Opium is principally smoked here in the form of chandu. It is also swallowed and drunk; in these cases the object is either to counteract the effects of leaving off smoking or to alleviate sickness.

5. I believe moderate consumers form the large majority.

6. Yes. Yes.

7. Probably the majority do not smoke, but I have no reliable statistics to offer. The effect on moderate smokers' work is inconsiderable.

10. Yes, they can and do so by taking opium in other forms, usually chandu dross pills.

13. I have not known of any instances. It is probably due to their being brought up in countries where the custom is prevalent or the contrary.

14. Generally it may be presumed for pleasure, as in similar habits. In some cases certainly to relieve pain or sickness. Opium is not considered a remedy for fever, but is taken for rheumatism, cough, chest and bowel complaints among Chinese.

15. Some do so.

16. Not.

J. K. BIRCH.

PARTICULARS of PRISONERS admitted into PRISON who are addicted to OPIUM-SMOKING when FREE MEN:—

Name.	Date of Admission.	Sentence.	Weight on Admission.	Age.	Weight taken on 9th Jan. 1894.
Lim Ah Ki -	5/12/93	6 weeks -	lbs. 127½	Years. 27	lbs. 130½
Goh Sean -	5/1/94	7 days -	110½	50	112½
Kim Chong Ngho -	31/10/93	4 months -	109	32	114
Said bin Awang -	14/12/93	3 months -	106	27	110½
Hong Ah Chong -	8/12/93	6 weeks -	104	61	104½
Ng Sew Yeong -	11/11/93	3 months -	73	33	92½
Goh Teng Lye -	6/1/94	3 weeks -	112½	49	116½
Lim Sam Tek -	15/12/93	3 months -	101½	23	102
Wong Ah Lam -	28/12/93	6 weeks -	115	26	115½
Ng Bah Han -	15/12/93	6 weeks -	113	35	117
Ng Chuah -	29/12/93	3 months -	123½	51	127½
Mun Ah Yew -	7/11/93	3 months -	95½	32	100½
Hamat -	18/12/93	6 weeks -	106½	38	118½
Lim Ah Nghi -	27/11/93	2 months -	78½	20	84
Chin Ah Lin -	5/1/94	10 months -	82½	24	84
Nahin bin Mahomed.	5/1/94	3 months -	96	40	99½
Tang Sah Ji -	16/12/93	2 months -	106½	30	113½
Li Chan -	21/12/93	2 months -	81½	27	86½
Wong Ah Pee -	25/10/93	3 months -	87½	31	94½
Lim Leng -	10/11/94	5 months -	110½	52	115½
Mat Ali -	18/12/93	6 weeks -	100½	35	107
Chan Yaw -	6/12/93	6 weeks -	97½	29	104½
Tan Ah Hong -	6/1/94	1 month -	104	53	105
Li Pong Lye -	21/12/93	6 weeks -	131½	37	137½
Kim Seng Jim -	31/8/93	6 months -	88½	38	111

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Twenty-seventh Witness.—Surgeon Major O'Sulli van, A.M.S., Acting Colonial Surgeon and Municipal Health Officer, Penang; three years resident in the Straits.

I would premise that my information with reference to this subject has been derived from (1) personal observation at the gaol and pauper hospital, the opium shops, and to a very small extent from patients seen in private practice; and (2) from interviews with Chinese of all classes, including opium dealers, brothel keepers, and a large number of working men. I have also derived some information of trustworthy Eurasians conversant with Chinese.

Answers.

1. In Penang, opium is commonly consumed by Chinese and Siamese: Malays and Indians practically do not use it.

2. It is estimated that some 30 per cent. of adult male Chinese and Siamese take opium in some form. It is but very exceptionally consumed by women, and never by children.

3. Generally speaking, opium smoking in those who persist in its use leads to moral, physical and social deterioration. The degree and rapidity of the downward course vary mainly according to the material condition of the individual. A wealthy man, whose business demands considerable mental exertion and who can always supply himself with sufficient food, resists the effects of the drug for a long time. He becomes thin and ascetic in appearance, and loses physical strength, but his intellect appears to be in no way enfeebled.

On the man who has to work daily by manual labour to obtain his daily food, the effect after a few years—three or four—appears to be either that, noticing the loss of physical power and inability to earn as much as will keep him in opium and food, he makes a successful effort to get rid of a habit which he well knows to be undermining his strength, or that he gradually loses self-control, spends in opium what should go for food, becomes unable to earn a living, and steals in order to procure money to satisfy his craving. I have noticed frequent examples of this nature in the prison at Penang, and all classes of Chinese agree that such is a normal end of the impoverished opium-smoker who has not had the energy to throw off the habit as soon as he perceived that it began to interfere with his power of work.

Socially, the wealthy smoker gradually falls out of society and spends all his time on the opium couch. The poor man spends his time between the prison and pauper hospital, where he eventually dies, nominally from debility, diarrhoea or other disease, but really from the deleterious effects of opium.

4. They chiefly smoke a preparation of opium called *chandu*; the very poor eat the dross that remains at the bottom of the pipes, which is sold chiefly by owners of opium shops and well-to-do-smokers. Its effect is said to be more deleterious than smoking *chandu*.

Subcutaneous injection of morphia is now largely used for the purpose of enabling the smoker to break himself from the habit. This is done by gradually decreasing the dose and the number of injections, and some men who have adopted the system speak highly of its success. The Chinese, by the way, perfectly recognise the principle of using gradually lessening doses to cure them of the vice, and they complain bitterly that opium farmers will not permit the sale of drugs which are prepared with small doses of opium to secure this purpose.

5. A large proportion of smokers, it would appear from my inquiries, become slaves to the habit. A few wealthy men who have unlimited leisure practically become sots. The effects of opium on the intellect are not analogous to those of alcohol; the terrible moral depravity and intellectual degradation that affect the alcoholic drunkard do not occur in the excessive opium-smoker.

6. With few exceptions, the amount of opium consumed is only limited by the ability to purchase and leisure to smoke it. The majority of opium smokers appear to retain for many years sufficient discretion and self-control to regulate their consumption so as to leave a margin of wage for food. For example, Yan Sung, a huckster, has been taking opium for 20 years, and during that time his consumption has been regularly 18 cents (about one drachm) worth per diem. He earns about 30 cents per diem. He looks rather besotted, and says that, could he afford the luxury, he would smoke more opium.

A nother example is Yeoh Keat, a proprietor of *jirikishas*. He has been smoking for 37 years, and has during that time regularly smoked 30 cents' worth of *chandu* daily. He has no desire to increase his allowance, though he could well afford to do it. This is the only man of the labouring class whom I have met who has saved money while smoking opium. He was naturally a man of great strength, and is still muscular in frame and keen in intellect, though in appearance he looks some 10 years older than his actual age. I expected a defence of opium from this man, but was surprised to find that he was quite as energetic as the average Chinaman in his condemnation of it. He in effect said that the habit was very vicious and nearly always led to physical and moral degeneration, and that the opium smoker would steal without scruple if pushed to extremity in order to procure his *chandu*.

7. No.

8. During three years' residence in Penang I have not met a Chinaman who was an alcoholic drunkard. I have seen a few drunk; they conducted themselves like drunken Westerns.

9. The universal opinion in Penang is that opium-smoking is a great and degrading vice. The few Malay smokers are outcasts. Asiatics know practically nothing of the alcoholic habit, and are therefore unable to make comparisons. I have met a few wealthy Chinese who are in the habit of taking alcoholic drinks in moderation, and they say that alcohol is preferable, but I attach no value to the opinion, as they really do not know what the abuse of alcohol means. To Malays alcohol and opium appear to be equally objectionable. Tamils rarely take opium.

10. Very commonly. When a labouring man finds that all his earnings threaten to go in *chandu*, and that he is losing strength, he generally makes an effort to free himself from the habit, and he often succeeds.

11. Chinamen will have opium. If it cannot be procured from India, they will very soon effect arrangements to get it elsewhere.

12. This question will doubtless be answered by persons conversant with the subject.

13. No. Accident, religion and differences in the facilities for obtaining food probably account for the difference between Europeans and Asiatics in this respect.

The fact that Europe was unable to produce opium and that alcohol had become the habitual stimulant of Europeans before opium could be cheaply imported and that it was introduced as a poisonous drug administered as such with a sparing and trembling hand by medical men I look upon as accidental circumstances in favour of alcohol and against opium. Christianity in the West, as Mohammedanism in the East, discouraged its use, and as the people had a pleasing substitute in alcohol, they allowed themselves to be guided by their clergy. The difficulty of producing food and obtaining clothing and heat has been always too great in Europe to allow the commonalty leisure for opium smoking. It can only be the stimulant of wealthy persons in Europe, whilst in Asia nature is sufficiently generous to allow all classes to indulge the luxury.

14. Seventy-five per cent. of smokers acquire the habit in brothels, 20 per cent. of the remainder commence it to relieve cough and physical pain, and 5 per cent. acquire it from association with friends who are smokers.

Every prostitute in every Chinese brothel in Penang is furnished with an opium pipe by the brothel-keeper. I recently visited these brothels to note their sanitary condition, and I noticed that the opium pipe was a constant and prominent article in every room. I was informed that every man who stays a night at a brothel smokes or tries to smoke *chandu*, and as a large proportion of the Chinese here are unmarried robust men who frequently visit brothels, it is easy to understand that they soon acquire a tolerably intimate acquaintance with the drug.

I have not heard that the Chinese look upon opium as a prophylactic or cure for malarial fevers. Most smokers, when asked why they contracted the habit, state that it was done to relieve cough or rheumatic pain.

15. Yes.

16. I think not.

17. Two facts indicate very clearly to me that the Chinese in Penang consider opium a degrading vice.—

(1.) No opium-smoker will get domestic service in a Chinese house; and every smoker I have spoken to was obviously conscious that his habit was vicious, and he nearly always excused himself by protesting that he began to smoke only to relieve pain or cough.

D. O'SULLIVAN,
Surgeon-Major, A.M.S.,
Acting Colonial Surgeon, Penang.
Penang, 10th January 1894.

Twenty-eighth Witness.—Dr. W. Gilmore Ellis, M.D., M.R.C.S., Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum; six years resident in the Straits.

1. By Chinese.

2. About 40 or 50 per cent. of the Chinese are consumers. A few Malays smoke opium, but I should think not 1 per cent. A few women smoke, but certainly not 1 per cent. I have never heard of children smoking.

3. In moderation, I consider opium smoking does no harm morally, physically, or socially. It certainly helps and stimulates either physical or mental exhaustion.

4. They chiefly, I may say nearly invariably, smoke.

Opium eating or drinking undoubtedly does act harmfully both upon the physical and mental condition if taken to any extent, more especially because the amount of opium required is likely to increase from day to day, and the consumer becomes an opium sot.

5. On the other hand, but a comparative few opium-smokers become sots, the large majority regularly smoking a small amount which, if not beneficial, is certainly not harmful to them.

I should consider that in Singapore more than 75 per cent. of the opium smokers are very moderate consumers.

6. No, certainly not. I personally know many moderate consumers who have smoked for years without any apparent harm, mentally or physically.

Tin Nye Ek, æt. 35, my Chinese teacher, commenced smoking opium 11 years ago, was induced to do so by a friend. Has smoked regularly ever since. Only smokes in the evenings, and then but five or six pipes. Does not smoke in the mornings, as he has work to do, and therefore has no time. Besides, opium is expensive. If he missed smoking any evening, about 8.30 (half an hour after his usual time to commence) he would start sweating profusely. This would last about an hour, and he would be generally uncomfortable and distressed until he procured his customary pipe. He but seldom exceeds his usual quantity, not more than four or five times a year, these occasions being holidays when having a "burst" with friends. He is a clever, sharp man, with a bright eye and clear complexion, physically very strong and in good health.

He tells me that he considers his thinking powers increased by his small consumption of opium, and that it gives him extra strength and keeps him healthy.

Tng Kat Keng, Chinese, æt. 27, Chinese letter writer. Began to smoke opium six years ago when suffering from dysentery. Has smoked regularly twice a day ever since, at about 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Usually smokes about three or four pipes in the morning and the same quantity in the evening.

He has often told me that if he misses smoking either in the morning or in the evening it causes him to feel tired and unable to work or think well, otherwise he feels nothing.

He is an intellectual, pleasant, strong and healthy looking young Chinaman. I have seen him daily for the past year. Have often seen him smoking, but have never known him otherwise than sharp and able.

He tells me he but very rarely exceeds his usual amount of the drug, and this I also know from my own observation.

7. Roughly, the ratio of smokers to non-smokers would be about the same in the three grades, perhaps slightly larger in the labourers.

Tan Kye Ian, æt. 48, manufacturer and merchant. An excessive opium smoker for 20 years, averaging 60 pipes and often more a day. He is emaciated, lips blue, face greenish coloured, eyes dull, but says he is quite well and has rarely been ill. He is a very clever business man, made all his money himself, is worth about \$200,000, and is making money now, being one

of a very few. More or less similar cases might be multiplied to any extent among labourers, merchants, or artisans, showing that even excessive opium-smoking does not prevent efficiency in their calling. Only in the worst "opium sots" would efficiency be ruined.

8. I can best answer this question by relating briefly the experience I have gained during the past five and a half years as Medical Superintendent of the Singapore Lunatic Asylum.

Since January 1888, the total admissions and re-admissions into the asylum have been 1,236. Of these 75 were stated to be due to alcoholism and 24 to opium-smoking. Many of the cases returned as being due to alcohol were not insane in the ordinary meaning of that term, but were delirious from drinking bouts of the poisonous stuff usually sold to natives as brandy, whisky, arracks, &c., and they all quickly recovered. Other cases were due to the results of long continued drinking, and had typical symptoms of alcoholic insanity, and advanced alcoholic disease of the cerebral blood-vessels was found post-mortem in several fatal cases.

In a few of the cases only did careful inquiries fail to bear out the assigned cause.

I have carefully inquired into the histories of the 24 cases in whom, upon admission, opium smoking was stated as the cause of their insanity. None of them were the emaciated opium sot, in fact one rarely sees that being in Singapore; all had been opium-smokers, but in moderation. I was able to make out other causes for their mental breakdown in three-fourths of the cases; in the remaining six I could discover no cause. There were no special or peculiar symptoms in their forms of insanity, some were acutely maniacal, others melancholic, and others were demented. I am of the same opinion still with regard to opium-smoking being a cause of insanity as when I wrote in my report for the year 1891:—"Three cases returned as being due to opium-smoking were admitted suffering from ordinary forms of insanity, but I think it most problematical that the smoking of opium was really the cause of their disease."

9. In moderation, no. Alcohol, even if taken moderately, would be considered somewhat degrading, especially by the Malays. I have frequently heard Chinese say, "Alcohol makes a man noisy and quarrelsome, opium makes him sleep."

10. Occasionally. I have had patients in the lunatic asylum broken of the opium habit without much trouble when first admitted, and who, having recovered, have been discharged and re-admitted after intervals of more than a year, upon their recovery from their second attack of insanity, assure me that, during the whole time they were outside they had not smoked opium once even.

One of these cases was first admitted as suffering from insanity due to opium-smoking; in him the cause of his insanity, as I was able to find out, was undoubtedly heredity.

11. In my opinion they would buy from China or from wherever else it could be obtained. Many would doubtless, failing opium of a good quality to smoke, take to drinking laudanum or morphia—habits that would be injurious to them to a far larger extent than opium-smoking ever could be.

13. No. They have their alcohol, to which many of them go when suffering from that same nervous depression that drives the Chinaman to his opium.

14. To ease pain, to stimulate them when doing difficult and exhausting work, for its action on the generative organs, to drive away misery and care, and last though by no means least persuaded by their friends who are already consumers, just as many a young European is thus led to drink. I have had no experience as to the prophylactic powers of opium, but it is so regarded by the majority of the Chinese here as to malaria and bowel complaints. They also regard it as an aid to digestion.

15. Many do and many do not. Poor people are the most prone to try and free themselves from the habit on account of the expense.

16. I have heard one or two Chinamen say so, but the majority only object to the import tax, as it makes opium dear, and for this they blame the British Government.

W. GILMORE ELLIS, M.D., M.R.C.S.

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The Straits.

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Twenty-ninth Witness.—The Honourable A. M. Skinner, C.M.G., Straits Civil Service; Resident Councillor, Penang; 26 years resident in the Straits.

1 and 2. Opium is consumed in Penang, as in the other Settlements, by nearly half of our labouring Chinese and a few Malays in the upper classes. The Siamese, whose numbers are small, frequently smoke opium. Neither women nor children indulge in the practice.

It is difficult to say more precisely what proportion of each race, and of the different Chinese tribes, smoke prepared opium. The maximum percentage has been placed as high as 60 or 70 per cent. for the Tie Chew "Gambier and Pepper" planters and for prosperous miners. On the other hand, a careful census inquiry recently taken in one district gave the result as being only 16 per cent. among the planters and 50 per cent. among the miners. For the whole of the Chinese, I estimate the proportion at about 35 per cent. for the Chinese population of this Settlement, not much less for the Siamese, but at not more than 1 per cent. for the Malays and Klings; the comparative expensiveness of the drug as compared with cheap spirits probably keeps the latter from indulging.

3 to 9. The effects of opium, both moral, physical and social, vary considerably in the different classes. On domestic servants, clerks and those whose work is light, it is far more injurious than on hand labourers, miners and artisans.

The great majority of smokers do not become "sots"; and in fact the majority who use the drug are "moderate." Some of the lower class, but few "eat" it; scarcely any "eat," but all "smoke" in the public opium-rooms. So far as I know, it is not recognised among the labouring class, or those who employ them, as any drawback to indulge in the habitual use of opium. On the other hand, the feeling against employing clerks and domestics who smoke is very strong, and I think is almost universal. I should say that, while "physically" and "morally" the effect of alcohol is decidedly worse than that of opium, yet as I read the word "socially," the case may be said in that respect to be the very opposite; for the respectable Chinese merchants, shop-keepers, clerks and domestics are in a marked degree indisposed to confess to any opium-smoking or to admit opium-smokers to their employment. Various explanations are given of this fact; but it seems in any case to be firmly held as part of the recognised Chinese code of moral opinion. "Alcohol" would probably come under the same ban; but this is seldom or never indulged in by opium-smokers.

11. If the Indian supply were cut off, opium would undoubtedly be obtained from elsewhere; there is no desire on the part of the great majority to free themselves from the habit, or to co-operate in restricting the supply. On the contrary they would be likely to abandon a country where the supply was restricted, or even where the superior Indian quality was not obtainable.

12. The revenue of the Settlement for 1893 was \$1,325,000; of this, \$600,000, or 45 per cent., was derived from opium. It is, I find, a common error to overstate this proportion.

16. There is absolutely no feeling of hostility against England for allowing opium to be exported from India. The great majority here are in fact wholly ignorant of the geographical and historical bearings of this question.

18. The rulers of the Malay and Siamese States around Penang decidedly do not discourage the use of opium; but, as a main source of their revenue, are anxious to encourage it as much as possible. Our strict Excise laws in this Settlement unquestionably operate far more directly and effectively to check the consumption in Kedah and the Siamese States; for all the opium they can import must necessarily pass through this port and is under the resident councillor's supervision, to check any smuggling back to Penang.

The other questions are such as require special means of information to answer usefully.

A. M. SKINNER,
Resident Councillor of Penang.

11th January 1894.

Thirtieth Witness.—The Honourable J. M. Vermont, J.P., M.L.C., Planter; 46 years resident as a planter in Province Wellesley.

1. Owing to the high initial cost of opium, the tax on it after it is manufactured into chandu—thus enhancing its value—prevents its being commonly consumed by the lower classes of Asiatics, as it is beyond their means; only well-to-do persons, labourers, or tradesmen earning a high rate of wage are able to indulge in the habit, as it is looked upon as a luxury and in many cases a sedative.

2. The proportion of adult males who consume opium in its different forms, I do not think exceeds 15 per cent. of the population. Chinese are the principal consumers, as they are able, by their energy and general superior intelligence, to earn a higher rate of wage than the other nationalities. Malays come next, but in a smaller proportion, as only the well-to-do can afford to indulge in the luxury. Among the natives of Southern India, of which a large proportion of the population is comprised, they seldom or ever indulge in it; if they do, they have imbibed the habit in India; there are a few who either smoke or eat bang as a substitute. A very few females of any of these nationalities use opium; if it is done, it is medicinally. I cannot say I have ever known a single case of children using it.

3. As far as my observation goes, I do not think the effects of opium are as demoralising if taken in moderation, as among those who use intoxicants in the shape of spirituous liquors. Physically, in my opinion, a labourer feels better after his whiff of opium, in somewhat the same way as Europeans do from the effects of a tobacco pipe or cigar. Socially, there is this important difference, it does not make him quarrelsome as in the case with the generality of dram drinkers; in fact it is apparently soothing to the nerves and invigorating to the system, allays pain, and, on long journeys, will assuage the pangs of hunger.

4. Opium is more generally smoked than eaten, although the poorer classes, failing their inability to smoke, will eat opium when practical even to the extent of using the dross and chew paper which opium has been in contact with. I am unable to distinguish between the effects of each, except that the front teeth of smokers are generally black.

5. The cost of opium prevents the majority of consumers becoming slaves to the drug; they are never, as far as I am aware, "opium sots"; at all events, this I say with a certainty, I have seen more "beer and whisky sots" than ever I have seen what could be called an "opium sot." An opium-smoker will resume work or business almost directly after the effects of his smoke has been dissipated, not so the habitual drunkard.

6. Certainly there can be, and there is, such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium; its primary cost compels it to be so. I know numerous cases of men who have been smokers for years, and have suffered no ill effects from it. I have many in my mind's eye, but about whom it would be invidious to give their names.

7. The majority of labourers do not consume opium, the price makes it almost prohibitory. I have been now 48 years working as a sugar planter, and have perhaps had more men of the Chinese and Tamil classes passing through my control than generally falls to the lot of one individual in his lifetime. I have now on this estate some 400 Chinese, of whom only 15 are regular opium smokers, and that in moderation. Of the 1,500 Tamils—men, women, and children—I am not aware of a single opium smoker among them. I have also some 20 Chinese tradesmen, of whom only three are regular opium smokers, but although they are such, it does not incapacitate them from work. Some of the Chinese merchants are no doubt regular opium smokers, but it does not impair their keenness in business transactions.

8. The Chinese who smoke opium are quiet and inoffensive, and are fit for work soon after doing so. The Tamil race are often addicted to drinking alcohol, are quarrelsome and pugnacious when under the effects of drink, requiring a day or two to get over their debauchery.

9. The habit of smoking opium is so ingrafted among the Chinese that it cannot be looked upon as degrading. The only people I have ever heard speaking against it are missionaries. Of course a man who smokes has to

pay for it, and consequently has less money to spend in other ways, but the same may be said of those who indulge in costly wines and expensive cigars. Chinese are an abstemious race, their national drink being "samsou," a harmless kind of spirit. It is only in coming in contact with Europeans that they learn to drink brandy and other liquors. Malays, by their religion, abhor alcohol, or should do so. The lower classes of Tamils are great drunkards. I certainly think the opium smoker is preferable to the alcohol user.

10. Some do try to do so, especially among the converts at the suggestion of their minister.

11. It is human nature to take stimulants of some kind or another. Were opium prohibited it would cause rioting and warfare; it would be smuggled into the colony in every imaginable way and means. We have only to look at what goes on now. With all the supervision of the renters of the farm, smuggling goes on to an unknown extent; it is smuggled by sea and all along the frontier. Do your best, those who indulge in opium will and must have it. It would be regrettable if they took to alcohol or some baser narcotics, which might be injurious to their health. Certainly they would not become abstainers; they would prefer leaving the colony for other places where opium was procurable.

12. The Straits Settlements is well known as a free port, and one where the bulk of the people are the lightest taxed of any part of the world; it is mainly due to this that it has become so important a colony.

The principal source of revenue is derived from what are called "Licenses," the monopoly of selling opium, spirits, and pawnbroking. From these three sources more than two-thirds of the revenue is derived; it is an easy tax to collect, affecting only those who choose to indulge in smoking and drinking, therefore not touching the general population who abstain from these luxuries; it also reaches those persons who, in a great measure, have certain advantages, but who in no way contribute anything towards the expenses of Government except in this way. Extinguishing this source of revenue, the colony must necessarily collapse, as the only device the Government could fall back upon for revenue would be the very objectionable one of an import and export duty, and perhaps an onerous land tax—a very uncertain source of revenue; introduce these, touching as it would in a great measure the whole population, rebellion and discontent would be the result. The question is asked, "What would the people say to the loss of the opium revenue and the obligation to make up 'deficit'?"

There is no doubt the reply would be that the English nation to act thus had become a nation of fools by allowing themselves to be led in this way by a lot of fanatics. Our neighbours, the Dutch and French, would take advantage of the position of things, and take away our trade. It is lamentable to think that such a suggestion could ever be contemplated or enter the head of any sane man.

13. Europeans do not contract the opium habit, for the reason they have alcoholic and narcotic stimulants, besides many other sources, ways and means, to occupy their time. Asiatics, when a day's employment is done, have very few sources of amusement. In the Straits Settlements the law is very stringent against gambling; theatres and other ways of amusement are costly, so that many, having no way of occupying their time, indulge in the habit.

14. Opium consumers no doubt are led to use the drug to allay physical pain; it acts as a prophylactic in fever or rheumatic localities. Not being a medical man, I am not in a position to say more, but we have only to look at the Fens of Norfolk and see the reasons why it is used in low-lying districts.

15. They may do so when they find it is an expensive habit, but, like drunkards, it is difficult to break off the custom.

16. I have never heard any feeling of hostility against England for allowing opium to be exported from India; if any has arisen, it has been brought on by the discussions that has been going on lately on the subject.

J. M. VERMONT.

Batu Kawan Estate,
15th December 1893.

Thirty-first Witness.—Mr. G. T. Hare, Straits Civil Service; eight years resident in the Straits and China.

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The Straits.

1. Opium is more commonly consumed by Chinese. Malays and other Asiatic races consume very little.

2. From about 20 to 30 in a 100 adults smoke opium. Very few women smoke; no children smoke.

3. The opium-smoking of habitual consumers does not appear to have any result, moral or social, that calls for notice. Physically, the skin of an opium-smoker of many years' standing and of fairly heavy habit becomes tinged with yellow, but this only applies to the men who smoke a great deal. Of course the truth is that you can no more pick out the opium-smokers from a crowd of ordinary Chinese than it would be possible to pick out those who took alcohol from those who did not from among an equal number of Europeans. I have personally known many Chinese of all classes for some years, and then suddenly surprised them smoking. I mean that I had not previously been able to gather from anything in their demeanor, conduct, or physical bearing that they were habitual consumers of opium. This I know to be the experience of many Europeans who see much of Chinese life. I distinguish, in answering this question, from noticing the effects of immoderate opium consumption. The above remarks are confined to ordinary opium-smoking, the practice not the exception. The effects of immoderation in opium-smoking, like intemperance in the use of any stimulant, is morally, socially, and physically an evil.

4. —

5. The large majority are moderate consumers. Very few exceed a limit that their reason, pocket, and self-control prescribe for each. Excess is confined chiefly to bad characters among the lower orders. I have met with very few cases of excess amongst the educated and mercantile ranks. This, of course, is only natural, as the more intelligent classes are more temperate than their inferior. Yet even amongst the intemperate, the hopelessly bad cases (like chronic dipsomaniacs) are by no means so numerous as commonly represented. I once, about two years ago, went round some 20 odd licensed opium divans (opium "dens," or opium "hells," as some people call them) in Singapore. This was a very severe test. Everyone knows that a registered opium divan is the rendezvous, in most cases, of all the social outcasts of Chinese society, and the place where the so-called "opium sot" flourishes and abounds best. I mean to say no respectable Chinese go to these common opium divans unless they are, as some are, confined to a clique or run for the use of people in one particular street, and that here (as in a low-class gin palace alcohol sots would be found in largest numbers) the largest number of opium sots should be found. In those 20 odd licensed opium shops, however, I only found, out of some 80 odd smokers, 10 odd who had contracted an unconquerable craving for the drug. The rest, although heavy smokers, all said they had stopped short of the yin or unsatisfiable craving for the drug.

6. It is absolutely incorrect and false to say there cannot be moderation in the consumption of opium. The large majority of opium consumers of all classes and nationalities in the colony are temperate consumers. Personally, I can speak of very many cases of Chinese who have taken their opium without harm to themselves for years. In fact, there are very few of my Chinese acquaintances who do not take opium. I do not care to give instances in the Straits, though I could do so by the score, but confine myself to China, and mention three cases that I remember:—

(a.) In 1888 I went, when studying Chinese in the Hok-kien Province, to an island called the "Golden Gates," or Quemoy, near Amoy. There I made the acquaintance of the Tin-Tai, or Chinese official in charge of the district, and was often at his *yamen*, or with his son. Both father and son were opium-smokers of many years' standing. They smoked nearly every morning and evening, and were, as far as I could judge, as robust, healthy, and happy as anyone else. Both of them, too, were much more active than the majority of Chinese officials I have met.

(b.) In 1889, in the city of Chiang Chiu, in the Hok-kien Province, I rented a large Chinese house, the lower part of which was sublet to a Chinese school-master of considerable repute and standing. He was a kind of "coach" for the candidates for the first Chinese degree, and had a number of Chinese schoolboys as well under his care. He was working

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from 6 a.m. off and on, all through the day up till 8 p.m., and had only one assistant. He was a moderate opium-smoker of nearly (then) 14 years' standing. He took two pipes a day—one in the mid-day, and one, long one, at night. He had done this regularly, he told me, ever since he took to the drug. I never saw a finer specimen of the literary class in the Hok-kien Province than this old gentleman was. He was about 50 and, to all outward appearance, as hard and hale as one could wish.

(c.) When in Amoy studying Chinese, I was on very good terms with the proprietor of a very large Straits, Manila and Amoy firm of the surname—chop—Ki, and often stopped at his house in the island of Quemoy, where he had considerable property and other business. He was a man of about 50 odd, and had smoked opium for over 20 years. When in his house I found that he took two regular doses a day, and never exceeded this limit. He had a great deal of work to get through, both in Amoy and in Quemoy (his town and country residences), and his opium-smoking did not appear to interfere with his capacity for business at all. He was a man of robust health and had an enormous appetite. Had I not known him in his private life, I should never have thought he was an opium-smoker.

In addition to the above three cases, I may add that my first and oldest Hok-kien teacher, Eu Seh, was a moderate opium-smoker, but that this habit of his never interfered with his duty to me. During the three years I engaged him in China and the Straits he did not fail once in being punctual in his attendance, or in attention to his work every day during the three years I read with him.

7. Comparatively few merchants take opium; the labourers and artisans take more. The effect of the habit of opium-smoking on the efficiency of their calling is often marked. An opium-smoker under press of work will outlast another man who goes without the stimulant. I do not know, and never heard, of any Chinaman's efficiency on his calling being interfered with by the moderate use of the opium stimulant.

8. As far as my experience and observation goes as regards the use of opium compared with the use of alcohol, I am of opinion that the mere use of alcohol by the Chinese is worse for them and less suited to their nature and disposition than the use of opium; as regards the abuse of alcohol amongst the Chinese (nearly all confined to the Straits-born Chinese), I am very strongly of opinion that the evil results are far greater than those that follow from the abuse of opium-smoking. Drunkenness, though very rare in China, is not uncommon among the Straits-born Chinese, and a Chinese drunkard, besides being always quarrelsome and brutal, is always unfit to do any work. On the other hand, the opium-smoker who has indulged too freely and got the opium *yin*, or craving, is yet sober and peaceful and, in the majority of cases, able to do work, e.g., very many of the rikisha coolies (nearly all the low-class of men) smoke opium in excess, yet live on from day to day merely by pulling their rikishas—by no means light labour. Victims of excess in opium-smoking are, of course, as untrustworthy and shifty as drunkards and morphia sots, and nothing can be done with them.

9. I have never heard of the habit of moderate opium-smoking being considered degrading or injurious by Chinese. Excess and abuse of the habit is, of course, condemned. In the opinion of the better classes of Chinese, opium-smoking is looked upon as a doubtful benefit, in that many persons would be better off without this stimulant, just as many Europeans think "drink" a by no means unmixed blessing because many abuse its use. But compared with the alcohol habit, the Chinese consider the opium habit less injurious and less likely to degrade a votary who smokes to excess. It is true that if a Chinaman is about to engage a manager for his business, or get his daughter married, or intends to enter into partnership, he will prefer an opium abstainer to an opium smoker. But if he cannot get that, he will be just as content with the other. The real reason is, of course, that the Chinaman, who has ever a keen eye to the future in all his doings, thinks that an opium abstainer cannot go wrong, because he does not smoke now, although he may smoke and smoke to excess another day, but that an opium-smoker is a possible opium sot that would give trouble, just as a blue-ribbon temperance man would be preferred for many employments at home over an alcohol drinker who is always a possible drunkard.

10. Yes. Anyone who desires to break off the habit can, by exercising self-control, cure himself of the habit. It is difficult to do, but there can be no doubt that it can be done. But few moderate ordinary smokers break themselves of the habit without some strong reason, at they find they are much better with the stimulant than without it.

11. If the supply of the opium from India was cut off, I have no doubt that opium from China and other countries would be smuggled in, and the Government would find it just as impossible to detect and suppress this as to detect and suppress Chinese gambling, as the Chinese could easily drive a coach-and-four through any anti-opium importation legislation. I do not think they would take to any other narcotic. They would certainly not take to alcohol; the consumption of bang might increase a little. The Chinese would certainly not abstain from smoking altogether. If the Government pushed matters to extremes, there would certainly be an exodus of Chinese from the Straits Settlements and Protected Native States to other colonies where more common sense prevailed.

12. —

13. I never heard of an habitual European opium-smoker. Europeans, I take it, do not smoke opium, because it does not suit them, and because there is no accommodation provided for them. The European does not like lying on a flat surface and sucking a pipe. His joints are not supple like the Chinaman's; the position, however, for enjoying the dreamy soothing pleasure of the pipe is recumbent, and the European does not like this. Further, opium has not the same soothing effect on the full-blooded European as it has on the slow, phlegmatic, and lymphatic Chinaman. I have tried smoking opium, but could not attain to the dreamy intoxicated stage that a Chinaman falls into after a few long whiffs.

14. The habit is easily learnt. The upper classes learn it in the interchange of social courtesies. The pipe is offered to a guest, just like a glass of sherry at home to a visitor. Others take to it to ease pain or assuage sorrow and distress. The gay young man about town will take it, believing in its aphrodisiac virtues. Friends and students persuade friends to smoke to keep one another company. Others take it under medical instructions, chiefly as a prophylactic against fever and beri-beri.

15. I have often heard of consumers trying to break off the habit, but on inquiry it turns out that they usually have some strong personal grounds for trying to do so. They find perhaps that it does not agree with them so well as it used to, or that they are spending too much on it, and have under pressure of circumstances to retrench, or they may be afraid of losing their self-control and becoming enslaved to its use, or they may have to do worse where opium-smoking is not allowed, and so on.

16. I have never heard of such a feeling either in China or in the Straits Settlements. On the other hand, I have repeatedly heard complaints made against the British Government for selling its opium so dearly in the Straits Settlements, and the wish expressed that opium could be bought as cheaply here as it can be got in China.

17. I am strongly of opinion that the moderate use of the drug is not attended with any evil results. The Chinese as a race, are far more temperate, frugal, and abstemious than Europeans, and can be trusted to look after themselves; they are naturally a sober people and fond of industry and quiet. They find in the drug rest for the body after heavy work, fresh invigoration and energy after mental labour for the over-taxed brain, and sleep and peace when suffering from pain or harassed by distress. Personally I do not think alcohol can be compared to opium as a judicious stimulant and narcotic. Both have victims of abuse and excess, but that is no reason why the great majority of ordinary opium-smokers or alcohol drinkers should be denied the use of their smoke or liquor in moderation. Moderation, however, in eating, drinking, and most things is greater among the Chinese than among Europeans, and it will be less an insult to common sense if we wait till we reform our own intoxicated Western habits before we surprise the sober Chinaman with a proposal to do away with his soothing chandu pipe. The perpetual sunny days and languor of our tropical climate induces more Chinese to smoke opium in the Straits Settlements than in China, and without discussing the good or evil of the system, chandu smoking is now become a luxury or necessity to immense numbers of our Chinese

subjects here. The Dutch will not allow many Chinese to settle in their colonies because their own population is so dense; the French drive the Chinese out of Annam and Tongkin by their extortion and taxation. If opium-smoking is prohibited in the Straits Settlements, the British Government will undoubtedly (if matters are pushed to extremes) drive away a number of law-abiding industrious Chinese, and further place an enormous number of more lawless and turbulent classes in direct opposition to the Government, as opium smugglers. No legislation, however stringent, could hope to suppress opium-smoking in the Straits Settlements. In a colony where three-quarters nearly of the property, trade, and business is in Chinese hands, where the Europeans are, compared with the Chinese, a mere handful, any repressive legislation of this kind that was opposed to the reason and common sense of the Chinese would be doomed to failure. After opium-smoking had been repressed on paper, opium-smoking would continue just the same in practice. On the other hand, the Government would have lost its opium revenue, and would be further, probably, hopelessly supporting a special opium-smoking detective department that, open to all kinds of bribery and corruption, and afraid to touch the better classes of Chinese who smoke, in time becomes a mockery and disgrace.

18. I have never been in the Protected Native States.
G. T. HARE,
Acting Assistant Protector of Chinese,
29th December 1893. Singapore.

Thirty-second Witness.—The Honourable The Dato Mantri (Minister) of the Sultan of the State and Territory of Johor.

1. Opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese, Malays, Javanese, Bugis, and Tamils in Johor.

2. I think about seven per cent. of the Chinese, and about two per cent. of the other Asiatic races in the aggregate, smoke opium in Johor. Very few of the women, but none of the children smoke opium.

3. I have observed that opium consumers generally become weak and emaciated; that the want of opium would turn some who have not the means to get it into thieves; and that they do not misbehave themselves in society.

4. As far as I know, opium consumers in Johor chiefly smoke opium.

5. The habit creates a hankering for the drug on each opium smoker, and all more or less become slaves to the drug, but there are some who are moderate consumers.

6. The slaves of the drug cannot take it moderately. There are consumers that have taken opium regularly for a number of years, who are stout and look healthy.

7. The majority of labourers, and some merchants and artisans of the Chinese and other Asiatic races consume opium, but the habit does not seem to affect their efficiency in their calling, so long as they can get to smoke at the proper time; but otherwise the desire for it causes uneasiness and makes them dull and stupid till it is gratified.

8. Comparing the use of opium with that of alcohol among Asiatic races, I have observed that the moderate use of alcohol is more beneficial than that of opium, but as to the effect of the abuse of opium or alcohol, it is I believe, equally injurious and hurtful.

9. The opium and alcohol habits are looked upon by the Chinese, Malay, and other Asiatic races as equally degrading and injurious.

10. It may be said that opium consumers cannot break themselves of the opium habit, unless they take medicine to stop the keen desire for it, or are forced as prisoners to do so.

11. It would cause great suffering and death to the slaves of the drug among the aged and infirm, and only adults of robust health would be able to endure the want of opium. Undoubtedly they would supply themselves with opium from places where they could get it, and they would also attempt the cultivation of the opium poppy in their own country. Some of them would perhaps take to alcohol or tobacco or other narcotics, and some might be able to free themselves altogether from the habit.

12. About 600,000 dollars per annum, more or less, is the revenue of Johor derived from opium. If the opium revenue is extinguished, Johor may be able to raise

revenue from other sources. People say that they would be in great danger of having unjust and improper taxes imposed on them by the Government on account of the loss of the opium revenue; that it would put out of employment a large number of people engaged in the trade and preparation of opium, and that it would cause the loss of a portion of the chief revenues of the country.

13. People of European race do not contract the opium habit in any number, because they do not keep company with opium smokers; but Asiatics become more liable to contract the habit, because they associate freely with those who smoke opium, just the same as with those who do not, and so the result is that they who do not smoke are ultimately drawn into the habit and become opium smokers.

14. Some opium consumers are led to use the drug by being told of the efficacy of opium to prevent and cure diseases; and I agree with the opinion of many people that it serves as a preventive of fever or malaria and that it relieves the pain of rheumatism, as I have seen persons restored to health by the use of it. But the disease soon returns, and the worst of it is, the sufferer, by taking opium again and again to relieve the pain, begins soon to feel a desire for it, and thus gradually becomes a confirmed opium smoker.

15. Opium consumers do usually desire to get rid of the opium habit, but the keen desire they have for the drug prevents them.

16. There is no feeling of hostility against England for allowing opium to be exported from India, that I am aware of among any Asiatic race in Johor.

DATO MANTRI JOHOR.

Government Office,
Johor Baharu, 11th January 1894.

Thirty-third Witness.—The Honourable C. W. S. Kynnersley, Straits Civil Service, Acting Resident Councillor of Malacca, 21 years resident in the Straits.

1. A considerable proportion of the adult male Chinese population are opium-smokers. The practice is not common among Malays, though some few do smoke chandu. The other Asiatic races are not addicted to opium-smoking.

2. I should conjecture that from 30 to 40 per cent. of the Chinese and perhaps 2 per cent. of the Malays are consumers. Neither women nor children smoke.

3. Speaking generally, that is, of the great bulk of the able bodied labouring population who smoke in moderation, I have not noticed any bad effects—moral, physical, or social. It is an expensive luxury, and after a hard day's work I have no reason to believe that a moderate indulgence in the habit is more harmful than beer is to an English labourer. On the other hand, what is called a confirmed opium-smoker, that is, a slave to the drug who does nothing but smoke, is if possible a more degraded and miserable object than a habitual drunkard, though there is one point in his favour, namely, that he is only his own enemy and is not dangerous to others. Although opium-smoking does not lead to crimes of violence, the craving for the drug is so strong among habitual smokers of the idle class that they are driven to steal in order to satisfy this feeling.

4. In this colony consumers smoke a preparation of opium called chandu. They do not eat opium. They do not drink any decoction of opium, so far as I am aware.

5. I should say that the great majority of opium-smokers are moderate consumers. Perhaps 20 per cent. of the smokers become "opium sots," but I am hardly prepared to say whether this is so or not.

6. It is not correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. I am prepared to state, without being able to describe any particular case, that large numbers of Chinese take opium year after year with impunity.

7. The majority of Chinese labourers or certainly a large proportion of them smoke opium, and I have no reason to believe that the habit interferes with their efficiency in their calling.

8. Drunkenness is very uncommon among the Asiatic races, with the exception of the natives of Madras. They, and more especially those professing

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the Christian religion, are addicted to alcohol. The Chinese are fond of spirits. I have no hesitation in saying that, if instead of smoking opium, they indulged to the same degree in alcohol, the amount of crime would seriously increase. The spirits imported and chiefly "made in Germany" are generally of the vilest description, and the result of a general indulgence in drinking, such as is common in the great towns of England, would be appalling.

9. It is very common to hear it said of a man, "He is an opium-smoker," meaning thereby that he is addicted to a vice. In the same way it is common to hear in England "He drinks," meaning that the person alluded to is a victim to the alcohol habit. It is difficult to say what is the general opinion of the Chinese on the subject. If I took the opinion of the first ten Chinese I met in the street, the probability is that the majority would say that there was nothing degrading or injurious in the habit, but if, on the other hand, I consulted Chinese who are more or less Europeanized they would probably one and all profess to regard opium-smoking as a degrading vice. Among the Malays opium-smoking is universally condemned, although a few do indulge in it. There is no danger of opium-smoking becoming general among this race. Their religion and public opinion among them are totally opposed to it, and a Malay opium-smoker is looked upon as degraded.

10. I am not prepared to say whether opium-consumers often break themselves of the habit, but I am of opinion that cases do occur. The drug is so expensive that I should say the number of pipes was limited in a great degree by the amount of cash, and it must often happen that a man has to do without his smoke for a time.

For many years I have acted as Superintendent of Prisons, where the great bulk of the criminals (say 70 per cent.) are Chinese, and cases were often brought to my notice in which opium-smokers were, after a short time, cured of their craving. Even in the case of the most inveterate opium-smokers, opium is never given to a prisoner except medicinally by the medical authorities. It is probably the case that a confirmed opium-smoker never gives up the habit or if so very rarely indeed.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off, the Chinese would undoubtedly supply themselves from China. Indian opium is greatly preferred, but the consumption would not be lessened were the Indian supply withdrawn. They would certainly not abstain. It would be hopeless to expect to cut off the supply of opium even if importation from China were prohibited. Under the present farm system, which is in the hands of Chinese (to whose interests it is to prevent smuggling as much as possible to enable them to enjoy their monopoly), a very large amount of contraband opium and chandu is smuggled into the colony annually.

12. The total revenue of the colony for 1894 is estimated at 3,818,170 dols.* of this, dols. is derivable from opium. It would be as difficult for the colony to raise the needful revenue otherwise, as it would be for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give up Excise Revenue. The ports of the colony are entirely free. To impose customs duties would be most detrimental to the prosperity of the colony. If the consumption of opium were prohibited instead of being taxed as at present, it would be necessary to tax other commodities. I do not think the needful revenue could be raised, and the people would object most strongly to burdensome taxation. The Chinese would go elsewhere.

13. People of European race do not contract the opium habit. There is no accounting for tastes. Europeans seem to prefer drinking.

14. I imagine that immigrants from China who are not accustomed to smoke opium find their fellow workman smoking and acquire the habit. In some cases it may be recommended to allay pain. There is, I believe, a general consensus of medical opinion that opium is a prophylactic against malarial fever. It is so regarded by the Chinese.

15. I believe not.

16. There is no such feeling.

17. There can be no doubt as to the terrible effects of the opium habit among "opium sots," but they are not to be compared with the evils arising from intemperance in England, or with those of venereal disease

which, since the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Ordinance, has spread in the most alarming way among the Chinese. It is the duty of Government to discourage opium-smoking, and this can best be done by putting a heavy tax on the drug. Whether this is collected by the agency of a farm as at present or by other means does not affect the question.

C. W. SNEYD KYNNESELEY,
First Magistrate, Singapore,
Acting Resident Councillor, Malacca.

Malacca,

17th January 1894.

Thirty-fourth Witness.—The Honourable H. A. O'Brien, Straits Civil Service, Acting Auditor-General; resident 18 years in the Straits Settlements.

1. Opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese in this colony and by Sikhs and Bengalis, infrequently by Malays, except Javanese, Boyanese and Bugis, and hardly at all by Madrasis and Tamils.

2. I should say about 70 per cent. of the adult foreign male Chinese population here consume opium. As to the proportion of Sikhs and Bengalis I cannot speak, but I believe it to be large. Javanese, Boyanese and Bugis smoke opium in considerable numbers. The percentage of Malays proper and of Madrasis who do so may be practically disregarded.

I do not think that women, as a rule, use opium except prostitutes. I have not known any cases of its use by children.

3, 4, 5, 6, & 7. I draw a strong distinction between the use of opium in the form of chandu smoked in a pipe and all other uses of the drug.

There is a radical misconception, in my opinion, in this respect on the part of those who are interested in "the opium question," both in Europe and America. The only forms of use and abuse of the drug there known are those of its alkaloids taken by injection, or of preparations of opium taken by the mouth.

In these forms, once the habit of use is established there is, without doubt, an imperative physical necessity for periodical increases in the amount so used, and although the amounts of increase and the terms of periodicity vary with the individual consumer, the result, it cannot be denied, is, in the vast majority of cases, eventually disastrous.

But such, in my experience (and the subject I may say, is one which has engaged my attention for nearly 20 years), is not the case as regards opium, in the form of prepared chandu, used by the Chinese in a pipe.

That the average Chinese coolie will smoke all the opium he can get is, I fear, an unquestionable fact, and opium smoked as chandu to excess is followed by all the deplorable results which accompany the abuse of opium in other forms.

But even in cases of excess here the time at which digestive and nervous derangement exhibits itself, seems to me to be a late one, as compared with the results of excesses in the drug otherwise abused.

The point, however, which I would insist upon is that an opium-smoker can go on smoking daily the same moderate amount of chandu for a term of years, which seems to be limited only by the span of life, with undisturbed mental and bodily sanity. I need not cite instances, for they are to be seen at every turn in the colony.

I am told that the same rule applies to Sikhs and Bengalis, who consume the drug by the mouth, but I have not the personal experience of these races which would enable me to speak with confidence on the matter. One man of the class, whom I happen to know, has been an opium eater for 40 years, and is a fine specimen of humanity. Certainly as a class the men of this nationality in the colony are physically beyond reproach.

I look upon a Straits Malay who takes to opium in any form as a lost man. His natural indolence and indifference to the ordinary exigencies of a responsible life are by opium intensified with a rapidity and to a degree absolutely startling. I have personally known exceptions to this rule, and notable exceptions are familiar to all old residents here. But such exceptions are, to my mind, rare in the extreme. I should welcome any form of class legislation which would constitute the sale or transfer of opium to any Malay a punishable offence.

Javanese, Boyanese and Bugis seem to tolerate the drug to an appreciably greater degree than the Straits

* NOTE.—Figure not given.

Malay, but they are more unfavourably affected by it, and come more speedily under its wonted influence than do the Chinese.

As regards physical degeneration and so forth resulting from opium-smoking, I would lay stress on the facts and figures which are afforded by the gaol records of the colony.

For the past 10 years I have only known one case in which a prisoner was allowed any opium in any form in gaol, and during that period no instance is recorded of a death as the result of enforced abstinence amongst opium-smokers however far advanced in the habit. Their sufferings on confinement are, no doubt, acute, but I have learnt that even the worst cases are able to eat something in the first 48 hours of privation, and all are, as a rule, about on the third day.

If this fact is considered, and contrasted with all medical experience of opium habitués in Europe, it will, I think, tend to bear out what I have said as to the radical difference between opium-smoking and the other forms of the habit.

One Bengali died in the Singapore gaol—no doubt from privation of opium. But he died through a misconception on the part of the medical officer, who understood that he was an opium-smoker, whereas he had firmly established the habit of consuming crude opium largely by the mouth.

The returns from the lunatic asylum are also very instructive upon this point.

8 & 9. Socially amongst natives, I do not think the question of opium consumption in moderation is much considered. A labourer is not a worse worker because he smokes opium, and amongst the coolie class no appreciable working time is lost by the indulgence.

Amongst artisans, who have more money at their command, the skill of the workman is not impaired, but the consumption of opium is greater, with the results of waste of time and a digestive derangement which takes the form of obstinate constipation. I have been informed that skilled artisans whose use of opium is excessive require one day off work in each fortnight for overcoming their troubles in this direction.

The mercantile classes of Chinese consider that the habit improves the intellectual faculties, especially in the direction of business acuteness.

I cannot speak as to the races of India in this respect. Malays as a class look upon the habit as a bad one, with very good reason.

I think it may safely be said that all races look upon excess in opium with pity and disfavour.

10. Opium consumers very rarely break themselves of the opium habit. From the native point of view there is, in the great majority of cases, no reason why they should; they look upon it as a pleasure, a great pleasure, and a harmless pleasure, and the suffering attending self-denial is so considerable as to be deterrent.

11. If Indian opium were to be cut off, the Asiatic population here would, of course, obtain opium from elsewhere. They would, under no conceivable circumstances, abstain as long as opium was procurable, and if the supply were restricted, would take to alcohol and the preparation of Indian hemp.

12. The proportion of our revenue which is derived from opium is per cent. The revenue could not be raised from other sources without the practical extinction of the colony, whose vital existence depends upon the freedom of its ports.

13. Europeans do not contract the opium habit to any appreciable extent.

Asiatics use the drug, I think, partly from heredity and tradition, but often it is first used to alleviate physical pain.

The Chinese, without doubt, look upon the drug as a prophylactic against fever and all the hydra-headed effects of malaria. This belief is not confined to the colony nor to Asia, but I am not a doctor, and cannot speak as to the value of the grounds on which it is based. It is practically universal here.

15. I have not met with many expressions of regret at their "enslavement" on the part of moderate consumers, except on occasions when their supply has been stopped or delayed. At such times I have heard men regret that they had taken to the drug.

On the contrary, consumers to excess always have a maudlin impotent desire to be free of the habit, which they express during the period of "opium satisfaction." But I have only in three cases known such desire to extend beyond the first stage of inhibition and consequent suffering.

"Cures" have at different times appeared in the colony, and have attracted attention, but they have all taken the form of pills, in which morphia was the chief ingredient, or of morphia injection.

Such cures have been extensively sought after by opium consumers, for they have been comparatively inexpensive, and they have been well compared to cures for beer drinking by the administration of pure alcohol.

The inevitable result of their use has, so far as I can learn, been very marked.

16. No.

17. Personally I consider the use of opium an evil, but a necessary evil.

It is an evil because it is a form of indulgence which is open to excess, and its excess is very harmful.

It is an expensive habit, and the habit once formed is as a rule, formed for life.

But excess is emphatically the exception and not the rule in the colony and where it exists, although its results are patently deplorable to a degree as regards the individual, they carry with them none of the social objections which attach to the slavery of alcohol (or of Indian hemp).

18. I leave this question to be answered by the residents of the several native states. I have had no official connexion with any native state for the past 10 years.

H. A. O'BRIEN,
Acting Auditor-General.

Singapore, 19th January 1894.

Thirty-fifth Witness.—Mr. T. C. Mugliston, Colonial Surgeon, Singapore; seven years resident in the Straits.

1. Yes, it is commonly consumed in the form of chandu.

2. A few Malays; 10 per cent. of Javanese; 30 per cent. of Chinese not coolies; 10 per cent. Chinese women; 60 per cent. of Chinese coolies. All these smoke chandu. Sikhs do not smoke chandu, but eat what is called Bombay opium. No children consume opium or chandu.

3. I cannot say that I have noticed any effect that is characteristic either from a moral, physical, or social aspect.

4. Opium is consumed in this colony as chandu, and as such is chiefly smoked.

5. In many cases they leave it off for a time, but as a rule not for long.

They are no more slaves to the opium pipe than I am to my cigar. They like their smoke, and I like mine, and we should neither of us care to give it up, or, perhaps, be able to do so without a certain amount of discomfort; the difference being that, if I thought my cigar did me harm, I should have strength of mind to put up with the discomfort, whereas the coolie would not do so. His discomfort would probably be greater. (See 14).

I presume the expression "opium sot" means one of those thin, feeble, emaciated beings, who smoke chandu, that we sometimes see. If they are chandu smokers, they are so because of their condition, and such condition is due to disease. As a rule they consume very little chandu (15 to 20 cents' worth a day), which is decidedly a comfort to them and medicinally of benefit.

The largest smokers here are towkays or traders, and coolie brokers, who consume ten times as much as the coolie, and they are robust in body and mind. I know one coolie broker who has smoked a dollar's worth a day of chandu for 40 years, and if anyone having business with him took him for a "sot" they would be considerably "left."

It is so much the rule for men to smoke the same amount of chandu (according to their means), for years that it is needless to give examples as if it were a rare condition.

In the full report, promised later, opium statistics of some hundreds of cases will be shown *in extenso*.

6. Please see 5. The harm appears to be indistinguishable.

7. The majority of Chinese artisans and labourers smoke chandu. Many Chinese merchants smoke in the same way that some British merchants drink, viz., to encourage business. One says "Have a drink," the other says "Have a smoke." In both cases the business

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The Straits and
Hong Kong.

is discussed during the drink or smoke. The idea that a smoker goes to sleep after his smoke and because of his smoke is a perfect myth, and the sentiment of horror and pity evolved at the thought of the "drunken sleep" of the opium smoker is one that is responsible for much of the present anti-opium crusade.

8 and 9. I am not prepared to say that any disease is produced by opium, whereas every organ, and almost every tissue, is morbidly affected by alcohol.

The Chinese coolie who smokes chandu does not drink alcohol. Malays of this country rarely smoke chandu or drink alcohol, and they look on both as to be condemned, but alcohol far more so than chandu.

I do not think the Chinese consider chandu smokers as to be avoided, but they certainly do alcohol drunkards.

10. Yes.

11. If they thought it were "cut off" through any action of the Government, there would be a riot. They would get it wherever they could. If they absolutely could not get it (which it would be almost impossible in our island to prevent), they would take to alcohol. If they did so it would be the 10 cents per bottle variety of German spirits, the maddening effect of which can be imagined, and crime, such as exists in England, would be generated here. The German manufacturer of spirits would be the one to benefit, not the British one.

13. Europeans do not smoke chandu. It must be considered as a question of heredity, race, food, associations and surroundings.

14. A very large percentage are smokers when they arrive from China. Many take to it to relieve the flatulent stomach-ache which is necessarily a concomitant of the vegetable diet which Chinese so largely affect. I am informed by those capable of judging that it is a prophylactic against malaria and diseases associated with planting and jungle workers.

15. It is a difficult thing to be sure of, as it is hard to get the person asked to either understand the question or to give a truthful answer. They usually answer as they think will please the questioner. My own opinion is that if they are well enough off to get chandu, food, clothing (very little), with an occasional visit to a brothel and a gamble, that they certainly do not wish to leave off smoking chandu.

16. Certainly not; on the contrary, they like to get it from India, as it is cheaper and better than that they would buy from China.

17. Please see 11.

18. The rulers of the native states all approve of the use of chandu (some are smokers themselves), and raise revenue from it.

T. C. MUGGLISTON.

Singapore, 20th January, 1894.

PART II.

Hong Kong, Colonial Secretary's Office,
No. 1780, dated December 20, 1893.

Sir,
I AM directed by the Governor of Hong Kong to transmit for the information of the Royal Commission on Opium the enclosed copies of answers to the questions (copy annexed), prepared by order of the Commission and forwarded to His Excellency by the Secretary of State for the Colonies with instructions to submit them to such persons in Hong Kong as might be able and willing to give information on the subject, "including if possible (a) the most intelligent and trustworthy gentlemen of Oriental races, and (b) officials, medical men, merchants, and others who are specially conversant with Chinese and other Asiatic consumers of opium."

2. In compliance with the above instructions His Excellency caused copies of the questions to be forwarded to the gentlemen mentioned in the enclosed list,* and the answers that are now forwarded are all that have been received up to date. Such further answers, if any, as may be sent in will be transmitted to you from time to time as soon as they are received.

3. His Excellency desires me to state that he entirely concurs in the answer which I have returned to Question 12.

I have, &c.

The Secretary,
Royal Commission on Opium,
&c., &c., &c.

WM. O'BRIEN,
Colonial Secretary.

HONG KONG.

Enclosure No. 1 in Colonial Secretary's Letter,
No. 1,780 of 1893.

No. 5.

1. In China, opium has been consumed moderately by all classes (Chinese generally), from juvenile to aged.

2. It cannot be ascertained the actual quantity consumed by each sex; it depends upon the constitution of consumers either more or less, and rare cases have been found among children.

3. We cannot say what particular effect has been brought on consumers by opium physically, morally, or socially. But it can be pronounced that its moderate use strengthens the body of consumers and refreshes the brain. One cannot say that consumers have been ruined by the reasonable use of opium. Its extreme use perhaps brings destruction, but in China we have not heard such a case as this.

4. In China, natives never consume raw opium, but they boil the drug to a certain extent through a process and then smoke in the fashion in vogue since years past. Other Asiatic races mostly eat raw opium in small pills, while a few take in other manner. Consumption of boiled opium has been preferred to that of raw opium, and it conduces to health as well as brings agility in business.

5. Consumers of opium are subjected to this drug, but it does not stupefy them. Chinese generally use opium, but we cannot mention any instance of such a stupefaction among them. Majority of these consumers are moderate generally.

6. There has been no moderation among consumers in using opium, no one can say. They have been consuming opium since years past, but there has been hardly any case in our notice of a noticeable injury done to them.

7. Traders coming in contract with us, have been found very apt and considerate in making business with us, though they have consumed opium before this. Labourers and workmen use opium in proportion to their income, but it has had no ill effect upon them their working hours.

8. As regards the use and abuse of opium and alcohol, we can say that the latter causes great injuries to consumers, which opium does not.

9. Leaving other Asiatic races aside (of which we have not much knowledge) we can say that among Chinese, the habit of consuming opium is not considered either injurious or degrading; on the other hand, respectable as well as wealthy classes have been using freely. The general opinion among the above classes too, seems to be in favour of opium than that for spirit or alcohol.

10. Habituated consumers of opium seldom leave this practice.

11. The discontinuance of supplies of opium from India will not affect much upon consumers of these drugs in China, as other countries like Persia and Turkey provide them with these, as well as the cultivation of poppy has been freely going on as well as improving in China. If such a step will be taken, only India will be the chief loser, while the trade with other countries will be augmented, and the Chinese Government will have more revenue by the duties collected on the extensive home growth of opium, and a larger demand for such drug will bring naturally an encouragement upon cultivators to increase the cultivation. Chinese do take spirit manufactured in their own country, but they will never leave the habit of consuming opium to which they have been subjected.

12. There has been no revenue in our city, and therefore we cannot describe anything as regards these.

13. We do not know there is any European subject who have been accustomed to use opium in any form, also we cannot say why not. It may be imagined that there has been no cultivation of this drug in Europe and the vast spread of education, and therefore they may not have been habituated in,

* Enclosure 3; see page 205.

14. We do not find out the origin of the commencement among consumers of opium, they use it constantly, more particularly at leisure. Also there is a firm belief among them that opium is a remedy against malaria, diarrhoea, dysentery, as well as similar sickness originated in the marshy places.

15. Perhaps there may be a rare case in which a habituated opium-consumer desire to leave this habit.

16. We have no knowledge of any Asiatic race about us having a malignity against England about the opium exported from India.

17. General opinion about the consumption of opium tends always in favour of it, especially among Chinese who believe it to be a source for the betterment of their health.

Having nothing to add below,

We remain, &c.,
ABDOOLALLY, EBRAHIM & Co.
(Muselman Merchants from India.)

No. 6.

1. Yes.

2. Chinese adults, 10 per cent.; Malay, 10 per cent.; Asiatics, do not know; women, 1 per cent.; children, nil.

3. Morally, no; physically, yes; socially, yes; distinction, cannot tell.

4. Chiefly smoke; eat very little; decoction, very little; effects can be distinguished if taken in different forms.

5. Majority of them do become slaves and become opium sots in cases of those who cannot afford.

6. There can be some moderation. There is harm, because when one does not get the drug at the proper time he feels lazy and drowsy.

7. Cannot give any opinion.

8. The abuse of opium consumers is sociable. The abuse of alcohol consumers is unsociable.

9. Degrading, yes; injurious, yes; opium compared with alcohol, the latter is preferable.

10. Can, with difficulty.

11. Yes, they would supply themselves with opium from elsewhere if the supply of Indian opium is cut off. They would not supply themselves with alcohol if they can get any other opium.

12. I do not know what revenue the Government derives from opium, but I would suggest that the same revenue could be made up if public gambling is allowed.

13. I do not know.

14. By associating with friends. Some do take it in the first instance to allay physical pain, but seldom. Yes, opium is a prophylactic against fever, &c., and is commonly regarded.

15. Great majority do desire to get free of the habit.

16. Do not know.

17. I would like to point out that opium-consumers in this Colony do not get genuine stuff from the opium farm.

ABDOOL RAZAK,
Indian Muselman Boarding-house Keeper.

No. 8.

Upper Lascar Row,
December 20, 1893.

Sir,
I do not use opium, nor do I allow it to be used in my premises.

MAHOMED CHINAH,
Indian Muselman Storekeeper.

No. 10.

1. Opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese in Hong Kong.

2. About 70 per cent. of the Chinese adult males, I conjecture, consume opium, and about 20 per cent. of women; children do not.

3. Although the opium smokers look thin and emaciated, they are not necessarily weakened by the use of the drug.

4. The Chinese smoke opium; they never eat, nor do they drink a decoction of the drug.

5. The majority of opium consumers are moderate.

6. It is not correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. Although I do not know, yet I have heard the Chinese say that there are many consumers who have taken their opium for years without harm to themselves.

7. The majority of the Chinese labourers consume opium, and it is said that the efficiency in their calling is kept up by the use of the drug.

9. The Chinese generally do not condemn the habit of consuming opium as degrading or injurious.

10. Most of the Chinese opium consumers can, and many of them do, break themselves of the opium habit.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off, the Chinese will supply themselves from elsewhere, or they will produce their native opium in larger quantities. They would not substitute alcohol for opium, neither would they abstain altogether.

13. I have heard of some Americans contracting the opium habit in the United States.

14. The opium consumers are led to use the drug by curiosity, and the tempting descriptions of the pleasure of smoking given by the older consumers. They never take it to allay physical pain. Opium is not to my knowledge a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, or malaria, nor is it so regarded by the Chinese with whom I have talked upon the matter.

15. Some of the opium consumers are desirous to get free of the opium habit.

16. Amongst the Chinese I have not seen any feeling of hostility against England for allowing opium to be exported from India.

F. SETNA,
Of Messrs. Cawasjee Pallanjee & Co. (Parsis).
Hong Kong, 13th December 1893.

No. 15.

1. Yes.

2. Males about 33½ per cent., women about ½ per cent., and children do not.

3. It does not affect them neither morally nor physically; a consumer's position will not in any way be socially affected.

4. They generally smoke, neither eat nor do they take a decoction of opium.

5. A very few of them become opium "sots." To my knowledge the majority of the consumers are moderate consumers.

6. I do not feel competent to answer to this question.

7. Most of the Chinese labourers, merchants, and artisans, consume opium.

8. I do not feel competent to answer to this question.

9. No, they would think the alcohol habit as degrading and injurious.

10. Yes.

11. They would purchase it from elsewhere. China has been and is still growing opium more than for the last few years, and the stoppage of the export from India, it would not affect their requirement.

12. About one-eighth.

13. I do not feel competent to answer to this question

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14. They take their smoke as a tobacco smoker.
15. The cases are few.
16. No.
17. None.

M. ALLY,
(Persian Merchant).

No. 16.

1. Yes.
2. Men about 30 per cent., women about 13 per cent., children do not.
3. It does not affect them morally. Physically, a consumer has not the same fresh, healthy appearance as one who does not consume opium. A consumer's position is not in any way socially affected. The same may be said as regards other Asiatic races.
4. They chiefly smoke. They neither eat nor do they drink a decoction. If it is taken in the latter form also I cannot distinguish between the effects of each.
5. Not many, and very few eventually become "opium sots." I find that a considerable proportion of consumers are moderate consumers.
6. It is not correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. I have known of many cases where opium has been consumed without harm to the consumers. There are several opium dealers with whom I am brought into business contact, who have to my knowledge been consumers of the drug for years, and who apparently show no signs of the drug having had any evil effects on them. I know also a case where a person (not a Chinese) who has both smoked and eaten the drug off and on for the last ten years, and who has not apparently suffered physically.

7. Many Chinese labourers, merchants, and artisans, smoke opium, but not a majority of them. The habit does not affect their efficiency in their several callings.

8. An opium smoker is quiet in his habits, whereas one addicted to the use or abuse of alcohol, especially among the Malay races and natives of the Philippines, is often boisterous and commits rash acts.

9. No, they would consider the alcohol habit as degrading and injurious.

10. Yes.

11. They would procure it from elsewhere. They would not take to alcohol nor to any other narcotic, neither would they abstain altogether. China has been and it still growing opium which statistics will show has been on the increase during the past few years, and the stoppage of Indian opium would give the Chinese authorities a fair opportunity of developing the growth of their own opium, much to the detriment of the British Government.

12. About one-seventh. I do not at present see any other means of raising additional revenue. They would consider the necessity of making up the deficit by other taxation as unjust.

13. I do not feel competent to answer to this question.

14. In much the same way as a tobacco smoker. They do not usually or often take it in the first instance to allay physical pain, although it is extensively used by the Chinese and Asiatic races for medicinal purposes.

15. The cases are rare.

16. No.

17. The stoppage of the opium trade would tell seriously on the already depressed condition of trade in this Colony. Many Indian and Chinese firms, who, by their existence, contribute indirectly to the other sources of the revenue of the Colony, and employ much labour, both domestically and otherwise. The closing of these firms would naturally throw many Chinese out of employment. I need hardly add that the Indian revenue would suffer to an immeasurable extent, and from all the information I can gather there appears no other means of making good this large deficit of Her Majesty's empire. I am of opinion that instead of crippling the opium trade every encouragement should be given by Her Majesty's Government to the development of the opium trade by the reduction of duty, and

other facilities in order that the dealers may be able to compete with China, which is steadily but surely making an inroad into the trade, and also by way of recompense for the heavy losses which the dealers have suffered by the recent action of the Indian Government in bringing about the sudden fall in the value of silver.

Hm. S. H. ESMail,
Of H.A. Asger and H. Esmail,
(Persian Merchants).

No. 17.

1. Yes.
2. Most Chinese adult males are consumers. Women and children, I do not know.
3. The effects are varied. In some instances beneficial and in others detrimental.
4. Yes. Consumers generally smoke, some eat it also.
5. A good proportion are moderate consumers.
6. No. I have the knowledge two persons have abstained altogether from taking opium after consuming the drug for about six years, without harm.
7. Yes. The effect of it I do not know.
8. Opium consumers are always quiet and social, alcohol consumers are apt to create disturbances.
9. The abuse is the same I think in both.
10. Yes.
11. If the supply of Indian opium be cut off, it would not affect the Chinese consumers, they can produce it in their native country or obtain it elsewhere and will not abstain smoking.

12. About \$350,000 a year. It would be very difficult for the Colony to raise this revenue accruing from opium from any respectable source.

13. I do not know.

14. Opium consumers use the drug for the same reasons as others drink alcohol. It is also a physic.

15. Not as a rule; some express a wish but seldom endeavour to do it.

16. No.

17. No.

H. M. H. NEMAZEE,
(Persian Merchant).

No. 20.

1. Very many Chinese consume opium. A few of other Asiatic races.

2. Of the Chinese, many adult males are consumers. Some women are; most of them are prostitutes; married women very rarely; and if they do so, it is in imitation of their husbands, no children.

3. Most opium consumers are physically weak, for the nature of opium is cold. It is a poison and is injurious to the essence of vitality and to the marrow, causing mucus to be secreted. Its effects are deadly.

Those who have smoked a long time, become anæmic, listless and procrastinating. Their faces become sallow. Their moral characters deteriorate and they become opium sots.

8. Wine is not poisonous. Taken in small quantities, no injury is caused. It acts as a stimulant and as a digestive and does not produce intoxication. The effects of opium are much worse than those of wine.

9. All consumers of opium suffer in health and morals and also waste their money. Consequently parents and older relatives, even if they smoke themselves, are unwilling that their sons and juniors should imitate them and advise them against the use of the drug. From this it may be seen that the feeling in favour of the prohibition of opium is universal, and if the prohibition was carried out, the Government would be assisting humanity to regain its original virtuous state.

10. The longer opium is consumed, the more difficult it is to break off the habit, as opium consumers grow stupid and lazy. The habit, if longer contracted, becomes confirmed, and cannot be broken, and opium consumers, even if desirous of breaking themselves of the habit, if deprived of their opium, suffer from many diseases, and hence are unable to do so. Still there are some, but only very few, who have succeeded.

11. If the supply of opium is cut off, opium consumers, although unable now to break themselves of the habit, will be compelled to abstain.

12. If the opium revenue were cut off, no doubt the Government would be able to take the proper measures to raise the needful revenue otherwise, and there is no need for me to make any suggestions.

14. It is only those opium consumers, who wish to put a stop to the reproaches of their family, who say that opium is a prophylactic against fever, or rheumatism or malaria.

17. The general habit of smoking opium has arisen from the neglect of the Government to prohibit the practice.

In case the growth of opium in India is prohibited, the Chinese Government must join in using its utmost endeavours to prohibit its growth in China. Its importation must also be prohibited, and an international agreement made that no nation is to compel China to receive it. Any measures less than these need not be considered.

In thus stopping the supply of opium, the whole of Asia will be benefited, and England will be carrying out the will of Heaven in protecting its children, and will receive in return infinite blessings.

(Signed) LAU WAI-CHÜN,
(Chinese Compradore).

No. 21.

1. Opium is commonly smoked by the Chinese and Malays and eaten in the raw state by the Sikhs.

2. About 7 per cent. of the Chinese population, 4 per cent. of the Malays, and 2 per cent. of the other Asiatic race. Also about 2 per cent. of the Chinese female and 1 per cent. of the Malay. The children hardly at all.

3. Opium smoking does not effect the morality and sociality of the smokers, but it effects the constitutions. There is no distinction on its effects as regards races.

4. The Chinese and Malays generally smoke it, but the Sikhs mostly eat it in the raw state. I am not aware of people using a decoction of opium and cannot make any distinction between smoking, drinking, and eating.

5. The great majority of opium consumers do not become slaves to the drug, nor eventually become "opium sots." The majority of them are moderate smokers.

6. It is not correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. I have known of many cases where opium has not worked any injury, it generally depends upon the constitution of the opium smoker.

7. No; non opium smokers are in greater proportion. No efficiency effecting in their calling, except where strength is required to perform hard labour.

8. The use of opium and alcohol in moderation among any race is not injurious, but the results of abuses of alcohol are more distressing and mischievous than those of opium.

9. The smoking of opium in moderation or in excess and the drinking of alcohol in moderation are not considered a degradation, but drinking alcohol excessively is generally condemned.

10. Opium smoking can always be cured from one week to a month's time, it depends upon the quantity consumed by the smoker.

11. If the Indian opium be cut off, it would not effect the Chinese very much, not even the Asiatics, the formerly will get supply from elsewhere. Some may abstain from the habit, but I do not think they will

resort to alcohol or any narcotics. Opium smoking is like gambling, same as drinking with Europeans, it is a national vice, and it can never be altogether done away with.

12. About one sixth of the revenue in Hong Kong is derived from opium monopoly, and the loss can be made up from various kinds of taxes which naturally will be resented by the people. The people will simply ridicule the idea of the abolition of the opium revenue.

13. There are very few Europeans who smoke opium, because the European public condemned it and also the habit of smoking involves loss of time which is repugnant to their activity. The Asiatic smoke it more generally because it is not condemned by their own people, and some rich people rather prefer their children to contract this habit as it does not involve any mischiefs.

14. Some people smoke opium to allay the pains of diseases, while a great many smoke for pleasure and amusement generally. Opium is a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, and malaria, in addition to diarrhoea, dysentery, stomachache, headache, vomiting, flatulence, and asthma; it will also particularly prolong the life of consumptive people.

15. Those who become tired of it and while others from poverty desire to leave it off.

16. There is no hostility against England for bringing opium to China that I know of.

17. Opium smoking is considered by the Chinese as a treat among the merchants and friends in the business place and other place of amusement.

Having resided twenty years in Foochow and ten years in Hong Kong and associated with the Mandarins and all classes of people, I have gained the above experience as expressed in my brief answers.

KAW HONG TAKE,
(Chinese Merchant).

No. 23.

1. Yes.

2. I am of opinion that Chinese male adult consumers are 10 per cent.; Chinese women consumers are one per cent.; Chinese children consumers scarcely.

3. Morally, not very good; physically, it not only weakens a man's constitution but causes laziness and waste of time. The evils are so great that I cannot define minutely; socially, fair. With regard to consumers of each race, I cannot draw any distinctions between them.

4. Chinese smoke; Indians and Malays generally eat. I cannot express my opinion between the effects of either smoking, eating or drinking.

5. Great majority of opium smokers not only become slaves to the drug but eventually they repent for having fallen into the habit of smoking which they are very difficult to give up.

6. It is quite correct that no moderation can be made in consumption of opium. I know of no case of consumers who have taken opium for years without doing any harm.

7. Yes. A great majority. With reference to their efficiency in any calling, they are very irregular and not punctual, and regarding their activity they are not far from sloth. Example:—A man who smokes opium happens to be called out suddenly to do a certain work, he has first to smoke his opium before he starts it, otherwise he is not fitted to perform any work.

8. The distinction between opium and alcohol as far as I can detect is this:—A man who is addicted to drink can very often knock it off without causing any serious injury to his health, while an opium smoker finds it almost killing, and when once opium is taken away from him he is prostrated for weeks and sometimes for months.

9. A great majority of Chinese consider opium smoking is a degrading and injurious habit for one to fall into. They regard the opium is one of useless habit, waste of money, precious hours, and especially the lack of good constitution than to alcohol.

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10. It can be done in some cases but with extreme difficulty.

11. If opium were to be cut off, it would, to a certain extent, in the beginning, give little trouble to the smokers. They will not be able to supply themselves from elsewhere, nor would they take any alcohol or narcotic instead; they will generally abstain altogether.

12. With reference to this paragraph, I regret to say that I am unable to express my opinion.

13. Very few European race contract the opium habit. I think because they know that that habit is not worth at all, whilst the Asiatics, at the beginning are ignorant of the harm which will eventually cause them.

14. They are first led to that habit by simply having a puff or two for amusement, to while away their time amongst friends, specially at night. They are not taken at all to allay physical pain. In my opinion, opium is not taken by Asiatics as a prophylactic against fever, &c.

15. Most decidedly.

16. Yes. If England does not allow the importation of opium into this Colony, a great majority of the inhabitants will not fall into the habit of smoking it.

17. The only remark I wish to make is that opium be strictly prohibited to be imported into this Colony, as great many Chinese of all classes are repenting for having smoked it, and they are only too glad if the Government would adopt any method to exterminate this evil.

Hong Kong,
14th December, 1893.

CHIN U. TIN,
(Chinese Merchant).

No. 24.

1. Opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese in our Colony.

2. About 10 per cent. of the adult males of the Chinese community are consumers of opium. Some Chinese women also consume opium, but there are only a few of them. Children do not consume opium.

3. As a rule, the Chinese consumers of opium are inactive and their bowels are constive. However, there are exceptions to this rule. The opium habit does not effect the consumers socially.

4. The Chinese consumers smoke opium. They do not eat opium nor do they drink a decoction of opium.

5. The majority of the Chinese consumers of opium eventually become "opium sots."

6. It is incorrect to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. I know of cases of consumers who have taken opium for years without harm to themselves. I myself have taken opium for the last 30 years, and I feel as strong, healthy, and active as ever.

7. A large number of Chinese labourers, merchants, and artisans, consume opium. As they have regular hours for smoking their opium, the opium habit cannot have much, if any, effect on their efficiency in their calling.

8. The Chinese as a race are moderate drinkers of alcohol; therefore it is not in my power to say what effect the alcohol habit will have on them.

9. The habit of consuming opium is condemned as injurious by the general opinion of the Chinese. Of the two evils the opium habit and the alcohol habit, they would choose the former.

10. Consumers of opium can and some of them do break themselves of the opium habit.

11. If the supply of India opium were cut off, some of the Chinese consumers of opium would supply themselves with opium from elsewhere, others would abstain altogether.

12. One-sixth of the Colony's revenue accrues from opium. If the opium revenue were extinguished, the Colony could raise the needful revenue by farming out Wai-shing and Manila lotteries. The Chinese are in favour of abolishing the opium farm and establishing a Wai-shing and Manila lottery farm in its stead.

13. The Europeans do not contract the opium habit, because they do not associate with the Chinese. The Chinese are more liable to contract the habit, because they often come into contact with opium smokers.

14. Opium consumers are generally led to use the drug for curiosity sake. Some of them use it in the first instance to allay physical pain. I know of my own knowledge that opium is a prophylactic against headache and diarrhoea. It is so regarded by the Chinese.

15. Opium consumers do not usually desire to get free of the opium habit.

16. There is no feeling of hostility amongst the Chinese in the Colony against England for allowing opium to be exported from India.

LUM SIN SANG,
(Chinese Opium Farmer).

No. 27.

1. Many Chinese consume opium, as also do some members of other Asiatic races.

2. About one-tenth of the adult Chinese males consume opium.

About one in a 100 among Chinese women, and a few children.

Some persons belonging to other Asiatic races consume opium, but not so many as formerly.

3. Great moral, physical, and mental deterioration take place in the case of consumers of opium, but I cannot fully describe the harm caused to the body and mind.

4. The general method of the consumption of opium by Chinese is to heat some and make it into a small ball which is placed in the opium pipe and smoked.

It is a rare thing to hear of eating opium or of drinking a decoction of it, but poor people who have a craving for opium, in order to save money, sometimes make a ball of opium dross (i.e., the refuse of opium which has been smoked) which they swallow in order to stop the craving. This habit is most injurious to the health.

5. Once the craving for opium has been firmly established, very grave and serious inconvenience is caused to the consumer.

6. Very great physical and mental injury is caused to opium consumers. A few rich people who have only commenced to consume opium suffer temporary no serious inconvenience, but yet they feel remorse, and search constantly for a means by which they may be enabled to give up the habit.

7. Although not more than one half of the labourers and merchants of any Asiatic race consume opium, yet all those who do so suffer great deterioration morally and physically. They become listless and lazy. They lose strength and waste their money.

8. Among Asiatics the evils arising from the constant habit of consuming opium are much worse than those arising from the consumption of alcohol.

It is possible to abstain from alcohol, but it is extraordinarily painful to break off the opium habit, owing to the sleeplessness and loss of appetite which ensue.

9. Chinese and other Asiatics would, in my opinion, say that the habit of consuming opium is injurious. The opium habit is worse than the alcohol habit.

10. Opium consumers desire to break off the habit, but the majority of those who are weak or old would suffer in health from doing so.

Very many habitual opium consumers desire to break off the habit.

11. If the sale of opium is absolutely prohibited, opium consumers will not be able to procure it, and the evils arising from the habit will be greatly diminished. Everyone will be grateful for the favour bestowed in prohibiting the sale of opium, and I think that other countries which produce it will follow the good example offered them.

If there is no opium to be bought the craving will cease, and no substitute will be required.

12. No answer.

13. Europeans and Asiatics who contract the habit are equally affected. Those who consume most are more liable to contract the habit.

14. Opium consumers commence out of mere curiosity and to amuse themselves, and the habit is gradually and imperceptibly contracted. I have never heard anyone say that opium is a prophylactic against fever or rheumatism, or malaria.

15. Those who have contracted the opium habit desire without exception to break it off because of its injurious effects. Even those opium consumers who are rich are also much hampered by the habit and loathe it accordingly.

16. All Asiatics are anxious that the sale of opium should be altogether prohibited, and the evil effects arising from it removed. I do not know whether there is any ill feeling against England or India on account of this.

17. The above answers give my humble opinion on the subject, and I submit them to your wise judgment.

LEUNG PUI-CHI.
(Chinese Bankers).

No. 29.

Supreme Court, Hong Kong,
December 11, 1893.

1. I believe that opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese in Hong Kong.

2. I cannot say what proportion of adult males (Chinese) consume opium, but I believe a majority of them do so. I do not believe that either women or children consume opium to any great extent.

3. Large consumers present an attenuated appearance. I cannot speak to other effects.

4. I believe that consumers chiefly smoke.

5 & 6. I believe that the majority of consumers are moderate consumers. I do not know of any individual case.

7. I believe that a majority of the Hong Kong Chinese of all the classes mentioned consume opium without injury to efficiency in their calling.

8. I do not think there is any general use of alcohol among the Chinese.

9. I think that the Chinese generally regard the use of opium in much the same light as Europeans generally regard the use of alcohol, viz., as a luxury when the use is moderate, and as a vice when it is excessive.

10 to 16. Not answered.

17. I would say that in comparing the use of alcohol by Europeans with the use of opium by Chinese the latter habit, unlike the former, does not stand out as a marked cause of crimes of violence. In a period of nearly five years, during which I have tried Chinese for almost every variety of criminal offence, I do not remember a single case where the commission of an offence has been directly or indirectly traced to the use of opium. On the other hand in the comparatively few charges of crimes of violence against Europeans during the same period the use of alcohol by the accused has, as may be imagined, been generally an element in this case.

(Signed) J. CLARKE,
Chief Justice, Hong Kong.

No. 30.

1. From the figures which I give in answer to Question No. 2 I should say that opium is commonly consumed by Chinese. We have very few, if any, Malays here, and I have not heard that the opium habit has become common among the Indian Police and other Indian residents in the Colony.

2. From information which I gathered three years ago when investigating a certain claim made by the opium farmer and from what I have learnt since, I should say that about $1\frac{1}{2}$ chest of opium is prepared and sold per day for local consumption. Each chest gives 1,050 taels of prepared opium; $1\frac{1}{2}$ chest therefore = 1,575 taels sold per day. Each tael contains 10 mace, and one mace will in the case of a hard

smoker give seven pipes, but an ordinary smoker such as a coolie or other of that class, will make 15 pipes out of a mace. At seven pipes per mace that would be 110,250 pipes per day, or double that if a smaller dose be adopted.

To this must be added the dross opium which, being much cheaper, is largely consumed by the poorer classes. Then there is the opium which is smuggled in from China and Macao, an unknown quantity, but which I have no doubt is considerable.

It is very difficult to fix the quantity smoked on an average, a large number take only a small quantity, others take more, but from these figures and facts there is no doubt that a large proportion of the adult males of the Colony are consumers of opium. A few women, I believe, take a little, and children do not use it.

3. As far as my experience, which is set forth below, goes, I have not (with the exception hereafter mentioned) observed any bad effect of opium either physical or moral on those with whom I have come in contact.

4. Consumers chiefly smoke opium, some may take it in the form of pills. I do not think any drink it.

5. In answer to this question I beg to state that from all I learn I believe a great majority of the Chinese inhabitants of this Colony smoke opium; and yet with all my experience as Registrar of the Court, Acting Attorney-General, and Puisne Judge, in which latter capacity I see more than 100 Chinese every week, either as parties or witnesses, I have met with only three or four men who could be called opium smokers, that is, men who bore traces of the effect of the habit on their faces or appearance. Since I have been in Hong Kong I have employed generally 10 men servants or coolies. I am told that all smoke opium at some time or other, more or less, yet I have never perceived any bad effect, they have always performed their duties satisfactorily, and have been ready at any time, night or day, to answer any call of service.

My conclusion, therefore, is that the great majority of smokers do not become slaves to the drug, or "opium sots."

6. It is not correct to say that there cannot be any moderation in the consumption.

I repeat that all the time I have been in Hong Kong I have known but three or four cases of confirmed opium smokers. Moderation must be the rule in China and Hong Kong.

7. From the quantity consumed, I should say that a large proportion of the adult males of the Chinese population here smoke opium. As far as I have observed and from what I hear, this smoking has not a bad or harmful effect on their efficiency in their calling, but this, I believe, is because by far the great majority of people who smoke are very moderate consumers.

8. The use of opium produces no ill effects in the smoker. The abuse of opium leads a man to spend all or most of his time in smoking; if he is not rich he wastes all his money on this evil habit, even to depriving himself of sufficient food, but it does not lead to crime, to wife beating, or other deeds of violence which are the result of the abuse of alcohol.

9. I cannot say.

10. I have not sufficient personal knowledge on this part of the subject to answer this question.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off I have no doubt that the consumers would supply themselves from other sources, which, considering the amount now grown in China and the great and many facilities that exist all round Hong Kong for communication with the mainland, would be very easy. Then there is the Persian and Turkish opium, the importation of which would no doubt be stimulated by any increase in the price.

12. The first two paragraphs of this question will be answered no doubt by the financial officers of Government. In respect of the third, I should say that all those who believe that the quantity of opium which is consumed in this Colony does not prejudicially affect the consumers thereof, would think it unjust and hard to levy upon them fresh taxes to make up the loss of revenue, especially when the prohibition would be useless, but I would remark that I do not see how the opium revenue is to be extinguished, because to prevent the Chinese from smoking opium is impossible unless

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you fill the gaols with offenders against the "Opium Prohibition Legislation" and I do not presume it is contemplated to free the drug from all taxations or restrictions.

13. Europeans do not contract the habit.

14. A great number of those who smoke are led to use it, I believe, because after a hard day's work they have nothing else to do but to go and smoke for a short time before going to bed. A great many use it in talking over business matters. Some take it because they are ill, suffering from consumption or diarrhoea. It must be borne in mind that many of the miserable creatures who are represented as being slaves to and ruined in health by opium, have taken to it because they were ill. They are not ill because they smoke, but they smoke to obtain some alleviation from their ills.

15. I do not know.

16. There is no feeling of hostility whatever against England in connection with the opium trade.

17. I believe opium to be largely consumed in Hong Kong. What is the effect? Here is my answer. I have now been nearly 12 years in Hong Kong. All that time I have been connected with the Court. While Registrar I was also Official Administrator, and Official Assignee in Bankruptcy besides, and was appointed receiver to some large Chinese estates. I have been Acting Attorney-General for about 2½ years, and Acting Puisne Judge from time to time. During all these years I have, as I have already said, met with only three or four confirmed smokers, and I do not know of any crime or offence committed either directly or indirectly through or on account of opium smoking, nor do I know of any crime which can be traced to the use or abuse of opium.

Moderation to a very large extent is the rule, and smoking in moderation does no harm; those who become slaves to it, and the number I believe to be very small, ruin themselves, but they do not hurt those around them. I have seen very large crowds in Hong Kong at the Jubilee, the races and other festivals, they all disperse without any trouble whatever. I consider there is very little trouble in Hong Kong among the Chinese, and whereas I am not able to trace any crime to the use of opium I have known of cases of manslaughter committed by Europeans when more or less intoxicated.

I therefore see no reason to interfere with the trade in and consumption of opium further than is necessary to raise a revenue from it as done in the case of spirits and tobacco.

Mr. Grétren, the head of the opium department in Saigon, who appears to have paid great attention to the question, informed me that as far as he had observed he could find no ill effects from moderate smoking where opium was used, but he believed that smoking dross opium or inferior preparations made from dross opium was harmful. This is a question to which the attention of medical men might be called.

Edw. J. ACKROYD,

Supreme Court, Hong Kong,
December 18, 1893.

No. 31.

12. About one-sixth of the Colony's revenue accrues from opium. If the opium revenue were extinguished the needful revenue could probably be raised otherwise, but in order to do so it would almost certainly be necessary to abolish the freedom of the port, and to impose import duties. It has been considered by some that such a course would be contrary to the obligations of the spirit of the treaty under which Hong Kong was ceded by China; and however that may be, the abolition of the freedom of the port would be a most unpopular measure and one calculated, in the opinion of the majority of the residents, of commercial experience, to disastrously affect the prosperity of the Colony. It should be borne in mind that the amount of the opium revenue is a net amount, and that in order to raise a similar net amount through import duties it would be necessary to levy a sum larger by whatever

might be required to cover the cost of collection, including the cost of establishing and maintaining a Customs establishment.

J. S. O'BRIEN,
(Colonial Secretary).

No. 32.

1. Yes, by Chinese.

2. 40 per cent. of the Chinese smoke more or less regularly, and 40 per cent. as an occasional luxury. Women smoke very rarely; children never.

3. The effect of excessive smoking is to induce nervous debility, and to unfit the consumer for the performance of any duty requiring prolonged activity of mind.

4. They smoke it.

5. On the contrary, most smokers remain moderate. Perhaps 12 per cent. damage themselves to some extent by smoking, and of these 12 three or four will be "sots."

6. Moderation in the smoking of opium is the rule.

7. The majority of the Chinese smoke opium. The effect of moderate smoking is practically nil, beyond the waste of time occupied by smoking. The effect of immoderate smoking is described in answer 3.

8. Cases of drunkenness among the Chinese are too rare to allow of a comparison.

9. The Chinese consider the abuse of opium as degrading and injurious.

In their proverb it ranks with, *but after*, lasciviousness, gambling, and drunkenness.

Drink maddens, while opium soothes. The Government should be thankful that they have imbeciles rather than maniacs to deal with among the intemperate portion of the Chinese community.

10. Yes. A regular smoker suffers considerable inconvenience from ceasing to smoke, and a "sot" is, as a rule, unable to relinquish the opium pipe unless placed under restraint.

11. In China the majority of opium smokers use native opium; only the richer members of the community use Indian opium. In Hong Kong the opium farmer boils only Indian opium, and the high price at which he sells it acts as a deterrent to its use. He allows very little Chinese opium to be smoked in the colony, as he makes his profit from what he himself prepares.

If the supply of Indian opium were cut off, smokers would resort to Chinese or other opium, and if it were possible to prevent any opium from being introduced into the colony (which it is not) they would probably inject morphine.

12. Fifteen per cent. If the opium revenue were extinguished, the deficit could probably be made up by additional taxation, but such increase in taxation would be much more unpopular than the opium tax is.

13. The smoking of opium by Europeans is practically unknown in the colony.

The practice recommends itself to a people naturally lethargic rather than to one of naturally active habits.

14. The Chinese commence the use of the drug in the same way and for the same reasons that induce Europeans to commence taking stimulants.

The Chinese regard opium smoking as useful for the alleviation of pain, such as headache, toothache, &c.

15. Those who find that the use of opium is having a deteriorating effect desire to relinquish the practice. These are the minority of smokers.

16. No. There are many who urge total abstinence from the drug, in the same way as many Europeans urge total abstinence from intoxicants, on the ground that the habit is extravagant and dangerous. These regret to see England countenancing the importation of the drug.

Many Chinese simulate a hatred of opium in conversation with Europeans, because they are aware that many Europeans regard opium smoking with abhorrence.

17. Arguments against the importation of Indian opium into China would apply with equal force to the importation of cognac into England. It is only a finer and more expensive variety of a drug manufactured in enormous quantities by the people for their own use.

N. G. MITCHELL-INNES,
Treasurer of Hong Kong.

19th December 1893.

No. 33.

1. Opium is consumed to a considerable extent by the Chinese in Hong Kong. Whether its consumption can be termed "common" I am not able to say.

2. (a.) I have no idea. (b.) Ditto. (c.) Ditto.

3. The physical effects of opium, whatever they may be, are not apparent to the ordinary observer. I mean, for instance, that I have never seen a Chinaman under the influence of the drug as we commonly see, at home, men under the influence of liquor. As to the moral or social effects I do not know. (b.) I can draw no distinction.

4 & 5. I do not know.

6. (a.) I should say not; otherwise, if it has any effects, I conclude these would be generally apparent. (b.) No.

7 & 8. I do not know.

9. (a.) I should say not. (b.) I have never discussed the subject.

10. I do not know if they can break themselves, but I learn from the reports of the Colonial Surgeon that prisoners in gaol, known to be consumers of opium, have been deprived of it without evil effect.

11. They would probably supply themselves from elsewhere.

12. (a.) About 350,000 dollars. (b.) Only by additional or increased taxation. (c.) The people would "growl."

13. Not to my knowledge. (b.) Because they do not like it and do not use it, having other stimulants to which they are accustomed. (c.) Because their taste runs that way in preference to "samshu."

14. (a.) I do not know, probably in the same way as a European takes to spirits as a stimulant. (b.) Possibly. (c.) I have heard it so stated.

15. Not so far as my information goes.

16. I have never heard it suggested.

17. No.

B. MURRAY RUMSEY, R.N.,
Harbour Department, Harbour Master, &c.
Hong Kong,
13th December 1893.

No. 34.

1. Yes.

2. At least one half of the adult males. Yes, about 5 per cent. of the adult women. None under 17 or 18 years of age.

3. The Chinese become weak and anæmic, lazy and shiftless, inclined to become weak or easy-minded. Will steal in order to obtain opium if not able to continue to buy it.

Cannot say as regards other races.

4. They smoke chiefly; but old hands drink a decoction with tea in the morning to fit them for the day's business.

Injection of morphine is also practised to some extent by the poorer class, though forbidden by ordinance.

The effects are similar, though injection is said to be quicker in action.

5. The majority are inclined to be "sots." Moderation is not practicable with the lapse of time.

6. Not quite correct; the quantity must be increased in time.

I know no such case.

7. Yes. Probably a majority of each class, but a larger proportion of the coolie class.

The general effect is to impair their efficiency in their respective callings. It is difficult to obtain details with accuracy.

8. The result, from a moral or social point of view, of the abuse of alcohol compared with that of opium is probably the same; but opium does not incite to the commission of brutal crimes. The abuse of alcohol among the Chinese is, however, most uncommon.

9. The general opinion is that it is degrading, and that opium is worse than alcohol.

10. Very occasionally; I should say never among the lower classes.

11. They would try to procure it from some other place. Tong King and China would grow it in larger quantities. Very few would take to alcohol or narcotics.

They would not abstain except from absolute want of the drug.

12. About one-sixth. Yes; the people, with the exception of the Europeans, would not say anything about it. The Chinese do not bother about Government measures if they are fair and reasonable.

13. In very rare instances. Probably because of the absence of custom and example (social intercourse with the Chinese being almost nil), and because of the race contempt for the habits of Asiatics. The Chinese acquire it chiefly from example, and, occasionally, recommendation by friends in case of pain.

Brothels and restaurant entertainments have something to do with it.

As a race they are inclined to lounge and be idle in moments of leisure.

14. The majority probably for reason given in last answer.

In a few instances the recommendation of a doctor or a friend who uses the drug would induce them, but I should say not generally. Not to my knowledge, and I do not think the Chinese have the idea suggested. Ordinary bodily weariness or pain is the only physical cause.

15. Yes, they say so, but make no continuous effort.

16. No. The Chinese generally are quite ignorant of the origin of the opium consumed in the colony. The educated Chinaman may perhaps talk on the subject, but he has no real feeling.

17. The opium-smoking divans are a disgrace to the Colony. They should not be permitted at all, unless with great care as to the conditions, sanitary and otherwise.

J. M. THOMSON,
Acting Registrar-General.

No. 35.

1. Yes, by Chinese and Malays.

2. Nearly the whole of the adult males, both Chinese and Malays, are consumers of opium to the extent that they have at one time or another taken it. Probably about 40 or 50 per cent. or more of both races are habitual consumers. Women do not to any appreciable extent take opium, nor do children.

3. With regard to Chinese the effects of any kind whether moral, physical or social from taking opium are in the direction of deterioration proportionate to the extent to which it is taken. In the first place it is a habit to which in the minds of the Chinese a certain amount of discredit attaches, and, indulgence in it, has the same demoralised effect upon the character as subjection instead of resistance to any other form of temptation. It is in the minds of the Chinese in the nature of a secret vice, and though, as in other directions, the conscience may become deadened by familiarity with the practice, I am nevertheless of opinion that in every instance the adoption of the habit is a wound to the moral instincts of the individual, and lowers his self-esteem to the general weakening of the character.

I am unable to say whether, were the habit regarded from a different point of view, it has any inherent

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debasement effects upon the character; but I am of opinion that the physical deterioration which accompanies the excessive use of the drug, has its corresponding counterpart in the character, and that though a moderate indulgence in the habit might have no appreciable effect upon either the physique or morale, it is more likely that the matter is one of degree rather than of difference in kind, and that it is not possible to draw a hard and fast line between excessive and moderate indulgence on the one side, of which injury commences, or, on the other, ceases to do harm.

The social effects are more domestic than social, and are not characterised by any of the peculiarities which make a drunkard a nuisance to society at large as well as to his own domestic circle. They lie in the direction of impoverishment of the family, neglect of household duties, and other such tendencies. The general effects one notices in the morale of an individual given to the use of opium, are a general shiftiness of character, secretiveness, capricious memory, nervelessness, want of energy, and incapacity in the discharge of his avocations. The physical effects are in keeping with these symptoms, hollow drawn features, emaciated form, vacant looking eyes. All these characteristics however that I have mentioned are found noticeably only in the confirmed smoker, and, if existing in the germ in the moderate consumer are not necessarily apparent, nor are they of necessity developed by a continuance of moderate consumption. Taking the Chinese population of Hong Kong in its entirety, although it is probable that the great majority of the male adults are consumers of opium, and although they have as much opium at their command as they may desire, there is nevertheless an entire absence of any general appearance of either moral or physical deterioration. The appearances are those of a busy, thriving, cheerful, well-to-do population, without a trace of any of the characteristics that one would find in a community debilitated by some known cause such as scarcity of food, epidemic of sickness, and so forth.

I have had no experience of the effects of opium upon the Malays, who are a small minority of the Asiatic population in this Colony, nor am I able to say whether there are distinctions upon consumers of different races.

4. The Chinese, to a man, smoke opium, and do not eat it. In rare cases of excessive addiction to the habit it is customary, as a prelude to the pipe, to drink a decoction of opium water, but in no other cases. It is generally understood that the eating of opium is more injurious than the smoking of it; but the difference is relative and not actual.

5. The great majority of opium consumers in Hong Kong are moderate consumers, and a small minority only opium "sots."

6. It is not correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. Numerous cases might be adduced in which consumers have taken their opium for years without apparent injury to themselves. It is generally believed that the wealthy and well-to-do, who smoke the best opium, do so with less danger to themselves than the poorer classes who smoke inferior opium. The former smoke a drug carefully prepared from the raw article. The latter smoke opium prepared from the ashes left from the smoking of the superior drug. These ashes are known as opium dross, and the drug prepared from it as dross opium. I adduce two instances of moderate consumption which can be authenticated if necessary. I am of opinion that they might be multiplied indefinitely. A contractor, living in Wellington Street, has been smoking for more than seven years. When he first smoked this drug he did so for the sake of pastime. After having smoked for about a year he found that he could not do without it. One day, when he was busily engaged at his work, he had no time to smoke, and when the usual hour for smoking came he felt very unwell. After taking a few pipes he felt, immediately, relief. Since then he became a habitual smoker. He takes three mace a day in two times of one mace and a half each time (morning and evening). He never increases the quantity. Except that the smoking engages him about two hours every day, he finds that his opium has never interfered with his business. He is looking as well as before he got into the habit.

Another named Sik Chow. He was employed in a draper's shop in Jervois Street. He was consumptive. A European doctor pronounced that he would die in the course of three months. A Chinese doctor advised him to smoke opium. He did so. He became very

much better. He stopped spitting blood. Instead of dying after three months, he lived ten years more. He died last month of consumption. He was a moderate smoker.

7. I should say that a majority of labourers, merchants, and artisans amongst the Chinese of this Colony consume opium. Its effect upon them generally, where the consumption is moderate, would probably not be appreciable, though it is calculated to interfere with the physical endurance of those who engage in hard labour. A chair coolie, for instance, or a Jinricksha coolie would feel the effects of opium smoking, and would be less efficient in their calling in proportion to the amount of opium they consumed. The same remark would apply to any artisan whose work requires the application of hard manual labour. I am not of opinion that it has any injurious effect upon the business capacity of merchants, and it might quite conceivably quicken their faculties. Nearly all business transactions are negotiated and discussed over the opium pipe. I adduce three instances of cases under this question, and with regard to the artisans and labourers must again remark that, viewed as a body, there are not any apparent signs of decrepitude or want of efficiency in their calling.

Lam Shin Shang, manager of Opium Farm, has smoked over 30 years; smokes all day long. He is very thin, but is looking well and bright. Opium does not interfere with his business. He smokes over one tael a day.

Fung Wa Chun, comprador of National Bank of China, comprador of Shewan & Co., and secretary to the Yan Wo Opium shop, smoke a great deal, between six and eight mace a day, thin, but looking well; does all his work with credit.

A Leung was a central school coolie, was very hard and strong. He contracted with the habit of opium-smoking. He was very much weakened, and could not do his work so well. He was dismissed. He became a chair coolie. Habit gradually got worse. Could not earn enough to smoke. Became very weak, and could not work. Became a beggar ultimately.

8. The Chinese do not take alcohol, except in very rare cases. I am not able to speak of the Malays.

9. The habit of opium smoking is condemned as both degrading and injurious by the great majority of Chinese. The use of alcohol is so little known to them that they are scarcely qualified to institute comparisons between the opium habit and the alcohol habit. They see the latter only amongst Europeans, and regard it more with tolerant contempt than with any other feeling. Such comparison, however, as they would draw would undoubtedly be to the effect that the opium habit is the more injurious of the two.

10. They certainly can do so, and frequently do.

11. There would be no difficulty in obtaining opium from China, and this, in my opinion, is what they would do. They would not take to alcohol, though they would, if permitted, take to morphine. They would not abstain altogether so long as it was possible for them to obtain opium elsewhere, and in the absence of opium they would have recourse to some other narcotic.

12. The revenue derived from opium in this Colony is about one fifth of the total revenue of the Colony. It would be very difficult, if not impossible, to make up the deficit unless by introducing new principles of taxation, such as a tax on the tonnage of shipping. If this were done I am of opinion that the deficit might be made good, with possibly a balance on the right side. The mode of raising revenue would be regarded with the utmost disfavour, and would be condemned as an infringement of the freedom of the port. It might also react injuriously on the commercial prosperity of the Colony. The welfare of the Colony being entirely dependent on its commerce, great consideration would be necessary before inaugurating such a system. If it could be done consistently with the large questions of policy and expediency involved in its adoption, it would be infinitely preferable to the present method of obtaining a revenue by means of an opium farm, which is attended with many hardships and irregularities falling entirely upon the Chinese population.

13. Certainly not in any numbers. A few American prostitutes who have contracted the habit in California take opium, but nobody else, so far as I know. The European temperament appears rather to crave a stimulant, that of the Chinese preferring a sedative. I cannot give, however, any better answer to this question

than a recognition of the fact that there is this distinction of temperament.

14. Curiosity and fashion in the first instance, much on the same lines as the schoolboy and tobacco. I have never known an instance of its being taken to allay physical pain in the first instance. I have no personal knowledge of opium being a prophylactic against fever, or rheumatism, or malaria, nor am I aware that it is so regarded by the Chinese. Its medical properties are undoubtedly recognised, but subject to the condition that it is *bona fide* taken as medicine, and its use limited to the particular occasion requiring it. What the Chinese would regard as its principal medicinal use would be in choleraic or diarrhoeic attacks. It has great constipating effects, so that an habitual smoker will be able to go almost month after month without having recourse to the watercloset.

15. When the habit is once contracted it is usually accompanied with a desire to be quit of it proportionate in its intensity to the strength of the habit acquired.

16. None whatever.

(Signed) J. H. WODEHOUSE,
Police Magistrate.

No. 36.

1. Opium is not consumed by Chinese, except through the pipe. I have heard of only two or three cases, but have not seen a Chinese opium eater. The habit must be very rare amongst them.

Opium eaters are known amongst the seafaring Indian population here, Khalasses and other resident Indians, the Indian police, and the Indian soldiers. Malays I know nothing about.

2. Women of China do not use the opium pipe. If they ever do it must be a very rare case. I have never seen or heard of one in this Colony.

I know of several European women of a certain class who have become addicted to the use of the opium pipe in this Colony. No others.

3. The only physical effect of opium eating is contraction of the pupil of the eye and sluggish and incomplete dilatation. This does not occur at all in opium smoking. The starved appearance, if any, is not caused by the opium, but by pinching the belly to procure the drug, this occurs in both opium eater and opium smoker. In the well or fairly well-to-do no such effect is ever seen in either case. Socially, it makes no difference at all in manner or temperament.

An opium eater to excess wakes up feeling dull and heavy, but half an hour after his first dose, is quite recovered. That this does not occur with moderate opium eaters I am sure, as I have watched Khalasses on board ship in long voyages, who were opium eaters, and they were always among the smartest of the crews and seemed to bear fatigue and long hours on duty better than the others. I was at the time doing long voyages in Indian coolie ships, and had ample opportunities of observing the opium eaters.

To my surprise they all seemed to have their limit which they had used daily for years, which varied from three or four grains to half a dram of crude opium daily, and was apparently regulated by their means.

All Eastern races who use it in this way are moderate when compared with the European who can stand much heavier doses, and no European eater that I have seen is content with so little.

4. In Hong Kong and China, Chinese that use opium, use it for smoking only, as a rule, with comparatively few exceptions. There is no effect whatever observable in opium smoking as I have proved by observation and personally (see Annual Report in triplicate enclosed with these answers). At the time mentioned there I consumed in one sitting nearly three mace (58 gr. to a mace) or more than an average opium-smoker consumes in one day. In the opium eater the only effect observable is the action of the iris of the eye before mentioned. This is the only difference to be detected between the two forms of consuming opium, eating opium, and drinking solution or tinctures, the effect is practically the same.

5. Yes, the majority in both forms of consuming opium among Asiatics, become slaves to its use if it can be called slavery in such moderate doses as the great majority consume. I should rather put it that they become habituated to its use. In my experience in Assam and Bengal of opium eaters, excess is the exception and comparatively rare among Asiatics.

With opium smokers there is no such thing as becoming a sot. I was present at Canton at a large Chinese dinner party composed of wealthy government official bankers and merchants, during the intervals and after dinner there were some half-dozen or more who smoked opium, the entertainment began at nine in the evening, and I left at four in the morning, one opium smoker I devoted especial attention to, he had a very handsome and costly pair of pipes with him, and from watching him he must have smoked at least six mace of the very best opium, without any effect observed on him whatever, he was chatty and lively the whole time. I smoked myself the same evening between two or three mace without feeling any effect whatever. I have smoked hundreds of times in the last 20 years. I have been in China and never felt any effect at all. (See my Annual Report with the Government Analyst's Report on experiment made at my request which is added as an appendix.) I do not believe that morphine ever reaches the smoker, the length of the pipe is about 18 inches, and before the morphine in the smoke reaches the smoker's lips, it is thrown down out of the smoke into the stem.

6. Certainly not. The great majority of opium eaters and smokers are very moderate in their consumption. (See my Annual Report where I have given two cases, one of an excessive and one of a moderate opium smoker).

7. No. It is a minority in all cases and a very small minority at that, and it has no effect whatever on their calling, and they are just as keen as a non-consumer in looking after their own interests.

8. There is no comparison as any merchant in the East could tell. A drunken Asiatic is as untrustworthy and as great a nuisance as a drunken European. An opium smoker is no more untrustworthy than a non-smoker, and is never a nuisance in any way.

9. The consumption of opium is certainly not looked upon by any Asiatic race, as far as I am aware of, as degrading or injurious. The consumption of alcohol in excess is regarded by them all with contempt.

10. Not often without assistance.

The opium eater, as a rule, believes in it as a prophylactic against fever and bowel complaints. Opium eaters are chiefly to be found in malarial districts or among seamen liable to prolonged exposure and wetting, against the effects of which it is undoubtedly a prophylactic and a powerful stimulant as well.

The opium smoker has the same idea, also that it is beneficial in lung troubles. Then he is afraid to leave it off for it is a general belief among them that if they do so they will die.

11. Certainly they would supply themselves with opium from elsewhere. They are not likely to take alcohol either in European forms or in the form of their own spirit, shamshu. But opium they will have. Cut down the Indian opium so that it becomes unprocureable in China and too expensive in India, and China will grow opium sufficient for all eastern nations and Europe too if it can make a profit on it, and they are rapidly, even now, improving their own growth and manufacture of opium.

Make opium too expensive for consumption in India and it will be smuggled wholesale over the Chinese and Persian borders. For China, if it sees a chance of profit, will rapidly comply with all demands, improvement in manufacture, &c. Even now the soluble preparations of morphine are being largely imported into China and they have learnt from the missionary doctors the uses and benefits of the hypodermic syringe. An ordinance against the use of hypodermic injections of morphine except by qualified medical men had to be introduced into this Colony this year, as dozens of petty shopkeepers were using it at one cent the half-grain injection, and they soon had hundreds of clients who found it was cheaper than opium smoking and the effect was much greater.

No other drug is likely to supersede opium or its extractives.

12. Only the latter portion of this question can be answered by me. Certainly the loss of revenue from this source would excite general indignation as the decrease in this source of revenue has already. It is a tax on a luxury used by a minority. The estimate put on the number of opium smokers to population in China is put by the Chinese Custom Returns at 2 per thousand, and my annual reports show that among the criminal population in this Colony the opium smokers are under 2 per thousand. Can any European country show that among its criminal population that *habitual drunkards*

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are under 2 per thousand. I am not talking of ordinary consumers of alcoholic liquors.

13. The only Europeans contracting the habit of opium smoking that have come under my notice have been two or three women in the European brothels in this Colony, as I mentioned in answer to Question 2. The reason is not very far to seek. Europeans have no belief and no general knowledge of its medicinal efficiency. The excessive amount of trouble in preparing a pipe and the time it takes for the pleasure of three or four inhalations at most is against its becoming a European vice. With the cigar, pipe, or cigarette the smoker can ride, walk, read, and write, and talk and pursue his ordinary avocations whilst enjoying the pleasure. It is for this reason that the eastern modes of consuming tobacco in the narghili, hooka or chibouk have not been taken to by Europeans.

In smoking opium your whole attention must be given to the pipe and that only, you can talk while you are preparing the load but you can do nothing else; it is the same with the eastern methods of smoking tobacco, you can talk but you must support the pipe; you cannot move about with it, and there is a loss of freedom.

14. Generally it begins by a recommendation for the relief of some physical ill, either by a friend or doctor. Opium smoking is rarely taken to from the force of example.

Certainly opium is of benefit as a prophylactic in malarious districts, and to bowel complaints from exposure and chills, in my experience, and it is so regarded by Indians and Chinese.

15. I have treated a good many cases. Very few desire to get rid of the habit. I have talked with hundreds and rarely heard that desire expressed.

17. There are one or two things I would draw attention to. I have often been asked by Europeans if their servants or employees were, in my opinion, addicted to opium smoking, the man being brought before me looking dull and stupid, forgetting what he is told, bringing the wrong thing, &c., denies that he ever smoked opium. Often a servant is set down by a master for these causes as being an opium smoker. These are the effects among the Chinese of a night in a brothel and over-copulation, but neither the servant nor his friends the other servants will tell the cause. Certainly these effects are well known among the Chinese, and on the returns of deaths by Chinese doctors on the deceased friends received by the Registrar General every year some dozen or so of cases are returned as deaths from excessive copulation. The patient when brought in for examination looks very often as if he were on the verge of having a fit. Another thing accounts for many wonderful stories, that an Asiatic when interrogated by Europeans will seek to know the reason and what is wanted, and is always anxious to make his opinions coincide with the views of his questioner, and if possible gain his approbation, so long as it in no way interferes with his own interest and he has nothing to gain or lose by differing.

In conclusion, I have sent in with these answers my Annual Report for 1891 in triplicate, which gives a full account of my experience of opium smokers in the Victoria Gaol with experiments by the Government Analyst, Mr. McCallum, showing the value of native opinions as to the quality and the effects of opium.

(Signed) PH. B. O. AYRES, C.M.G.,
Colonial Surgeon.

Government Civil Hospital,
19th December 1893.

No. 36.

EXTRACTS relating to Opium from the ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL DEPARTMENT in HONG KONG for 1891.

Table XIb and XIc give, respectively, the number that required medical treatment, with the cause, the numbers, age, weight on admission and at the end of a month, with the quantity smoked, of opium smokers in the gaol.

There were 56 prisoners who reported themselves as opium smokers to the extent of one mace *per diem* or over, of these 10 were placed under medical treatment. Of these five increased in weight, four had slightly decreased in weight at the end of the month, one remained the same. Of the healthy ones the majority increased in weight. The decrease of weight in all the cases recorded was very slight. The average weight of a Chinaman is about 110 lbs.

I have tested this in the gaol for the use of the New York Insurance Society, when I took the weight of

several hundreds of those at work in the different classes of labour. It is a rare thing to find a Chinaman that will top 10 stone. My chair coolies are well known for their speed and endurance and size, the heaviest of them is only a little over 130 lbs.

A Chinaman must be very muscular and fat to top 140 lbs., their bones are so small in comparison with other races, as also their average height in the southern parts of China. In the 56 opium smokers there are only 9 men who reach 120 lbs. or over, one reached 135 lbs.

The cost of one mace of opium is 10 cents, so that all these men spent three dollars or more a month in smoking the drug.

As so much has been said in Parliament lately I will give a brief *resumé* of my 18 years' experience of opium smokers in the gaol, and the different tests I have made myself, and caused to be made with the view of finding out what harm it does physically and mentally.

When I first took charge of the gaol in 1873, I found that every prisoner that reported himself as an opium smoker was put on an extra diet, a mixture that contained laudanum three times a day, a quinine pill three times a day, and 2 oz. of gin. As I had no experience of opium smoking I kept all these cases under observation with the result that in three months' time I saw no necessity for this treatment of opium smokers and abolished it altogether treating them as all the other prisoners without regard for the habit, and this has been done ever since and the opium habit ignored. I could find no set of symptoms that was common to the opium smokers only or justified any exceptional treatment. The result was much fewer men reported themselves as opium smokers as there was nothing to be gained by it. For the first few years I did little more than this as my attention was wholly occupied in my spare time with the sanitation of the Colony which at that time devolved entirely upon me with two inspectors for assistants. Afterwards, I began to keep these records of every opium smoker. In the 18 years there have been over 1,000 of those addicted to the habit in the gaol and among them only one death has occurred, which had no relation whatever to the habit. I have not been able to find that the habit affected them in any way physically or mentally. I recorded in my Annual Report for 1877 the case of an opium smoker whose consumption had averaged three ounces a day for 19 years. This man was in gaol for embezzlement of 40,000 dollars and had been a wealthy merchant in Singapore; in his case the habit was entirely ignored, for the first few days he suffered from want of sleep but it was from anxiety more than anything else, for he had been told that if he gave up the habit suddenly he would die and he was proportionately disgusted when nothing happened, as he said if he had known it would cost him so little he would have given up the habit long ago. He was a stout, strongly built man of about 50 years of age and the largest consumer of the drug we have had in gaol. During his three months' detention here, before being sent back to Singapore, he was in good health and never required a single dose of medicine. I tried opium smoking myself and could make nothing of it, though I smoked more than two mace at a single sitting; it had no effect upon me whatever. Dr. Manson was of opinion that I did not use the drug properly or such would not have been the case, so I had him, Sir W. Marsh, Mr. Price and some others interested in the matter to dinner one night, and after dinner smoked in his presence, having an old opium smoker to load the pipe for me and a fresh box of the opium farmer's opium, Dr. Manson watching me all the time. He was satisfied that the opium was properly and fairly used but could find no effect, as, indeed, I felt none myself. But he declared I should before morning, they all left at midnight, and half an hour afterwards I was called out to attend a child in convulsions which occupied me nearly three hours before the child was sufficiently recovered to be left. At nine o'clock next morning I met Dr. Manson on my rounds and told him how I had passed the night, and so far I had felt no effects from the smoking whatever.

In 1881 I requested Mr. Hugh McCallum, who was at that time the Government Analyst, to make some experiments, and he sent me in a report dated March 6th, 1881. He afterwards embodied this report in an article he sent to the *China Review* ("On Opium and Opium Smoking") 1883, Volume 11, No. 5, page 278. This report, I think, should be printed for information and recorded, and I enclose it as an appendix to my

report, as the Home Government are anxious to obtain all the information they can on the habit of opium smoking.

As a habit I cannot find it is so injurious as tobacco smoking is in some cases. I am an inveterate tobacco smoker myself, and as far as I am concerned it has never done me any harm, but I have seen many cases of its evil effects on other people. I have not been able to find even this much in the case of the opium smoker. Very few people have got through their first pipe or cigar without feeling very sick even if they have not had a violent attack of vomiting; but I have tried smoking on many novices and could find nothing approaching the effect of tobacco, though the smoker does not inhale the smoke of tobacco the effect of the nicotine in the case of a novice is visible to anyone. But though the opium smoke is always inhaled deep into the lungs no effects of morphine are visible at all, and I doubt very much if this principle ever reaches the lungs at all. As will be seen in Mr. McCallum's report there is about six to seven per cent. of morphia in the opium sent out by the opium farmer, yet the old opium smoker, who has had the habit for over 30 years and was one of the best Chinese government servants in my department, could not detect the difference between the opium farmer's opium containing seven per cent. of morphia the same opium with an additional 15 per cent. of morphia added, and the opium farmer's opium with all the morphia abstracted. The opium expert, attached to the opium farmer's firm, condemns his employer's opium and with 15 and 25 per cent. of morphia added, says it has no taste or smell at all. The old opium smoker is a pensioner now, he was the Senior Chinese Wardmaster at the hospital, his habit never rendered him unfit for duty, he was one of the most intelligent, trustworthy and active men we have had in my department and I very much regretted his loss when old age compelled him to resign after 30 years' service. No European was a better dresser or better *post mortem* assistant and many of the trained Europeans we have had were not his equal; for a man of his age he is in good health now, possesses all his faculties and his intelligence, but is as inveterate a smoker as ever. I am in no way in favour of opium smoking, to me it is a ridiculous, lazy habit. To smoke opium you must devote your entire attention to it and to it only, and I cannot find any pleasure in it or the reason for its fascination among the Chinese. In all the description of opium dens in European countries alcoholic drinks come in as well. But amongst the Chinese no liquor is taken at or about the time of smoking. The dens in European countries or colonies devoted to opium are mostly devoted to general debauchery as well. In China the houses where opium is smoked are devoted to that alone, and no such scenes as are described in European dens are to be found among them; for I have visited them in different parts of China as well as in this Colony. Opium smoking is also indulged in in Chinese brothels, but even in them such rowdy scenes, never take place as in the similar places where Europeans congregate. General debility accounted for all the five cases admitted from the 82 opium smokers in the gaol to the hospital in 1890, but as three of them were 58 years of age had they not been opium smokers they would probably have been put on the sick list as suffering from age. Then as many of the opium smokers in gaol are of the lowest class of Chinese and pinch their bellies for the luxury. They are probably on a par with habitual drunkards at home, who earn this character for six pennyworth of gin or less a day, on an empty stomach, when the same amount of alcohol has no effect on the well-fed consumer. There is one more test which I hope the Government Analyst will be able to make this year for the convenience of the new laboratory, and that is how much morphia enters the mouth and the lungs of the opium smoker with the smoke or the other less pernicious constituents of opium. The introduction of alcoholic drinks by Europeans to otherwise temperate nations has done more harm a thousandfold than ever opium has done among the Chinese, but then that would affect the people at home, but there is only one India to be abused and no European nationality is affected. The palaver about opium eating in India has only been taken up because of opium being introduced into China. What society has thought it worth its while to take up the questions of Indian hemp smoking and eating in India; a very much more deleterious habit both to mind and body? Better men than myself have taken up

the gauntlet for the opium eater but my five years' service in Assam and Bengal gave me considerable experience of that, and I have had personal experience as well as having eaten over an ounce of opium a day for months, that I can understand the fascination for and the pleasure in it, but I found no difficulty in leaving it off, beyond a few sleepless nights and a considerable amount of irritability caused by its cessation. Khalassees, or Indian seamen, largely employed in all the Indian trade are to be seen in every seaport in Europe, and yet I am considerably under the mark in saying at least 15 per cent. of these men are opium eaters, and I have done many long voyages with them; better seamen with finer physique for their size cannot be found. You will never see a vessel put to sea with a third of them incapable of doing duty for days from the effect of this habit, but you can any time see a vessel set sail with an English crew of whom more than a third are incapable from drink when going down the stormy English Channel. To abolish the opium trade in India will do a good thing for China. India and Ceylon are running her hard in the tea trade competition, but do away with the Indian opium trade and she will grow opium for all the world. Every consular report shows the rapid and extensive increase of the growth of opium in China, and if it is made worth his while John Chinaman will soon improve his manufacture of the drug, and it will be smuggled into India wholesale.

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Hong Kong.

APPENDIX.

MR. H. MCCALLUM'S REPORT ON OPIUM and OPIUM SMOKING.

Government Civil Hospital,
Hong Kong, 6th March 1881.

SIR,
WITH reference to your request that I should estimate the morphine value of the different preparations of opium used for smoking purposes, and furnish you with what information I could relative thereto, I have the honour to lay before you the following remarks.

The morphine value of the different preparations of opium depend chiefly on the amount of extract yielded by and the percentage of morphine present in the crude opium from which they were prepared. Now, as opium varies considerably in this respect the preparations thereof will vary accordingly. There is also more or less loss of morphine during the preparation of smoking extract, the loss being greater the longer it is submitted to moist heat and the higher the temperature. Making due allowance for variations from these causes, the results obtained from the different kinds examined, and stated below, may be taken to fairly represent their average percentages of morphine:—

Indian opium, average morphine value of - - - 5 to 8 per cent.

Indian opium, quantity of smoking extracts yielded by - - - 70 to 80 „

First quality of prepared opium from Hong Kong opium farm yielded 5.86 per cent. morphine.

Second quality of prepared opium from Hong Kong opium farm yielded 7.30 per cent. morphine.

Cake prepared opium from a coolie smoking-house, said to have been prepared from opium dross, yielded 6.23 per cent. morphine.

Opium dross (scrapings from opium pipe) yielded 4.76 per cent. morphine.

Opium dross, average quantity of extract yielded by 65 to 70 per cent.

It is generally assumed that the effect of smoking opium is similar to that of eating it, and that this is principally due to the morphine it contains; this assumption appears very problematical when the following facts are taken into consideration:—

1st. That Indian opium is the kind most prized by smokers, and it is characterised by its usually low percentage of morphine.

2nd. That the Chinese estimate the value of opium according to flavour and the quantity of extract it yields.

3rd. The mode of preparing smoking extract tends to the destruction of morphine.

4th. The large quantity which can be smoked without any apparent toxic effect, not only by habitual smokers, but also by beginners.

5th. There is no authentic case of acute poisoning from opium smoking.

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An experiment has been made bearing on this point, and although not conclusive, it is confirmatory of the idea that morphine is not the active agent which gives pleasure to the opium smoker.

The following tabulated statement explains and gives the result of experiment :—

Description of Samples of Prepared Opium submitted for Trial.	Opinion of a Chinese Expert in one of the Opium Firms, Hong Kong.	Opinion of a Nine Years' Opium Smoker.
No. 1. Prepared opium from opium farm.	Is fairly good; is a mixture of Bengal opium and something else.	Good.
No. 2. Prepared opium minus morphine.	Is black and coarse; smell fairly good; is not opium.	Not very good.
No. 3. No. 1 with 10 per cent. morphine added.	Coarse, but can be smoked; contains opium with some other mixture; is not so good as No. 1.	Same as No. 1.
No. 4. No. 1 with 20 per cent. morphine added.	Very coarse and black; burns like charcoal; contains no opium.	Fairly good, but not so good as No. 1 and No. 3.

The prepared opium minus morphine was made from Patna opium, having as little as possible of the other opium constituents removed with the morphine.

The samples were submitted without any remark, beyond desiring an opinion as to quality.

A second trial was made with similar results.

Description of Samples of Prepared Opium submitted for Trial.	Opinion of a Chinese Expert in one of the Opium Firms, Hong Kong.	Opinion of a Nine Years' Opium Smoker.
No. 1. Opium farm prepared opium contains 7 per cent. morphine.	Appearance coarse, and when burnt becomes black and hard; it is Bengal drug, but not pure; it is mixed with some other stuff, and has no taste.	Very good.
No. 2. No. 1 with 15 per cent. morphine added.	Burns very quick, and has no taste or smell of opium at all. Colour red and coarse when burnt; gives out plenty of smoke, and leaves simply ash and no opium to smoke.	Same as No. 1.
No. 3. No. 1 with 25 per cent. morphine added.	Just like No. 2, only a shade better.	Not good.
No. 4. Prepared opium minus morphine.	When applied to the light burns like opium, but in a moment it burns quite black, and the dross leaves a bad smell; when burning, gives out strong smoke.	Same as No. 1.

It will be observed that the Chinese expert bases his opinion on the physical appearance of the extract, its behaviour in the flame of the lamp and its smell, not on its effect when smoked. The nine years' opium-smoker apparently judged of its quality in a somewhat similar manner; but as he actually smoked a considerable quantity of each, viz., nearly a quarter of an ounce of each of those to which morphine had been added, and over two ounces of No. 4 in the second table, his opinion is considered of most value. At my request he got some of his friends to try No. 4 in the second table, and they agreed with him that it was good. On one occasion, in about 12 hours he smoked a quantity of opium to which morphine had been added, equal to at least 20 grains of morphine.

If the effects of opium smoking are similar to those of opium eating, and morphine the active agent, it can only be said, regarding the former mode of using the drug, that a more elaborate, troublesome, wasteful, and expensive method could scarcely be devised to obtain a minimum of effect from a maximum of power.

In connexion with the above I may mention that I have visited a number of opium smoking houses of different classes, but have not as yet been fortunate enough to see that profound sleep with beautiful dreams, &c. which has been so graphically described. In the coolie-houses I have seen men asleep after their evening pipe, and also most probably a hard day's work, they having taken up their quarters there for the night. However, a slight shake with the sight of a 10 cent piece and they were very soon wide awake.

TABLE XIB.—P.—Shewing OPIUM SMOKERS admitted into HOSPITALS and treated by the MEDICAL OFFICER, during the Year 1891.

DISEASE.	ADMISSION.			
	Europeans.	Coloured Persons.	Chinese.	Total.
Remaining under treatment 1st January, 1891.	—	—	—	—
Albuminuria, No. 1	—	—	1	1
Observation, No. 10	—	—	1	1
Contused wound of left toe, No. 28.	—	—	1	1
General debility, Nos. 30, 46, 47.	—	—	3	3
Boil of right lumbar region No. 34.	—	—	1	1
Diarrhoea, No. 48	—	—	1	1
Anæmia, Nos. 44, 56	—	—	2	2
Total	—	—	10	10

TABLE XIC.—Q.—Shewing the WEIGHTS of PRISONERS (OPIUM SMOKERS), for the First Four Weeks' Confinement in VICTORIA GOAL, during the Year 1891.

No.	Age.	Length of Time Opium Smoker.	Consumption per diem. 1 Mace = 52 grs.	Weights when Admitted.	Weights First Four Weeks.				Remarks.
		Years.	Mace.	lbs.					
1	40	10	2	119	120	118	119	120	
2	56	26	1½	115	114	119	118	—	
3	42	20	1½	110	119	120	119	—	
4	50	10	1	116	112	112	114	113	
5	40	10	1	101	99	99	99	—	
6	46	10	1½	135	134	134	135	135	
7	66	40	2	95	93	101	103	103	
8	35	20	2	120	119	118	117	117	
9	22	12	1½	95	94	94	95	96	
10	38	20	2	95	93	93	94	95	
11	56	10	1½	108	106	105	105	105	
12	50	7	1½	131	129	127	126	125	
13	48	10	1½	120	120	118	118	—	
14	32	8	1	106	106	105	108	—	
15	37	20	1½	90	90	89	88	—	
16	41	15	2	116	116	116	114	119	
17	46	10	1½	92	92	93	92	94	
18	31	10	1½	100	104	104	105	105	
19	36	5	1½	116	116	114	113	112	
20	44	10	1½	105	102	107	107	106	
21	62	30	1½	88	88	92	94	95	
22	28	10	1	105	105	104	103	—	
23	27	8	1½	95	95	94	97	96	

No.	Age.	Length of Time Opium Smoker.	Consumption per diem. 1 Mace = 52 grs.	Weights when Admitted.	Weights First Four Weeks.				Remarks.
		Years.	Mace.	Lbs.					
24	34	10	1½	131	130	130	130	130	
25	46	7	1½	125	123	125	124	123	
26	32	7	1½	124	122	122	120	121	
27	45	10	1½	104	102	113	110	108	
28	33	10	2	115	114	114	114	116	
29	49	30	1½	105	104	103	103	103	
30	39	18	2	82	82	85	86	86	
31	36	7	1½	118	122	126	125	127	
32	23	5	1	113	113	119	118	116	
33	24	1	1	112	112	113	112	111	
34	32	2	1	117	115	117	116	114	
35	55	3	1½	100	96	99	100	98	
36	58	20	2	104	107	106	104	105	
37	52	30	2	105	105	104	104	107	
38	53	20	1½	114	112	110	112	111	
39	31	20	2½	112	109	109	110	110	
40	43	10	1½	146	146	144	145	145	
41	40	11	1½	116	114	113	115	115	
42	44	10	1½	130	128	128	130	129	
43	54	10	1½	106	107	110	110	108	
44	60	30	2	96	94	96	102	102	
45	50	5	1	104	103	103	103	103	
46	38	10	2	119	118	125	125	114	
47	57	40	2	115	112	114	114	115	
48	45	10	1	130	128	128	128	128	
49	52	10	2	116	115	118	118	116	
50	53	10	1½	115	114	112	111	112	
51	24	5	1	109	110	110	109	111	
52	30	10	2	120	118	118	120	120	
53	35	12	2	100	103	99	100	102	
54	42	2	1	110	109	108	108	108	
55	30	7	1	101	104	108	106	106	
56	36	10	1	101	101	104	104	104	

No. 40.

Central Police Station,
12th December 1893.

Sergeant Deputy Superintendent,

I have the honour to submit for your information the following replies regarding opium consumption in this Colony:—

1. Opium is commonly consumed by Chinese and Malays, and to some extent by Indians.

2. About 70 per cent. of the Chinese take an occasional smoke of opium, but these are not all regarded as smokers. About 25 per cent. of the Chinese and Malay adult males, 2 per cent. of the Indian adult males, and 5 per cent. of the Chinese and Malay women habitually consume opium. No children consume it.

3. Opium has no ill effects morally, except on the poorest and most besotted smokers, some of these when the craving for opium is on them, if they have no other way of getting it, will steal that they may have the wherewithal to purchase the drug. None of those who consume opium appear to be benefited by it, while the wives and children of poor opium smokers necessarily suffer deprivation in consequence of money that ought to be applied to family purposes being wasted in opium. Those who take opium to excess become debilitated and incapable of arduous labour, but it shows no ill effects on the moderate consumer. It has less injurious effects on Indians than on Chinese or Malays.

4. Consumers of opium chiefly smoke it, but more than half the Indian consumers eat it, a few Chinese also eat it, in the shape of pills, when they are in situations in which they are unable to smoke it. The effects are not so marked in the eaters as in the smokers, probably because they take it less often.

5. The majority of consumers do not eventually become "opium sots;" a considerable majority are moderate smokers.

6. It is not correct to say there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. Yes. Description of two such cases as examples:—1st. Luk Kinshan, a merchant, began to smoke opium at the age of 25, in 1845, and continued to smoke from 15 to 20 cents worth a day till he died, at the age of 72, in 1892. 2nd. Jam Du, formerly a cook for foreigners, subsequently a junk owner and baker, began to smoke opium at the age of 21, and has continued up to the

present. He is now 62, in good health, and attends to his business. He smokes from 1½ to 2 mace a day.

7. There do not a majority of either of the classes, as a whole, named in this clause habitually consume opium, but about one half of the coal coolies smoke dross opium, and of these all, except a few of the most besotted, appear as well able to perform their work as are the other coal coolies.

8. Asiatic races consuming opium so seldom use alcohol to such an excess as to become an abuse that it is extremely difficult to draw any comparison.

9. The habit of consuming opium is condemned as degrading and injurious by the general opinion of Chinese and other Asiatic races. They regard the opium habit as worse than the alcohol habit amongst themselves; but those amongst them who have opportunities of seeing the results of the abuses of alcohol amongst Europeans, regard the alcohol habits of the latter just as unfavourably as their own opium habits.

10. Opium consumers do break themselves of the habit.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off, it would have no effect whatever, unless the importation of all other kinds was prohibited, because smokers would supply themselves from China or elsewhere. There is no reason to suppose they would take to alcohol or to some other narcotic than opium. Opium smokers are as much addicted to drinking alcohol now as are non-smokers. They are not likely to abstain altogether.

12. 357,600 dollars. If this were extinguished the Colony would have to find some other means of raising the needful revenue. The people would regret the loss of the opium revenue if they had to make up the deficit by extra taxation.

13. Only very few people of European race contract the opium habit. Probably because they look on it as a degrading and dangerous habit. Chinese are more liable to contract the habit because the temptation to take a social pipe is constantly held out to them, and they are so familiar with the habit that they regard it with less abhorrence than Europeans do. Indians who eat opium do so because they are under an impression that it enables them to endure fatigue better.

APP. XXV.

14. Opium consumers are led to habitually use the drug through now and then taking a social pipe with friends or with opium smokers with whom they desire to do business. The women smokers are chiefly those who are or have been prostitutes, or the concubines of well-to-do Chinamen smokers, and they acquire the habit through constantly having to roast the opium for men to smoke. They do not usually take it in the first instance to allay physical pain. No knowledge of its medicinal properties. The Chinese do not appear to attach much value to it in the cases mentioned; they sometimes use very small opium plasters on their temples for headache.

15. They do.

16. There is a small amount of hostile feeling in the matter. It is displayed in pamphlets, in which the influence of anti-opium foreigners is seen, which are distributed gratis amongst the people, and in conversation the people complain that England derives a great deal of money from the Chinese for supplying what is baneful to them.

17. It may fairly be remarked that while opium consuming amongst the Chinese, on the whole, causes proportionately little more physical harm to the consumers than alcohol does to European drinkers, alcohol drinking amongst Europeans causes proportionately infinitely more crime and misery and suffering amongst Europeans than the opium smoking does amongst Chinese.

W. STANTON,
Police Inspector.

No. 41.

5. No; I do not think so. Amongst those who use opium moderately. I do not think there is any tendency to increase the quantity or to become "opium sots."

6. There certainly can be moderation in the consumption of opium. (b.) I have known many such. (c.) I regret that at this interval of time I am unable to furnish cases in detail.

8. In my opinion the moderate use of both alcohol and opium is beneficial. (b.) Alcohol in excess is the more injurious to health of the two. (c.) The excessive use of alcohol would be considered more degrading than that of opium.

10. They can and do.

11. I believe they would have recourse to other stimulants, such as alcohol or Indian hemp, the abuse of which is more injurious than that of opium.

14. They take it as an exhilarating stimulant as we do alcohol. (b.) No doubt its use is frequently resorted to in the first instance to relieve physical pain. (c.) In India it is looked on as a prophylactic against fever and malaria.

15. No; moderate consumers do not any more than moderate consumers of alcohol. Its use in moderation renders them more capable of undergoing fatigue. Some of the finest races in India are opium eaters and smokers, men of splendid physique and capable of undergoing the greatest amount of fatigue.

G. O. PRESTON, M.B.,
Surgeon-Colonel Brigadier,
(Non-official).

Hong Kong, 11th December 1893.

No. 42.

R.N. Hospital, Hong Kong.

SIR, 9th December 1893.

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular Letter of the 5th instant, forwarding a set of questions which have been received by the Governor through the Secretary of State from the Royal Commission on Opium.

In reply I desire to state that though I have been now resident in Hong Kong two years and nine months I have had no opportunity of forming an opinion on the question of the use or abuse of opium by the Chinese resident in Hong Kong from my own observations.

My views on the subject are formed from the observations and experience of others, and I cannot think the Commissioners desire such information.

With regard to Question 8, however, I think I am qualified to say, from personal observation during residence in Hong Kong, where I am informed opium

smoking is largely indulged in by the Chinese labouring class, that I have seen nothing to compare with the abuse of alcohol among the labouring class in Great Britain, in regard to the effect on consumers.

I have, &c,
ALEX. TURNBULL, M.D.,
Deputy Inspector General.

No. 43.

1. Opium is consumed by the Chinese. They may be classified into—(a.) Occasional consumers. (b.) Moderate habitual consumers. (c.) Opium sots.

2. One-twentieth of the Chinese male population consume opium, of which—(a.) Occasional consumers are 75 per cent. (b.) Moderate habitual consumers 24.8 per cent. (c.) Opium sots 2 per cent. Women very seldom smoke opium; children never.

3. Moderate opium smoking has no evil effects morally, physically, or socially. Excessive indulgence causes physical and social evils.

4. Opium is smoked, not eaten; some few use morphia hypodermically; one case I know of for 22 years; many cases lately, have occurred in this colony caused by the actions of Chinese doctors professing thereby to cure the opium habit.

5. Disregarding occasional smokers who merely indulge on festive occasions, moderate smoking is the rule. Slaves to the drug are rare.

6. Moderation in opium smoking is the rule. I have known opium smokers who have taken opium in moderation for 25 and 30 years who are careful and intelligent men of business.

7. The smoking of opium is confined to no one class.

8. Alcohol is consumed by all classes, but usually on festal occasions only.

9. The Chinese regard the consumption of alcohol and opium with indifference. Neither have sufficient hold on the people to cause alarm.

10. Moderate opium consumers are not more difficult to wean from the opium habit than are consumers of tobacco from smoking tobacco.

11. The Chinese would obtain opium elsewhere were the supply from India cut off.

12. I am not in a position to answer this question.

13. Europeans do not take to opium smoking. Tobacco seems to supply to Europeans what opium does to Chinese.

14. Opium is taken to by 40 per cent. of the consumers to allay the following diseases. For malaria it is used as a cure, and as a prophylactic in phthisis, asthma, and chronic bronchitis to allay cough, and in any and all painful affections. Opium is a decided prophylactic in malarial exposure.

15. At the Chinese hospital with which I am connected, out of 28,000 patients attended annually, patients applied for a drug to cure the habit in 28 instances only in 1892.

16. There is no feeling of hostility towards Britain for allowing opium to be exported from India; on the contrary, were the exportation stopped by law it would lead to further estrangement between Britain and China. The Chinese are intolerant of any interference with their customs and laws by an alien power, however friendly.

17. Were the Chinese, as a people, under the belief that opium was sapping the manhood of the people of the Empire of China, its consumption would be stopped at once by rigid laws, and enforced in a manner which the Chinese better know, than any other people, how to carry out.

JAMES CANTLIE,
M.A., M.B., F.R.C.P. (Eng).
Dip. Public Health, Lond.
(Non-official).

Hong Kong,
15th December 1893.

No. 44.

1. People of Malay or other Asiatic race other than Chinese being very few in number in this Colony of Hong Kong, the remarks contained in this answer, and in all subsequent ones where no special reference is made, are applicable only to the Chinese. Yes, very commonly.

2. With few exceptions, there is scarcely an adult Chinaman to be found who has never in his life tasted or consumed opium by way of opium smoking. The following tables will give the proportion according to my estimation:—

TABLE I.

Adult Males (including all over 16 years of age—English reckoning).

(a.) Those who have never smoked opium	- 5 per cent.
(b.) Those who smoke very occasionally	45 "
(c.) Those who smoke frequently, but not confirmed smokers	- 30 "
(d.) Confirmed smokers	- 20 "
Total	- 100

TABLE II.

Adult Females.

(a.) Those who have never smoked opium	- 70 per cent.
(b.) Those who smoke very occasionally	15 "
(c.) Those who smoke frequently	- 10 "
(d.) Confirmed smokers	- 5 "
Total	- 100

TABLE III.

Children (Males only) (including all under 16 Years of Age).

(a.) Those who have never smoked opium	- 85 per cent.
(b.) Those who smoke very occasionally	10 "
(c.) Those who smoke frequently	- 5 "
(d.) Confirmed smokers	- rare.
Total	- 100

3. The moral effects of opium on its consumers are distinct and unmistakable. The smokers may hide the degrading effects from casual observers, and they often succeed in deceiving their European employers and friends, but in their homes, among their kith and kin, personal friends, and acquaintances, their degradation is only too painfully apparent. The habit of opium smoking has undoubtedly the sad but decided effect of lowering the moral standard of its votaries. It leads frequently to great meanness, untruthfulness, treachery, fraud and deception, theft, and robbery. Its victims are mostly helpless and unreliable, shameless, and devoid of honour and conscience. It must be noted, however, that the degradation though certain is very gradual. The physical effects are as well marked as the moral. At first there are only occasional giddiness, headache, nausea, and constipation, followed by loss of appetite, and then emaciation. The smoker becomes wakeful at night and sleeps the greater part of the morning, generally rising at noon or later. He loses his energy and keenness, becoming nervous, lazy, and untidy. His intellect soon gets cloudy and dull, retaining, however, sufficient low cunning to carry out all sorts of mean tricks and dishonest practices. His skin is dry and sallow, his lips bluish, his cheeks and eyes sunken, his temples hollowed, and his manly strength is gone. After long continued use of the drug, he finally becomes nothing more than a "living skeleton, if in the meantime some organic disease has not seized his already depressed and dilapidated body and carried him off. From the two preceding paragraphs, the social effects may well be inferred without more words. To live and associate with persons of such stamp and with such an evil habit upon him, is the greatest living misery. Only those who have the mis-

fortune of having dear friends and near relations given over to such a habit, can fully realise the deep sorrows and hopeless miseries occasioned by the accursed drug. A man who subordinates every consideration, his duty and honour to his cravings, can never be a useful or pleasant member of a family or community.

4. Chinese consumers chiefly smoke their opium, but in some instances, when smoking is inconvenient or impossible, they would either cook some of the usual opium decoction and swallow it, or take the extract raw, and sometimes they would even swallow opium-dross to relieve their cravings. Some, again, would in time of need resort to some preparations of morphine to satisfy their longings. No. The effects are the same, only in the case of smoking the effects are more gradually produced.

5. The great majority of opium consumers certainly become slaves to the drug, and they all eventually become "opium sots" if means and circumstances would allow them. There are a great many moderate consumers, but that is a fact which is not due to the inclination, desire, or choice of the consumers themselves.

6. No, there are some cases of moderate consumption known to me personally. The tendency in the majority of cases is, however, immoderation. No. I do not know of one single case among the thousands that have passed under my personal observation. Every opium consumer suffers more or less in health from his evil habit, and this is a fact as well known to the opium consumers themselves as to the general Chinese public.

7. This question I have already answered in effect in Answers 2 and 3. The general effect on their efficiency either as merchants, clerks, labourers, artisans, &c., in gradual deterioration. First, the opium consumer, hitherto however bright and diligent, is observed to get duller, more stupid, and decidedly more lazy. His methodical and cleanly habit little by little disappears. Then, instead of an early riser as he was, he keeps his bed till late in the day, and he is often observed to be either asleep at or absent from his post, and little articles of value vanish from time to time as if by magic. Then he becomes untruthful, dishonest, and unreliable, and finally shameless and devoid of all conscience and manly feelings. These remarks are the results of personal observation in hundreds of cases, two of them happened to be my own employees, and over a score of my own friends and associates.

8. There is no comparison between the moderate use of alcohol and that of opium. The former is in many cases distinctly beneficial, but the latter baneful in all instances. Alcohol is an article of food and a stimulant, but opium a drug and a powerful poison. This is my impartial judgment, and I am a total abstainer both from alcohol and opium. On the other hand the evil effects, both morally and physically, on the Chinese arising from the abuse of alcohol, fully commensurate with those from the abuse of opium. The evil effects of over-indulgence in alcoholic drinks on the weak and sedate constitution of the Chinese are most pronounced. Among Europeans I have observed many bad examples, but some of the worst, I believe, are to be found among the Chinese. Happily the abuse of alcohol among the Chinese is comparatively rare, and the worst cases are those who have either been abroad or to the coast ports, and contracted the habit elsewhere other than at home.

9. The Chinese public universally condemn opium smoking as degrading and injurious, and this opinion is shared by many of the smokers themselves, and I have noticed with wonder and amusement that some few of them were enthusiastic supporters of an anti-opium society. The opinions of Chinese ladies on this subject are especially strong and well worth a hearing, as they are in all instances the actual though innocent sufferers. The habitual over-indulgence in intoxicating liquors is not common among the Chinese, so that in the mind of a Chinaman there can be no comparison between that habit and the habit of opium-smoking. The former he regards with indifference or amusement, the latter with pain and aversion.

10. Yes, but only very few. Those who voluntarily and without compulsion attempt and succeed, I should regard as something more than human.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off, opium consumers here would simply supply themselves with it from elsewhere, from the mainland of China

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for example. Some few may take to alcohol, but not likely. A good number would try to relieve their cravings by taking morphia, or the various preparations of morphine, either by subcutaneous injection or by the mouth, and some would attempt the difficult task of curing themselves of the habit altogether. I am firmly of opinion that the mere stoppage of supply of opium from India by itself, does not stop the opium habit among the Chinese, but the Chinese Government must co-operate, and that earnestly and faithfully, allowing no officials, either high or low, under any pretence whatever, to permit or connive at the cultivation of poppy in China or the secret importation of opium and its various preparations in any shape or form. Without this co-operation, it is not possible, humanly speaking, to eradicate this evil among the Chinese.

12. It has been as large as nearly one fourth, now it is about one seventh. Yes, easily. Some would growl, but the great majority would rejoice and gladly make up the deficit in some other way.

13. Not many, because of the difference in constitution, habit, taste, surroundings, and associations. As the Asiatic is by nature and surrounding less active, not over fond of active exercise, he generally keeps indoors and takes his amusement and relaxation under cover. He usually meets his companions and associates in the evening in some house, and has a friendly chat or game. It is under these circumstances that opium-smoking offers the greatest attraction. They could lie down and smoke and talk for hours. They could transact their business, arrange their affairs and do a thousand other things in this comfortable and luxurious way.

14. Chiefly from bad associates and examples and in the way described in the previous answer. No, not usual. No, although it is regarded by many of the Chinese, chiefly occasional opium smokers who have acquired already an inclination to smoke, to be prophylactic against malaria, and by some few to be against rheumatism also.

15. Yes, but with very few exceptions, they are unable to do so, unless they are forced by imprisonment and other drastic measures, even then they generally return to it as soon as they get their liberty and means.

16. Among the few this feeling exists, but the great majority has no such hostile feeling. The Chinese admire and appreciate the equitable and just rule of England too well to be stirred up into hostility against her people concerning even a great wrong than the opium traffic.

Hong Kong,

14th December 1893.

Ho Kai,

(Non-official Doctor).

No. 49.

Hong Kong,

11th December 1893.

1. Yes.

2. Chinese about 60 per cent. About 20 per cent. of the women in China are consumers, but in Hong Kong they are not, as a rule, habitual consumers of the drug. Children do not smoke.

3. As far as I have been enabled to observe, opium does not demoralise the consumer physically, a moderate opium smoker is in about the same condition as those who do not consume the drug. Socially, he is not though less of by his friends and acquaintances, from the fact that it is used in all stations in Chinese life. As an Englishman or other European would offer liquor to his guests, so would a Chinaman invite his to join him in a pipe of opium.

4. Neither in this Colony nor in China is opium eaten by the Chinese; it is smoked. An inveterate smoker may sometimes, when pressed for time, mix a little prepared opium in tea, and drink it to alleviate the craving for an immediate smoke.

5. The majority of opium consumers do not become slaves to the drug, and eventually "opium sots." I find that a majority or considerable proportion are moderate consumers. So far as this Colony is con-

cerned, there are very few consumers who could properly be termed "opium sots."

6. It is not, from the fact that a large proportion of consumers are moderate. I have known several consumers during my many years' residence in China who have been opium smokers for from 30 to 40 years without any apparent harm to themselves.

7. About 30 per cent. of the labourers, but only to a very moderate degree. They generally look in at an opium divan after their midday meal, and after their day's work to have a smoke. Of the merchants there are about 10 per cent. who smoke opium. Among the artisans also there are smokers, and the average is not quite as much as that of the labourers. The opium habit in these people does not, as far as I have been able to observe, affect their efficiency in their calling, so long as they smoke to moderation, and I have noticed that a workman is able to do without food for some time after he has had his accustomed smoke. I have noticed this specially in the cases of labourers employed by my firm in the conveyance of goods from boats to our warehouses, some of which are situated at some distance away, and up hill. These men commence work early in the morning, about 6 o'clock, and with the exception of a short interval for meals at noon, after which most of them have their wonted midday smoke, work on to a late hour in the evening, without apparently needing any refreshment.

8. An opium smoker is not exposed to the disgrace which results from the use or abuse of alcohol at times.

For instance, an opium smoker does not commit such rash and violent acts when under the influence of the drug, as one hears are constantly committed by those addicted to the use of alcohol.

9. Not unless one becomes what is generally termed an "opium sot," and this only if a man's means do not permit him to indulge to excess, or if he should be neglectful of his family. The Chinese view indulgence in alcohol as degrading, and they do not entertain the same opinion of opium.

10. Yes; although they may feel the hardship for a time.

11. They would supply themselves with opium from elsewhere. Persian opium has been and is being consumed in China for some time, and it not at all unlikely that China may encourage the growth of her own opium, which is already being carried out to a great extent. They are not likely to take to alcohol as the Chinese are, as a race, very abstemious, unless indeed the importation and consumption of opium is entirely and effectually stopped by imperial edict.

12. About one seventh of the total revenue. The Colony is already heavily taxed, and there are no other sources from which I can see the needful revenue could be raised. People would say that the loss of the opium would necessarily open the way to additional taxation, which they are not prepared to bear.

13. People of European race do not contract the habit because, probably, they have been accustomed to other stimulants. Asiatics are more liable to contract the habit, probably, because of the great faith they have in the medicinal effects of opium.

14. In China by social intercourse, and not to allay physical pain. In my opinion it is a prophylactic against fever &c. It is commonly regarded by the Chinese as a cure for consumption, and it is used in plasters for headaches, and for making liniments.

15. Not unless they find that it affects them financially to any appreciable extent, or that they cannot keep within the bounds of moderation, which might affect them physically.

16. Not to my knowledge.

17. Having fully stated my views on the subject in the preceding answers, I have no further remarks to offer.

R. M. MOSES,
(Merchant).

No. 50.

1. Opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese in this Colony.

2. I believe about 7 to 10 per cent. of the adult male population are habitual consumers. There is also a

large proportion of those who occasionally indulge in the drug; but by women the drug is very rarely used.

3. As far as I have observed, opium has apparently no injurious effect, morally and socially, on its consumers.

4. In this Colony, opium is consumed by the Chinese chiefly by smoking, and although I have known people who were in the habit of eating the drug, I am not able to distinguish between the effects of each form.

5. The great majority are moderate consumers. During my 20 years' residence in this Colony, I have not come across any "opium sots."

6. Certainly it is incorrect to say there is no moderation in the consumption of opium. In my office one of the Chinese "boys" had been in the habit of smoking opium for 16-18 years, and does not seem any the worse for it. He is a short thin man of about 51 years of age, but apparently in good health. He has been in the office for the last 20 years, and performed his duties satisfactorily, and never once absented himself through illness. About eighteen months ago he left off smoking the drug, but took it in the shape of lozenges for a few months only. He now regularly takes instead about half a wineglass full of brandy as a stimulant, but no opium in any shape or form.

7. I am acquainted with Chinese merchants who smoke opium, but have not noticed in them any want of efficiency in their calling.

8. I have noticed several cases among the Asiatic people who were rendered incapable from the use of alcohol, and also one or two cases of Indians in India, who were in the habit of eating opium, in a similar condition; and I should say the effect produced from opium compares favourably with that from alcohol.

9. The habit of opium smoking is considered degrading by a certain class of Chinese, but not the moderate use of alcohol.

10. Opium consumers can break themselves of the opium habit; as an instance *vide* Answer No. 6.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off, the Chinese would not abstain altogether from opium smoking. They would have in their opium production, which is yearly on the increase, as much as they would require; besides the import from Persia will undoubtedly keep pace with the demand. A great many would also likely take to alcohol as a stimulant.

13. People of European race do not contract the opium habit in any number, because they find in alcohol a handier substitute. Some Asiatic people take to opium because they are more acquainted with it, and it is more within their reach; but I think there is no reason to suppose that Asiatics are more liable than Europeans to contract the opium habit.

14. Opium is taken firstly as stimulant like alcohol and it is commonly regarded as a prophylactic against fever or malaria.

16. None whatever.

J. MOSES,
(Merchant).

No. 51.

1. Opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese in our Colony, but the consumption of the drug by other Asiatic races is, as far as I am aware, not so common.

2. I should think that about 20 per cent. of the Chinese adult male population are consumers. Women consume to a small extent. I am not aware whether children do or not.

3. The moral, physical, and social effects of opium on its consumers, if taken in excess, are, in my opinion, extremely bad; if taken in moderation, the effects are, I should say, not detrimental to the health. I think its ultimate effect is much the same on consumers of all races.

4. Consumers chiefly smoke opium, but some eat it; I am not aware that any drink a decoction of it. If opium is taken in two or all of these forms, I think, the effects are the same.

5. I am of opinion that the majority of consumers are moderate consumers.

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6. It is not correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. I know some cases of consumers who, through smoking to excess, have become so debilitated that premature death was the consequence. On the other hand I have come across some moderate smokers who have taken their doses of the same quantity of opium for years without any apparent harm to themselves. To describe a case in point of the former class of smokers, I may mention the case of a compradore in a foreign opium-dealing hong at Ningpo, who was a miserable specimen of the class of smokers in question. He was about 40 years of age, emaciated, and weak, and could not take his meals. His brain was always confused, and it was most painful for him to make an effort to move from one place to another; he was quite indifferent to what was passing around him, his eyes being always drowsy, and he was fond of remaining in a recumbent position. He succumbed to the first attack of illness. In the other case, on the other hand, the smoker, also a compradore in a foreign opium-dealing hong in Cheefoo, seemed to thrive on opium. He had a fine colour and a very clear complexion, was active, though at times his eyes were rather drowsy, which I would put down to the effects of the drug.

7. I only know of the Chinese, among Asiatic nations in Hong Kong, who consume opium to any large extent, and I think only in the case of common labourers is it that the majority are consumers. The percentage among merchants and artisans who consume opium is small as compared to the percentage among labourers. With regard to the effects of the opium habit on their efficiency in their calling, as stated in answer to Question 3, they are bad in the case of consumers to excess, but I am told that moderate consumers work better.

8. I am of opinion that the effects of opium on those who indulge in it to excess are far worse than the effects of alcohol also used to excess.

9. The habit of consuming opium is, as far as I know, condemned by the educated classes and business people of the Chinese race. They regard the alcohol habit in a better light than the opium habit.

10. Not in a position to answer this question.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off, consumers of same would supply themselves with opium produced elsewhere. They would not take to alcohol, or to any other narcotic, as long as opium could be obtained in sufficient quantities from China itself, and Persia.

12. About one seventh of our Colony's revenue accrues from opium. If the opium revenue is lost to the Colony, I scarcely think that our Colony could raise the needful revenue otherwise. The people, I should imagine, would be very discontented and indignant at the loss and the obligation to make up the deficit.

13. I am not aware that any people of the European race contract the opium habit in any numbers. The reason is, I think, because, firstly, it is a degrading and filthy habit; secondly, it requires too much time to smoke it, owing to the laborious preparation; and the smoker must lie down all the time. These inconveniences a European, who can satisfy his wants with a glass of wine, will not put up with. The natural indolence and luxurious habits of the Asiatics make them more liable to contract the opium habit.

14. Opium smokers are, in my opinion, led to the use of the drug for the sake of taking something to give them temporary pleasure. The other parts of this question I am not prepared to answer.

15. I am not in a position to answer this question.

16. I do not think there is any feeling of hostility among any Asiatic race in our Colony, against England for allowing opium to be exported from India.

17. I have no other remarks to make with regard to opium consumption among the people around me.

S. J. DAVID,
(Merchant).
Hong Kong,
12th December 1893.

No. 52.

Hong Kong,
11th December 1893.

1. Chinese smoke it, Malays and other Asiatics eat it.

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2. Hardly 4 per cent. Of women about $\frac{1}{10}$ th of 1 per cent.; children, none.

3. Morally, absolutely none; physically, unless taken to excess, it produces no bad effects; socially, it adds to the daily expense just as any luxury would.

4. Consumers chiefly smoke opium. It is least harmless when consumed in this manner. When eaten without sufficient food being taken afterwards, it causes emaciation, but with sufficient food consumers increase in weight.

5. Moderate consumers.

6. No. I know of many cases of consumers who have taken opium for years without harm to themselves—one case in particular, that of my late comrade, who, while in my service for 24 years, smoked opium without manifesting any injurious result on his constitution, and died at the age of 65 years.

7. By far the majority in all cases are non-smokers. On those who smoke in moderation the effect is imperceptible.

8. Alcohol is considerably worse in every respect.

9. No. The habit is not regarded as degrading. It is condemned as injurious only when taken to excess. They much prefer the opium habit.

10. Yes. By the use of medicine.

11. They will smoke opium produced in China or elsewhere.

12. The proportion has varied during the past few years. The proportion during the last year was 184 per cent.

13. No. Because they are generally addicted to the alcohol habit. The Asiatics are not so addicted. They prefer the opium habit from physical, climatic, and religious considerations. Besides it does not betray its consumer like alcohol.

14. In China, by social custom; the host inviting the guest to smoke it, as in the West the host invites the guest to take wine. Opium is regarded as a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, and malaria.

15. Yes. By those who cannot afford the luxury.

16. No.

E. N. W. BEILIOS,
(Merchant).

No. 53.

1. Opium is commonly consumed by Chinese in Hong Kong.

2. Perhaps a fifth part of the male adults are consumers of opium. I understand that women in brothels smoke opium, and I have heard of children getting the "appetite" or "craving" from inhaling the fumes, but as a rule, children are not provided with opium or allowed to smoke it, and the same might be said of women.

3. The effects of opium which I have observed are (a.) moral: loss of power of will and courage, honesty and honour; (b.) physical: emaciation, want of appetite, and sluggishness; (c.) social: poverty, self-concentration, and general neglect of social duties to parents, wife, children, and friends, as well as to society at large.

4. The Chinese *smoke* opium and do not, as a rule, eat it or drink it. It may be remarked that smoking is more seductive owing to the lasting relish, as well as more wasteful of time and money than swallowing the drug.

5. Habitual opium consumers almost always become slaves to the drug. There are habitual consumers who might be said to be moderate as to the relative quantity they consume, being limited by the necessities of life and means, perhaps by their own moral courage, but they are slaves to their daily allowance. In their case the evil effects are also relatively moderate.

6. It is correct to say there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the *habitual* consumption of opium, except in the sense explained under last question. The slavery is analogous to that of tobacco, only, it is need- less to say, more seductive, more dangerous, and more apt to be injurious even in so-called moderation.

7. I do not think a majority of any class in Hong Kong consume opium habitually, except, perhaps, coalheavers and *riksha* coolies, who do their work by spurts, and are well paid. In general, the opium habit incapacitates for steady work, and hinders it. I have travelled in China, and learnt by experience to avoid chair-bearers that take opium. The hunger for opium is much more urgent and difficult to satisfy than hunger for food, and the employer has to wait the convenience of the coolie.

8. The use of alcohol in excess is so rare among the Chinese here that no comparison can be made between that and opium smoking. The obvious difference, however, between the two is that an occasional use of alcohol adds to the animal spirits and courage of a man for the time being, whereas an occasional pipe or two of opium, to a non-smoker, would have the contrary effect (depression followed by partial elevation like a switch-back railway), and also that habitual opium smoking tends to enfeeble and deplete the system, so that the total energy of a smoker is reduced obviously below the average, while that of a British sailor who takes his grog would appear to an ordinary observer to be rather above the average. Saturate the Chinese with opium, and give your Scotchmen their Highland gill, and your victory is won.

9. The habit of consuming opium is condemned as degrading or injurious by all Chinese whom I have heard speak on the subject, whether opium smokers or not. Their view of the effects of opium and alcohol is much the same as what I have given under last question, including the last illustration which gives rise to painful reflections on the part of patriotic Chinese.

10. Perhaps one in a hundred of opium smokers can and does break off the habit unaided by doctors or external force.

11. As the immediate result of the sudden stopping of Indian opium we might expect that the Chinese would be seriously alarmed and provoked to riot by those interested, that some would be cured of the habit owing to the scarcity of the drug, that measures would be taken to get a supply of opium from China or elsewhere without delay, and that morphine in some form or any similar narcotic would be used as a substitute, but not alcohol. In further reply to this question, I quote the following remarkable opinion of a wise Chinese friend who has done much to help the anti-opium movement: (a.) The opium smoking of China is justly called a disease. It is a chronic and inveterate disease. It cannot be cured in a day by any means short of a miracle. To stop suddenly the supply of Indian opium would cause unutterable misery in Hong King. (b.) To the ignorant and suspicious Chinese mind such an act would present itself as some deep plot of the British Government. Even Chinese statesmen would misunderstand or misinterpret it. (c.) A gradual but marked and consistent diminution of the quantity of opium imported from year to year, so that it might absolutely cease in about 10 years, would so impress the Government and people of China with the benevolent intentions and good faith of England, that the better feelings of those who seek their country's good could be stimulated, and co-operation on the part of China would be secured. By thus calling forth the patriotic instincts of Chinese it is not too much to expect that they will join with England in the endeavour to abolish opium. (d.) On the other hand, if China is not induced to incorporate, and the Indian opium is suddenly stopped, Chinese planters will be all too ready to take advantage of the opportunity to plant more and more, while the "craving" for opium revenue will combine to encourage opium cultivation in China. The true friends of China should strive by all means to secure the co-operation of Chinese in the suppression of opium.

12. About a fifth part of the revenue of this Colony is derived from opium. The Colony could raise the needful revenue otherwise. The people of Hong Kong, not Chinese, would grumble much at the increased taxation. The Chinese probably would not complain, when they came to understand that the reason was the reduced consumption of opium. In order to secure this result, however, strict measures would have to be taken by the Government to exclude narcotic drugs from the Colony.

13. Europeans in Hong Kong do not as a rule contract the opium habit. The reason may perhaps be found in their other habits, and their different constitution. The Asiatic has comparatively fewer comforts and

fewer luxuries, while the opium pipe accords with his other vices, and his phlegmatic constitution.

14. They are led to use the drug by a variety of temptations already alluded to, by evil communications, and sometimes by advice that it is good for allaying pain, and for cough, consumption, diarrhoea, &c. I have never heard the Chinese say that it is a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism or malaria; and, without pretending to medical knowledge, I am inclined to believe more in tobacco smoking than in opium smoking as a protection from polluted air. It is at least less mischievous.

15. Yes. Opium smokers of my acquaintance have always desired to get free from the habit.

16. Yes. There is a feeling of hostility in the average Chinese mind against England on account of Indian opium. The Chinese never forget the seizure and destruction of opium by Commissioner Lin, and all that followed upon it. They cannot draw fine distinctions as the defenders of the Indian Revenue can. Is there any feeling of hostility in France against England on account of Waterloo, and what preceded and followed? How does that feeling display itself? Sometimes by very plain speech and action.

17. I have only one other remark to make in regard to opium consumption, here and everywhere, and that is—I am amazed that any honest man can use the mouth or the hand that God has given him to utter a word in its defence.

London Mission, Hong Kong, JOHN CHALMERS,
14th December 1893. (London Mission).

No. 53a.

A few days ago eighteen Chinese young women from different classes of the Hong Kong community were brought into a room and put down at separate desks with pencils and paper only. Then without any fore-warning or special preparation for giving an opinion on opium, they were told to write each a letter to an imaginary elder brother exhorting him against becoming addicted to the opium pipe. The words of fifteen of these Chinese girls are here translated with faithful literality. The remaining three contented themselves with the briefest word of exhortation as required.

Hong Kong, JOHN CHALMERS.
7th January 1894.

I. "In the opinion of your little sister those opium smoking people are the lowest of the low, and more than that their visage gets so shrivelled and dried up by this habit that they look just like a (skeleton) thunder-god. Wrapped up on their couches day and night they are in a fair way to become in time sleeping Buddhas. They take no care of their business, they have no pity for their wives and children, and they themselves, you may be assured, will suffer in the end no ordinary retribution."

II. "Just now in Hong Kong opium abounds; and the relish of the opium pipe is very fascinating. But if one comes under this fascination, not only does it hurt his liver and lungs, but what it helps specially is the root of laziness in him, so that he lives under the bed-curtains, and if he is suddenly roused up from his dreams, he hangs down his head and stretches his limbs as if he had been ill for two or three months. To look upon him makes one simply sigh."

III. "My opinion is that this stuff is not only of no use to a man, but does him bodily harm; remembering that it has an exceedingly low character, is loathed and hated by people generally, and is degrading in its tendency. This stuff is indeed brought to China by Europeans as useful in curing disease, but the people of this (Chinese) world, being deluded and ignorant of its real use to the body, do themselves personal harm with it. Alas! Alas!"

IV. "Devotion to opium is harmful and useless. It destroys the body, and wrongs the wife and children. Family property is squandered by it. The man's heart is deluded by it. This opium comes from India, and multitudes of Chinese find a momentary pleasure in getting saturated with it, forgetting that a far greater number are caused permanent sorrow thereby."

V. "The general effect of devotion to opium is loss of will-power and good name, and ruin of character. And moreover the smoker's wealth and occupation are

melted away, and his family are in fear of total wreck."

VI. "Opium is injurious and useless stuff. The bodies of those who smoke it dwindle away and their bones stick out. Through it families are landed in poverty. Through it money is scattered. Through it all sorts of calamity come more than can be told."

VII. "By means of this stuff man's animal spirits are impaired and his bodily frame destroyed. All who are infected by it suffer loss and get no profit. They are actually abhorred by their wives and children."

VIII. "I think those who are addicted to this opium forget everything else. If they are not dead men their hearts are dead. They neither obey the commandments of God nor the instructions of their parents; and moreover they cause their parents sorrow."

IX. "This opium is a thing useful to man for the curing of disease and pain only, but Chinese without understanding, entertain their visitors with it, until their bodies dry up and their bones stick out; and there is none to pity them. Meantime their wives wail, their children complain, and woe inevitable arises on account of it."

X. "But the injury inflicted by this opium curse is not light. It is not merely a waste of time and a missing of business; it is also a squandering of means and a harming of one's own body."

XI. "By opium smoking one becomes in course of time also a gambler and such like. Moreover he makes even his wife and children disobey, and other people loathe and hate him."

XII. "It is the most easy thing, through this opium to make one's body weak to contract disease and cause one's parents sorrow."

XIII. "By this means (opium smoking) you will make people wish never to see your face; and moreover cause your parents sorrow upon sorrow."

XIV. "Do not crave for opium and sin against God."

XV. "This thing (opium smoking) is contrary to the command of God and hateful to your wife and children."

No. 54.

1. Of all races in Hong Kong, the Chinese consume most, others very little.

2. Most opium consumers are males, some females, and a very few children.

3. The effect of opium varies in each case, according to the character and health of the consumer. A consumer of opium cannot retain his health.

4. The methods of consuming opium differ, but everyone commences by smoking it, and by constant practice, the habit becomes confirmed. Though the methods differ, the effects are the same.

5. All opium consumers become slaves to the drug, and are without energy. One or two out of a hundred break themselves of the habit.

6. Moderation in the consumption of opium is observed by some, who may smoke all their lives, and not suffer from the habit, as they do not become slaves to it. But the majority observe no moderation and their health suffers as the habit grows confirmed.

7. Not more than half. The business of confirmed opium smokers suffers very much.

8. The nature of opium is cold, that of alcohol is hot. If either is taken immoderately the health suffers. The poisons differ, the resulting injury is the same.

9. In every race the consumption of opium is not confined to the lower classes, but the habit is equally injurious to all. Opium is cold and astringent and has a soporific effect. Wine is hot and volatile and leads to intoxication and madness. The evil effects of opium and wine are about equal.

10. That depends upon the strength of will of the opium consumer. If he has really determined to break himself of the habit, there is nothing to prevent him.

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11. If no opium is sent to China, those who have contracted the opium habit will naturally take steps to cure it. The majority of those who break themselves of it now do so because their time is wasted and their business injured by it.

12. The revenue derived from opium in Hong Kong is larger than that derived from any other source. If it was suddenly extinguished, no doubt a great loss would be caused to the revenue. But the wealth of England is so great that it ought not to wish to derive advantage from an article so injurious. All kinds of goods enter Hong Kong and there is a ready market for everything. A large revenue could be derived from them. If the land now used for the cultivation of opium is devoted to some other crop, the revenue derived from it will in future be even more considerable than it is at present. The Government will decide what is to be grown, and it is needless for me to make any suggestion.

13. People of European race are better acquainted with the evils of opium, and therefore very few consume it. Asiatics learn the practice from one another, and thus the habit has been developed, and the number of opium consumers is more than double the number among any other race.

14. Opium consumers are led to use the drug through illness, as a cure for fever or malaria. After the craving has been established, the evils arising from opium gradually increase and they observe with regret that the disadvantages outweigh the benefit, and confess with remorse that they were mistaken and have entered a maze.

15. All those who have contracted the habit wish without exception to break themselves of it, but if it has become confirmed they cannot do so.

16. The revenue derived from the importation of opium into Hong Kong is more than double that from any other source. Although the Asiatics bear no feeling of hatred, yet it is not apparent when an end will be put to this poisonous traffic.

17. When the craving for opium is confirmed, physical harm ensues whilst the business of those who are not yet slaves to it suffers.

When I see a friend who consumes opium, I always advise him to take steps to break himself of the habit.

(Signed) TONG SING-U,
Director of the Tung Wá Hospital.

No. 55.

1. Yes, by Chinese, Malay and other Asiatic races.

2. Of the adult males about one fourth of Chinese, one fifth of Malay, and one in one hundredth of other Asiatic races are consumers. Yes, they consume more or less to a small extent. None.

3. I observe the consumers to be miserable, weak, lazy, dirty, and despicable. Yes, the same. No distinction between different races, but distinctions between consumers who are rich or poor; for instance, the consumers who are rich are observed to be not so miserable and objectionable as those who are poor.

4. They smoke, few eat a little, and few drink a decoction of opium, the effect of each I cannot distinguish.

5. Yes, a great majority and a small proportion are moderate consumers.

6. Not quite correct. None as far as I know. A considerable proportion.

7. Yes. The effect of their opium habit makes them unpunctual and inattentive. Examples: An employee lost his situation on account of his unpunctuality and his inattentiveness in his calling to his employer. A merchant intended to go back to his native country by the day river steamer could not get up in time to catch it.

8. In regard to the immediate effect on consumers the abuse of alcohol is worse than that of opium, but the uses of each are equally bad.

9. Yes, by the general opinion of Chinese, Malay, and other Asiatic races. The Chinese regard opium habit worse than that of alcohol.

10. Yes, they can and do in many instances.

11. If at once they would feel uneasy and suffer, and if gradually they take steps to soothe their uneasiness and remedy their suffering. Yes, from the Province, and the neighbourhood of Yuen Nan. None to alcohol some to narcotics, and the remaining abstain altogether.

12. Of our Colony's revenue about one sixth accrues from opium. If such revenue were extinguished our Colony could raise the revenue on tonnage dues. The people would say nothing to the loss, many are in favour of the obligation.

13. They do not, because they hate it like an enemy. The mutual glossing over faults or evil and mutual example in their intercourse make the Asiatics more liable.

14. The reason why Chinese are led to the use of opium is partly on account of the consumers' misunderstanding the medical effect of the drug, and partly on account of their fondness for laziness and licentiousness. No, that is the way they frame excuses for it. Not to my knowledge. Only by a few, but not commonly.

15. Yes, they do.

16. Yes, very strong and displeased. By talk.

17. Opium consumption is considered as a great vice by our Chinese. The habit of opium consumption in many cases reduces the habits to extreme poverty and eventually to a stealthy and dishonest life.

CHAN-U-FAI,
Director of the Po Leung Kuk,
Hong Kong.

No. 56.

1. Yes, by Chinese. No experience as regards other Asiatics.

2. (a.) One fourth of Chinese adult males must, in my opinion be consumers, but a distinction must here be drawn between occasional consumers and habitual consumers who have acquired an opium habit. In this answer I include occasional consumers who take to opium either for pleasure or for business purposes without, however, any desire for opium themselves. (b.) About 1 per 1,000 women smoke opium. (c.) Children under 15 none.

3. No effect morally or socially, but I have observed a physical effect, and in the case of habitual consumers it has undoubtedly a deteriorating effect on the constitution. The effect is probably the same on every race without distinction.

4. Chinese consumers chiefly smoke, they rarely, if ever, eat or drink opium or any preparation thereof. Opium smoking, unless indulged in to a great extent, has a very slight effect.

5. A large majority of Chinese opium consumers do not become slaves to the drug, the greater proportion being moderate consumers.

6. It is not correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation. Most, if not all, smoke opium for years without any harm whatever, so long as they have not contracted the "habit."

7. No, but the effect of habitual smoking deprives a man of his energy to some extent, and generally makes him lazy and inattentive to his calling, and in the case of labourers the cost of opium often makes it impossible to supply themselves with proper food and thus the effect of smoking is rendered greatly more harmful.

8. I am not conversant with the abuse of alcohol, but I should say its effects are more harmful than opium.

9. The general opinion of Chinese is that habitual smoking is injurious to all, and degrading in the case of poor people who cannot afford either the time or money necessary for smoking.

10. Yes, there does not appear to be any difficulty.

11. If the Indian supply is cut off it would greatly enhance the value of opium, thus checking consumption. The consumers would obtain the supply from Yunnan in China, or elsewhere. They

would not take alcohol, or some other narcotic instead. In the event of obtaining no opium anywhere they would abstain altogether.

12. If the opium revenue was extinguished, the people in this Colony would have nothing to say against the loss, but the deficit could not easily be made good from any other source.

13. I have no knowledge of any Europeans in this Colony smoking opium. The Asiatics generally contract the habit from inducements put before them in their social or business intercourse, or from constant smoking.

14. Generally led to smoking for social or business purposes, or for pleasure, and sometimes on account of illness. It is no remedy against fever or rheumatism, but it may be good against malaria.

15. No, unless compelled by necessity.

16. There was in the beginning such a feeling among the Chinese, but I believe such feeling does not now exist.

PUN PONG,
(Chinese Resident).

HONG KONG.

Enclosure No. 3 in Colonial Secretary's Letter
No. 1780 of 1893.

LIST OF PERSONS TO WHOM CIRCULARS HAVE
BEEN SENT.

ORIENTALS.

Indians.

1. Ebrahimbhay Pabaney, Merchant.*
2. Sulleiman Mowjee (Messrs. Hajee, Adam, Esmail & Co.) Merchant.*
3. H. M. Esaac Elias, Merchant.*
4. J. L. Chuttoo, Merchant.*
5. Abdul Ali Ebrahim & Co, Merchants.
6. Abdul Kuzak, Boarding-house keeper.
7. A Wang (Malay), Boarding-house keeper.
8. Mahomed Chinah, Storekeeper.

Parsees.

9. N. Mehta (Messrs. Framjee Hormusjee & Co.), Merchant.*
10. Framjee Setna (Messrs. Cawasjee Palanjee & Co.), Merchant.
11. D. C. Tata, Merchant.*
12. E. N. Mehta, Merchant.*
13. P. F. Tolatee, Merchant.*

Persians.

14. H. M. M. Ally, Merchant.
15. Mahomed Ally, Merchant.
16. H. M. H. D. Esmail, Merchant.
17. H. M. H. Nemazee, Merchant.
18. Mahomed Hashim, Mercantile Assistant.*

Chinese.

19. Fung Wa Chün, Compradore, National Bank.*
20. Lau Wai Chün, Compradore, Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank.
21. Kaw Hong Take, Merchant.
22. Chan Kit San, of Yan Wo Coy, Merchants.*
23. Chin U Tin, of the Cheung Wo and Kwong Man Tai Firms, Merchant.
24. Lum Sin Sang, otherwise Lam Ham Linn, of the Ham Fook Company, (Opium Farmers).
25. Chau Ping, of the Un Fat Hong, Merchant.*
26. Ip Oi Shan, of the Man Man Firm, Merchant.*
27. Leung Pui Chi, of the Shin Fung Bank.
28. The Resident Medical Officer, Tung Wah Hospital.

OFFICIALS.

29. The Chief Justice.
30. The Puisne Judge.
31. The Colonial Secretary.
32. The Colonial Treasurer.
33. Superintendent of Imports and Exports.
34. The Registrar General.
35. The Police Magistrate (J. H. Wodehouse, C.M.G.)
36. Dr. Ayres, Colonial Surgeon.
37. Dr. Atkinson, Superintendent, Government Civil Hospital.
38. Dr. Jordan, Health Officer of the Port.

39. Dr. Eitel, Inspector of Schools.
40. The Captain-Superintendent of Police.

MEDICAL MEN (NON-OFFICIALS).

41. Surgeon-Colonel Preston.
42. Inspector General of Naval Hospitals.
43. Dr. Cantlie (in private practice).
44. Dr. Ho Kai, Member of the Legislative Council.
45. Dr. Thomson, Secretary and Superintendent, Alice Memorial Hospital.*
46. Dr. Gerlack (in private practice).*

MERCHANTS AND OTHERS.

47. Hon. I. I. Keswick (Agent, Opium Steamers).*
48. Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Manager, Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.*
49. R. M. Moses (D. Sassoon, Sons & Co.), Merchant.
50. T. J. Moses (D. Sassoon, Sons & Co.), Merchant.
51. S. J. David (S. J. David & Co.), Merchant.
52. Hon. E. R. Belilios, C.M.G., Merchant.
53. Dr. Chalmers, London Mission.
54. Mr. Tong Sing Ue, a Director of the Tung Wah Hospital.
55. Mr. Chang-U-Fai, as Director of the Po Leung Kuk.
56. Mr. Pun Pong, a member of the District Watch Committee.
57. Head men of various Trade Guilds.*
58. Chan Fuk, Justice of the Peace.*
59. Chan Kwan I, Justice of the Peace.*
60. Tsoi Tsz Mi, Justice of the Peace.*
61. Wai Yuk, Justice of the Peace.*

No. 1784, dated 21st December 1893. From G. S. O'Brien, Esq., Colonial Secretary, Hong Kong, to the Secretary, Royal Commission on Opium, care of the Finance Department, Calcutta.

I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed replies to the questions by the Royal Commission on Opium, which were received after the despatch of my letter No. 1,780 of yesterday.

No. 37.

1. Opium is commonly consumed by people of the Chinese, Malay, Indian, and Eurasian races in this Colony. Amongst the Chinese all classes are included. With reference to Malays, those we see here are mostly seafaring men; the Indians who consume opium are principally Sikh destitutes, who come here with the hope of obtaining employment and a few of the Sikh and Mahomedan Indian police, the Indians chiefly eating the drug—they do not smoke. I am also informed that some of the men of the Hong Kong Regiment consume this drug. The Eurasians I refer to are of these classes, first the offspring of Europeans and Chinese, secondly, the offspring of Portuguese and Chinese, and, thirdly, the offspring of Indians and Chinese.

2. Of the Chinese, at least 60 per cent. of the whole community are consumers. Women very rarely consume opium to any extent. I have heard of a few cases in which they have been in the habit of smoking small quantities of the drug. Children never do so.

3. When smoked in moderation I have observed no ill effects from its use; on the other hand, I consider that to many it is decidedly beneficial. When taken in excess it is undoubtedly an evil, all moral sense disappears, the person addicted to the habit will commit any crime to obtain the drug; physically those victims to the habit are to be known at once by their attenuated bodies, their wizened, yellow skin and their lethargic habit; socially all family ties and those of friendship are severed. Chinamen have been known to sell even their own children to obtain the drug. The effects are much the same on consumers of every race.

4. Consumers chiefly smoke opium, a very few eat, and they are principally Sikhs (Indians). Some Chinamen also take the opium in the form of pills, these are chiefly those who are so fully employed that they have not time to indulge in smoking the drug; they are, indeed, too busy to go through all the tedious processes involved in smoking, and, to obtain the stimulant and

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sustaining effect of the drug, they swallow or eat opium in the form of small pills. I have never heard of a decoction being drunk. Lately a practice has sprung up in this colony of injecting morphine (one of the alkaloids of opium) subcutaneously. For full information with reference to this, see C. S. O., No. 1,454 of 1893.

5. Not in my experience, the greater majority are moderate consumers.

6. (a.) Most certainly not. (b.) I know many consumers who have taken opium for years, without it having done them any appreciable harm. Description of cases *vide* Appendix A.

7. Amongst the Chinese, all classes are addicted to this habit—labourers, merchants, and artisans. With regard to the Malays, as I have before, in this Colony our experience is with the sailors only of this race. The Indians who take the drug are a few Sikh and Mahomedan members of the Indian section of the Hong Kong police force, and the Sikh and Mahomedan destitutes. These all eat the opium in the form of small pills made at Chinese drug stores. The only Indians who smoke the drug are the half-caste Malay Indians. With regard to the Eurasians, they are of every class, and principally smoke.

8. There is no comparison, in my opinion. Alcohol is much the greater evil in its results on those who take it to excess. It is quite a mistaken idea that Asiatics do not drink. I have had many cases of alcoholism, pure and simple, under treatment in the Government Civil Hospital during the past six years, and they have proved much more unmanageable and difficult to cure than the few cases of inveterate opium eaters whom I have to treat. Effect of the habit, when consumed in moderation, is certainly not injurious, and in many cases, in my opinion, is decidedly beneficial. (See Appendix A.) I cannot help thinking that there is in the Chinese an hereditary toleration, if not a craving, for opium. It is not necessary for Europeans to take opium to withstand the ill effects of the climate, as for one reason we are not so much exposed to the climate as the Chinese, from our manner of living, occupations, &c., and alcohol in moderation fulfils the same purpose.

9.—(a.) The habit of consuming opium to excess by healthy men is certainly looked upon by the Chinese as degrading and injurious. In moderation, for those who work hard, there is no harm in smoking a few pipes. The general idea, and I think the true one, is that it does good by removing the feeling of fatigue, and affording rest, and also acting as a prophylactic in some diseases, e.g., malaria, and a decidedly remedial agent in other diseases. (b.) It is difficult to answer this question, as Asiatics are not a race addicted to excess in alcohol. It is only in Chinamen who have been brought into contact with Europeans, and have acquired some of their bad habits, that the evils of alcoholism are seen.

10. Very rarely, I know personally of three cases, the general opinion amongst Chinese appears to be that if they leave off the habit they will die. Even leaving it off for a day brings on severe diarrhoea, and I can easily understand this proving fatal if not properly treated, not to mention the mental disquietude, &c., and the other symptoms brought on by suddenly discontinuing the drug.

11. They would, in all likelihood obtain Chinese opium from Yunnan. This, although inferior and cheaper than Indian opium, is, I am given to understand, already consumed here, or take to the hypodermic injection of the drug, or swallow it in the form of pills obtained from European dispensing firms or Chinese drug stores. The Chinese know of no substitute for opium, the craving seems to be so great, the habit having been once established, that they would do anything to obtain it in one form or the other.

12.—(a.) Rs. 389,900 was the amount in 1891 obtained from the opium farmer for monopoly of selling opium in this Colony.

13. Some few do. I have had three cases under treatment in this hospital during the past six years. There is, in my opinion, an hereditary tendency amongst Asiatics to contract this habit. They are more liable to contract it also from the sake of example, and by the teachings of their so-called doctors.

14.—(a.) First, by seeing that it is the usual custom amongst their fellow countrymen at a certain age to

take to this habit, and secondly, at the advice of their doctors. (b.) Yes, frequently. (c.) It is, in my opinion, a prophylactic amongst Chinese living in malarial districts against malarial fevers, and not only a prophylactic, but an antiperiodic, and by this means a distinct remedial agent in malarial fevers of every type. It is so regarded by the Chinese *see* (Appendix A).

15. No, not as long as they have enough money to purchase the drug. If they have not, they will take it in any other form than smoking, e.g., by means of hypodermic injections, if they can obtain it cheaper in that way; they must have the appetite satisfied.

17. The information herein contained has been obtained from many sources, amongst which I may mention the frequent visits I have made to the opium divans in this Colony to study this question. Inspector Quincy of the Hong Kong police force, and Messrs. Lo Chung, Ip, and N. I. Kai of this department, have kindly acted as my interpreters. I have also had considerable practical experience as superintendent of this hospital during the past six years of the effects of opium and alcohol on the Chinese and other native races, and the conclusion I have come to is that neither of these drugs, taken in moderation, even regularly, are injurious; but on the other hand, are frequently decidedly beneficial. When taken to excess, alcohol is much the more serious and deplorable in its effects, and is by far the greater evil.

APPENDIX A.

CASE 1.—Chan-a-Lok, October 1867, at present living in Hong Kong, and in receipt of a pension from the Colonial Government.

Family History.—Indefinite. Remembers, however, that his father was troubled with a severe cough.

Previous History.—Patient was born at Macao, and came to Hong Kong shortly after the British settled here; he was employed first as a cook's mate at a Chinese house; after having been in this situation some years, he entered the service of the Government Civil Hospital as a coolie; this would be, as far as he can recollect, about 1853; he remained a coolie for some four or five years, and was in Dr. Cochrane's time, appointed Chief Chinese Wardmaster, which appointment he held until 1889, when he was pensioned off on account of old age. He first contracted the habit of smoking opium when 17 years of age, the reason being that he did so at the advice of a Chinese Doctor whom he had consulted, as he was then suffering from hæmorrhage from the lungs, accompanied by a cough. This doctor told him that opium smoking would cure him and heal his lungs. He first commenced with two candereens a day, and the doctor told him he must gradually increase the dose until he was smoking three mace a day = 30 candereens. Since then he has never been troubled with blood-spitting. He has been an opium smoker for fifty years now, and on an average has smoked two to three mace a day, the opium used always being the opium farmers' first quality; now he is only smoking 1½ mace a day, as he cannot afford more; this costs him 25 cents. formerly it only cost about 19 cents. A Lok states:—That he is sure that if he can get good opium, by this he means very old opium, it will cure him of malarial fever; he says it has frequently done so. The most he has ever smoked in a day is five mace. Amongst the Chinese, opium is believed to have the property of curing diarrhoea and dysentery, malarial fevers, hæmorrhages from the lungs, heart-pain (by this is probably meant dyspepsia and indigestion), and to relieve pain. He thinks that healthy men who work hard benefit by smoking a little opium after their days' work, say, not more than 1½ mace a day. If consumed in a larger quantity than this it is injurious. Of the two evils, drink he thinks the worse. Dr. Wharry, my predecessor, advised him to try and give up the habit, telling him at the same time that he would give him some medicine to cure him of it. A Lok tried for one day, and had such severe diarrhoea that he had to give up the experiment, and he has never attempted it since.

Present condition.—I examined him on the 18th instant and found him a fairly well preserved man for 67 years of age, all his organs seem sound and healthy, lungs no sign of any consolidation, and in my opinion he is likely to live another 10 years if careful. As our senior European Wardmaster is leaving us at the end of this year, I think so highly of A Lok that I intend recommending that the Governor allow us to employ him again, until the successor to the senior Ward-

master can be obtained from England. Personally I have known A-Lok for over six years, and have always found him ready for any emergency, whether at day time or in the middle of the night. He very frequently has been called up in the middle of the night to receive accidents, &c., and for a man of his station in life he is wonderful intelligent and capable. His knowledge of the Chinese and their habits was very useful; he had, in addition, a certain practical knowledge of surgery, which he had acquired here and which rendered him very dexterous in the application of splints, surgical dressings, &c. In conclusion I may add that I have made the acquaintance of many Chinese doctors, but in my opinion Chan-a-Lok far excelled them all; it was with great regret that we received his resignation. If time would admit I could give the notes of three other cases, but as this is the most complete and seems to bear most upon the subject in all its details, I have given it at some length.

(Signed) J. M. ATKINSON,
Superintendent.

Government Civil Hospital,
Hong Kong,
20th December 1893.

No. 39.

1. I know only the Chinese, but I could not say that opium is "commonly" consumed by the people.

2. I believe all conjectures on this point are not only futile, but mischievous, because misleading. Generally speaking, consumption of opium to get any great extent is the act of adult individuals exceptionally weak in willpower. Women consume opium in very rare cases. Children never.

3. The term "consumer" is too vague and misleading. Chinese as a rule smoke opium or take it in the form of the more pernicious (so-called) anti-opium pills or injections.

5. The answer depends entirely on what is meant by "consumer." If "daily" consumption is aimed at by the term, every such consumer is in imminent danger of becoming a sot. I do not know what a "moderate consumer" is unless he be one who has not the craving, i.e., is not a sot.

6. If by "consumption" is meant the use of opium at long intervals, it is harmless. There cannot be, in my experience, frequent indulgence without a corresponding degree of physical, moral, and social injury.

7. I have not become acquainted with any class of Chinese, of which I could say either that all individuals of it abstain from all consumption of opium, or that a majority of it do consume opium. In every calling, habitual or frequent indulgence in opium diminishes efficiency. But this question (like most of the others) is misleading.

8. Alcohol is a stimulant. Opium is a sedative. Alcohol has a special adaptedness to the neurosis and environment of Europeans. Opium is equally adapted to the peculiar neurosis (nervous and mental temperament) and environment of the Chinese. Alcohol produces active ill deeds of commission and omission. Opium produces passive inertness of the system (exclusive of the brain). Both opium and alcohol tend to vitiate the physique and the moral sense. Alcohol damages the intellect also. Opium does not ruin the brain so soon or so much. Alcohol stimulates sexual immorality as well as other crimes of violence, and fills gaols and lunatic asylums. Opium tends to annihilate the sexual instinct, and lays the sot aside as an increasingly useless and helpless wreck. But the great difference between opium and alcohol is this, that the craving for opium is not transmitted to unborn generations by inheritance, whilst the craving for alcohol is a taint conveyed by every individual affected by it to numbers of generations. I have spent 24 years in Europe and 31 years in South China or Hong Kong. I have made about as many acquaintances among Europeans as among the Chinese. Among my acquaintances alcohol has wrought infinitely more havoc than opium has done, and the mischief in the case of opium has been chiefly individual, but in the case of alcohol, untold misery has engulfed families, and a legacy of vicious instincts has been transmitted to future generations.

9. The use of opium to the extent of bringing on "the craving" (a clear point known to every victim of opium, but disregarded in these questions) is condemned unsparingly by public opinion among all classes of the Chinese, but particularly by the victims of themselves. Chinese do not see any comparison between opium and alcohol. They say, "opium produces the craving alcohol does not." Chinese intoxicants contain such a quantity of fusel oil as suffices to make excessive indulgence distasteful. In Chinese experience the use of alcoholic liquors produces a craving only in exceptional and rare cases.

10. Only individuals exceptionally weak in will power (who anyhow would be wrecked in the struggle for existence) become opium sots. They cannot break themselves (without help or constraint of some sort) of the opium habit if once formed.

11. They would procure opium from elsewhere. They would not be likely to take to alcohol so readily, unless cheap alcoholic drinks, like the existing Chinese liqueurs, were pressed upon them in a form suitable to the national palate. They would certainly not abstain altogether.

13. Europeans do not contract the habit of opium smoking. They have alcohol and opiates in different forms. Asiatics are more liable to contract the habit of opium smoking, because it is less injurious than eating or drinking opiates; because, as a sedative, it is more adapted to the passive temperament of the Asiatic. The European wants stimulants for practical life only. The Chinaman wants sedatives for practical life, and a stimulant of his imagination also.

14. Opium allays worry and is pleasurable. This and nothing else is in all ordinary cases the originating incentive to its use. Opium-smoking is not regarded by the Chinese as a prophylactic, but as a form of self-indulgence, vicious indeed, but pleasant.

15. Opium sots as a rule hate the habit, and desire to get rid of it, but cannot resist the craving.

16. There is among all Chinese whom I know, an innate dislike of foreigners and of everything foreign, unless it is very obviously useful. In most cases where ignorance of foreigners is combined with this national bias, that dislike amounts to a feeling of hostility, which takes advantage of the fact that most of the opium comes from India, to revile England's policy, but not Englishmen in particular. In travelling inland in South China, I have also found that the public feeling is infinitely more hostile against France and everything French, amounting everywhere to unreasoning violence; while the appearance of an Englishman, and particularly of a German (as an opponent of France), does not, in South China, produce ill feeling on other grounds but that he is "a foreign devil," and that his objects in coming must of course be anti-Chinese. I do not believe that the opium question adds very much to the feeling of hostility against Europeans innate in every Chinaman. Take away the opium and offer them the Bible only, or foreign science and civilisation only, and—

17. None.

E. J. EITEL,
20th December 1893. (Inspector of Schools).

No. 1,808, dated 27th December 1893.

From J. A. S. O'BRIEN, Esq., Colonial Secretary, Hong Kong, to the Secretary, Royal Commission on Opium, care of the Finance Department Calcutta.

In continuation of my letter No. 1,784 of the 21st instant, I am directed to transmit to you the enclosed further replies to the questions by the Royal Commission on Opium.

No. 7.

1. Yes.
2. Malays, 75 per cent.. 10 percent females; no children.
3. Selfish and self-sufficient, cunning, weak constitution, and a social outcast if not well-to-do. (2) Yes. No distinction.
4. Smoke it. Never seen the drinking of decoction. Never seen any other kind of use.

APP. XXV.

5. Moderation practised in most cases. Smokers following a limit according to purse or time at disposal.

6. Incorrect to say so. *Yés.*

7. Yes, the effect on their calling depends more on their self-respect than anything else: a man cleanly in his habits and regular in his actions would restrict himself to a certain hour to smoke the quantity he allows himself, so no perceptible ill effect will result. A man who is irregular will feel the opium craving at most times when not smoking; as soon after smoking so he will be found lazy and unmindful in his business. Opium smoking can be limited to certain hour at the day or night. There are smokers (mostly business people) who will smoke at nightfall, and finish their quantity, from one to two mace, by bedtime, ten o'clock; they will not smoke at any time during the day, so though their face might show the opium habit after a habit extending over several years, but business cannot be said to have been neglected. Smokers can be compared to sucking babies, it is their will and their nurses that guide them.

8. No alcoholic habit to any extent among Asiatics.

9. Yes, most certainly. They regard opium the greater of the two evils. The opium sot is termed the opium fiend.

10. They can, but they very seldom do. A fixed determination of purpose will do it, but on account of the frequency one meets with opium smokers along with their paraphernalias, their polite and oily invitation to have a smoke, a would-be reformed smoker has a poor chance. There is a well-worn saying with smokers that "it is easy to put off the habit, but hard to remain so" (a reformed smoker).

11. Cannot say, perhaps China. Cannot say.

12. I do not know, possible. It remains to be seen.

13. No. Europeans have no social intercourse with the smoking Asiatic to speak of, and if they should have, the way to prepare the whiff as dose necessitating the occasional blowing of the pipe of the accumulated water, both from the burning of the last smoke and the mouth of the last smoker, which means dirty fingers, etc., would prevent him. Opium smoking is but a dirty habit to people who have no servant to tend to their smoking wants.

14. Mostly association with the smoker, and sometimes from an indolent disposition; opium is the only thing that can be and is smoked lying down. No. Yes. To people who have not the habit. Not commonly considered as such.

15. Yes, mostly by people of small or no means, and those whose occupation is hindered by the habit.

16. No. Nor in my opinion in any other place, save that it takes good many to India and foreign countries.

A. WANG,
(Malay Boarding-house Keeper).

No. 14.

ANSWERS to the QUESTIONS regarding OPIUM CONSUMPTION and OPIUM REVENUE in the COLONIES and DEPENDENCIES of SINGAPORE, PENANG, and HONG KONG.

1. Yes.

2. Men about 30 per cent., women about 10 per cent., children do not.

3. It does not affect them morally or physically, an opium smoker has not the same fresh healthy appearance as one who does not smoke opium. A smoker's position is not in any way socially affected. The same may be said as regards other Asiatic races.

4. They chiefly smoke. They neither eat nor do they drink a decoction. If it is taken in the latter form also, I cannot distinguish between the effect of each.

5. Not many. Very few eventually become "opium sots." I find that a considerable proportion of consumers are moderate consumers.

6. It is not correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. I have known of many cases where opium has been consumed without harm to the consumers. There are several opium dealers with whom I am brought into business contact, who have, to my knowledge, been consumers of the drug for years, and who apparently

show no signs of the drug having had any evil effects on them. I know also of a case where a person (not a Chinese) who has both smoked and eaten the drug off and on for the last ten years, and who has not apparently suffered physically.

7. Many Chinese labourers, merchants, and artisans smoke opium, but not a majority of them. The habit does not affect their efficiency in their several callings.

8. An opium smoker is quiet in his habit, whereas one addicted to the use or abuse of alcohol, especially among the Malay races and natives of Philippines is often boisterous and commit rash acts.

9. No, they would consider the alcohol habit as degrading and injurious.

10. Yes.

11. They would procure it from elsewhere. They would not take to alcohol nor to any other narcotic, neither would they abstain altogether. China has been and is still growing opium, which statistics will show has been in increase during the past few years, and the stoppage of the export of Indian opium would give the Chinese authorities a fair opportunity of developing the growth of their own opium, much to the detriment of the British Government.

12. About one seventh. I do not at present see any other means of raising additional revenue. They would consider the necessity of making up the deficit by other taxation as unjust.

13. I do not feel competent to answer to this question.

14. Are much about the same way as a tobacco smoker. They do not usually or often take it in the first instance to allay physical pain although it is extensively used by the Chinese and Asiatic races for medicinal purposes.

15. The cases are rare.

16. No.

17. No.

H. M. ALLY,
(Persian Merchant).

No. 9.

ANSWERS by the GOVERNMENT ANALYST of HONG KONG to the QUESTIONS regarding OPIUM issued by ORDER of the ROYAL COMMISSION on OPIUM in OCTOBER 1893.

1. Yes, by the Chinese.

2. The census returns give no information as to opium smoking. 18,000 has been stated as the number of opium smokers in this Colony. Children do not smoke opium, women do, but only to a limited extent.

3. As to the moral, physical, and social effects of opium smoking I have had no experience of any race other than the Chinese. With the exception to be alluded to under question No. 7, an opium smoker appears to be as good a man morally, physically, and socially as a non-smoker.

4. The Chinese chiefly smoke opium. There are cases in which opium and morphine are taken internally by those who find the smoking habit too costly. The Chinese do not eat opium, neither do they drink a decoction of opium. When taken internally it is usually in the form of pills. An aqueous solution of the smoking extract is a common agent in suicidal poisoning. The attention of the Royal Commission might here be drawn to the morphine injection practice which has recently sprung up. (Vide attached printed copies of the papers laid before the Legislative Council of Hong Kong on the 12th September 1893.) The confirmed opium smoker has a craving for his pipe, a small dose of opium or morphine or a hypodermic injection of a solution of morphine appears to satisfy that craving, but in course of time the internal dose by the mouth or the hypodermic injection has to be increased in strength. The man who takes his pipe of opium regularly does not appear to suffer in health. The man who has regular morphine injections unquestionably does. I cannot believe that the regular taking by the mouth of doses of opium or morphine is harmless.

5. The Chinese who habitually smoke opium are slaves to the drug, they do not, however, eventually become "opium sots." The majority enjoy their opium pipe and endeavour to keep the daily number within the limits defined by their incomes.

6. It is not correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the smoking of opium. I have frequently met Chinese who have been opium smokers for years without any apparent harm to themselves. I met the other day a very intelligent Chinese gentleman whom I have known for more than 10 years. Height 5 ft. 10 ins., weight 143 lbs., age 42. He has been a regular opium smoker for more than three years. Previous to that he used to smoke only occasionally when discussing business with his friends. He assured me that he felt stronger now than he did three years ago. He is certainly a rather fine looking man. He is, moreover, an exceedingly smart man of business. At the same time he candidly told me that he would be very glad if he could abandon the habit, not on account of the expense, but through fear that in course of time his health might suffer. He further explained that the necessity of having a pipe to satisfy the craving was beginning to interfere with his business habits. This man appeared to be thoroughly sincere in his answers to the questions put to him.

7. Merchants, labourers, and artisans smoke opium, but in the absence of statistics it is impossible to say what proportion is addicted to the habit. As far as my experience will enable me to deal with this question, I cannot say that their efficiency is in any way affected except in the case of the lower class of Chinese. A Chinaman who is in a position financially to smoke opium does not stint himself of the necessities of life. A poor coolie does, consequently his health suffers and, therefore, in many cases his efficiency is not as good as it would be had he not acquired the smoking habit. Then, again, too many of the ignorant poor fly to small doses of opium or morphine internally, or to an injection of a solution of morphine. These are cheaper habits than smoking and unquestionably very serious evils arising from the smoking of opium. The baneful nature of these two habits, i.e., the taking of opium or morphine internally, and the injecting of morphine, is not open to question. If the Chinese could obtain the opium smoking extract at as reasonable a price as the British workman procures his weekly supply of tobacco there would be no such thing as regular morphine injections or internal doses by the mouth of opium or morphine. I am informed that the quantity of morphine imported into China is something enormous. It is unfortunate that statistics are not available. These evils arising from the use of opium may be attributed to the fact that the drug is overburdened for the purpose of revenue not only in Hong Kong but also in China.

8. There is no abuse of alcohol among the Chinese. The majority take shamshu (rice spirit) regularly at their principal daily meal.

9. The Chinese do not regard the smoking of opium as degrading or injurious, provided the smoker can afford to pay for it. I have frequently heard my servant object to a candidate for the post of house-coolie on the ground that he was an opium-smoker. He did not mean that he regarded the habit as bad, but that it was undesirable to have a man about the house whose pay was obviously insufficient for such a luxury. Moreover an opium smoker might want his pipe when required by his master for household duty. He might also find it necessary to steal articles from time to time in order to meet the drain on his purse. The latter consideration would weigh heavily in the mind of any good native head servant or "boy." The Chinese would regard the smoking of opium in a very favourable light when compared with the alcohol habit as displayed by the Europeans with whom they are brought in contact.

10. I have heard of cases of opium smokers breaking themselves of the habit in its early stages. If a reference is made to the Victoria Gaol statistics, it will be seen that prisoners, confirmed opium smokers, improve in health when the supply of opium is cut off. I am of opinion that only very strong minded men could break themselves of the smoking habit without the aid of internal doses of morphine.

11. The cutting off of the supply of Indian opium would mean in some parts of China increased cultivation of the poppy, &c., and increased use of the native opium derived therefrom. It is also highly probable that supplies would reach China from some new outside source. There is every reason to suppose that Smyrna or Constantinople opium, the finest opium in the world, could be produced in quantity sufficient to meet the demands of China. Persia opium finds its way to China now, and could obviously be produced and imported thereto in increased quantity. In this connexion it

would be as well to bear in mind the position of the neighbouring Portuguese Colony of Macao in respect of the foreign trade with China. It would, I feel sure, force the price of the drug to a fabulous figure, and intensify the evils referred to in my answer to Question No. 7. The Chinese are driven to the internal use of morphine, now they will be all the more inclined to acquire this dreadful habit if, owing to scarcity of the drug, they are not able to buy opium extract for their pipes. I am of opinion that the Chinese would not be likely to take to drink or to abstain from opium-smoking altogether.

13. Europeans do not contract the opium habit for the simple reason that the practice of opium smoking is an Asiatic and not a European custom, and Europeans naturally do not go abroad and adopt the customs and manners of the Asiatics with whom they are brought in contact.

14. Speaking generally, the Chinese do not take to the opium pipe in the first instance to allay physical pain. They regard it as a luxury suitable for introduction on special occasions. A merchant has some business to transact and visits the hong or business house of a friend. Details are discussed, and while this is going on the opium pipe is introduced and used by any of the party who may accept the invitation to smoke. In point of fact the practice may be compared to that which prevails among our own countrymen when visiting each other. The non-teetotaler who remarks when receiving a friend, "have a drink," or the teetotaler who in similar circumstances enquires "won't you take a cup of tea?" are extending a civility which may justly be compared to the Chinese custom of offering the opium pipe. An occasional pipe may be smoked in this way for a considerable time until the opium neophyte finds he cannot do without it, and that it is necessary to have a pipe regularly to satisfy the craving. It is within my experience that opium is regarded as a prophylactic in North Lincolnshire, where very large quantities are annually consumed, chiefly by women, in the marsh districts. It is taken internally in the form of pills and in liquid form as laudanum. Many of these creatures are noted for their haggish appearance and great age. There is, however, no evidence to show that the drug is similarly regarded by the Chinese in Hong Kong.

15. Yes, undoubtedly. The best proof of this is to be found in the large sale of morphine for internal use as an alleged anti-opium medicine.

16. There is no feeling of hostility against England. I have heard intelligent Chinese say that it would be a good thing if Great Britain would stop the introduction of opium; but they also say that of course this is out of the question, unless the two countries, Great Britain and China, co-operate for that object.

17. Some stress has been laid in the foregoing answers to the pernicious practice of morphine-taking in lieu of, or as an antidote to, the opium pipe. No reference is made to this habit in the series of questions I have had the honour to consider; it may, therefore, be assumed that the Commissioners were not in possession of any information on the subject. There is every reason to suppose that the practice of morphine injecting has been practically stamped out in this Colony, an ordinance having been introduced to effect that object. The Chinese are, however, still free to use morphine for ordinary internal use. I respectfully submit that the morphine vice cannot reasonably be dissociated from the opium question.

W. EDWARD CROW,
Government Analyst.

Hong Kong,
22nd December 1893.

HONG KONG.

REPORTS OF MORPHINE INJECTION.

Laid before the Legislative Council by Command of His Excellency the Governor, on the 12th September 1893.

No. 31-93, dated Hong Kong, 24th May 1893.

From Hou Fook Company, Opium Farmers, to the Hon. G. G. Mitchell-Innes, Colonial Treasurer, etc.

The Prepared Opium Ordinance of 1891, section 10, provides for the preparation and sale of prepared opium, and the word "preparation" by the interpretation clause in the Ordinance is stated thus: "the subjecting of opium of any kind to any degree of artificial heat, for any purpose whatever, shall be taken to be the preparing of such opium."

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In the latter part of section 10 it is provided "that no medical practitioner, chemist or druggist, not being a Chinese, or being such and having a European or American diploma, shall be prevented from preparing or selling opium *boni fide* for medical purposes."

Within the last few months a number of establishments have been opened in Hong Kong, to which those who have acquired the habit of opium smoking have been induced to resort for the purpose of having a preparation of opium administered by means of subcutaneous injections. As the charge made for each injection is very small, large numbers of Chinese have been induced to frequent these houses, and, we believe that a considerable diminution in the receipts of the farm arising from the sale of prepared opium for local consumption has been owing to this cause. Under these circumstances we would ask you to be good enough to suggest to the Government either some modification of the law with reference to the sale of preparations of opium, or else that a law might be passed making the subcutaneous injection of drugs except under certain restrictions and by a duly qualified medical man, a punishable offence.

We are informed that a large number of persons have been seriously injured in their health by having recourse to the places above mentioned, and as the practice is at the same time likely to affect permanently the revenue of the Colony as well as the present opium farmers we feel justified in urging you to bring the matter to the serious attention of the Colonial Government.

Minute by Assistant Registrar General.

Honourable Registrar General,—Apparently the practice of injecting morphia has arisen only within the last few months.

Injections can be obtained at the following places :—
312, Queen's Road West.—A branch opened about a month. 50 or 60 people go there a day.

1, New Street.—Opened a fortnight. Plenty of patronage.

1st floor, 2, East Street.—Opened 2 weeks. 60 or 70 a day. Fee at above places, 1 cent an injection.

2nd floor, 18, Taipingshan Street.—Opened 3 weeks. Fee, 2 cents.

2nd floor, 10 Kwaiwa Lane.—Opened in November. Number increased from 10 to 40 a day. Fee reduced from 2 to 1 cent.

367, Queen's Road, Central.—Opened in March. Number of patients increased from 20 to 60.

98, Bonham Strand. Opened 1½ months. 40 or 50 a day.

41, Stanley Street.—Branch of Kwaiwa Lane establishment. About 60.

179, Queen's Road, East.—Opened 2 months.

104, Bonham Strand.

85, Bonham Strand.

65, Third Street.

91 Queen's Road West.

50, Praya West.

*Attached is a notice by a hospital, in Canton, recommending the adoption of the injection of morphia.

The numbers given above cannot be relied on.

The ostensible reason for taking morphine is to take rid of the craving for opium; but even if a man doesn't want to do so he naturally prefers spending 3 or 4 cents on morphia to 15 or 20 on opium.

The coolie class patronise these places. I should say that we won't be able to judge of the extent of this practice for another month or so. The writers put the number of people at between 1,000 and 2,000, who were no doubt habitual opium smokers.

5th June, 1893.

A. W. BREWIN.

Report by the Police.

Captain Superintendent,—In accordance with instructions received from you and Mr. Buckle we have made inquiries regarding the use of morphia injections.

The injections of morphia are made with the object of curing persons of their opium smoking habits and the method is said to have been instituted by one of Dr. Kerr's students in Canton. It was commenced in Hong Kong on a small scale last year, but it is only within the last two or three months that it has attained to its present extensive use. There are in the Colony, including Aberdeen, Shauiwan and Yaumati, about eighteen places in which about one thousand persons receive injections twice a day. There are a few, who no longer use it, who claim to have been completely cured of their opium

smoking habits by it; but others have tried it and afterwards gone back to opium smoking.

A coolie who would smoke five or six cents' worth of opium a day only pays one cent for each injection, so that he saves three or four cents a day and obtains an equal effect while at the same time he is getting cured of the opium smoking.

The morphia used is purchased at the dispensaries as a powder at 40 dols. a lb. by one or two men, who dissolve it in water and sell the solution to the injectors. These inject the liquid under the skin, at the muscles of the arms, with small hypodermic syringes, which are also purchased at the dispensaries. The operator begins on a patient with a big dose, which he decreases daily, or once in two days for about a month, when the cure should be effected.

Few of those making the injections are even Chinese medical practitioners and none of them have had training under foreigners. The unrestricted use of such a drug by reckless and unqualified practitioners must be a great danger to the community and, like the unrestricted sale, seems to call for the imposition of some restriction as a safeguard. Whether morphia in the shape of a powder comes under the Ordinance as a preparation of opium may be a question for the law officers to decide, or if the opium farmer wishes, he could take up a case as a test case.

W. STANTON,
W. QUINCEY,
Inspectors.

Central Police Station,
19th June 1893.

Minute by the Captain Superintendent of Police.

Honourable Colonial Treasurer,—Report in accordance with your request.

F. H. M.

HONG KONG.

REPORTS ON MORPHINE INJECTION.

Laid before the Legislative Council by Command of His Excellency the Governor, on the 12th September 1893.

No. 31—93, dated Hong Kong, 14th July 1893.

From PH. B. C. AYRES, Colonial Surgeon to the Honourable COLONIAL SECRETARY.

In accordance with instructions contained in your minute of the 26th ultimo, I requested Dr. Atkinson to give me a report of a case of morphia injection by Chinese that came under his notice in the Government Civil Hospital, and also requested Mr. Crow, Government Analyst, to ascertain, if possible, the preparation of morphia used, and the strength of the solutions from the samples forwarded, and also to procure samples direct for himself, if possible, and get all the information he could generally as to the practice of morphia injection among the Chinese. These reports I now forward.† Mr. Crow's report is a very complete one, and leaves no doubt upon the subject.

The dose, used as it appears quite commonly, of gr. ½ of morphia in solution is a very full one and very rarely used by a medical practitioner. To allay even very acute pain a ½ to ¾ of a grain are the doses most commonly used. It will be seen by this that the dose used among the Chinese is a very full one. This supposed cure for opium smoking is the introduction of an undoubtedly pernicious habit for one that, as I have proved, is a very doubtful one and easily cured with no evil effects to the patient by complete deprivation at once. To deprive these men of the habit at once of using morphia injections will cause much suffering, not only nervous exhaustion for want of the stimulant, but in the majority of cases it will result in an attack of profuse diarrhoea very difficult to control, and will result in a sort of cholera scare.

Morphia injection is used ostensibly for the cure of opium smoking, but from the evidence given there is no attempt whatever to decrease the strength of the injections; but on the contrary the number of doses taken appears to increase and the evidence points to the introduction of a habit well known to be an undoubtedly pernicious habit for one, that is to say, the most of it a very doubtfully pernicious one.

The profit side of the question is the only one likely to be looked upon by those who conduct the cure. It is shown to be from 200 to 400 per cent., and as long a

* Not printed.

† Enclosure No. 1. Enclosure No. 2.

they make such a profit there is little chance of their patients being cured.

I am of opinion that it is of little use striking at the sale of the drug or the instruments used as there are European agencies for these in all the principal Chinese towns. The only way will be to strike at the shops in which it is practised, the same as gambling houses, and the punishments should be severe and refer only to the keepers.

At the same time provisions will have to be made to meet the evils which will arise from this stoppage amongst those that have contracted the habit, which might be done by a notification by the Registrar General that medicines can be obtained from the European hospitals and dispensaries, and also from police stations, the same as has been done in regard to cholera cases.

Enclosure No 1.

No. 12, dated Hong Kong, 1st July, 1893.

From J. M. ATKINSON, Superintendent, to Dr. Ph. B. C. AYRES, C.M.G., Colonel Surgeon, &c.

SIR,

My attention was first called to the practice of morphine injecting among the Chinese about a month ago by Dr. Atkinson, when handing me a bottle of liquid alleged to have been prepared for subcutaneous injection, which, on analysis, proved to be a solution of hydrochlorate of morphine.

2. At my request our comradore, Mr. Hoo A. Choo, brought me, about a month ago, a victim of this pernicious habit who volunteered the following statement:—"My name is Chu A. Yee. I am a barber, and am 28 years of age. The marks on my arms and thighs are caused by a needle used for inserting medicine. I took the medicine for the first time in this way in October last. At first I had two injections daily, one in the morning and one in the evening. Afterwards when I had diarrhoea and pains in the stomach, I had one or two injections more. After using the injections for three months, my arm used to be very stiff at night. I am now having four or five injections daily. Have had two this morning (12 noon). At first I paid two cents for each injection. I now only pay one cent. I had the injections in the first place because I was told by many people that they would cure me of the opium habit. Have not smoked any opium since October 1892. Up to that date I had been an opium-smoker for more than a year. I felt better when I smoked opium than I do now. I used to get medicine injected at the Chun Tak-tong drug shop, Wyndham Street. They were made this morning by Chan Mui Yuk, Queen's Road, Central."

3. I may mention that the man on that date weighed 112 lbs. He appeared somewhat dazed.

4. Thinking it would be useful to have some information as to the strength of the morphine solution I requested Mr. Hoo A. Choo to obtain a supply. He forwarded it to me on Sunday last. I then requested him to send the actual purchaser to my office. The man came on the 29th ultimo. He was the barber referred to in paragraph 2. His appearance had certainly not improved. Weight 107 lbs.—a loss of 5 lbs. within a month. He said that he had had three injections that day.

5. He made the following statement:—"On the 25th June, Mr. Hoo A. Choo gave me 1.30 dols. to buy some medicine. I went to 'Tsing Lok Hin, 87 Queen's Road, West, and saw the man who had given me injections on a former occasion. I asked him to let me have some of the medicine he uses. He filled the bottle (one fluid ounce) I had with me and charged 20 cents for it. I handed the bottle to 'Mak Kao.'"

6. Mak Kao informed me that he handed this bottle to Mr. Hoo A. Choo personally.

7. Submitted to analysis this solution yielded 2 per cent. of morphine=2.5 per cent. of the hydrochlorate or muriate, the commonest commercial salt of this alkaloid.

8. The solid preparation handed to me by Dr. Atkinson a few days ago proved to be hydrochlorate of morphine.

9. It appeared to me desirable to have ocular proof of this practice. Accordingly, accompanied by Mr. Chan Kam-tsun, one of my assistants, I went to No. 87, Queen's Road, West, yesterday morning, I directed him to go upstairs, and ask the man in charge if he would allow me to visit his establishment. No objection being offered, I entered and observed three men asleep on mats, and about 12 or 15 standing in the verandah. Some of the men, I was informed, had just had injections; the others were waiting their turn. There were numerous puncture scars on their arms. I saw two operations performed. In one case about 15 minims, and in the other case about 20 minims were injected. The operator informed me that there was a limit as to the number of minims he injected, and that the quantity used depended on the amount of opium his patients had been in the habit of smoking. The syringe used was a good instrument of American manufacture. The operation was performed in the usual way, and after each injection the needle was wiped with a dirty rag. The operator said he prepared the solution himself from a powder purchased at a European pharmacy, and showed me an empty bottle labelled "Muriate of Morphine, Poison."

10. I may here mention that this injecting business is a profitable undertaking. I understand the Chinese can buy hydrochlorate of morphine locally at 2.50 dols. per ounce (437.5 grains). From this quantity 875 injections each containing half a grain of morphine hydrochlorate could be prepared. This would leave a profit of 6.25 dols. on each ounce of morphine at a charge of 1 cent for each injection. If one-third of a grain were each used at each injection, the profit would be about 10.00 dols.

11. There can be no two opinions as to the baneful nature of this practice, and no effort should be spared to stop it forthwith.

12. The ordinance should be made as sweeping as possible. A saving clause in favour of practitioners registered under Ordinance No. 6 of 1884 would, I presume, be necessary. Native practitioners holding diplomas granted by the College of Medicine for Chinese should not be exempted from the operation of the Bill. Having regard to the profitable character of the business, as set forth in paragraph 10, the temptation to take up the practice of injecting morphine would be great indeed.

13. At the same time something should, I think, be done to relieve the sufferings of those now having injections if the practice is made illegal. These men will be in a terrible state when the injections are discontinued.

14. Would it not be possible to supply from this department some powerful stimulant and tonic such as chinchona and aromatic spirit of ammonia to all victims of the injection habit on application?

15. These wretched creatures will not be able to satisfy the inevitable craving by a return to opium-smoking. I said to the man Chu A. Yee on the 29th ultimo, "Why don't you stop it? You will die if you go on at this rate." He replied, "How can I? I am a poor man, and can't afford to buy opium for smoking. If I smoke opium again, it will cost me twice as much as it did before."

16. Poverty on the one hand, and the exorbitant charge made by the opium farmer for the smoking extract on the other, are, in my opinion, the chief causes of the introduction of this practice.

I have, &c.,

W. EDWARD CROW,
Government Analyst.

The Colonial Surgeon,
&c., &c., &c.

Enclosure No. 2.

SUPERINTENDENT, Government Civil Hospital, to
COLONIAL SURGEON.

Government Civil Hospital,
Hong Kong, 3rd July 1893.

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 31st May last, I interviewed a street coolie who was sent to me Mr. McCallum. His statement was as follows:—
"My name is Fui A. Kwan. I am 43 years old and live at No. 7, Tia Loi Lane, First Street. I am a street

APP. XXV.
Hong-Kong.

coolie. For the past 20 years I have been in the habit of smoking opium, the daily amount being three mace. A little over two months ago I was told that I could be cured of this habit by having some medicine inserted into my arm. Twice daily I have had this done at the Hung Chung shop (crockerly ware shop), Morrison Street, for which I have paid one cent each injection. It is much cheaper than smoking opium and I get the same satisfaction out of it. I know of 10 Chinese doctors who each treats 50 to 100 men daily with this medicine."

The man had a number of marks on both arms evidently produced by punctured wounds.

His weight was 120 lbs.

I received from the Honourable Colonial Treasurer about this date a liquid in a small bottle which he informed me was the medicine used by these Chinese doctors for this purpose. I handed it over to the Government analyst to analyse.

About the 20th ultimo I received a solid preparation from the same gentleman which I also handed over to Mr. Crow for purposes of analysis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. M. ATKINSON,
Superintendent.

Dr. Ph. B. C. Ayres, C.M.G.,
Colonial Surgeon.

APP. XXVI.
China.

APPENDIX XXVI.

QUESTIONS regarding OPIUM CONSUMPTION and OPIUM REVENUE IN CHINA, issued by the ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM, through HER MAJESTY'S MINISTER IN CHINA,* to be answered by—

(a.) Her Britannic Majesty's Consuls in China and any officials of the Chinese Government whom the Minister thinks it desirable and unobjectionable to consult;

(b.) Medical men, merchants, and others resident in or natives of China, who are specially conversant with any part of China in which opium is grown or consumed.

1. Is opium commonly consumed by the Chinese in the part of China with which you are acquainted?

2. What proportion, should you conjecture, of the adult males of each race are consumers? Do women consume opium to any extent? Do children?

3. What have you observed to be the effects of opium, moral, physical, and social, on its consumers? Is the effect the same on consumers of each race, or can you draw distinctions between the effects on consumers of different races? Is there any difference between the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium?

4. Do consumers chiefly smoke or do they eat opium? or do they drink a decoction of opium? If opium is taken in two or all of these forms, can you distinguish between the effects of each?

5. What are the proportions of those who use opium (i) without injury; (ii) with slight injury; (iii) with great injury (opium sots).

6. Is it correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium? Do you know any or many cases of consumers who have taken their opium for years without harm to themselves? Please give description of one or two such cases in detail.

7. Do a majority of the labourers, or of the merchants, or of the artisans, of the part of China with which you are conversant, consume opium? If so, what is generally the effect of the opium habit on their efficiency in their calling?

If possible, give details and examples in reply to this question.

8. How does the use or abuse of opium among the races of that part of China with which you are conversant compare with the use or abuse of alcohol among such races in regard to the effect on consumers?

9. Is the habit of consuming opium condemned as degrading or injurious by the general opinion of the Chinese? How would they regard the opium habit as compared with the alcohol habit?

10. Can and do opium consumers break themselves of the opium habit?

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off; what would be the effect on opium consumers and on the population of your neighbourhood? Would they resort to Chinese-grown opium? or would they take to alcohol or to some narcotic other than opium? or would they abstain altogether?

12. Do people of European race contract the opium habit in any numbers? If not, why not? And what makes Asiatics more liable to contract the habit?

13. How are opium consumers led to use the drug? Do they usually or often take it in the first instance to

allay physical pain? Is opium, within your knowledge, a prophylactic against fever, or rheumatism, or malaria? Or is it so regarded commonly by the inhabitants of the part of China with which you are conversant?

14. Do opium consumers themselves usually desire to get free of the opium habit?

15. Is there among the Chinese in the part of China with which you are acquainted; a feeling of hostility against England? If so, how does that feeling display itself? And is it any way connected with the action of England in allowing opium to be exported from India?

16. By what classes of persons and in what provinces or districts of China is Indian opium usually consumed, and how far does Chinese-grown opium compete with Indian opium in the provinces or districts in which the two kinds are readily obtainable?

17. What will be the probable consequences of the prohibition or restriction of the export of Indian opium:—

- (a.) On the consumption of opium by the Chinese;
- (b.) On the cultivation of the poppy and production of opium in China;
- (c.) On the arrangements made by the Chinese Government for raising a revenue from opium.

18. Can you give any estimate of the area now under poppy in the several provinces of China and the average annual out-turn of opium?

19. What revenue does the Chinese Government derive from opium, and how does the taxation levied on Indian opium compare with that levied on opium produced in China?

20. Have you any other remark to make in regard to opium consumption among the people around you?

N.B.—It is desired that gentlemen who kindly undertake to deal with these questions should answer as many as they can.

SWATOW.

H.B.M. Consulate Swatow,

SIR,
8th March 1894.
UNDER instructions received from Her Majesty's Minister in Peking, I have the honour to forward the replies I have received from four of the seven persons resident at this port, to whom I made application for replies to the paper of questions issued by the Royal Commission on Opium.

Of those who have sent me replies, Mr. J. D. Monro is a merchant who has resided some 23 years at Swatow or Canton.

Mr. Henry Layng is a qualified medical practitioner. The Rev. W. Ashmore, D.D., and the Rev. H. L. Mackenzie are missionaries of long experience in this part of China of the American Baptist Mission, and the Mission of the Presbyterian Church of England respectively.

I also applied to Mr. A. Lyall, the medical man attached to the hospital of the Presbyterian Mission here, who has had much experience among the Chinese; but, although he promised to send me replies, he was apparently unable to do so prior to his departure for Europe. His evidence would have been of considerable value.

It was my intention to have answered the questions myself, but, on consideration, I find that my informa-

* See footnote on page 145. For the Minister's reply, see page 228.

tion and opinions are for the most part second hand. I have never turned my attention directly to the subject of the effects of opium on Chinese. I can only say that during my 28 years' service in China, its disastrous effects on the country have not thrust themselves prominently on my notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) B. C. GEORGE SCOTT,

The Secretary to
the Royal Commission on Opium, H.B.M. Consul.
Calcutta.

Rev. H. L. MACKENZIE, M.A., Missionary of the Presbyterian Church of England in Swatow, Province of Canton, China, since 1861.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS REGARDING OPIUM CONSUMPTION AND OPIUM REVENUE IN CHINA.

1. Yes; I meet with or hear of opium-smokers in all parts of the Swatow country. In all the cities and towns, and in almost all, if not in all, the villages opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese. In the town of Swatow there are more opium shops than rice shops, a fact which of itself indicates the wide prevalence of the opium habit.

2. It is difficult to answer accurately, but I should say that about 10 per cent. of adult males smoke opium. Very few women are addicted to the habit, and no children, so far as I am aware.

3. I have observed that in the great majority of cases opium smokers deteriorate in moral character, in physical health, and in reputation. It is to be remembered that questions of morality and of social reputation are not viewed from the same high place of public opinion in a heathen country as in Britain, where Christianity has, to a considerable extent, moulded the thoughts, and influenced the opinions of large numbers. A Chinaman, when unmistakably condemning the habit of opium-smoking as bad and hurtful, will yet often do so very lightly and with, it may be, little sincere moral aversion to the habit. Still, it is certainly the case that the public opinion of China is practically unanimous in condemning the habit, and an opium-smoker is regarded as a man who has given way to a bad habit, and, to that extent, loses reputation, even though in other respects he may be regarded as a respectable, well-doing man. I have met with very many men, and heard of more, whose moral sense was greatly weakened and whose will power was almost gone, and who manifestly had sunk low, both in their own esteem and in that of their neighbours, just because of the opium habit. Such men were too evidently reduced to both physical and moral weakness through this habit to make it possible to think of it as harmless, not to say beneficial.

4. In this part of China opium is commonly smoked, not eaten, or drunk as a decoction. A large number of suicides of both men and women occur through their swallowing opium.

5.—(1.) So far as I know, no one smokes opium habitually without more or less injury. I have spoken to many Chinamen on the subject, smokers and non-smokers, and all, without exception, admit that the habit is not good but bad. (2.) A considerable proportion of opium-smokers can for years, even for many years, indulge in the habit without much apparent injury. But these are men who are pretty well off, have plenty of nourishing food, and use stimulants to some extent. As a rule they have not to undergo hard continuous labour, and have their time to a considerable extent at their own disposal. But even such men invariably admit that the habit is a hurtful one, a habit to be blamed not praised. (3.) The larger proportion of those who acquire the habit greatly injure both their health, their substance, and their character.

6. I do not think it is correct to say that there cannot be, or that there is not such a thing as moderation in the use of opium; but the moderate use of the drug is comparatively rare and exceptional. The rule, the very common experience of opium-smokers, is that the amount must be gradually increased. I have spoken to a large number of opium-smokers, both among the well-to-do and among the poor labouring classes, and never have I heard any of them speak of the habit as being "without harm" to themselves; they all condemn it as wasteful and hurtful.

7. I do not believe that anything like "a majority of the labourers, merchants, or artisans" in this part of China smoke opium. The effect on the greater number

of those who do, especially on labourers, and artisans, poor farmers and shopkeepers, is to impoverish themselves and their families, to gradually unfit themselves for their work, and to carry it on at a great disadvantage as compared with those who do not smoke opium. The time required for indulging in the habit, the feeble, "feckless" state of the man who for any cause is prevented from smoking at his usual times, the general deterioration of strength and vigour which the habit induces, the lack of confidence on the part of the people generally in opium-smokers—all these injuriously affect the work and calling of those who give way to the habit.

8. In this part of China the only use of opium is as a medicine; the opium habit is considered as an abuse of the drug. Multitudes in China, as in England, use alcoholic drinks in moderation with little or no harm, generally speaking. Their character and their health are not, at least need not be, injuriously affected by a stated moderate use of such drinks. In regard to opium, the case is quite different. Even a moderate use of it for smoking is harmful; and the habit of opium-smoking is commonly classed with drunkenness (not with moderate drinking), with gambling, licentiousness, and such vices.

9. I have had ample opportunity for over 30 years of judging in regard to this question, and so abundant and indisputable has the evidence been, that I have no hesitation whatever in affirming that "the general opinion of the Chinese condemns the habit of opium-smoking as both degrading and injurious." I have spoken with hundreds of the people, Christians and heathen, well-to-do and poor people, smokers and non-smokers, and I know that it is glaringly incorrect to assert that the Chinese people do not condemn the habit as an evil and immoral one. The alcohol habit, if not carried to excess, is not thus condemned. In regard to opium, the question is not one of excess or moderation; the habit is condemned as bad and as hurtful.

10. Very few opium-smokers, so far as I am aware, "break themselves of the habit." Many may for a time give it up, for one reason or another, but I am told and I believe that few of those who form the habit "break themselves of it" permanently.

11. I can scarcely say with any definiteness, but I think it altogether probable that were "the supply of Indian opium cut off" from this part of China, many would abstain altogether, and there would be less poverty and misery in many a home where now the consumption of opium gives rise to these and other evils.

12. Not so far as I am aware.

13. Some begin to use it in cases of sickness, and, it is probable, find it welcome as giving relief from pain. Their use of it as a medicine gradually ripens into their abuse of it as a habitual indulgence. Others again are invited by friends or acquaintances to "have a smoke," and going on from this become, ere they are well aware of it, addicted to the habit and mastered by it. Opium is not, so far as I have learned—and I have made inquiry—"a prophylactic against fever, or rheumatism, or malaria." It is not so regarded by the inhabitants of this part of China.

14. Opium smokers do usually desire to get free of the habit. Many hundreds of them have asked me if I could cure them, and it was evident that in asking they felt the misery, the ill-health, the degradation of the habit. I do not mean that their will was strong enough to bear them through the great discomfort, and even distress, that usually accompany the breaking of the habit, or that their moral sense was very keen on the subject. One of the painful things that often strikes me in regard to such men is the evident break-down of all moral force and principle, the abject degradation of the man as a moral responsible creature. He says that he wants to be freed from the habit that has wrought him such evil, and yet, in a large number of cases, the moral nature has been so enfeebled and perverted, and the will-power of the man so broken down, that one can scarcely cherish even a faint hope of his giving up that which is ruining him.

15. I have repeatedly heard the Chinese smokers of opium and non-smokers complain bitterly of the wrong that England has done to China in importing the drug. It is a very common charge against us that we bring to them that which impoverishes and injures such multitudes of them, simply for gain's sake. It seems to me simply out of the question to deny that the Chinese, as a nation, feel aggrieved by our action in this matter. I have so often been reproached for it, by men of all

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classes, by rich and poor, scholar and peasant, that I cannot understand how any man who knows the Chinese people well can assert that they do not feel aggrieved. It seems to me, and I suppose to everyone who has lived and travelled much among the Chinese, and who, knowing their language, is both able and willing to speak with them and to become intimately acquainted with their ways and opinions—it seems, I say, absurd as well as untrue to assert that they do not complain of the conduct of England in importing opium. I have no doubt that the great majority of the people would be pleased were this import to cease.

16–19. I am not in a position to give definite answers to these questions. But, speaking generally, I should say that the people of China would regard “the prohibition of the export of Indian opium” as a great relief from a growing evil, as a proof of the goodwill of England to China. I do not feel sure that the Chinese Government would honestly face the question of the prohibition of the growth of the poppy and manufacture of opium in China, and take effective measures to enforce this prohibition, even if England prohibited the export of Indian opium. It may be that questions of revenue would influence it injuriously in this matter, as such questions have injuriously influenced the Governments of more enlightened nations in the West. But that the vast bulk of the Chinese people, its many millions of poor especially, would feel with thankfulness that a great temptation to evil and harm from abroad was removed, were the export of Indian opium prohibited, I have no doubt.

20. It may seem like repetition to remark, in answer to this question, that my long residence in this part of China, and my frequent journeys among the people, and much intercourse with them in their own towns and villages in the interior, have but strengthened the conclusion to which I came years ago, viz., that “the consumption of opium among them” is, in the vast majority of cases, vicious and harmful. It is an insidious and dangerous form of vice, and inevitably affects those who practice it injuriously. I have heard and known of many families who have been ruined by it. I know of cases in which the husband sold his wife, and the father sold his child that he might procure the means of indulging the evil habit. And as regards the pawning of clothes and other possessions, the mortgaging of fields and houses, not to speak of thieving and robbery and gambling, these are things of not uncommon occurrence in this part of China in connexion with the indulgence in this vice. It is ignorance of the real state of matters as regards opium-smoking in China that is largely responsible for the statements one hears and reads as to its being harmless and even a beneficial habit. The opportunities which missionaries enjoy for getting to know this question all round as it affects the people of China are, I may perhaps be allowed to remark, exceptionally good. We live much among the Chinese, we learn to read and to speak their language, we visit them in their houses, and thus we get to know instances well nigh innumerable what the vast majority of them think of opium-smoking. Our testimony from all parts of this great empire is practically unanimous, and it is to this effect that the habit of opium-smoking is evil and only evil, that the Chinese almost without exception condemn it as such, and that they complain justly, I believe, of the action of England, both past and present, in this matter. I am, like most Englishmen, proud of my country, and think with the poet that “there is no land like England.” But it is with shame, and sorrow, and with fear of impending judgment because of our national sin in this matter, that I think of the wrong we have done and are doing to China through our opium traffic. I have seen and heard too much of the mischief wrought by it to regard it as otherwise than iniquitous and disgraceful, and full of inhumanity—unconscious and inconsiderate inhumanity it may be—but still inhumanity. This traffic is a striking and outstanding instance of the truth of the words:—

“Man’s inhumanity to man
Makes countless thousands mourn.”

In submitting the above evidence and remarks on the opium question as regards China, it seems to me only reasonable to state, as a matter of first-rate significance, this fact, viz., that no one who is known to be an opium-smoker or the keeper of an opium-shop is received into the Christian Church. Baptism is refused to such; and if members of the church should happen to become opium-smokers or keepers of opium-shops they are at once subjected to church discipline. This action is universally approved by the Chinese Christians (I refer

specially to Protestants), now some 50,000 in number. It would be an outrage on the convictions of these Christians were the missionaries to baptise or receive to the Communion such men. These missionaries all over the Empire belonging to every branch of the Church of Christ, and coming from England, Ireland, and Scotland, from the United States and Canada, from Germany, and from Scandinavia, are practically unanimous in accepting the views of the Chinese on this matter as just and reasonable.

It is not inconsistent with the principles of Christianity nor disgraceful to the church that those who make a temperate, habitual use of alcoholic drinks should be members of the church and in full communion with it. It is inconsistent with those principles and a disgrace to the church that men who habitually smoke opium or keep opium-shops should be admitted as members of the church.

H. W. MACKENZIE.

Swatow, 3rd March 1894.

REPLIES to QUESTIONS of the ROYAL OPIUM COMMISSION, by WILLIAM ASHMORE, 43 years a Missionary in Siam and China.

Replies are made to the Questions as numbered.

1. Yes, it is very commonly used.
2. Of the Chinese adult males it is safe to say one in 10; of the women, very few; of children, none.
3. Effects vary on different constitutions the same as with alcohol. Some men of vigorous vitality will use opium for many years and not show marked results. Others show the effects almost immediately in a general physical and moral deterioration. The latter is equally marked with the former. It is an every-day thing, comparatively speaking, to hear Chinese saying about persons far gone in the habit, “It will not do to trust him; he smokes opium.” In missionary work there is, as a rule, but limited hope of doing moral good to a confirmed opium user. His moral sensibilities seem to be besotted, his will-power almost gone. He forms many good resolutions, but when the craving comes on, down goes everything before it. His business is neglected, his family suffers, and as time rolls on he becomes a physical and a moral wreck.
4. They both smoke and eat, but according to circumstances. If they have money they prefer to smoke; when their resources run low, they take to eating cheaper and refuse sots.
5. “Without injury”: Apparently most of those who are in the early stages of the habit. This for a short time only. “With slight injury”: The same persons above indicated as the occasional use becomes regular, and that too only for a time at the beginning. “With great injury”: Nearly all of those with whom the habit is fully formed, and whose regular recurrent daily craving has attained the mastery over the man. When the hour comes, smoke they must. Such a man as this may not be called an “opium sot” as yet. That expression would rather apply to one who gives up all else about and devotes himself to the pipe and to getting means to supply it. At least that would be the definition here at this place; but opium, as I have seen its workings, does “great injury” to a vast number who would not be called “sots.”
6. There is no such thing as an assured moderation. Men are “moderate” at the very first, but the desire grows for more. I have been told hundreds of times that it is in the end wholly a question of money as to the quantity of opium that will be smoked. My own observations all confirm this opinion. I know men who say they use two or three dollars’ worth a day, and I know other men, very poor, who pinch along on three cents’ worth a day. When the latter happen to strike a good job, and get, say, 10 or 15 cents a day, for a few days the extra, as a rule, goes for more opium, and not for clothes to replace the rags they wear.
7. Possibly a majority of well-to-do merchants, but not so much as a majority of artisans or labourers. Many sailors and boatmen are given to the habit. The use of opium, beyond any question, impairs their efficiency in their calling. They are weaker physically, and are wholly unreliable; their promises and engagements cannot be depended on. I have had good mechanics in my employ off and on for years. After they had begun to smoke opium, and had got the habit fixed, I found them utterly unreliable, and even dishonest with funds entrusted to their care.

8. Much of the same general nature, though of the two the opium rather exceeds the alcohol in damaging results.

9. Yes, "the general opinion of the Chinese" here does condemn the habit as degrading and injurious; but it is so common, and so many respectable persons are addicted to it, that the "opinion" has but little operative value. Foreigners are continually being reproached for introducing opium and all its attendant evils.

10. Very few have will-power enough to break off. Many feel the yoke, and writhe under it, and make efforts to break off, but they are usually weak and spasmodic. Until they try to break off, they are not aware of the tremendous grip the hankering has upon them. They usually must have help. Even then they fail oftentime. They return to the drug, or betake themselves to opiates in some other form, as in pills, hypodermic injections, &c.

11. The old smokers would, probably most of them, seek some substitute. But the new generation of smokers would be greatly lessened in numbers by reason of the lessening of the supplies and of the temptation.

12. But few Europeans that I know of. It is not popular as a stimulant among them. But if once started there would be reason to apprehend a wide spread of it, just as opium has spread in certain fashionable circles in certain American cities.

13. Usually on invitation, or as a holiday source of enjoyment. It has been said by a few that it is a preventive of disease, but it is not so commonly regarded by such people as I know in the towns and villages here about.

14. Many of them, but lack in will-power, as above stated.

15. Yes. The remaining questions can be answered better by others.

WILLIAM ASHMORE.

ANSWERS to QUESTIONS regarding the CONSUMPTION of OPIUM in SWATOW and DISTRICT.

1. Yes.

2. About 10 per cent. of the adult males of the Tie Chin or Hok Do population of this district are consumers of opium. This estimate is based on information received from Chinese sources, and, I think, may be accepted as fairly accurate. Amongst the Hakkas the proportion is probably larger than 10 per cent. Women do not use opium to any appreciable extent, so far as I can learn, and children never use it.

3. So far as my observation goes, the effect of opium is decidedly to deteriorate the consumer morally and physically, particularly if the consumer belongs to the poorer class of Chinese. Smokers inform me that the habit lays a stronger hold on a man who smokes Indian opium than when he uses the Chinese-grown drug.

4. Consumers in this district all smoke the opium. The confirmed opium-smoker, when poor, frequently eats the dross or refuse of the pipe. Opium in the form of laudanum, morphia, or other decoction, is practically unknown to Swatow Chinese.

5. Some inquiry amongst non-smokers, moderate smokers, and confirmed smokers has led me to the conclusion that, on a rough estimate (i.) about 10 per cent. of smokers use the drug only at social functions, in order to appear like their neighbours. These do not inhale the smoke, and therefore they do not suffer any appreciable injury; (ii.) about 40 to 50 per cent. of consumers are constant smokers, with injury, greater or less, according to their habits and general health; and (iii.) the remaining 30 or 40 per cent. of smokers become "opium sots."

6. I have known a fair number of cases of what may be called moderation in the use of opium. These include the persons referred to in paragraph (i.) of answers to question 5, who are chiefly well-to-do Chinese, who "play with the pipe" (to use an expression of one of them), at gatherings of friends for dinners, &c. I have not known a case of a habitual opium-smoker who has not done harm to himself, greater or less; but many such cases are said to exist by persons whose testimony must be received with respect. I have

known several cases of men becoming complete wrecks from the habitual use of opium.

7. I believe the use of opium to be the exception amongst labourers and artisans in this district. Amongst merchants it is the rule, and, so far as I can judge, the effect on them seems to be that of reducing their bodily activity without seriously impairing their mental faculties. To take an instance of one man with whom I have been brought in close daily contact for a number of years; the opium habit does not appear to have rendered him a less capable man of business. His memory is excellent (much superior to that of the average European), and his faculties generally unimpaired; but he always sleeps until about mid-day, and would be of no use if roused much before then, having spent half the night on the opium couch.

8. Instances of alcoholic excess are very rare amongst Chinese in Swatow, and I have no experience of any, though I believe that such cases do exist.

9. The general opinion of Chinese is adverse to the opium habit as being injurious alike to the health and the purse of the smoker. Whether it is considered degrading largely depends upon the social position of the consumer. What is considered a venial offence in the rich or well-to-do man is condemned in the case of the poor man, chiefly for the reason that the latter can afford neither the money to buy the opium nor the loss of bodily power which its use entails. It is also condemned in a poor man, because, when he takes to opium, he almost invariably neglects his family. I have not heard the opium and alcohol habit compared by Chinese.

10. Cases are comparatively rare in which the consumers can break themselves of the opium habit, but they do occur.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off, consumers would take to the Chinese-grown entirely in place of using the two, as they do at present.

12. The number of Europeans in Swatow is small, and I have not heard of an instance of one who contracted the opium habit. Opium-smoking is regarded by most Europeans as a disgusting practice, chiefly on account of the offensive smell, and it has no attractions for them whatsoever. Chinese usually contract the habit when young men by frequenting brothels and gambling dens.

13. I cannot say whether opium is a prophylactic against fever, &c., and I have not heard Chinese describe it as such.

14. Consumers do not, as a rule, desire to get free from the habit, though there are many exceptions, I believe.

15. Chinese do not concern themselves with this aspect of the question unless it is brought before them by a European, in which case they might appreciate the good intention on the part of England, though it is doubtful.

16. The Indian opium is more coveted by smokers than the Chinese drug, with which it is frequently mixed. Smokers describe the Indian opium as "hot to the taste," and the Chinese as "cool."

17. The effect of prohibition of the export of Indian opium would, in my opinion, probably be (a) on the consumption of opium by Chinese, *nil*; (b) increased cultivation of the poppy in China; (c) increased taxation on native-grown opium.

18-19. These questions can be better answered from official sources of information than by me.

20. On the whole, the prevalence of the opium habit must, I believe, be regarded as a misfortune to the people of the district. The prevalence of the habit amongst the native officials and the revenues derived from the trade combine to render it very doubtful whether any honest effort to stamp out the use of opium is ever likely to succeed.

J. D. MONRO.

Swatow, 22nd February 1894.

From Dr. LAYNG.

1. Yes.

2. From 5 to 10 per cent. of adult. Of 300 consecutive Chinese patients attended during the last 10 months, 16 only were opium-smokers. Women very rarely; occasionally as a relief from some terrible malady, or

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when sunken low in the depths of prostitution. Children never.

3. When the bounds of moderation are passed there is unreliability, indolence, physical degeneration, and social degradation. Indian-grown opium is preferred by smokers as it is stronger; a smaller quantity suffices. I know of no difference in effects.

4. Chiefly smoke; occasionally eat. I have met with none who take a decoction. The lowest of the low will eat the dregs of the opium pipe.

5.—(i.) 10 per cent. (ii.) 50 per cent. (iii.) 40 per cent. With no possible statistics at hand these proportions are only approximate.

6. No. Yes, several. 1.—Chinaman aged 50, strong, healthy-looking man; smokes two drams daily, and has done so for over 20 years; consulted me for an affection of one eye; could detect no signs of injury. Examples of excess.—Son of a wealthy Chinaman, on father's death commenced to smoke opium and soon took it in excess; is now almost incapable of work and is still a young man. A "writer" smoked to excess—premature old age and death from kidney disease. Could quote many other cases.

7. Certainly not a majority.

8. The "use" of opium as a habit can hardly ever be beneficial. The use of alcohol often. The abuse of opium is far worse than the abuse of alcohol amongst Chinese. Many Chinese consume large quantities of alcohol, chiefly the wealthy class and the outdoor population; boatmen and fishermen, who are men of fine physique and capable of hard work. The habitual drunkard is rare. The drinking of alcohol does not as a rule interfere with their duties, as it is usually consumed after the day's work is finished.

9. Yes, as both degrading and injurious. Much worse.

10. Yes, and do, but not frequently.

11. Probably resort to Chinese-grown opium.

12. No. The pipe is too dirty; more advanced civilisation demands the drug in a more refined way. Poverty, absence of social enjoyment, inability to read amongst the lower classes.

13. Often on the advice of native doctors, as a result of gambling and of mental troubles. No. No.

14. Not usually, but often.

HENRY LAYNG, M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Lond.

CANTON.

H.B.M. Consulate Canton,
March 14th, 1894.

SIR,
UNDER instructions from Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, I have the honour to enclose a series of answers I have received to the questions framed by the Royal Commission on opium, with a view to obtaining information regarding opium consumption in China.

I am, &c.

BYRON BRENNAN,
The Secretary, Consul.
Royal Commission on Opium.

From Mr. F. S. A. BOURNE, H.M.S. VICE-CONSUL AT CANTON.

Answers to Questions put by Royal Commission on Opium.

1. Yes.

2. According to native opinion all men in Canton have smoked a little or smoke occasionally, and about 30 per cent. are addicted to opium so that they cannot get on without it. Scarcely any women or children smoke opium here, but in the Yün-nan and Kueichow Provinces, in which I have travelled for some months, men and women smoke alike and often children. Indian opium is not known in that region.

3. The regular habit is bad in so far as it hampers a man, making him almost as much dependent on opium as on food. Taken in excess its moral, social, and physical effects are bad. Its effect is the same, as far as I know, on all men, except that a strong will and moral control are necessary to throw the habit off; and therefore a less civilised people might *a priori* be expected to be more easily enslaved by it. A Chinese official in the Yün-nan Province on the Tonquin border told me in 1886 that he had cured himself of the excessive habit. I asked him how. He replied that he

began by taking anti-opium pills given him by an English missionary; but that there was only one way, namely, to determine that you would rather die than smoke. Chinese opium is milder than Indian, and makes a larger dose necessary.

4. Always smoke.

6. Certainly it is correct to say so.

7. In my experience opium does not harm those engaged in physical toil.

9. Excessive habit is condemned as degrading and injurious, but the moderate habit only as likely to lead to excess.

10. Yes.

11. There is not the least doubt that Indian opium would be replaced by native-grown, Persian, &c.

12. No. In my opinion opium is taken by the labouring class to dull pain and weariness, and by the educated class as a stimulant to give variety to a dull existence.

13. In the West of China, where I was stationed for two years, opium was universally regarded as a prophylactic against malaria. In the spring of 1885 an army marched across Yün-nan to Tonquin from Szu-chuan. On the return of the troops in the spring of 1886 I was told by several of the officers that every man of them had taken to opium as a prophylactic against fever.

14. Those who smoke in excess do.

15. No native opinion to that effect that I ever heard of except when prompted by foreigners. Many Chinese, particularly non-smokers, would like to see the sale of all opium stopped.

16. Indian opium is consumed by the richer natives principally along the coast and at the Treaty Ports.

17. Next to none; the opium wanted could be obtained very quickly elsewhere. (b.) To increase it. (c.) The Chinese Government would lose a large revenue. They have tried to tax native opium where grown, but have failed.

18. Yün-nan Kueichow and Southern Szu-chuen are covered with the poppy as a winter crop (*see* my Report of a Journey, &c., Parliamentary Papers, China, No. 1 of 1888, p. 75).

(Signed) F. S. A. BOURNE,

H.B.M. Vice Consul,
24th February 1894. Canton.

From DOCTOR RENNIE, at present Medical Practitioner at Canton, for seven years filling the same position in North Formosa.

His answers refer to Formosa.

REPLIES to QUESTIONS regarding OPIUM CONSUMPTION IN CHINA.

OWING to my comparatively short residence in Canton, and consequent lack of knowledge regarding the social habits of the people, I do not feel qualified to answer the questions submitted so far as the natives of this province are concerned, but prefer giving my evidence from observations made in North Formosa during a residence of seven years in that island.

1. Yes.

2. It is difficult to give an explicit reply to this question, as many indulge in the habit only on very rare occasions, and have by no means become addicted to it. Between the occasional smoker and the confirmed *habitué* there are all degrees; but, counting all who use the drug in any form or degree, I should say about 75 per cent. Women also consume the drug, but in a much smaller proportion than men; children rarely. Amongst the aborigines of the mountains and the civilised aborigines of the plains (Pepo-hwans) the drug finds little or no favour. On the borders one occasionally sees a stray specimen whom the crafty Chinaman with some ulterior motive has corrupted by the combined influence of opium and samshu.

3. Effects:—(1.) Moral: Except in the case of those who have carried the habit to excess, I have not observed any moral deterioration; the moderate men are just as intelligent and honest as their neighbours. The moral sensibilities of the excessive smoker are somewhat dulled, he is indolent and may be even dishonest. (2.) Physical: When used moderately the

physical powers are not affected, but when the habit is carried to excess, then debility occurs; (a) from the drug acting as a direct poison on the nervous system, and so impairing the nutrition of the body, and (b) from the system receiving insufficient nourishment on account of the lessened appetite for food and in consequence of the want of funds wherewith to procure food. The effect on the sexual organs varies. In small doses it has no effect beyond delaying the orgasm, for which purpose the drug is sometimes used. In extreme cases sexual desire and power may be abolished, and the subject become impotent. (3.) Social: On the families of those who use the drug to an injurious extent a considerable amount of misery may be entailed, both on account of a diminished food supply from lack of the money spent on opium, and also from the lessened earning power of the head of the family. The Indian and Chinese preparations manifest effects varying only in degree; the former is richer in the active principles, and consequently acts more powerfully.

4. Opium is consumed both by pipe and by mouth. The effects are similar, but are more rapidly produced by smoking. Within the past 10 years many Chinese have supplanted the consumption of opium by morphia. This alkaloid of opium was originally supplied under the name of pills for curing the opium habit and soon became popular. Many now use the pills exclusively, and express a decided preference both on the ground of convenience and economy. Thus bottles containing 25 pills each of $\frac{1}{2}$ grain of morphia are sold for about 25 cents per bottle. Each pill has approximately the same effect as $2\frac{1}{2}$ grains of opium taken by the mouth. It may possibly be less stimulant than the crude drug, but on the other hand causes less unpleasant after effects. Three or more pills are taken daily. They are much in favour with the women on account of their portable form as compared with the opium pipe.

5. Approximately of all opium consumers: (1) 60 per cent. consume it without injury; (2) 30 per cent. consume it with slight injury; (3) 10 per cent. consume it with great injury.

6. In my opinion it is incorrect to say there can be no moderation in the use of the drug. I have known several who have consumed opium for years without apparent harm. Case in point. The Taig Taotai resident at Taipehoo 1887, a man about 44 years of age, has smoked opium for over 20 years. He was in excellent health, and, for a Chinese official, both mentally and physically very active. As director of the arsenal and other works he led a busy life and was brought much in contact with foreigners, all of whom used to remark on his great energy and aptitude for business as compared with the other officials. The chair coolies in North Formosa are as a class almost entirely opium consumers, and judging from their appearance one would suppose that many of them suffered in health from this cause. Nevertheless, their powers of endurance are remarkable. I have been carried by three of these coolies—miserable looking specimens—from Taipehfoo to Kelung, a distance of 21 miles over very difficult country in 7 hours, and that in the very hot days of August. Examples of great injury are men who by the excessive use of the drug are both mentally and physically incapacitated for work. They may subsist as small shopkeepers or be maintained by their relatives.

7. The habit is most prevalent amongst Government officials, who are mostly northern men (*i.e.*, from the provinces of Ankin, &c.), also amongst shopkeepers, small tradesmen, and chair coolies. I am not aware of the habit affecting the efficiency of the work done; there is very little skilled labour in this part of China as compared with the cities on the mainland.

8. Alcohol in any form is so sparingly taken by the population here that it is impossible to institute any comparison.

9. By a high principled Chinaman opium would be pronounced as injurious and degrading, but I do not think such is at all the general opinion. It is very much as with alcohol amongst ourselves, many of us may denounce drink as a curse, but most of us take it in moderation. A Chinaman would regard drinking alcohol with greater disfavour. A man under the influence of opium is quiet and orderly and in this respect contrasts favourably with the rude and boisterous manner of the man who has imbibed alcohol too freely and so offends the rigid Chinese ideas of propriety.

10. Yes, but the effort requires great strength of will and endurance. Case in point: Chun, age 22,

interpreter, a clever and well-educated half-caste, had smoked opium for over a year. On the advice of his employer he resolved to break himself of the habit. He lost weight, suffered from insomnia and diarrhoea, and altogether suffered severely for over a month, part of which time he was confined to bed. He ultimately got all right, but had he not been under foreign supervision, I am doubtful if he would have possessed the necessary strength of will to combat the craving.

11. Should the supply of Indian opium be cut off, my opinion is that the people would take to the native drug. A noteworthy fact in this connexion is that, although the population of North Formosa has greatly increased of late years owing to the influx of immigrants in connexion with the development of the tea trade and railway extension, &c., the importation of foreign opium has actually declined. Thus for the five years 1879–1883 the average annual consumption was 1,861 piculs, while for the years 1884–1888 it fell to 1,586, a decrease of 275 piculs a year in the latter period. The same state of affairs will be noticed in the Customs returns for Tainan, in the south of the island. There are only two plausible explanations possible; either the Chinese in Formosa are abandoning the habit or else the native opium is being imported by junks or by other channels beyond the cognizance of the Imperial Maritime Customs. The native opium comes chiefly from the Fokieu province, but no doubt Formosa, with its varied soil, could produce opium should occasion arise. It is very improbable that the people would ever adopt the alcohol habit.

12. Very rarely. I have known only one European who was a victim to the habit. He suffered severely from syphilitic rheumatism at one time while employed in a part of China where medical advice was not attainable; to assuage the severe nocturnal pains he sought relief in opium, and in time got so accustomed to it that he felt unable to relinquish the habit. Natives of a colder climate and of a more vigorous temperament Europeans prefer alcohol to the soothing drug which harmonises better with the impassive nature of the Chinaman. The former, as a rule, is fond of outdoor life, sports, and athletic exercises, with the enjoyment of which the opium habit would greatly interfere; these form a very small part in the life of the Chinaman, who, when idle, possesses in himself very few resources for passing time, and from *ennui* often indulges in the opium pipe, just as many Europeans under similar conditions consume an excessive amount of tobacco. Besides, the Chinese, being much more industrious than the British workman, doubtless finds that opium interferes less with his working powers than alcohol.

13.—(1.) Many are led to use the drug just as a European is led to smoke tobacco or drink. He may be invited by a friend to have a pipe or be curious to try the effects of a dose. His first sensations are not reassuring; they are decidedly unpleasant, just as the nausea and sickness of the first pipe of tobacco are to the embryo smoker, but he perseveres; the habit is established, and the disagreeable after effects are no longer experienced. When two friends are holding a confidential conversation they are fond of reclining together on the opium couch and enjoying a pipe; should one be a non-smoker, he is very likely, sooner or later, to adopt the habit of his friend. (2.) In many incurable diseases, such as consumption and cancer, the native doctors are wont to prescribe opium. Its employment in diseases where recovery is hopeless and pain intolerable renders existence bearable and death painless. (3.) In my opinion the moderate use of opium is, to a certain extent, a prophylactic against malaria, whether in its form of fever or rheumatism. Several Chinese, who were non-consumers prior to their arrival in Formosa from the mainland, have on this plea contracted the habit, the fever in the island being notoriously prevalent, and to natives from the north of China extremely fatal.

14. As a rule opium-consumers evince no desire to break the habit. When they do try to give it up, it is usually at the instigation of their relatives, who may fancy that the consumer is indulging to the detriment of his health, or is squandering his earnings on a useless luxury.

15. None whatever.

16. Indian opium is the luxury of the well-to-do Chinaman. The poor man has to content himself with the cheaper and less satisfying native preparation. I am unable to give any information as to the relative proportions in which the native and Indian opium are used.

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17.—(a.) The Chinese are not likely to give up the opium habit and take to some other stimulant or narcotic in its stead. (b.) The poppy cultivation will be extended to meet the demand for opium, and no doubt many soils hitherto untried will be found suitable for its production. (c.) Uncertain.

18. —————.

19. —————.

20. A new arrival usually finds that his ideas, moulded on statements current at home, are immensely exaggerated; he seldom comes across that type of the degraded opium victim with the description of whom we have in our earlier days been so familiar. Still, after more mature experience and looking into the question with an unbiased mind, he must admit that the habit is an evil. But what race has no pleasant vice? Opium is a solace to the wretched and luckless, and a stimulant to the hard-working and poorly fed breadwinner, too often handicapped by malaria in the struggle for existence. As with most of nature's gifts to suffering humanity, abuse often converts the blessing into a curse. But look at the matter how we will, whether or not in its use or abuse it is a danger to the individual, to society, or to the State, we most unhesitatingly declare that the opium habit is in every respect a lesser evil than the consumption of alcohol. We need only compare the inoffensive life of the opium consumer with that of the habitual or even occasional drunkard, to whose charge in our more Christian country so much of the sickness, misery, brutality, crime, and even murder is traceable. The question at issue is whether the prohibition of opium export from India will suppress the use of the drug in China. In our opinion the habit is too deeply ingrained in the life of the people to be eradicated by any measure of repression, and even were such a consummation feasible, there is the risk of the vice being supplanted by one more injurious in its effects.

(Signed) ALEX. RENNIE, M.A., M.B., C.M.
Canton, March 14, 1894.

FROM AN ENGLISH PROTESTANT MISSIONARY who has lived many years in the Provinces.

ANSWERS to the QUESTIONS of the ROYAL COMMISSION
ON OPIUM.

Canton (Quong Tung),
March 1, 1894.

1. Yes.

2.—(a) It is difficult to give an accurate reply. I should judge from information received from various persons that from 50 to 80 per cent. smoke more or less; (b) not to any great extent in Canton. I have been informed on good authority that most women classed as "immoral" smoke opium; also in some country districts it is used to a considerable extent by women generally; (c) very few.

3.—(a) The effects of opium vary in different persons and under different conditions. The moral influence on men who frequent the opium dens with which I am familiar in Canton cannot but be bad. Moreover, opium and gambling dens are often grouped in the same locality, and those who frequent the one often are unable to withstand the temptations of the other. Those who become in any sense "victims" of the opium pipe, have their moral sense greatly impaired. N.B.—But it appears to me that the ordinary Chinese have but a poorly developed moral sense on many matters, in regard to which the Christian nations of Europe hold decided opinions. The "effects of opium," also physically, cover a wide range of experience. Many who smoke but twice or thrice a day do not appear to suffer any physical weakness. I question frequently men who tell me they have smoked for years, and no marks of physical deterioration are very manifest. On the other hand, when the smoker reaches a certain stage emaciation follows. I myself have seen many such. Moreover, where men spend hours a day, lounging in the low damp dens, inhaling a polluted atmosphere, the effect cannot but be physically impairing. This result is accelerated when men, which often happens, cannot command sufficient cash with which to purchase food and opium. The social results are like those results mentioned above, very varying. An opium-smoker frequently begins to disregard cleanliness in regard to his person; when he smokes to any great extent it interferes with his power of earning wages, also interferes with his just allowances

to wife and children, and so quarrels ensue, and often worse experiences still are known. I should say a very fair analogy may be found in the "drinking habits" of England.

4.—(a) Consumers generally smoke opium; (b) they drink a decoction of opium in order to commit suicide. This, I believe, frequently happens.

5. It is difficult to give exact proportions. I should say, speaking generally, if from 50 to 80 per cent. smoke, (a) many receive little or no injury; (b) many receive injury in the ways mentioned above, but not to the extent of preventing them performing their daily duties; (c) many, of whom I have seen a considerable number, become the victims of the vice, and yield themselves up to the results which they know must follow, as if they had no power to free themselves from what they know must end in death.

6.—(a) It is not correct to say there cannot be any such thing as moderation; (b) living in Canton it is not easy to "know" men intimately, except the native Christians; but I occasionally meet men who have smoked for years and they are able to do their work well enough if they have their pipe regularly; (c) on the other hand I "know" men who are regular "opium sots."

7. I should say the majority of the labourers, &c. do not smoke opium to any great extent. Where men do smoke they are restless and unsatisfactory until they satisfy the craving, after which they go on with their work like other men who do not smoke, i.e., many boatmen smoke, and when on our boat journeys, if we have opium smokers on board, they must have their pipe at regular intervals. If they get their opium regularly they do their work equal to the best; if not they are restless, indifferent, and cause trouble. N.B.—I never will allow an opium-smoker among my crew if I can avoid it. This, however, is not easy, and sometimes impossible.

8. Alcohol is only used to a limited extent and then is confined almost entirely to Samshiu which is distilled from rice. Foreign alcoholic drinks are being imported, and must be used to some extent by the natives, because they are on sale in some shops in the city with which Europeans rarely do business. This Samshiu is drunk usually at meals, it makes the people jovial, it rarely leads to drunkenness, as far as my observation goes. Opium is taken after meals and at all hours; it makes the smoker restful and indifferent to his surroundings. In a word the "abuse" of alcohol is comparatively rare; the "abuse" of opium comparatively frequent.

9. The habit, because it is more generally indulged in, is now regarded by fewer persons probably than formerly as "degrading and injurious." Yet if you ask a smoker, he will generally confess the habit is not good. How far such a confession is sincere it is difficult to say, for those who are quite willing to confess this appear to make no effort to free themselves, nor to feel any shame when found with the pipe. On the other hand, those who do not use it, absolutely condemn it as degrading and injurious, and so do also all communities of native Christians.

10. Men who smoke but little and infrequently can free themselves from the habit, but with a longer indulgence it becomes increasingly difficult, until, if they have smoked long enough to become victims of "opium craving," it is well-nigh impossible for them to break themselves without assistance from the habit.

11. They would, in all probability, indulge in larger quantities of "Chinese-grown opium."

12.—(a) No; (b) I should say that Europeans are too full of energy and restlessness to lend themselves to the conditions under which the habit of opium smoking is contracted; (c) cannot say.

14. Men who have become victims to the opium craving certainly desire to free themselves, but seem to lack the moral, or physical, or to be without the spiritual power to do so.

15. Among the masses of the people I do not often meet with any expressed opinion on what we call "the opium question," nor any reiterated "wish" that England should not allow opium to be exported from India. I believe except in few instances the knowledge of the people of these matters is vague. On the other hand while at street preaching I have heard the trade severely condemned by intelligent Chinese. The small

Christian churches unanimously wish that England should not permit the trade to continue.

16. The wealthy and ruling classes smoke the larger quantity of Indian opium, because, though more expensive, it is stronger and more fragrant. Chinese opium is not grown, if at all, to any extent in this province; on the other hand, I have seen the raw opium being prepared in the city, and it is kept on sale at opium shops. I believe there is a tendency to diminish the import of Indian opium, and substitute in its place native-grown.

17. _____

18. _____

19. _____

20. I regard the smoking of opium, speaking in general terms, as baneful. I believe the habit must be on the increase because the number of shops at which opium is supplied is greatly on the increase.

A. BONE.

From a FRENCH CATHOLIC MISSIONARY who has lived thirty years in Canton.

Province du Kwang-tong. Réponses aux Questions relatives à la Consommation de l'Opium en Chine.

1. À travers la province du Kwang-tong, quoique l'usage de l'opium soit très répandu dans les villes comme dans les campagnes, il n'est guère possible d'établir le chiffre exact des fumeurs.

2. On peut dire d'une manière générale qu'un vingtième de la population fume l'opium; ce serait peut être exagéré pour la campagne. Ce nombre reste le même pour les différentes races: Poun ti, Mak Ka, Hok lo. La femme qui a contracté cette habitude est rare; on la trouve cependant aux Mandarinats, dans les maisons publiques; c'est le fruit de l'oisiveté et du vice. Les jeunes gens ne contractent guère l'habitude avant 20 ans.

3. Les effets produits par l'opium, qu'il provienne de l'Inde ou de la Chine, sont les mêmes sur chaque race. Qu'un enfant fume à quinze ans, disent les Chinois il n'arrivera pas à la trentaine. Au bout de quelques années, il devient impropre à un travail fatigant, impropre à la génération, impropre à une pensée élevée; il est abruti. Il vendra son héritage, il vendra sa femme et ses enfants pour se procurer la drogue. En général, chez le riche et le pauvre les effets varient un peu: Celui qui a chaque jour une bonne nourriture, supporte plus aisément le poison, surtout s'il est d'une robuste constitution. Néanmoins il ne tarde pas à prendre une teinte olivâtre, les yeux deviennent vitreux, son énergie s'en va, et huit fois sur dix il s'abandonne à la paresse. Dans la classe inférieure, c'est encore plus désastreux: Le malheureux adonné à l'opium n'a de vie que pour chercher les moyens de satisfaire sa passion. Que lui importe la famille? Quand le poison manque, sa femme et ses enfants sont les esclaves de sa tyrannie et de ses violences; il faut qu'il fume; la nourriture est chose secondaire; tout est loque et guenille dans la maison.

4. Presque toujours, le Chinois fume l'opium; il n'est mangé que par des individus des deux sexes qui veulent en finir avec la vie, et les cas en tout assez fréquents. Toutefois les pauvres se contentent souvent d'acheter le résidu des pipes déjà fumées et de l'avaler tel quel; c'est moins cher et l'effet est obtenu; on le prend aussi en pilules, c'est rare. On dit que dans ces deux derniers cas, il est plus difficile de se corriger, parce que le poison pénètre plus intimement les différentes parties du corps.

5. Aucun Chinois ne fume impunément l'opium. Les degrés du mal qu'il reçoit proviennent de différentes causes: le temps, la quantité, le tempérament, le bien-être ou la souffrance influent sur les effets produits; et quoique la classe des abrutis ne soit pas la plus nombreuse on peut dire qu'à la longue, celui qui suit son penchant en la matière finira par y entrer.

6. Il n'est pas vrai d'avancer d'une manière générale que personne ne se modère dans la consommation de l'opium; j'ai connu des vieillards de quatre vingts ans, qui ont longtemps fumé sans grand détriment de leur santé, parce qu'ils se sont tenus dans une mesure relativement modérée. Il faut ajouter que se sont des hommes généralement bien équilibrés, ayant conscience de leur situation et ne voulant nullement dépasser leur budget, ni perdre leur réputation aux yeux du monde. L'argent est aussi un grand modérateur. C'est la

baguette magique qui retient la classe moyenne. Les maladifs, poitrinaires, et autres semblables, paraissent trouver un soulagement à l'usage modéré et même un prolongement à leur existence.

7. La majorité des cultivateurs, des marchands, et des ouvriers laborieux ne fument pas l'opium. J'en ai connu plusieurs cependant qui avaient cette habitude. C'était des pères de famille à peu près inutiles; mais les enfants déjà grands travaillaient et subvenaient aux besoins de la maison. Rien ne semblaient changé dans le ménage que la figure maigre et jaunâtre du maître encore capable de donner des ordres.

8. Le Chinois en général n'abuse que rarement de l'alcool. On peut même soutenir que l'alcoolisme n'existe pas sous la forme qui domine en Europe. Le cabaret est inconnu ici, tandis que les tavernes d'opium pullulent jusques dans les plus petits villages.

9. L'opinion générale des Chinois n'est rien moins que favorable aux fumeurs d'opium. On le regarde avec mépris dans sa famille; le marchand ne l'emploiera qu'à contre cœur, etc. Et cependant dans la société des lettres, il est devenu le symbole de l'hospitalité; on l'offre aux hôtes distingués qui rendent visite, il a remplacé la pipe et le bétel. L'ivrogne étant presque inconnu, je n'ai jamais vu faire la comparaison. Evidemment l'un ne vaut pas plus que l'autre.

10. L'habitude prise, le Chinois ne se corrige guère la volonté lui manque; chez le célestial, l'énergie de cette faculté ne va pas jusque là. Tous les fumeurs ont des velléités de se corriger, ils prendront des remèdes ils connaissent leur situation; en trois ou quatre semaines, ils sont rebonder, les chairs reparaissent, c'est tout-à-coup un homme nouveau, tout le monde autour de lui se réjouit. Six mois après vous le rencontrez, vous allez le féliciter de son changement. Sa figure de citron vous arrête. Il est revenu à son vomissement. Il n'a pas su résister à l'occasion. Sa rechute devient incurable. Toute règle cependant a ses exceptions, et celle-là comme les autres. En somme, ceux qui n'ont pas d'infirmité, peuvent se corriger sans de graves accidents; il n'y a que l'énergie de la volonté qui leur fasse défaut. Comme ils n'ont aucun frais moral, aucun lien religieux, ils se laissent emporter par le courant qui les entraîne sans sentir le besoin de s'accrocher à la pierre de salut qu'ils ne voient nulle part.

11. Si l'importation de l'opium Indien cessait, la plupart des fumeurs en souffrirait. Quelques-uns laisseraient la drogue; mais il est fort probable que le commerçant Chinois, attiré par l'appât du gain, trouverait bien vite le moyen de multiplier la culture du pavot encore fort peu répandu dans la province, et de se procurer en attendant, au prix de l'or, la drogue indigène déjà très abondante dans les régions du Nord. Je ne pense pas que l'habitude des liqueurs fortes ou tout autre narcotique parvint à remplacer l'opium, à moins que du monde extérieure quelque Dieu bienfaisant leur apportât un nouveau calmant, moyennant finance et profit; ce qui ne paraît pas probable. Si le fait arrivait, le Chinois insouciant se l'adapterait facilement pourvu qu'il y ait plaisir.

12. Les Européens sont peu nombreux dans le Kwang-tong, et je ne connais pas parmi eux de fumeurs d'opium. Il n'est pas douteux, que, si l'envie de fumer les prenait, ils subiraient les mêmes inconvénients que le Chinois, tout en tenant compte de leur constitution. Pourquoi ne s'adonnent-ils pas à cette habitude? C'est que l'Européen en connaît les dangers, et les évite en s'abstenant; il est affairé, et n'a pas le loisir de perdre son temps à se torturer sur un lit pour aspirer la drogue; l'exemple du Chinois n'est pas encourageant et puis enfin son énergie et son tempérament souffrirait de cette situation abrutissante. Le Chinois est au fond toujours enfant. Rien ne l'intéresse que l'argent et les amusements puérils; la valeur du temps n'est rien pour le grand nombre; il passera son temps à voir, comme on dit, couler l'eau d'un ruisseau; il tient sur le bout des doigts une alouette en cage durant des heures, il fera raisonner le Glou-glou d'une pipe à eau pendant une demie journée, sans avoir d'autre pensée que de tuer le temps. Encore y longe-t-il? Son tempérament lymphatique a besoin d'une stimulant. L'opium s'est présenté, il y a trouvé une certaine satisfaction sensuelle; il l'a adopté à ses mœurs et coutumes. Le Chinois qui n'est jamais pressé, a de suite inventé cet attirail du fumeur d'opium, qu'il manipule d'abord avec un certain plaisir; et l'amour du passe-temps et de la sociabilité du *far niente*, l'a communiqué rapidement à ses semblables.

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Canton.

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13. L'opium n'est jamais fumé par les Chinois comme préservatif contre les fièvres, rhumatismes et malaria. Les médecins le conseillent souvent aux phtisiques, asthmatiques, qui ne tendent pas à en contracter l'habitude. Comme remède, il est employé en pilules et ne sert qu'aux Chinois qui n'ont pas l'habitude de fumer. On remarque généralement que les fumeurs sont exempts de certaines maladies, et sont moins souvent malades que ceux qui n'avaient pas. Mais par contre la dysenterie est souvent mortelle.

14. Ils désirent, au moins en paroles, se débarrasser de cette habitude, et quelques marchands, que je connais, ont fait d'excellentes recettes en vendant des remèdes contre l'opium (voir plus haut).

15. Je crois que la question est très peu agitée parmi les Chinois, mais si elle était posée, les fumeurs et les marchands seuls réclameraient. Le gouvernement, qui tire un bon revenu, serait, je pense, enchanté, à cause de son égoïsme et de la haine contre l'étranger. Il désire certainement que le Chinois se suffise à elle-même.

16. Jusqu'ici la majeure partie de l'opium consommé vient de l'Inde, en particulier dans cette province, où l'on n'a pas encore réussi à une bonne culture. On est encore à l'état d'essai. Cependant l'opium du Nord commence déjà à paraître sur le marché, et avant peu il fera la concurrence à celui de l'Inde. Les Chinois qui préfèrent ce dernier, le mélange avec celui du Yunnan, pour en faire une drogue passable.

17. Les conséquences probables de la suppression de l'opium Indien seraient une diminution notable dans la consommation de l'opium en Chine, un développement plus considérable de la culture du pavot, et une baisse énorme dans les recettes des douanes Chinoises.

18. Dans la province de Canton, c'est à peine si on trouverait quelques de hectares de terrain occupés par la pavot.

19. Voir le rapport des commissaires de la douane Chinoise qui paraît chaque année en Anglais.

FROM A GERMAN MEDICAL MISSIONARY who has a very wide experience.

QUESTIONS regarding OPIUM CONSUMPTION IN CHINA.

1. Opium is in common use in the district I am living in. For five years I have been practising in Tungkun, a town of about 300,000 inhabitants situated on the East River, 70 miles from Canton.

2. A distinction must be drawn between an occasional consumer of opium and an habitual smoker. Of 100 adult males, I should think that 40 have become victims to the habit. Of the remaining 60, 50, I think, have smoked once or twice, which gives the high percentage of 90 adult males who have tasted opium. The number of women smoking is much larger now than it was formerly. I know of many, specially of the better class, but am not ready to give a definite statement. Children under 10 years of age, in our district, at least, do not smoke. The parents, even when smokers, or rather on that account, keep their children away from the pipe.

3. The effects of opium are best depicted by the Chinese themselves. Inclusive I send two pamphlets written by well-meaning heathen Chinese, and respectfully beg of the members of the Royal Commission to peruse those few pages. Every sentence is a warning. May I be allowed to quote one of them: "The God of Hell does not know yet when to call thee down into hell. If he sees thee lying on thy bed smoking, 'oh! then thy fate is settled; thou shalt soon be a corpse.'" The opium smoker becomes a moral, a physical, and a social wreck, destroying himself, ruining his family, he is a burden for his nation. The Chinese-grown opium is not liked, being too weak to keep the craving in obedience. A smoker whose dose of Indian opium is three candareen,* has to smoke a mace of Chinese opium in order to appease his craving.

4. The opium pipe is used alone. In special cases, when a smoker desires to abandon the habit, he does for a while eat opium pills. No decoction or tincture is known to me.

5. I take the word using opium as meaning habitual smoker.

What are the proportions?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Without injury, of a thousand, none. | |
| 2. With slight injury | 30 |
| 3. With great injury | 970 |

6. It is correct, for of a thousand habitual smokers there is hardly one who does not gradually increase the dose. The great number of patients I see every year enables me to formulate this statement. I personally know one wealthy merchant living in Sheklung, a town in our neighbourhood. He came suffering from a chronic ulcer. Although his general health did not seem to have suffered much, he confessed that opium hindered him in his calling, and that he strongly desired to abandon the habit. The tabular statement given above shows what in my humble opinion I mean to be the truth. A literate ruins his reputation; a farmer or an artisan, unable to find any employment, becomes a gambler or a thief; a merchant, too lazy to attend to his business, loses the confidence of his customers, and in a few years has to sell his shop to another. The stories of a few cases taken among those who have been admitted in the hospital will be an answer to the Question 7. Among the literate Government officials, and soldiers we find, as well as among the labourers, merchants, and artisans, a large proportion of opium consumers. The four lives I shall briefly describe will illustrate the four classes into which the Chinese are commonly divided.

Lun Ah Trung is a literate 34 years of age, and living in Sheking. At 20 he began to smoke, his dose being two or three candareen; one year after having first tasted opium his craving was established, and needed two or three mace of Indian opium to be appeased. Twice he tried by means of opium pills to get rid of the habit, both attempts were unsuccessful. He came to us accompanied by a friend, who paid for him the sum required for admission. When his clinical history was taken down we heard the following description of his daily life. He gets up at 12 o'clock, eats his dinner, and smokes. After the evening meal friends are coming, and with them is spent a part of the night, smoking, talking, and sleeping. Formerly he was a teacher, now the schoolboys are gone away. He confesses that for a long time he has not opened a book, being unable to do any work requiring some mental energy. This case may be a type of a literate who has become a smoker. It is useless to say that he was unable to endure the slightest suffering, and that he left after a few days.

Lai Ah Hang is a farmer of 27 years of age, who eight years ago began to smoke. For four years he had no craving. When he came to us his appearance was that of a man utterly desolate. He remained one month with us, and went home free from his craving. Six months after he was in a state worse than before, his friends having induced him to resume the pernicious habit. He came again to us, asking me to do a thing which is nowhere done, that is to admit twice the same patient. He acknowledged his guilt, knelt down, beseeching me to receive him. I refused. The day following came a few of his friends, who entreated for him so earnestly that I promised to give him the needed drugs to take home. This occurred in 1890, and up to that date, 1894, he has kept himself free from his former vice. I have mentioned this case in order to show the difficulties which an honest man has to surmount before he may be said to be free from the enslaving habit.

Tim a Sham is a young porter, who seven years ago began to smoke. His dose was six or seven candareen; three years after two mace by weight of Indian opium were needed in order to appease his craving. His father had a well-accustomed shop which, after his death, he left to his two sons. A Sham refused to do any work, and consequently had to withdraw his share from the shop. His mother, thinking that he could still be cured, brought him to us. After a month's time he had lost the craving, had gained 14 pounds in weight, but had not the courage of parting with old friends; shortly after leaving us he was a slave again. Now, in order to obtain some money, he steals here and there, gathers food for pigs, and spends the rest of his time in an opium den of the town.

Troi chic fan, 23 years of age, was in Canton, partner in a trading firm, when at 17 he began to smoke. At 19 he was a victim, his dose reaching rapidly to 3 mace of Indian opium by weight. His co-partners would not work any longer with him, so that he withdrew his share and sought a situation in the Yamen. Coming

* NOTE.—1 Candareen = 28.3 grains.
1 Mace = 58.3 "
1 Tael (Chinese oz.) = 58.3 "

down the social scale, he became a hawker. Last year he came to us, made very earnest promises, and was full of good intentions, if he could only be freed from his fatal habit. He got well, had no craving when he left; alas, he has not done better than the others, and now has reached a stage of utter poverty.

8. While a student in Edinburgh, where I took my degree, I have seen in the Cowgate and in the Grass-market bad cases of degradation brought about by alcohol; it never came to my mind to compare the two evils.

9. Young children have to learn poetical songs, whose rhymes they ought to remember when they are tempted to begin to smoke. Smoking is, in the opinion of the Chinese, a dirty, degrading, and injurious habit.

10. Most have tried to abandon the habit; their moral power being lowered, they are unable to endure, what is, at least in their opinion, a dreadful suffering; the impression left on the nervous system is so strong that, according to a Chinese proverb, even those who have left opium for five or ten years are in danger of fatally resuming the habit.

11. It would be a means of restoring to moral and bodily health millions of degenerated creatures. A few would for a while resort to Chinese opium; we may hope, however, that the prohibitions of the Chinese Government regarding the culture of opium, although entirely ignored in some provinces, would be a law, and that in the space of a few years opium-smoking could be a thing of the past.

13. No novice thinks of ever becoming an habitual smoker; invited, seduced by friends, he accepts to make a trial, smokes one or two whiffs, and knows the danger when it is too late to come back. Many follow the advices of their doctors; the latter when they are unable to bring any relief, advise the pipe as a last resource. A patient of mine, whose father and brother were opium smokers, got very ill. His brother advised him to smoke as a relief for his sufferings. "I shall follow your advice," answered the patient, "if before-hand a coffin be brought into my room, and if on the coffin is put the pipe I am going to smoke." Opium is not a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, or malaria, and is not regarded as such by the Chinese.

14. All the opium smokers I have asked acknowledge that they are victims to a habit which ruins them morally and physically. From their mouths I have not yet heard one word in favour of opium.

15. In 1876 High Mandarins assembled in Canton, and tried, but in vain, to counteract the evil. Oh, may the day quickly come, fulfilling the desire of every Chinaman who earnestly loves his country when no Indian opium will reach a Chinese shore!

(Signed) JOHN E. KUHN.

Tungkum, March 6. Geneva, M.B.C.M. Ed.

FROM a GERMAN MISSIONARY who has many years experience of Canton.

TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM.

1. In the part of China with which I am acquainted (south and north of the Kwangtung Province) the opium is commonly consumed. The number of the opium dens in most of the market-places, as far as I have observed, is equal to the rice shops. In some places of the Fa and Tshyang district there are even more opium dens than rice-shops.

2. Of 10 adult males three to four (in the Fa and Tshyang yen district), seven in the Nam Hyung district are consumers. Of 100 women, one (in Fa and Tshyang yen), 15-20 (in the Namhyung district) are consumers. In wealthier families, I am told, parents urge it upon their sons to prevent them squandering the family means upon gambling and other vices, and to keep them at home. In the great rich clans of Canton the patriarch of the family orders the opium pipe to the young widows of the family to prevent them entering prohibited relations.

3. The effects of the drug amongst the poorer classes, who are living on rice and vegetables, are moral, physical, and social destroying. The consumers become either sooner or later complete wrecks, emaciated in form, and as the Chinese acknowledge themselves, corrupted in morals. In better classes the ruin can be delayed by better living. Exceptionally robust men using opium at first may not lose their physical strength

so much for awhile, but their moral character often changes for the worst. They become the bullies of the quarter of the town they locate. Consumers of opium consider Chinese-grown opium (Yun nam p'ak) inferior to Indian opium (Kung yen). Those who are accustomed to Indian opium find it hard to satisfy their craving with Chinese-grown opium. There is a saying that Indian opium must be mixed with some stronger poison (arsenic).

4. Consumers of opium prefer to smoke it. Opium sots are often filling the intervals with drinking a decoction of opium. In passage boats consumers are swallowing opium pills, when hindered by stormy weather to smoke. I am narrated that strong consumers of opium when smoking are filling their anus or their nose with opium to get more satisfied. Amongst the smokers of opium there are two classes, those who inhale the opium smoke by deep inhalations and retain it as long as possible, and those who inhale it by superficial inhalations, keeping the smoke only in their mouth. The first way is the most injurious.

5. Consumers, when asked, declare that they in the beginning (from one month to one year) were playing with opium till it became a necessity for them to use the drug. This craving they acknowledge gets stronger and stronger. Good living often delays the evil effects, but I never saw or never heard of any consumer who for years used the drug without injury.

6. The great danger of the drug lies, as all consumers acknowledge, in the craving which seems to be irresistible and cannot be compared with the craving for alcohol. This craving is of growing nature, and it excludes moderation in the use of opium. It is not so much the man who eats the opium as the "opium" that eats the man," is a common saying.

7. Amongst 10 labourers there are two (in the south), seven (in the north of the Canton Province); amongst 10 literati (including yamen people) there are five resp. eight, amongst 10 merchants there are three resp. six consumers. All classes of smokers suffer, but the working classes in particular. There is with them, besides the loss of valuable time, the rapid deterioration of health and especially loss of muscular power.

8 and 9. Smokers and non-smokers regard it as a vice, a curse, and their greatest plague. I never met a consumer who approved of it or advocated it. The Chinese testimony is much stronger than any condemnation by us of the drinking habits of the West. Most of the Chinese agree in declaring that the use of opium under all circumstances not only is deleterious to health, but that it shortens life; that the long use of the drug leads to impotence, and that the evil effects of alcohol habit are small in comparison with those of the use of opium.

10. All smokers of opium I asked, who were in the state of craving, agreed that the habit could only be given up at very great risk. Many of them told me it was impossible for them to break off the habit. Those who have been converted to Christianity and have overcome the habit told me that the agonies and the pains were indescribable. These feelings are worst about the third day, and subside by the fifth or sixth, and by the eighth or tenth day relief comes. The greatest part of the smokers I conversed with expressed their desire to get free, but found it too hard. Those who are still in the state of "playing with opium" find it easier to abandon the habit, and many of these former smokers I know have really given it up. The habit clings to the Chinese people and cannot be extirpated. It is too late for China to abolish this evil. The drug has become a necessity for the people and can as little be cast off as the use of alcohol in our home lands. The native-grown opium, being inferior to the Indian drug, its effects would perhaps not be so pernicious, the process would be slower, the force of resistance would be greater, a Government whose hands are not bound would be stronger to retain the overflowing of the evil.

12. I never saw an European contract the opium habit, but heard of some. The European race as a whole has more energy to resist this kind of temptation. It is for the Chinese so easy to fall into this habit. It gives occupation to a man of leisure and means, it helps him to spend time, it produces a certain stimulus, for a time it increases the bodily powers, it is a solace in many circumstances, and above all, everywhere the pipe is presented to him. The refusal is often regarded as unpoliteness. The whole world around him uses the drug, why should he abstain?

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13. Out of 10 smokers there are four who were led to smoke in order to get relief of some pain or cure of some ailment, six are seduced by friends. If opium is a prophylactic against fever or malaria, I do not know. All the Chinese with whom I conversed in the past years confirmed me that it is not. It relieves only for some time the pains, but then it must be used to remove the discomfort growing out of the habit of smoking.

14. The greatest part of the consumers expressed their desire to get free, but I am convinced that out of 10 smokers only four or five have an earnest and sincere desire.

15. Those who have to suffer from an opium smoker in their family condemn the import of opium in the strongest terms. It is one of the greatest hindrances to all mission work. The Chinese call the opium "foreign dirt, Jesus dirt," and blame England for having introduced it and forced it up to China.

16. The wealthier classes are smoking Indian opium, the poorer classes use the native drug or a mixture of both. Old and inveterate smokers of one tael* and upwards find that the best prepared Indian drug is quite unable to satisfy their craving. They have a contract at opium shops to be supplied with all their ashes of the first degree, because these ashes, as it seems, are containing in proportion more morphia than the opium itself. The native opium has been compared to a wood fire, the foreign to a coal one. The rich classes of smokers prefer the expensive foreign drug, and will retain their taste for it, so if the import of Indian opium is prohibited the drug, meeting a necessary want amongst the people, will probably be brought into the interior by all unlawful means.

17. Either the Chinese Government itself will undertake the poppy cultivation on lands set apart, or it will be left to every peasant to cultivate his own opium, and I am convinced the officials will make use of this as a great source of revenue, or if the Government is in dead earnest they will prohibit the growth and increase the heavy duties on the native drug. Edicts were issued against tobacco at the end of the Ming and the beginning of the present dynasty, and now it is cultivated everywhere. So it will perhaps be with the native opium. The evil cannot be extirpated, but I would be glad if the Christian Government of England should withdraw at least from direct participation in this business on the high grounds of morality and equity, international prudence, and Christian principle.

(Signed) C. J. VOSKAMP
(Of the German Berlin Mission).

Canton, 2nd March 1894.

FROM AN AMERICAN MEDICAL MISSIONARY who is in charge of a large Hospital in the City of Canton.

ANSWERS ON OPIUM CONSUMPTION with reference to the CHINESE RACE.

1. Yes.
2. While fully two-thirds use it, probably 20 per cent. have fully formed the habit. Women do not often use. Children not at all.
3. Degrading beyond question. Indian opium is much the strongest. A confirmed opium-smoker cannot stop the use of Indian opium and use only Chinese-grown in its place.
4. Chiefly smoke; this the most injurious form.
- 5.—(i.) No proportion. (ii.) 50 per cent. (iii.) 15 or 20 per cent.
6. Many use it moderately for some time, but the use of it is certain to require an increase in amount.
7. Labourers and artisans. Detrimental.
8. Worse than alcohol.
9. It is. Worse than alcohol.
10. Many make the attempt. In rare instances a few succeed.
11. The habit would gradually be abolished. In this part of China the attempt has often been made to raise the poppy, but without success.
12. ————
13. As an amusement and to be social. No. No.

* One tael = 55.3 grains.

14. Yes.

15. Yes.

16. ————

17, 18, 19, and 20. Am not prepared to answer at present.

(Signed) J. M. SWAN, M.D.

Physician and Surgeon to the Canton
Canton, China, Hospital.
February 24, 1894.

TRANSLATION of the WRITTEN OPINION of a CHINESE GENERAL, a resident of Canton, who has seen much service, and is thoroughly qualified to give an opinion on the opium habit.

Between 10 and 20 per cent. in the Canton province smoke habitually; most of these have acquired the habit by frequenting brothels and gambling dens.

In well-to-do, respectable families perhaps one or two women in 100 may take to opium as a relief in illness. Rich men also buy girls to amuse them and prepare their opium pipes for them. Of these women 10 to 20 per cent. become confirmed smokers. Girls are also taken out of brothels to become concubines; these, being accustomed to see opium smoked, may also become confirmed smokers to the extent of 20 per cent. Fond parents may occasionally give a whiff to their children when ill, in order to cheer them up, but in these cases the indulgence never grows into a confirmed habit.

Those who take to smoking always do so in order to cheer their spirits and feel comfortable. They begin with small quantities, but in time it affects their health and destroys their complexion. The pseudo pleasure is obtained at the expense of natural contentment. As years go on the craving increases.

Amongst smokers some may be found who gradually decrease the quantity, while others regularly increase it. Men of robust health can reduce the quantity; physically weak men give way. Men in prosperous circumstances and whom fortune favours smoke largely; unsuccessful men smoke less.

Men of the literary class, if well to do, smoke to enjoy pleasant sensations, but they suffer in reputation. Agriculturists, who work hard all the year round, know too well the value of money; not more than 1 or 2 per cent. of these smoke.

Artisans are more liable to smoke; being thrown together, they go with the crowd. Merchants and shopkeepers must keep a divan for their customers if they hope to do business; so more of this class fall a victim.

Whether men succeed or fail in their careers depends on their individual characters. Men of probity and perseverance will succeed, but opium-smoking does not help or retard them. Men of low class, such as hangers-on of public offices, official runners, street loafers, and brothel frequenters, all smoke with scarcely an exception.

Young men of respectable families are looked down upon if they take to smoking. Men of exceptional ability suffer loss in reputation; to their face their friends show the same respect, but behind their backs they are criticised.

Climate does not account for the difference in habit between Chinese and foreigners. Chinese smoke wherever they may be, regardless of climate. Foreigners abstain either because it is opposed to the laws of their country or because they fear the evil effects of smoking, or because they are in fear of public opinion.

There are those among the ruling classes of China who say that opium-smoking is a calamity sent by Heaven to try men; and that it is in conformity with the will of Heaven that man should regain his lost position by the practice of the cardinal virtues of patriotism, filial piety, chastity, and uprightness.

Seeing that opium-smoking at the beginning gives no pleasure, what is it that induces men to take to it? Men do so from various motives. In the intimacy and freedom of the opium couch some hope to worm out secrets with a view to their profit; some to knit closer the bonds of friendship; some seek to victimise those who have money; and others again try smoking as a cure for chest diseases. Physicians of repute do not prescribe opium in illness, but doctors of the commoner sort will recommend smoking when their patient seems dull and out of sorts, and also as a cure for malarial

diseases; but this is the exception, and the number of such is very small.

When a long course of smoking has undermined the constitution, the victims all repent the course they have followed; but it is almost impossible for an old habitual smoker to give up. He may try, but the craving overcomes him. For some inscrutable reason Heaven has sent down this curse; in the interest of the race I earnestly pray that the plans of Heaven may be changed.

OPINION of an OLD CHINESE CLERK for 30 years in the service of Her Majesty's Consulate at Canton.

From 10 to 20 per cent. of adult males smoke opium in Canton city. In the country districts it is hard to say, but it is believed that in the Kao-chow, Lien-chow, Lei-chow, and Chiung-chow districts 60 or 70 per cent. smoke. The reason is that people there smoke to keep off fever which is prevalent in these malarious districts.

But very few women smoke in Canton city, perhaps 1 in 100. Those who are smokers acquired the habit either by way of keeping their husbands company, or through smoking opium as medicine.

Men may smoke in moderation by refusing to exceed a certain quantity, and this may go on for years; but if a man exercises no restraint, and smokes as he feels inclined, the quantity gradually increases.

Labourers who smoke are at a disadvantage with those who do not. They cannot endure so much fatigue.

Forty years ago men lost in the estimation of their fellows by smoking. Since the prohibition of smoking was rescinded it makes little difference. Still, a non-smoker will regard a smoker with less consideration.

Chinese contract the habit which foreigners do not, because in their social intercourse they are thrown together with smokers, and learn the lesson from them. Amongst foreigners there are none to give the example of smoking.

Opium-smoking begins through three or four men finding themselves with nothing to do, or when two men meet they think it will promote good fellowship; or men may feel low spirited and indolent, and they smoke to rouse themselves; or a man may begin in the hope of relieving pain or curing an illness.

Doctors do prescribe opium-smoking in certain diseases when they do not know what else to prescribe. Some patients refuse to smoke fearing to become confirmed smokers, but they will listen to the doctor in the hope of getting cured.

Smokers of many years' standing, feeling that the habit enslaves them, would like to give it up; but they fear that it might injure their health and they hesitate. It is only those who are wealthy and without worldly cares that look upon opium-smoking as harmless.

ANSWERS obtained by Mr. LITTON, now residing in Canton, from a Chinese Acquaintance.

Rwok Pak To', native of Sam Shni district, resident for many years in Canton City. Has been employed as superintendent of a salt ship on the Yang-tze for six years, also in Hong Kong for some time, and has also been in Singapore some years, teaching Cantonese. Now resident in Canton City, and teaching Cantonese. Age 43; has smoked opium over 20 years. Enjoys good health,* is an early riser and a good walker.* Appetite also good.* May be considered as a well-bred and well-educated Chinese.*

1. Opium is generally consumed by all classes of adult male Cantonese.

2. Should say about 80 per cent. of the adult males consume opium more or less. That is, about 20 per cent. are either total abstainers or smoke so very rarely that they may fairly be classed as non-smokers. No children, to his knowledge, smoke. The youngest smoker he can remember was 17. Practically no women smoke. Has heard of a few cases where the wife of a rich opium-smoker also acquired the habit, but it is very exceptional. Some of the Chinese prostitutes in Hong Kong smoke, in Canton hardly at all, the reason being that money is spent more freely in Hong Kong brothels.*

3. This question entirely depends on the amount smoked and the hold which the habit has acquired. In the case of the very small minority who have the craving or "yan" (see below, 5) the effect is in every way bad. The heavy smoker may become a useless burden to every one, for he smokes all night, or till after midnight, and when he does go to bed does not rise till after midday; the reason being that opium removes the necessity for sleep at the proper time. Then a heavy smoker wastes a great deal of time, from three to five hours, in the mere operation of smoking, while the continual sucking in of the breath in smoking is held to be very injurious. Again, if the man is poor, he denies himself proper food, clothing, and shelter in order to get opium, which may account for the miserable appearance of some of the lower class of opium-smokers more than the actual effects of the opium itself. There is no actual necessity that a heavy habit should unfit a man for business, but it nearly always does, unless he is the head of the firm and has trustworthy subordinates. It would certainly unfit a man for work in a shop by reducing his energy and keeping him to the opium couch. Among the more immediate physical effects of heavy smoking should be noticed the lessening of sexual passion. The skin also becomes of a pale and (in advanced cases) of a yellowish tint. There is also a blackish and fatigued appearance about the eyes. This is far more apparent in the case of those who smoke the preparation of opium dross known as "i yin," or in slang as "yin shi" (literally opium excrement). Has heard that formerly, in the days of Commissioner Lin, the effects of opium were far more visible and dreadful, owing, he supposes, to imperfect method of smoking. The opium also was not cooked so carefully or mixed with foreign matter so much. Another physical effect of smoking is constipation. This is not so marked if native opium only is consumed. Opium-smokers frequently go for four days without action of the bowels, and they invariably fear to take medicine, saying that they will get incurable diarrhoea if they do so. Socially the opium-smoker is not debarred from the society of his friends. Indeed, the opium couch is far the most comfortable place in the house. This, he thinks, is the chief reason why the habit has become so common. To smoke and chat is all a Chinese has to do. A heavy smoker, with his late habits and loss of energy, certainly cannot be a busy man. This is the chief evil of heavy smoking. He does not believe it shortens the lives of the smokers or does them other injury. He can only talk of Chinese smokers, and as to differences in the effects of Indian and native opium, he can only mention that the native is not so constipating. All the above refers solely to excess in smoking. The ordinary Chinese who smokes moderately without a "yan" feels no ill effects. On the contrary, he (the speaker) is convinced that it is of benefit. It is at once a stimulant and sedative. In cases of lassitude, stomach ache, or fatigue it is of great benefit. Even heavy smokers, before they have acquired an incurable habit, feel in extraordinary spirits and health, a fact which often accounts for their going on until the habit is difficult or impossible to break. The "yan" may not be acquired before a whole year of regular smoking; or it may, in cases of weak constitutions, be acquired in two or three months. The easiest way to acquire the "yan" is to smoke at a regular time, especially after meals, every day, or to smoke at night in the company of friends. The opium takes away the desire for sleep, and thus more and more is consumed to while away the time, until, in a short time, the habit is acquired. In reply to a question, said a man could compose prose or verse much better after smoking opium. Knows of at least one man who has acquired the highest literary degree, and is a confirmed smoker.*

4. Entirely smokers. Eating prepared opium is a common form of suicide. Occasionally, as in cases of asthmatic diseases, when the breath is obstructed, he has heard of persons taking small quantities of opium. But there are various forms of smoking, which should be distinguished. (i.) Smoking Indian opium. This is commonly practised by wealthy smokers in and near Canton. In Canton 1 oz. of Indian opium varies from \$1 to 60 cents an ounce, according to its age and purity. (ii.) Native opium, which varies in price from 60 cents to 30 cents an ounce. The best is the Yunnan pak, and the worst the Pok Chan (Hunan) opium.† (iii.) The "second opium" or "opium

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Canton.

* These facts are in my own knowledge, as he has been my teacher and has travelled in the interior with me.—G. LITTON.

† This refers to a Cantonese Han-Lin graduate of the year 1892.
These native opiums are commonly used in the N. and N.W. of Canton Province.

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excrement." This is a preparation cooked up from the refuse left in the opium pipe, and made into little pills. This is far the cheapest. One ounce of Indian opium will leave nearly half an ounce of dross, which is worth about 12 cents, and is invariably sold. The lowest classes invariably smoke this, especially the Hakkas. The "yan" is more easily acquired and more difficult to get rid of, while the physical effects are more disastrous. It is said to deprive the smoker of the power of moving his eyes freely. Smokers of Indian opium rarely use the native. The small is quite different, and not nearly so fragrant.

5. Thinks the only distinction is between actual benefit and serious injury to a man. Should say about 25 per cent. of all smokers have the yan, but in some classes the proportion is greater than in others.

6. Certainly not; the great majority of smokers are moderate. Taking in view, on the one hand, the large number of smokers, and on the other hand the results of excess in smoking, it would be quite impossible that there should be as much life and activity as there is in Canton if the greater majority of consumers were not moderate. It is difficult to give particular examples, for nearly everyone smokes more or less.

7. Is of opinion that the lower classes of labourers smoke more than merchants or artisans. Chair coolies and carriers or porters, who abound in every part of Canton province, smoke heavily. Thinks perhaps one-half of these particular classes of labourers exceed and have the "yan." Attributes this partly to the fact that their work is very exhausting, and partly to the fact that many such labourers have spare time, an hour now and an hour then with nothing to do; or when stopping at roadside teahouses smoking is very common. Thinks many of them could not do their work without it. Employés in shops smoke less and moderately generally after work hours. Thinks a heavy habit would interfere with their calling, especially if they had accounts, &c. to look after. Many of the rich merchants also smoke. Has nothing special to say of them.

8. Can hardly answer this, as the abuse of alcohol among the Chinese is practically unknown. Some frequently get drunk, but he has never heard of a wine-"craving" among the Cantonese.

9. It cannot be said that the smoking of opium is generally condemned by public opinion, for so many people smoke. The apparatus for smoking is found in nearly every house, and a man who himself does not smoke opium will offer it to his friends. Has heard that formerly, in To Kwong's reign, the habit was regarded as degrading, but then the results were more harmful than they are now. He himself would not like to go into partnership or marry his daughter to a man whom he knew to be a confirmed and heavy smoker.

10. When once the craving or "yan" is fixed few can break it off, but some do. Probably not more than one-fifth or one-sixth of the total of heavy smokers, and those who have broken the habit in many cases again resume it. The smokers of "dross" or "second opium" practically never break the habit. The best means of attempting to rid oneself of the habit is to take medicines for that purpose, and lessen the amount consumed every day. A heavy smoker of long standing, say anyone smoking 5 mace,* would be likely to die if he attempted to break off the habit. If the attempt to abstain produces a cough, then it is hopeless. In his own case he formerly had the "yan" for more than a year, when on the Yang-tsze.† He afterwards cured himself by lessening the dose and taking a medicine called "essential powder," made by Messrs. Watson, of Hong Kong. This was like white salt. An overdose would kill the patient.

11.—Cannot say. Thinks more native opium would be grown. Does not believe that the Chinese would take to drinking.

12.—Has never heard of Europeans having a strong habit, but has seen sailors of foreign nationality taken by Chinese friends into opium houses, and believes many Macao Portuguese smoke. Thinks European constitutions are stronger than Chinese. Also that the fact that the opium couch is a comfortable place to talk

when there is nothing to do is the chief cause of the prevalence of the habit. Has always understood that Europeans generally despise opium smoking as a degrading habit, and believes that many of the Chinese who have had intercourse with Europeans would strongly condemn opium when asked the questions contained in this paper, merely out of a polite wish to coincide with the foreigner's opinion. On the other hand the ignorant classes, knowing that foreign opium comes from the west, believe that it is grown by Europeans.

13.—Young men when they first go out into the world see other people smoking, and hear that it has a soothing effect; thus are led to imitate their elders. Thus again the reason of the prevalence of the habit is a social reason. A few, perhaps two smokers out of 10, have been led to use the drug as an antidote to pain or illness. Has never heard that the habit is hereditary. Thinks that if the father smoked heavily, the sons would be more likely to learn younger; but can recall the case of one of his most intimate friends, who was a heavy smoker. He had two sons, one of whom is a total abstainer. It is certainly his belief, based on experience, that opium is an antidote to pain and he thinks that the opinion of most Chinese is agreed on this point. It also acts as a stimulant. The brain is made more active, and when the habit is first acquired, the smoker feels in extraordinary spirits and health. Cannot account for the belief prevailing in Europe that a state of dreamy sleepiness is produced by opium. A heavy smoker only gets to sleep very late and then sleeps like the dead. The stimulating effect of opium induces many to exceed and acquire that "yan" which is difficult to break off. Has always heard that opium is an antidote to malaria, but cannot speak from experience. Knows a man who was on the Annam frontier in the French war, and who attributed his good health on that occasion to the use of opium. Thinks it is an undoubted fact that opium smokers are less liable to illness.

14. Thinks that heavy consumers fear the sickness and general want of spirits which results from abstinence.

15. People sometimes say it would be a good thing to suppress opium, but there is no general public opinion to that effect. Some people will not allow opium to be smoked in their shops. Agreed to my suggestion that some persons regarded opium much as a strict Methodist in England would regard theatres or cards.

16. Cannot say much on this. On the Yang-tsze thinks more is consumed than in Canton. But it is native opium. Canton is the place "par excellence" for the consumption of Indian opium, and even there in the north and west borders native opium is commonly consumed. The reason for this is the cheapness of the native drug.

17. Cannot say. Thinks China will plant more. The Chinese administration would be utterly unable to carry through such a measure as the suppression of opium, and it would be the last thing they would be likely to attempt.

18. —————.

19. —————.

20. Calls attention to the enormous consumption of opium "dross," or "excrement," or second opium by the poorer classes. Knew of a shop in Queen's Road, Hong Kong, where the current expenses for license, rent, wages, and food of employees alone, amounted to \$125 a month. Yet this shop confined itself to selling opium dross mostly consumed on the premises. Seeing that a good profit was invariably realised while the opium was sold, the consumption must be very large. Thinks that Europeans are too ready to believe that the wretched appearance of some few smokers is entirely due to opium; believes it to be often due to the hard and distressing lives these people lead, or to some illness which induced them to smoke. Thinks it is not easy for Europeans to arrive at the truth about opium. Everyone will say something different, and it will be difficult to know who to believe. Has heard that foreign missionaries do not allow their converts to smoke opium. Thinks that what native Christians said about the matter would be quite untrustworthy. People must have smoked in order to know what the effects actually are. Probably the fact that the Christians have taken up so strong a position against opium would account for the general belief among Chinese that

* 10 mace = 1 Chinese oz. = 533 grains.

† He has no "yan" now as I travelled in the interior with him for two months, in a small boat, and he never smoked. He is too a very early riser having for long been in the habit of teaching me at 7 a.m.

foreigners regard the habit as degrading. Thinks that in consequence of this it will be difficult to arrive at the truth.

Canton, February 1894.

G. LITTON,
of Singapore.

INFORMATION obtained by Mr. HARE, now residing in Canton, from a Chinese acquaintance.

ANSWERS to QUESTIONS of the ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM, by Yan-Shek-Tsim, a native of San Leng, now settled in the City of Canton, proprietor of a Chinese boot and shoe shop, Chap Yun Shan, Ho-Pun Street, age 41. Has lived in Canton over 20 years, and travelled in connexion with his business in Kumsai, all over the Canton Province, Hailam, Hong Kong, and Annam. Is an opium-smoker of nearly 20 years' standing. Has always enjoyed good health. Is an active, intelligent, well-informed representative of the better middle-class Chinese traders.

1. Yes.

2. Thinks about 50 per cent. or more of the adult males smoke opium, but the proportion varies with the locality and the class of people. For instance, should say nearly 65 or 70 per cent. Chinese adults smoke in the city of Canton. In villages there is not so much smoking, but it is on the increase. A few prostitutes smoke; children never. Never heard of women in respectable families smoking. Hakka women (who do more work usually than the males) will not allow their husbands to smoke if they can stop them. The smoking done in brothels in China is very little.

3. *The Effects of moderate Opium-smoking.*—A. *Morally*: Cannot say that he thinks a man is the better or the worse for the habit. Says the question is not clear, that whether a man is a saint or a sinner is not affected by the mere habit of opium-smoking. Cross-examined: Says he has heard of the "opium cunning"—Yin-Cheng—and explains it to be a phrase applied to smokers who devise plots and scheme to do things to the harm of their fellow-men. Does not think this an immoral effect arising from opium-smoking. Says such a man would plot and do injury to others whether he smoked or not. If he is a heavy smoker, he has more time to think out his plans. Thinks that positively the habit has no good moral effects, but that, negatively, it may have by keeping people quiet. B. *Physically*: Says the habit, speaking from personal experience, is decidedly beneficial. Finds it a good digestive medium, a sedative for pain and worry, and a stimulant that enables him to do more work (such as going into accounts and intricate figures) than he could do without it. Ascribes his freedom from any opium diseases (such as sleeplessness, constipation, or diarrhoea, jaundiced complexion, &c.) to his moderation and carefulness in the use of the drug. Says he only smokes once a day for about an hour, and sometimes abstains for a few days. Says he could give up the habit if he liked, but that he is sure that he is physically better off for taking his pipe regularly. C. *Socially*: Is of opinion that the opium habit promotes and extends social intercourse. Although everyone does not smoke habitually, yet there are very few Chinese who do not know how to smoke and keep a friend company. A Chinaman finds it hard to kill time, and the opium-pipe and its pretty appurtenances has given quite a new æsthetic pleasure to them. So strong is the social bearing of opium-smoking now on Chinese society, that even total abstinents provide and devise a pipe in their shops and houses for visitors. Many rooms in big trading establishments are now called the "opium hall"—Yin-Ting—and I have heard that there are now special rooms provided in all Chinese Ya-mens for opium-smoking.

The Effects of immoderate habitual Opium-smoking.—The worst effects of such abuse are the physical evils. The unfortunate cannot sleep well, cannot eat substantial meals, often gets constipation and diarrhoea, his skin and complexion becomes tinged yellow, his eyes are ringed and their nerves often affected, and the body will waste. People who smoke the opium dross or refuse—yin-shi—suffer much more than others. Socially the "opium sot" is a nuisance, as he induces other people to smoke more than is good for them, and keeps men up all through the night. Morally such a man becomes unscrupulous and shifty,

is always smoking other people's opium, and never offers to return the hospitality enjoyed. If the man is poor, his family suffers. The effects of consuming opium on the Cantonese, Hainanese, Hakkas, Tan-Kas, and Kwing-Sai men seem the same. The Hakkas are perhaps the most immoderate smokers. They and the Tan-Ka all smoke opium dross or a second preparation of that dross, and the impurity of the drug soon brings on the "yan," or craving in its worst incurable form. Chinese-grown opium is coarse and unsatisfying, and without the fragrance of the Indian drug. Everyone who can afford to smokes Indian opium. The sedative effect of Chinese opium is not so great as that of the Indian drug, and the poorer classes, who smoke native opium, are often led to take more than is good for them to produce the desired effect.

4. Consumers all smoke opium. Occasionally, if necessity (such as on journeys by land or water, when the pipe and apparatus is not taken) compels very heavy smokers to do so, they will swallow opium pills specially prepared by Chinese chemists for this purpose. No Chinese drink decoctions of opium. Swallowing a-p'in-ko or chandoo is a common way of committing suicide or poisoning others.

5. Thinks the proportion of those who smoke opium and derive benefit from it very large. Is not sure about the proportion, as it depends so much on the status and condition of the smoker, e.g., says the carrying classes and coolies of Canton, who smoke inferior opium, have the "yan" or craving in considerable numbers. Very few wealthy people get an incurable "yan." Of the artisan, agricultural, and petty shop-keeping classes, thinks perhaps 15 to 20 per cent. may have a "small yan"—sin-yan—i.e., a curable craving. The "opium sots" are few in any class, and are usually cases where the man is, apart from his opium-smoking, a "bad hat," who has descended in the social scale from other vices as well as smoking, or who was so weak in constitution when he took up the habit, often as an antidote to pain, that it has merely hastened the end of his other diseases. Says the poorest classes, who smoke heavily, could not make their living from day to day unless they had their pipe, and that it is this knowledge that makes them work to get money to buy opium. Says that people (miserable bags of bones, broken down in every way) that Europeans call "opium sots" have always existed in China (where the struggle for bare life is so severe and distress so universal), shows that opium-smoking is not a thing of to-day, and often supposed to be the cause of broken lives that have been ruined by other natural causes.

6. Moderation in the consumption of opium is the rule, and abuse the exception. Says he has himself taken opium for nearly 20 years with distinct benefit to himself. Has stopped smoking for as long as a month or two months at a time. Knows of very many cases of consumers who have taken their pipes for years with benefit, as far as he knows, and certainly without any apparent harm to themselves. Asked to give examples, says he has lived in Ho-Pun Street for nearly 20 years, and that there are over some 400 shops in the street; that he knows about 60 other shopkeepers in the vicinity of his own shop, and is on visiting terms with them; that the majority of these shopkeepers all smoke without any ostensible ill-effects, and that he never heard of anyone in his street coming to grief in any way from smoking too much. States he knows of one case of a distant cousin who came to grief chiefly over smoking and gambling. The man was an accountant in a village shop, and got 2 dol. wages a month. He smoked to excess, borrowed people's things and pawned them to gamble and smoke with, and eventually took the shopkeeper's money from the till and removed to Hong Kong. Witness thinks that the Chinese "black sheep" in big wealthy official families often smoke to excess, and has heard that they are not infrequently encouraged to do so, as their own people think even abuse of opium-smoking a lesser evil than wasting money on fan-tan and other forms of gambling and on prostitutes. Says he feels pretty sure that few cases of consumers smoking with great injury to themselves can be found among the lower labouring classes. Says these people, although they may smoke too much, and get an habitual craving, know that they must make money daily to buy their opium, and so never smoke to such an excess as will utterly incapacitate them from working. Says that he has heard that many Buddhist priests smoke to great excess, and that yali-men, lictors, and other low fellows of this stamp are the most reckless.

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7. Certainly, the majority of labourers, merchants, and artisans, and agriculturists now smoke opium, that is to say the great majority, if not habitual consumers, yet know how to smoke on occasion. Says he went back to his ancestral village in San-Lang a year ago after an absence of 10 years and found smoking had increased very much there, and thinks that opium-smoking generally has increased universally during the last seven or eight years. Does not think the efficiency or inefficiency of these men in their calling much affected. The labourers, agriculturists, and artisans find it consoling after a hard day's work, and as they all go to bed very early it does not interfere with their work next morning. The merchants, official classes, reading men, take opium chiefly as a brain stimulant or sedative. If abused, the opium habit leads to bad habits—late rising, unwillingness to get up from the divan and attend to business, wastes time generally, and leads to sickness and ill-health. Accountants and clerks in shops do not smoke as much as the masters, because they have not time to do so; the majority of these men, however, frequent opium-houses and smoke there. Says he knows several shops where the shopkeepers do not smoke, and will not take opium-consumers on as employees; thinks this due to excess of vigour on the part of such men, and adds that he knows of one such shop where the accountant (presumed to be a non-smoker) smokes every other day or so at the opium-house after meals, once a day. Says a moderate smoker who takes only one or two pipes a day (say at most 1 mace* at first, or $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 maces after years of smoking) can never be known, as far as appearance goes, from a non-smoker; says for instance that he knows a number of the Chinese employed in Shamien as compradors, shroffs, clerks, office-runners, and butlers, and has seen them all smoking at one time or another, but does not suppose that their European employers either know that all their classes smoke, or find them affected by it as far as their work goes. Asks if his own appearance after 20 years smoking would lead one to say he was an opium-smoker. (Physically I can see no difference in him, beyond that his eyes look heavy, and I know he walks well and can eat big meals. —E. P. Han.)

8. Denies that drunkenness exists in China. Has seen drunken Europeans in Canton and Hong Kong, but thought their eccentric behaviour was merely a temporary thing due to excess at feasts and dinners. Cross-examined: Yes, has heard of a "wine craving," but says it is very rare in this province, and is mostly here confined to Chinese from other provinces, especially from the north. People who have this wine-craving invariably take spirits or wine with their meals. Many of the foreign soldiers in the city from other provinces take wine at their meals. Has never heard of this habit acquiring mastery over a man like the abuse of opium leads to. Has heard in Hong Kong and Macao of Chinese born there who are always drunk and unfit to do anything. Does not know enough about the abuse of alcohol to venture to compare it with the abuse of the opium habit.

9. The general opinion of the Chinese is that taking opium is neither injurious or degrading, and this general opinion has been gathering strength for some years. On the other hand there is a minority of strict precisions (such men as object to their sons dining in their father's company, or sitting in the same room with them, and treat them generally as children when they are men) who condemn opium-smoking as injurious to the body. Has not heard anyone say the habit is degrading, i.e., gives you bad name. Does not see how opium-smoking, any more than tobacco-smoking, or spirit-drinking, can be degrading. Has heard that converts to the Christian religion are not allowed to smoke, but does not think this would affect other Chinese; cannot say why Europeans believe the Chinese call the habit degrading, may be due to some old proclamations and notices issued years ago at the time of the Opium War in Fao Kwang's time, when opium-smoking was condemned. Says opium was not understood then, was badly prepared and often misused, and perhaps there were more bad cases of victims to the habit then, and that this gave the habit a bad name. As a matter of common sense, he adds, that what every one does and what everyone condones in his neighbour for doing, and what the leading official and literary classes do cannot in itself be very wrong, and states further that if the

habit was so bad and the evils so many as to make it necessary for Government to put it down, how is it that Canton is such a rich and prosperous place in spite of a habit that is indulged in more or less by some 60 per cent. of the people. On the other hand it is matter of common knowledge that Canton has thriven greatly during the last 12 years, and that the consumption of opium has increased too. Thinks that this shows that opium is becoming a luxury or semi-necessity to the majority of Chinese. Does not know enough about the alcohol habit to compare it with the opium habit. Says the Chinese proverb "gambling, wenching, drinking, and "smoking opium," commonly fired off as a description of Chinese vices, mentions drunkenness first before opium-smoking as being the more injurious. Says that wine-drinking, such as occurs at feasts, parties, morra games, yerse-copping, &c., is really not degrading in any way, and yet it is put down as a national vice; so too is opium side by side with it, but the proverb of course only refers to excess and abuse in both cases.

10. Certainly. For various reasons, chiefly in witness's experience when they have not money enough to spend on the habit. Some, too, find the habit getting too strong a hold of them, and break it off with a view to recovering their normal self-control over the habit. Says the habit is insidious, and that in most of the bad cases the abuses arise from inexperience and ignorance of the smoker. When men give up the habit chiefly from fear of losing self-control, they in most cases resume the habit some six months or 12 months afterwards, but take great care never to exceed a small limit. Knows two cases of relatives living in the city who took far too much opium (a $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 mace habit), and who both ultimately gave up the habit altogether. If the man who takes opium to excess is broken down in health or of weak constitution, he finds it very difficult to break off the habit; may kill himself if he tries to do so without proper medical treatment. Says most emphatically no person weak in body or broken in health and fortune ought to smoke.

11. In Canton all who can afford to smoke Indian opium. If this men cut off, the consumers of the Indian opium would have to put up with the native drug for a time. Its growth, however, would be probably greatly increased, and more care bestowed in its manufacture to make it purer. Probably too many Chinese merchants would try growing the poppy in Annam, Siam, and other places. The Chinese would not take to alcohol or other narcotics, and would certainly not abstain altogether.

12. Has never heard of Europeans smoking opium habitually, supposes it does not suit them to lay down at length in divans and smoke in this position. Says Europeans, too, have so many more ways of killing time than Chinese have, and that this slow tedious way of smoking would not probably suit the bustling Europeans. Thinks, however, if opium-smoking pavilions were opened in nice places with aesthetic surroundings, Europeans might take to smoking a little as they do to gambling at Kan-Lung in Hong Kong. Says, too, it is due to national characteristics—points out that Europeans always take liquor at their meals, and at all times during the day without being in any way the worse for it, and that the Chinaman takes tea in exactly the same way. Says that very few Chinese take wine except at dinners and at festival occasions. Opines, too, that Chinese are not so strong as the Europeans, and do not take so much nourishing food and liquor, and that the European does not feel the want of the stimulant like a Chinaman.

13. Opium consumers learn to smoke in nearly all cases in social intercourse. It is a very common rule of Chinese etiquette to never refuse what is offered you, however much you may dislike it. Thus, people visiting smokers or even non-smokers are invited to have a pipe, and usually begin in this way. States he has heard of Chinese in Annam smoking to keep off fever and malaria. Says the general opinion of Chinese is agreed on this, that opium-smoking is undoubtedly an anæsthetic. Says paddy planters up country have told him smoking was a good thing to keep off rheumatism, but has never heard anyone else say so.

14. Every man who has smoked till he has got the "horrors" badly wishes to break off the habit, but very few can. Has never heard of the ordinary smoker desiring to get free of the habit, on the contrary, most temperate smokers look forward to the opium pipe just like a man who habitually smokes tobacco does.

* 1 mace = 58·3 grains.

15. Only Chinese who have travelled abroad, or have relatives and friends who go to foreign countries, or such as have intercourse with European friends, know when opium is grown in the west. Very few indeed know that the opium is chiefly imported by English as distinct from other foreigners.

16, 17. _____

18, 19. _____

20. Says the habit, speaking from long experience, is an insidious one, and that habitual smokers have to be careful not to abuse it; that the habit is now become a confirmed one with the majority of Chinese, to some as a necessity, and to others as a luxury; that there is no general opinion amongst Chinese or other evidence to show a general wish to prohibit or restrict opium-smoking; that any such attempt would be utterly useless, as the governing classes themselves are the most consistent and steadiest smokers, and would certainly not deprive themselves of this means of enjoying themselves; that the Chinese are very good judges of their own business and wants, and that if opium was such a very bad thing the Chinese Government would not permit it to be imported, and would prohibit the growth of all native opium too.

INFORMATION obtained by Mr. C. J. SAUNDERS, at present residing in Canton, from Chinese friends.

ANSWERS to QUESTIONS by ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM.

Yü-Keng-Pak.

1. Yes, very common.

2. 80 or 90 per cent. smoke; more in last 10 or 20 years, and last three or four years still more prevalent. Of adult males 30 per cent have the craving. Perhaps 9 per cent. of the women have the craving; all women that smoke have the craving. Few children (under 16) smoke.

3.—(a.) No energy, lazy. Plots and plans and gets the better of people; has the whole day to think out his plans. (b.) Weak; grows thin and pale, his back will get bowed. No appetite; rises late: (c.) Lazier in intercourse with friends. No distinction between Cantonese and Chinese from other provinces.

4. Opium is invariably smoked. I know one man who took one mace of opium in strong spirits before meals (one mace=58·3 grains).

5. Of those that have the craving (i.) two or three per cent.: (ii.) two or three per cent.: (iii.) 90 per cent.

6. All, except those who take opium as a remedy for illness, are bound to go to excess in time. Those who are least injured have not the same good spirits as before.

7. Of the three classes, field labourers fewest and mercantile classes most. But most of all gentlemen at large, 80 per cent. Coolies smoke to about 80 per cent. of their number.

8. The effect of opium is incomparably greater. From spirits the man's mind is only confused for the time.

9. It is not regarded as degrading, but those who do not smoke all say that smoking is injurious. Drinking alcohol, even as a habit, is only objected to if the man's temper, in his cups, is bad. About 30 per cent. must have wine with their meals; only about three per cent. have the wine craving apart from meals.

10. The craving can be dropped. I have a friend who dropped an eight-mace* habit. About 50 per cent. could drop it.

11. They would smoke native opium. Those who were compelled to (from price, &c.) would drop the habit. They would not take to alcohol; the two have no connexion; opium-smokers, as a rule, cannot drink much spirits.

13. For amusement. To welcome guests. Because of illness. Opium is a remedy against malaria, not against rheumatism or fever. Everyone says that opium prevents malaria. Birdseye and manilla cigars have the same effect.

14. Some wish to throw off and some make the excuse of illness. Perhaps 20 per cent. throw off the craving.

15. Very many wish England to restrict opium.

Yü Keng Pak is about 35 years old, his family came from Chekiang, and he is now domiciled in Canton city. He is a Chinese graduate of the first degree. He has no craving for opium nor for wine. His father was Chief Secretary at the Governor's Yamen.

TRANSLATION of a LETTER written by YU-KENG-PAK subsequently, and forwarded.

England has long been known as a civilised country; in internal government and intercourse with other nations she is making a gradual and continual advance. At the present time, she more than ever shows the reality of her friendly disposition towards China, and the whole empire looks on her with reverence. But the importation of opium into China is not a thing to be proud of; it results in innumerable evils. The magnitude of the trade may be seen from the fact that recently, according to the Chinese Customs, the importation has reached the figure of 70,300 boxes. This means that every year China sends out of the country in payment over Ts. 30,000,000. This huge amount is for ever lost to the country. How can China help being poor? From my experience, I should say that 30 per cent. of the inhabitants of this country have the craving. Now the population of the 18 provinces, including men and women, old and young, does not fall short of 400,000,000, that is to say, there are 120,000,000 opium smokers. How can China help being weak? Those who discuss the opium trade say that it does incalculable harm to China; it is from it that China is reduced to poverty and weakness. What can be urged in excuse by the party that at once gets the profit and does the injury? Surely England must shrink from the judgment that is passed on her behind her back. Surely she cannot bear to sit and see the people of a friendly country injured by herself without even stretching out a helping hand.

I have written this especially in answer to the questions that you were good enough to show me, and I hope that you will forward it to the Government of your country and to all true gentlemen, that they may take the opportunity of joining heart and soul in the suppression of the cultivation and sale of opium. There is no room for empty excuses, let them make haste to help China and do away with this huge evil. To the world at large there is nothing that can be of greater advantage than this, and by this one act the reputation of your country for taking pity on her neighbours and wiping out their injuries will spread like thunder and lightning from pole to pole.

ANSWERS to QUESTIONS by ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM.

Wong Chuk Kwan.

N.B.—Answers 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, of course, only refer to those that have the habit or craving.

1. Yes.

2. 20 or 30 per cent. In the country, Pun-tri, 15 per cent.; Hakka, 25 per cent. At Canton City, 25 per cent, as smallest estimate. Difficult to find one woman opium-smoker in 100, even in Canton City; in the country women have a great contempt for opium-smoking. Only know two women in my own country town who have the habit. Do not know any child (under 16, at which Chinese come of age) who smokes.

3.—(1.) Moral effect bad. First does not like people smoking his opium; afterwards comes to like to smoke other people's and save his own. So gives rise to avarice in general, and as the man spends the day in smoking opium, he has plenty of time to plan and contrive, and gets the better of people who have any business with him. This of men who have enough money; if the man has no money, he will sell anything in the house (down to the kitchen knife); he will indulge his habit rather than support parents and family; he will borrow money and not repay, borrow clothes and pawn them, and, as a last resource, will steal. Dog-stealers and hen-stealers, &c., 100 per cent. are opium-smokers. The smoker in want of money will even sell wife and daughters to be prostitutes. Bodily effect, in all cases bad; cannot eat so much rice. Must smoke at night, at least to 12 midnight, and by day no spirit for work. If he occasionally give up the habit, he will certainly fall ill, and in some cases die.

* 8 mace = 468·40 grains.

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Smokers always talk in a muddled way. Cannot get up early in the morning. Strength less; can only carry 70 catties to the 100 of the non-smoker. Always thinner, and generally thin; a bad and yellow complexion. (Can he get children?) Makes no difference, but sexual passion less. Social effect: (Is it a disgrace?) Not in the least. Smokers find it very difficult to get employment in shops. (Do non-smokers make preparations for smokers?) Yes, very often. Always in shops, and often in reception rooms at own house, and on the boats of all classes except ferryboats and "sampans" [the latter not passenger boats]. Careless about dirtiness of clothes and room. Laria in intercourse with friends. The effect of foreign and native opium the same, but the man who smokes native opium cannot satisfy his craving with foreign opium, and vice versa.

4. All smoke opium. Except, when there is business out of doors directly after a meal, when a smoker will make up a "smoke date" and gradually eat as he walks. Or when the opium is insufficient, when the smoker will, after his smoke, swallow a certain amount of opium dross, or if he cannot find enough of this, he will smoke "second opium" (a decoction of the opium dross mixed with something else, chiefly smoked by the chair coolies, &c.). Or if he cannot rise even to this, he swallows "third refuse" (a decoction adulterated from the dross of opium dross). No one takes it in a liquid form. Swallowing is only a *pis-aller* for smoking and has the effect of making the complexion black.

5.—(i.) At least 10 per cent. can do work like any other man. (ii.) 60 per cent. smoke with slight injury. (iii.) 30 per cent. good for nothing, wasted.

6. No; i.e., there are a great many (of all classes) who carry opium with them, and do not have the opium habit. Many smoke, say, for a week at a run, and then stop for a bit. (How long does it take to acquire habit?) At least two months, generally more. Many of the class of employés in shops get the habit, unknown to themselves, by going with friends to the opium shops after meal. Others get the habit by continually sponging on friends for a smoke. Many men smoke opium for years, but not every day, without harm. Of those who have the habit, all have a feeling of tiredness and weakness, are unable to make a proper meal. Of cases of great injury: Own cousin 5-mace* habit. Smoked till daylight, and rose at 4 p.m. Took only one meal in the day. Finally tried to throw off the habit, fell ill, and died, after throwing off and resuming habit several times. His illness took the form of dysentery (opium dysentery) and a cough. It is the throwing off the habit, and not the habit itself, that makes a man ill or kills him. Case of heaviest habit, 7 mace (quarter of a dollar) a day; aged 60, but apart from slackness no harm.

7. At shops only a small proportion of employés smoke, but probably a greater majority of shopkeepers and accountants smoke than of any other class (excepting all classes at the Yamens, from the mandarin to the police). Of reading men perhaps 30 per cent. smoke at Canton, but in the country only 20 per cent. The mercantile classes from smoking become dilatory and behindhand. Employés have the same bad points. Reading men waste their time. The mandarin comes to trust to his underlings. Artisans only work to smoke; that is, while they have money to smoke they will not work, e.g., a man with some money and a shop, which earned a lot of money. After the death of his father he began to smoke at the age of 18 or 19, and got the craving. After this he daily gathered smoking friends (who perhaps were not allowed to smoke at home) in his shop, and smoked and talked "opium" all day; it takes the day to make 4 or 5 mace of opium. He gave no attention to the business, leaving his employés to themselves, and all his transactions were a failure. The shop at last failed, and he had to sell house and land; and finally he himself had to take to selling things in the street. (There are many chair coolies and musicians, too, of the lowest occupations, who originally had some money.)

8. About 60 per cent. do not like to drink more than a very little; i.e., only drink for form's sake; of these, 20 per cent. have a real desire to drink. About 30 per cent. like to drink (i.e., will always accept an invitation), but only 10 per cent. must have spirits at every meal. Drunkenness only at entertainments, with universal pledging and the game of "morra." No class of "drunkards." Some who drink at every meal get weak on the legs (Cantonese term "wine wind legs").

* 5 mace = 291 grains.

Chinamen grow pugnacious and fight when drunk; but otherwise the evils of drink bear no proportion to the evils arising from the use of opium.

9. Opium-smoking is not regarded as degrading nor as injurious. Drunkenness is not a common failing, and is not mentioned in comparison with opium-smoking. (But the colloquial expression?) "Women, gambling, drinking, and smoking"; the first is worst, as it will lead to the other three; gambling next, as it leads to selling even wife and children, and stealing, &c.; drinking next, as a man when drunk may kill a man; and smoking comes last.

10. Many break off the habit; probably all at some time or other. But afterwards smoking for a few days brings back the craving, and at least 95 per cent. resume the habit. I only know of one who gave it up, to my knowledge, for four or five years. Many give up or bring down their craving from want of money.

11. If there were no Indian opium, people would certainly smoke native opium. (?) Certainly would not take to drink. Would not take to opium pills, &c.; the delight in opium-smoking is greatly æsthetic, the lamp and all the paraphernalia being pretty to look at. Perhaps 50 per cent. would give up the habit, but only temporarily, till the production of native opium became sufficient.

12. An opium apparatus keeps a party of friends together longer. The preparation of the opium is a pleasant occupation (cf. 11, æsthetic element).

13. Most smoke first at the houses or shops of friends, or go in parties to the opium shops after dinner for a talk. Some (very few) parents make sons smoke; I know one case, when the son was too fond of joining in the battles between villages. I have not tried it as a medicine; I hear that people generally take (e.g., in the streets) as a preventive of malaria. Many take it for blood-spitting, "inward injury" = "consumption". Not for rheumatism. Opium-smokers can bear a hotter temperature in a room than other people.

14. Yes, everyone when he finds that he has the craving.

15. Most people do not know where opium comes from; and I, knowing, also know that the proposed prohibition would have no effect.

16. On the East River foreign opium smoked most at Sheklung, where native can also be bought. In Waichanfu native opium and foreign opium are used about equally.

Wong Chuk Kwan, who answered these questions, is about 36 years old, and comes from Sheklung, in the Tung-kwun district. He is a non-smoker, and has a positive dislike to drinking. He formerly had a school, and has also been an accountant. For the last year and a half has been teaching me colloquial, but he has still an opinion of his own, which he is not afraid of expressing. He knows Shanghai, Hong Kong, Bangkok, and Singapore.

(Signed) C. J. SAUNDERS.

PEKING.

SIR,

Peking, February 6, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the papers referred to in your letter of December 6th reached me on the 28th January, and that I at once forwarded copies to Her Majesty's Consuls in China for circulation amongst persons whom they considered competent to give trustworthy evidence on the points referred to. The replies will be forwarded to you direct with the least possible delay from the various consulates, of which I append a list.

I have also circulated copies of the interrogatories in Peking, and enclose the answers received.

With regard to the desire of the Commission to obtain from me information as to the attitude of the Chinese Government and of provincial governors in regard to the importation of Indian opium and the production and consumption of opium in China, while I am unable to quote any recent direct expression of opinion by high Chinese officials, I have no hesitation in stating my conviction that the opium question is now regarded by them almost entirely from the financial point of view. I am fully convinced from my experience here that the Chinese Government would regret the stoppage of the importation of Indian opium with the consequent loss of revenue. When I was in charge of this Legation in 1885 and 1886, I had many conversations with the Chinese ministers, both about the new opium convention and about wrongful seizures of opium by likin officers, but not one of them ever made the slightest suggestion in condemnation of the

trade, their only concern being that China should secure from it as large a revenue as possible. This is, indeed, the view explicitly expressed to Sir Thomas Wade in 1881 by a former minister of the Tsungli Yamen, now a provincial viceroy. Sir Thomas asked the ministers what the policy of the central government on the opium question was, to which this minister, speaking for his colleagues, replied that the central government had not formulated any policy. But speaking from a general point of view he might say that "if the habit of opium-smoking could be universally and at once abolished, the Chinese Government would be ready and willing to sacrifice the revenue that was at present derived from opium. All sensible men were, however, agreed that this was an impossibility. The habit of opium-smoking was beyond the reach of prohibition, and the idea was how to turn it to account. The only way in which it could be turned to account was by making it a source of revenue, and the revenue thus derived was indispensable. There were, moreover, so many other matters that needed reform before the opium question was taken in hand that it might safely be said that the abolition of opium had not entered the minds of those entrusted with the government of the empire."

On Sir Thomas Wade's further asking whether a gradual diminution of the opium supply from India, ending in its total abolition, would meet the approval of the Chinese Government, the same minister replied that in his opinion such a plan would be useless. "As long as the habit existed opium would be procured somehow, and if it did not come from India it would be procured elsewhere. Any serious attempt to check the evil must originate with individuals. As long as men wanted to smoke and insisted on smoking, they would smoke . . . Philanthropic efforts to check the evil in the manner suggested by Sir T. Wade would affect the revenue without in any way reaching the root of the mischief."

These views were, it is true, diametrically opposed to those held by some high Chinese officials, notably by the late Tso Tsung-t'ang, who did his best to suppress the cultivation of the poppy in the provinces under his rule, but they are those on which the Chinese authorities, both central and provincial, now act. In illustration of this, I enclose *precis* of a joint memorial to the throne from the Tsungli Yamen and the Board of Revenue in 1891 on the taxation of native opium. It will be noticed that no reference is made to any other than the financial side of the question, the object kept in view being the extra-emption from the trade of the largest revenue it can safely produce.

I should have been glad to be able to obtain for the Commission an expression of the views of Sir Robert Hart, to which his long official experience gives exceptional weight, but he considers both himself and the members of the Customs' service generally to be precluded by their position from giving any evidence on the question.

There being no British or foreign mercantile community in Peking the abstention of the Customs' service has obliged me to confine the circulation of the interrogatories here almost entirely to missionaries, whose views can, perhaps, hardly be accepted as fully representative.

As to my own personal views, I do not profess to have more than a very superficial acquaintance with the effects of opium consumption in China, but I am willing to admit that if the use of the drug in China depended on the supply received from India, it might be a practical question what measures could or ought to be taken to discourage its importation.

But in my opinion this is not the issue. The quantity of opium grown in China is increasing enormously; even the nominal prohibition of the cultivation of the poppy no longer exists throughout, I may say, the whole empire; and were the importation of Indian opium to be stopped, China would in a few years so increase her production as not only to supply her own wants, but probably to export opium to foreign countries. The chief sufferers would be the well-to-do classes, in being obliged to substitute an inferior and more injurious extract for that of good quality they previously consumed.

I have, &c.

The Secretary, (Signed) N. R. O'CONNOR.
Royal Commission on Opium,
India.

LIST of CONSULATES, &c. to which COPIES of the QUESTIONS have been sent.

Newchwang.	Foochow.
Tientsin.	Amoy.
Chefoo.	Swatow.
Shanghai.	Tainan.
Ningpo.	Tamsui.
Chinkiang.	Canton.
Wuhu.	Pakhoi.
Kin Kiang.	Hoihow.
Hankow.	Pagoda Anchorage.
Ichang.	Macao.
Chungking.	Soul (Corea).
Wenchow.	Chemulpo "

Dr. JOHN DUDGEON, C.M.

1. Yes.

2. Thirty per cent., irrespective of race (Chinese and Manchu) of men; one or two per cent. of women; of children, none.

3. *Moral effects.*—Untruthfulness, blunting of the moral sense (thickness of skin as the Chinese term it), unshamefacedness; difficult to arouse the conscience (the smokers compared to wet fuel, the non-smokers to dry fuel); practising the arts of deception, is apt to fall into habits of stealing to secure the pipe when his necessities require it; has no hesitation in asking favours; general untrustworthiness. *Physical effects.*—Degeneration of the whole body, laziness, idleness, goes to sleep late and rises late, leanness; smokers with very few exceptions lose weight; colour changes to grey or dirty yellow, inveterate constipation (two or three evacuations in the month), loss of appetite (craving for cold things, fruit, &c.), reproductive organs materially impaired after confirmation of habit. *Social* (the social element in China not strongly developed).—Cessation of all socialities, inability to support his family in the great bulk of the poor smokers, loses the respect of people, loses his old friends who are afraid of associating with an opium smoker, neglecting the business of others, opium smoking merchants damage and finally lose by neglecting their business, he is avoided in matters of business, he fails to come up to time in his engagements. There is no distinction in this matter of opium between the two races here, Chinese and Manchu. In respect of the above three points, no difference between Indian and Chinese grown opium, the injury is the same; the only difference, speaking generally, being in price. The Chinese is milder and more easily abandoned. The Indian is now more easily given up than it was formerly as it is now no longer of the old quality. The Chinese often compare the native to a wood fire a blaze and finished and the Indian to a coal fire.

4. Among the better classes only smoking. The lowest classes eat the prepared extract, or opium ashes; some also drink a decoction of the opium in spirit containing also some medicinal drugs, also pills containing opium; also morphia, now very largely, of which some 17,000 ounces were imported into Shanghai last year. The effects of these different articles cannot be distinguished.

5.—(i.) None. (ii.) 20 per cent. (iii.) 80 per cent.

6. It is difficult to speak of moderation where the habit must be gratified at regular times every day. Among the smokers with the habit or craving 1 per cent. or 2 per cent. smoke in moderation, there may be 2 per cent. or 3 per cent. who smoke intermittently and do not acquire the habit. If persisted in for a month regularly, the craving is established. Of the scores of thousands of opium-smokers that I have seen or have passed through my hands during 30 years at Peking, among all classes of the people, not more than four or five were to all appearance unaffected by it. One was a Buddhist priest over 60 years of age, who smoked three mace for some 20 years; another was his Excellency Chény Lin, a minister of the Tsungli-yamen, under 60 years; he died suddenly of hæmorrhage; a third, Jen Shan, over 50 years old, who smoked three or four mace for less than 10 years, and who has now abandoned it. Of the 80 per cent. who sustain great injury from their addiction to the habit, at least 20 per cent. have ceased to resemble human beings. Of the great injury committed I have, alas, seen innumerable cases, the complete ruin of the

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individual and family. The evil is so patent that to give examples would be superfluous. As the chief minister of the Tsungli-yamen remarked the other day, "the injury is ours, the benefit is England's," or as a colleague of his remarked at the same time, "there are undoubtedly many cases of smokers that seem to smoke with impunity, but the great majority suffer irreparable injury."

7. About 20 per cent. of merchants, about 10 per cent. of artisans, of labourers 50 per cent. (the evil is particularly felt here). The general effect is loss of time and neglect of their business. Before and without the satisfaction of the habit, they are utterly useless and incapacitated for any work; after the satisfaction of the habit they are able for any work and do it well. It is the very best of the above three classes that smoke. Because they are competent they must have recourse to the pipe to make themselves equal to the demand upon them.

8. The opium-smokers suffer incomparably more than the alcohol drinkers. In Questions 9 and 11 it is taken for granted that the Chinese do not consume alcohol. The conjunctive "would" in these two questions should be exchanged for "do." The Chinese largely consume alcohol. The people partake of samshod or a native wine, fermented from rice, at nearly all meals. The middle and lower classes drink ardent spirits at each meal, and without this adjunct they would be unable to digest their food. Although thus largely given to drink, it is only at meals, and the fusel oil contained in the coarse spirit makes it so disagreeable for them that they are obliged to stop before the point of intoxication is reached. This is why so few drunkards are seen in China. A little less alcohol is now drunk than was the case before the advent of opium; at the same time a good deal of opium is taken by spirit drinkers to remove the unpleasantness of the spirits. No greater mistake could be made than to suppose that opium in China takes the place of spirits in the West. The one can substitute the other, and both exist to a large extent among the same people.

9. The opinion of the Chinese, without exception, is that the habit is degrading and injurious to an alarming extent. They regard the use of alcohol (there is hardly any abuse) favourably. In both business is neglected, but the one is intermittent, the other regular. The same effects follow the abuse of alcohol here as in the west, only drunkenness and immoderation are much less frequent. The evils of alcohol are largely absent from opium, and it is this that makes opium appear the better by comparison. The spirit drinker quarrels with his wife and children and is a nuisance to society in general; with the opium smoker the case is reversed, the wife, children, and society quarrel with the smoker.

10. Yes, but with great difficulty, it is certainly not easy; there are a great many difficult matters about it, and they readily fall before temptation again. Of 10 who give it up, not more than three adhere to their resolution.

11. At present it would be without any effect, the smokers would smoke more of the native, but it was not always so. The time has not yet come for forming a decision in regard to what action the Chinese Government or high officials would take in the event of the Indian supply being cut off. We know what it would have been previous to the cultivation of the native, and before the habit became so extensively prevalent. Judging from the general corruption and the analogy of other matters, it is to be feared that no action will be taken. There is no saying, however, what a strong Emperor, and a strong Inner Council, or the individual action of some powerful Viceroy might not do in the shape of stopping the native growth. The high officials are as a rule themselves free of the habit but not so some members of their families. It is possible in the future, as at the beginning, that opium and tobacco may be smoked together to satisfy the opium craving without the ordinary loss of time, or morphia may become the rage by hypodermic injection, or by the mouth for a similar reason.

12. No, I do not know why Europeans have not contracted the habit. They probably lack the time, and they would consider the habit too degrading. The Asiatics take to it from a variety of causes, such as leisure, idleness, laziness, lymphatic temperament, misrule, desire for comfort, and the banishment, temporarily at least, of miseries, a good way of passing the time.

13. Opium-smokers are led to the use of the drug from a variety of reasons, chief among which are the cure, or at the least, the alleviation of the pain of disease, licentiousness, leisure, as an antidote, or in some cases a substitute for spirits, or rather, I should say, spirits are taken as a substitute for the opium. As to opium as a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, or malaria, I have no experience. North China is not malarious, and yet opium-smoking is very prevalent, especially in the opium-producing province of Shansi. Opium has undoubtedly certain advantages with regard to allaying the pain and discomfort of rheumatism (muscular, in acute form, does not exist in China). It may be prophylactic to some small extent against fever but will not cure it. During fever the smoker abandons the pipe, as tobacco is by our own people during a serious illness. Its prophylactic virtue against rheumatism is less than with either fever or malaria. The condition of the body, hot inside and cold outside, rather induces to rheumatism from the ease which the "deflected" air gains admission. Opium certainly relieves rheumatism. As regards malaria, opium seems to be to some extent prophylactic, and if contracted will relieve it. A large number of diseases being benefited, up to the time the habit gets confirmed, the people, in the absence of skilled physicians, take to opium. The people generally know its virtues in relieving pain; few, if any, know anything of its prophylactic virtues.

14. All, without exception, desire to be freed from the habit, but many are afraid to undertake the cure.

15. All recognise that the injury came from abroad, without distinguishing the nationality. If there is any wish that foreigners should give up the trade it is merely, in the north at least, from a desire that the silver should not flow out of the country; and the fact that the silver would no longer flow out of the country might even lead to a larger consumption of opium.

16. Indian opium is now consumed almost exclusively by the rich, and is confined chiefly to the seaboard provinces, and particularly the S.E. seaboard provinces. The Indian drug is now much adulterated with the native. Inland, the native is smoked by the rich as well as the poor. In diarrhoea and dysentery the smokers have recourse to the Indian, in very severe cases of these two maladies, everything is ineffectual. The native is always able to compete with the Indian on account of its cheapness. The smoker smokes little comparatively of the Indian and more of the native. If a smoker smokes of the Indian two mace, he will require of the native three mace; so far therefore as the price is concerned the consumption is the same.

17 and 19.—(a.) No result except to increase his consumption of the native.

(b.) Increased production of the native growth and most probably the increase of price of the native.

(c.) The Chinese Government will lose all revenue. At present they receive Tls. 110 on each chest coming from abroad, amounting to six or seven millions of taels or a little over one million sterling. The Government receives no revenue from the native, or at least very little. After the Tseng-Salisbury Treaty was entered into a few years ago, a duty was proposed to be levied on the native, but up to the present no regular fixed rate has been adopted. Any duty levied is small and unimportant and barely sufficient to pay the *likin* duties. There is a duty levied upon it on entering Peking, but it is also small, and from the ease with which it can be secreted it is largely evaded.

18. No statistics exist by which to furnish an answer to this query. It is now grown pretty largely in all the provinces and in three or four to a very alarming extent. This enlarged growth dates back only for a very few years. Twenty years ago the poppy was not cultivated in half the provinces of the empire; 50 years ago it was confined to three out of the 18 provinces, viz.: Shansi, Szchuen, and Yunnan, and then not to any large extent, and 70 years ago it was not grown in any part of China, all assertions to the contrary notwithstanding. The Chinese from the earliest times have known and cultivated the corn poppy for its seeds, flowers, and capsules but for nothing else. The capsules have been known for several centuries in medicine. Their poets have sung of the beautiful flowers and the gruel made from the seeds, but that is all. Opium-smoking was unknown in China before 1720, and was then confined to the island of Formosa, and two spots on the main land for many decades of years after that. It was imported in small quantities up till nearly the

end of last century as a medicine for the cure of dysentery, &c., and was known to possess and was used aphrodisiacally. It began to assume widespread dimensions during this century only. The native growth that sprang up to a small extent about 1830 in two provinces was speedily put down about the time of our first war and did not again appear till the troublous times in the reign of Hien Feny 1851-61.

Brief concluding Remarks.—The British Government should cease the monopoly in India and put an excise duty on the export at Calcutta as at Bombay. She should at the same time officially inform the Chinese Government through the Chinese Minister in London, and the British Minister in Peking, that China is free to tax and control the import of opium from India, as she (the Chinese Government) may think proper. I do hold that China is not free to act, notwithstanding the statement of Sir James Fergusson in the House of Commons. If China gives 12 months' notice to terminate the treaty, both parties fall back upon the treaty of Tientsin by which a duty of Tls. 30 was levied on every chest of opium. The Tsungli yamen for nine years fought with Sir Thomas Wade over the question of an increase on this import duty in order to save their people; the great General Tso, the conqueror of the north-west, and Mas chang Hsi, a minister of the Tsungli yamen, demanded permission to raise the tax to Tls. 150 per chest. This was persistently refused. Our Foreign Office through Lord Granville refused to advance beyond Tls. 60, making in all Tls. 90, with the import duty. This amount was to free all likin, &c. duties, and permit under transit passes Indian opium to pass over the empire. The Viceroy Lé demanded a total sum, first of Tls. 120, and finally Tls. 110, i.e., Tls. 80+30. To this Lord Granville gave also a *non possumus*. Sir Thomas Wade was recalled in consequence of the failure to negotiate and the rising agitation at home. The Salisbury Government finally granted the Tls. 80 where it now stands. In view of the circumstances of the case, he would be a bold man indeed who asserted that China was free. Even Sir T. Wade in his evidence admits that the extinction of the trade or rather the abrogation of the treaty would require negotiations with the Chinese Government. The late Marquis Tsêng remarked once to me that "China was not free to take the first step." If the Indian Government resolves to double the Indian output of opium and reduce its price by one half the duties here remaining unchanged, she is able to strangle the native growth in China, hold the field, and maintain her revenue. If China largely extends her growth, the Indian being prohibited, she may one day become a great opium exporting country, provided the quality is improved. With the opening of her coal mines, the working of them by foreign machinery, and the advent of railways, she may be able to export enormous quantities of alcohol to Europe. If the native growth in China and that in India are to be stopped and the common people of both empires saved from misery and final extinction, the two Governments must come to an agreement for mutual prohibition. Heathen China never has said and never will say what India says, "I cannot do without the revenue." The prohibition would require perhaps to be somewhat gradual in its operation, extending over, say, 10 years, so as not to dislocate trade, &c. A few years ago the question was brought up in the Cabinet, and it was represented that a certain sum annually was certain from foreign opium, and in case of war they could rely upon it, and as India was unable or unwilling to give up the revenue from opium exported to China, the further consideration of the prohibition of opium in China was shelved. The late Marquis Tsêng told me that his Government did not care anything about the revenue derived from opium, but what they did desire supremely was the safety of the common people, and the proposed taxing of the native was with this object in view and not for the purposes of revenue. The smokers argue now that if the Emperor receives a revenue from opium, they should not be prohibited from smoking. The Emperor or any high official who chose to root out the evil would carry with him the conscience and patriotism of the country. The Emperor has the power as the "Father of his people" and the "vicegerent of God upon earth," to carry out such an edict of prohibition, and if circumstances were favourable the will would not lag behind the power. It is to me foolish to read of the blessings conferred by opium. After the imperious craving has been established, then the smoker smokes not for positive enjoyment but to relieve the pains and aches which the non-satisfaction of the

craving sets up. It is equally foolish to read of the stalwart races who are addicted to opium. It is quite fallacious to reason thus, the Chinese are given to opium, but the Chinese are industrious, therefore opium is beneficial. The poor lazy good-for-nothing people in China are the opium smokers. No doubt, immediately after the craving has been satisfied there is unwonted brilliancy and activity, both physical and mental, and this requires constantly to be renewed, but what miserable wretches they do appear before the habit has been satisfied. I of course speak here of the vast multitude of the lower class smokers upon whom the evil tells grievously. If a rich man eats well, lives well, does not smoke inordinately, and confines himself to a certain quantity, not too large, at regular times he may go on for 10, 20, 30, or more years without much apparent harm. But even here he who runs may read, he looks sallow, meagre, and aged, certainly 10 or even 20 years older than he really is, and is carried off suddenly by some ailment. There is no question that it would be an unmixed blessing to the Chinese if they could be delivered from this vice. There does not seem much hope for the rejuvenescence of China so long as this terrible evil remains in their midst. The vice is enthralling, the craving is imperious, and the abandonment of the habit extremely difficult. Since the introduction of opium, suicides in China have become alarmingly frequent. This is owing to the ease and cheapness with which opium can everywhere be obtained, and the quiet and speedy and peaceful end thus obtained. Chinese druggists do not sell poisons to the people at all.

(Signed) JOHN DUDGEON, M.D., C.M.

Peking,
February 6th, 1894.

Dr. B. C. ATTERBURY.

1. Yes.

2. Statistics are misleading especially in China. Cities and country districts, occupations, social positions, all make a difference. What is true of one place may not be true of another not so far away. Hence come conflict of opinions on this vexed question. In Peking proportion of users of drug:—

Manchu and Chinese about (men) 1 in 5.
(women) 1 in 80.(?)
If both "parents" smoke "children" frequently.

3. *Effects.*—Social: If not used in excess, but slight. Moral: Bad. An invariable loss of self-respect and consequent deterioration. Physical: Where there is a determination to smoke only a daily quantity and money to buy nourishing food to repair damage to system. Physical effects for years may be but slight. When this limitation is passed, and when poverty prevents buying of food in liberal quantities and of nourishing character, the physical defects are deploring. Opium is also much adulterated with pigs' blood in places which lessens its effects.

4. *Methods of use.*—Usually smoking the drug. If occupation does not allow time for smoking, it is taken as a fluid or solid extract. Ashes from pipes also used by those demanding the cheapest and strongest effects. Effects worse when eaten than smoked.

5. Partially answered in above. Cannot answer impartially as my dispensary patients are nearly all from poorer classes, who with but few exceptions are injured financially, physically, and morally by the use.

6. There certainly is moderation in the use of the drug among especially merchants and clerks in foreign houses, duties, desire to advance, and other reasons assisting the determination to limit the use of the drug. Cases of the long use of the drug are known to me, but these are very few in comparison to the many who have been in our opium refuge and who have lost health, positions in their callings, &c., by its use.

7. In the country the proportion among our patients using opium is smaller than it is among those living in the city. See Section 2. Among those who can command their own time, such as heads of business houses, sons of rich men, higher class of officials, the moderate

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use of opium may not interfere with their occupation, among others whose time should be wholly their employers it in most cases leads in time to dismissal.

8. The habit of drink is not so common here in the north of China as elsewhere. As a rule, however, the use of opium affects quicker the user himself, while its effect is perhaps less severe on his family, he does not beat his wife and children as does the drunkard.

9. All the Chinese in theory condemn the use of opium, and call it "a bad thing." The practice is, however, so common as to excite but little remark.

10. Sometimes, not often. The Chinese, as a rule, are singularly deficient in will-power, and need help and encouragement from outside sources.

11. The Indian supply is the strongest. Its stoppage would lead to increased use of the native article to make up for loss in quality and quantity. As to alcohol, a few years ago when opium was far less used than it is now, alcohol never took its place, nor will it in the future should opium be stopped. Alcohol does not suit the Chinese constitution and nature as does opium. It is too stimulating.

12. Less strength of character, fewer social amusements, perhaps a difference in food, they eating less nitrogenous food, hence demanding a less fiery stimulant than alcohol, and above all section 13, and reasons why Asiatics contract the habit more than Europeans.

13. Opium is not considered a prophylactic against any disease by the natives. It does, however, ease their pains, soothe their coughs, and takes the place of the skilled medical treatment in civilised countries. For these purposes, however, the drug has to be used in ever increasing quantities, so that its ultimate usefulness is very doubtful.

14. Personally I have never met with any one, official or ordinary man, who, on finding out my profession and hearing of my interest in helping many to give up the drug, did not express a wish to be free from the habit.

15. The common name for opium here is "foreign dirt," and there being but little distinction in the minds of most between the different countries, wonder is constantly expressed that foreigners should have anything to with such a drug. The opinion is general in China that foreigners are in some way responsible for the introduction of opium into general use, and it is very difficult to explain to a thoughtful Chinaman how both Christianity and a poisonous drug come from the same country.

16. Indian opium being stronger and better prepared is everywhere preferred by those who can afford to pay the increased price.

17. Opium has come to China to stay. The revenue its use creates for a Government which cares but little for the moral condition of its people seemingly precludes all possibility of its being prohibited. The responsibility for its use and cultivation should, however, rest with the Chinese Government, and no Christian Government by special trade regulations should even seemingly seek to increase its use and demoralising effects.

Mr. Young.

1. Yes, commonly. In Manchuria, North China, I have travelled in the three provinces and been resident for a period exceeding three months during the past five years, viz., in Liao Yang, Monkden Kirin, Quanchêng-tsun, and Ahshih Ho.

2. In Monkden province say 4 per cent.

" Kirin, " " 12 "

" Amongst Manchus, " " 20 "

" Chinese, " " 3 or 4 per cent.

Women do smoke where they have opportunity.

3. Moral.—I do not believe it possible to act directly upon the moral sense, but certainly it does indirectly through the physical effects; I would trust an opium-smoker less than a non-smoking Chinaman. *Physical*.—Deterioration; inability to resist and want of recuperative power from disease, especially when affecting the respiratory or alimentary systems. *Social*.—To disentangle the internal complicated network which leads to the present deplorable condition of Chinese society and morals, and analytically determine the relative disintegrating effects of opium beats me; it would have its place. Racial effect impossible to distinguish;

the bad effects are quickly seen in sedentary life. Indian opium is very little used.

4. Largely smoke; many take to eating or drinking decoctions to save time or in the attempt to break the habit.

5. Without injury - - - 2 per cent.
With slight injury - - - 75 "
With serious injury - - - 15 "
With great injury (opium sots) 8 "

6. No, as far as my experience goes (and have cured many and met hundreds of smokers) it would be incorrect; many men smoke for quite a lifetime. Case:—Chang ehé shêng, age 57, has smoked opium for upwards of 30 years of the native product in the 24 hours; he exhibits no ill effects, he affirms that he is in better condition now than if he had lived his exciting life as a gambler, without opium; he is a strong active man, I know him well, as he is my landlord. Kao, mandarin, Monkden, has taken opium eight or ten years, a heavy smoker, but hale, hearty, and digestive man, &c., but opium acts incomprehensibly contradictorily according to the individual idiosyncrasy, and, alas, I must state that a much larger proportion go on to disintegration and premature death.

7. The per-centage would stand much higher amongst teachers, doctors, officials, and Manchus soldiers, they are inefficient anyway, it is hard to believe that opium can have the effect of making them more efficient. Merchants often prohibit it in their "hongs"—"Kwang shu'en hao"—and Mr. Kiu, the largest owner of businesses in Kirin Province, makes it a *sine quâ non* amongst his employes.

8. In Kirin Province, where grain is so cheap and the cost of transport great, the custom is to change the grain into whisky and pigs, and thus gaining quality at the expense of quantity, they are enabled to transport at a profit, whisky being cheap is taken very largely by the inhabitants. It is perhaps a coincidence that opium-smoking and the abuse of alcohol go hand in glove in this district. The drink is very bad, having a very large per cent. of fousel oil; I would rather have a smoker as a patient than a drinker, but I have more patients who abuse alcohol than opium. The effects of alcohol are quite as certain and lasting, both are bad, and two blacks cannot equal one white.

9. Generally speaking, yes.

10. Frequently.

11. Nil. They grow it in such large quantities already, and as there is only one short summer a year, they are limited by nature. They would grow it twice if they could, I question if it would make any difference to Manchuria. I make no question that they would certainly not abstain altogether.

12. No, probably because there are none.

13.—(a.) Cure of pains. (b.) Custom of the country, urged by their friends much as tobacco-smoking is contracted at home. (c.) To "kill time." Certainly not within my knowledge. I have had fever, rheumatic, malarial patients opium-smokers frequently. I do not think it is regarded as such by the general opinion. It certainly is a prophylactic against an awakened conscience.

14. A very few from an honest desire to break the habit, many because they cannot afford it or are unable to get situations.

15. None either for or against, while unblushingly sordid they are indifferent to anything which does not affect themselves directly.

15. Indian opium is only used in the houses of the very rich.

17.—(a.) None. (b.) Increase in the cultivation of the poppy.

20. I consider "opium" an unquestionable evil to the Chinese.

5th February 1894,
Peking.

J. M. YOUNG, M.B., C.M.,
Edinburgh University.

Mr. H. COCKBURN.

1. The parts of China with which I have become acquainted in the course of nearly 14 years' service are Peking, Amoy, Canton, and Chungking, (in West China). In all these opium is commonly consumed, especially in the West.

2. I can make no estimate of any value of the proportion of adult male consumers of opium, except for Chungking, where I think it is about 40 per cent. Smoking is common among women there, but I cannot estimate the proportion. Children rarely smoke, so far as I am aware.

3. I have not observed any particular moral effects produced by opium when not habitually taken to excess. When so taken, the moral effects seem the same as those of similar addiction to other narcotics or stimulants, that is, there is complete moral degradation. Of the physical effects I need not speak, as they will no doubt be described by medical witnesses. I may remark, however, that it is not possible (at least for the non-professional observer) to detect a moderate opium-smoker by his outward appearance. This fact explains, I think, to some extent the wide differences in estimates of the proportion of consumers. The "opium sot," the man who habitually smokes to excess, is easily recognisable. As to the social effects, so large an unproductive expenditure as that on opium in China affects both individuals and society in numberless ways, not possible to trace. I know of no marked difference between the effects of Indian opium and of the best quality of native opium, but the effect of the inferior kinds is, I believe, more deleterious.

4. Consumers in China almost invariably smoke, but I have heard of opium being eaten occasionally, for instance, by couriers with no time to smoke.

5. If for "without injury" be substituted "without apparent injury," I should say that the great majority of those who smoke opium do so without apparent injury. Where without excessive indulgence in the habit injury to the constitution is nevertheless apparent, it is, I think, commonly due to inability to afford both opium and sufficient nourishing food, just as an Englishman out of work and hard up will commonly spend on tobacco and alcohol an undue proportion of what money he has. My impression is that the proportion to the whole body of opium-smokers of those who habitually smoke to great excess is smaller than the proportion of habitual drunkards to moderate drinkers in Great Britain. But I also believe that the number of those who smoke much more opium than is good for them is much larger in proportion than that of the corresponding class amongst consumers of alcohol at home.

6. It is certainly not correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. I have met several men who have told me they had smoked for from 10 to 15 years, and who certainly had not taken to smoking in excess. But I cannot say that they had smoked "without harm to themselves," though neither can I assert the contrary. It is as difficult for the ordinary unprofessional observer to ascertain the effects of opium-smoking (in moderation) as it is for the same observer to ascertain the effects of moderate indulgence in alcohol on Europeans. One cannot cross-examine casual acquaintances on the state of their insides. But though I am convinced that there is such a thing as moderation in the use of opium, I think there is a strong tendency to its use in more than moderation, to which many consumers yield. They do not become "opium sots" but they smoke much more than can possibly be good for them.

7. I think that probably a majority of the merchants in the West of China smoke opium, but not a majority of the other classes mentioned. Where opium is habitually smoked to excess the effect on a man's efficiency is very marked. He becomes incapable of long-continued labour without intervals for opium, and there is no energy in what work he does do. But as far as my observation goes, where opium is only smoked in moderation (that is, in the great majority of cases), the habit is without perceptible effect on the workman's efficiency. I was formerly acquainted with a French missionary (now dead) who was at the time I knew him engaged in re-building the Roman Catholic premises destroyed at Chungking in 1886. He employed no contractor and closely superintended the whole work himself. He had from two to three hundred men at work at a time, carpenters, masons, bricklayers, &c., and one of his conditions of engagement was that a man should not be an opium-smoker. He told me he had found only five or six of those he employed to be opium-smokers and these he dismissed. It was quite certain, and he fully recognised the fact, that there must have been many times this number of opium-smokers amongst his men (looking at the great prevalence of the habit in

Chungking), but the effect of his rule was that he could at once get rid of those who betrayed themselves to be opium-smokers by inefficiency as workmen. It follows that in the great majority of cases no such inefficiency was noticeable.

8. I have come across very few specimens of habitual drunkards amongst Chinese though I have met many hard drinkers. The effects of alcohol seem to be the same amongst the Chinese as amongst Europeans but it is used on the whole with much greater moderation. Of the effects of opium I have already spoken.

9. In general Chinese opinion, so far as I am acquainted with it, opium-smoking is condemned as often injurious and always expensive, but I do not think it is condemned as "degrading" except in formal and conventional utterances. There is a strong traditional feeling against opium amongst the Chinese, closely akin to that formerly existing in England (witness several of Thackeray's stories) against tobacco, the use of which was thought *prima facie* evidence of unsteadiness of character. But I see many signs that the Chinese attitude towards opium is changing; it is becoming more tolerant. As to the Chinese view of the opium habit as compared with the alcohol habit, I think they regard habitual excess in either opium or alcohol in the same way, that is, they put habitual drunkards and "opium sots" on the same footing. But they have (speaking generally) no disapproval for the use of alcohol in moderation, whereas very many of them do disapprove the habit of opium-smoking, even in moderation.

10. I have known of some cases of moderate opium-smokers leaving off the habit, but I do not recollect how long they had smoked. I believe the habit to be very difficult to break off even where a man does not smoke to excess. Where he does so smoke I believe he very rarely shakes himself free from it, and probably he never does so without placing himself under control.

11. The cutting off of the Indian supply could have no permanent effect in diminishing the quantity of opium smoked in China. If the stoppage were sudden it would probably cause a great deal of misery, for the rise in the price of native opium which would follow a sudden diminution of the stock on the market would mean greater expenditure by individuals on opium and less on better things. But this would be only temporary, for production in China would soon overtake the demand. The native production increases yearly as it is, and the quality is continually improving. A Chinese who has accustomed himself to Indian opium, is as unwilling to take to the native drug as a man used to one class of tobacco is to change it for another and coarser kind. But just as the latter will rather make the change than give up smoking, so the Chinese opium-smoker who prefers Indian opium would rather smoke native opium than none. In Ssu-ch'uan, Indian opium is practically unknown, and there, where opium-smoking is probably more common than in any other part of the country, the effects of the stoppage of Indian opium would be very slight and only visible probably in some slight increase of the local price, due to increased demand from other provinces. It will be gathered from the above that I see absolutely no reason to suppose that Chinese opium-smokers would, if the Indian supply were cut off, take to alcohol or to any other narcotic.

12. People of European race in China do not contract the habit in any numbers, though there are instances of their doing so. I do not know of any satisfactory explanation of the fact of the Chinese taking to opium more readily than Europeans, but some reasons may be suggested, though they are not, in my opinion, quite adequate. In the first place, the life of the better class Chinese is a comparative dull one—he has fewer interests and far fewer recreations and distractions than the European of the same class. This is especially true of the evening, which he mostly spends sitting on an uncomfortable chair in a badly lighted room. The opium pipe is then a welcome distraction or aid to conversation. In the second place, it seems probable that some Chinese and Europeans are constitutionally more inclined to narcotics than others. Such persons, whether Chinese or European, usually smoke tobacco, but the European smokes a very much stronger tobacco than the Chinese, and not impossibly his strong tobacco satisfies his craving for a narcotic, while the Chinese has to seek elsewhere the satisfaction his weaker tobacco fails to give. A third reason for the general European abstinence from opium one may perhaps find in the fact

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that the proper enjoyment of an opium pipe demands a recumbent attitude and the devotion to it of a good deal of time and trouble. These requirements are a small obstacle to the average Chinese, but a serious impediment to the more active European. This does not account for the Europeans not taking opium in other forms, but it helps to account for it, when one remembers the preference so many people have for a narcotic that can be smoked. Not many tobacco smokers would be content to swallow some liquid solution instead of smoking, however apparently similar the physical effects. I do not put forward the above as anything but suggestions towards the solution of an interesting but obscure problem.

13. I do not know whether opium is a prophylactic against fever or malaria, but I know that it is so regarded by many Chinese. I have never heard of its being considered a prophylactic against rheumatism. A partial answer to the question, how opium consumers are led to use the drug, has already been suggested (No. 12) in the dulness of Chinese life. To this may be added that opium-smoking is in China a social institution. Not to offer a pipe of tobacco is (in many places) a failure in hospitality. Opium is further often taken to soothe pain, and I have been told by Chinese that the habit is sometimes formed in this way. Among the lower classes the fact of its producing a general feeling of *bien être* must be a great attraction. But, when all is said, the spread of the opium habit in China remains as inexplicable as the spread of tobacco in Europe, which did very well without it for many hundred years, though a tobaccoless Europe is now difficult to picture. The wind of such habits blows as it lists, and no man seems able to tell us whence it comes or whither it goes.

14. Yes, I think they do, but their desire is not keen enough to spur them to any very decided effort to shake the habit off. Most opium-smokers would probably be glad to get some medicine which would free them from their craving for the drug without any discomfort to themselves. They would then, they probably think, be able to take just as much or as little as they felt inclined. Sometimes, too, a man knows he cannot afford to smoke and would be glad to be free of the habit.

15. I have never heard any such wish expressed, but I think it probable that many dealers in native opium would like to see the Indian import stopped. There must also be amongst the Chinese who disapprove of opium altogether some who still indulge the hope that if Indian opium were excluded their own Government would take steps to stop the cultivation of the poppy in China. Such persons would probably be found chiefly in the few provinces where no native opium is produced.

16. There are proportionally more opium consumers of Indian opium amongst the well-to-do than amongst other classes. I can make no statement as to the districts in which Indian opium is consumed, not possessing the necessary information, but, speaking roughly, it may be said not to reach the West at all, and the North very little. But there is in many parts where native opium is commonly consumed a small importation of Indian opium to supply the wants of officials and merchants whose taste has been formed elsewhere. As to the competition of Chinese with Indian opium, the present tendency is for the former to supplant the latter by reason of its greater cheapness. In some parts this process is going on with great rapidity. However, one of the best judges in China, Mr. Bredon, of the Imperial Maritime Customs Service, has placed on record his dissent from those who anticipate an early extinction of the Indian opium trade owing to the competition of the native drug. (See his report on Shanghai; Decennial Customs Reports, 1891-92, page 326.) It is true that this opinion was expressed before India adopted a gold standard, a step which heavily penalises Indian opium in the China market, and cannot fail to seriously affect the trade.

17.—(a.) Of the probable consequences of the prohibition of Indian opium on the consumption of opium by the Chinese I have already spoken (No. 11). The restriction of Indian opium would probably have hardly any effect at all, though it might cause a slight temporary rise in the price of native opium, especially in the southern provinces. (b.) Such prohibition or restriction would lead to a more rapid increase in the cultivation of the poppy and the production of opium in China than would otherwise take place. (c.) The Chinese Government might seek to make good the revenue lost to them

by the prohibition or restriction of the Indian trade by increased taxation of the native drug, but this would probably fail, because when the taxation on such an article as opium is raised beyond a certain point the higher levy leads to more frequent evasion of duty and greater peculation by the officials. Probably, therefore, the Government would trust to there being a sufficient increase in the native production to yield a larger revenue than is at present derived from it.

18. No. I have no data on which to form such an estimate. The production of opium in Ssü-ch'üan (the largest of the provinces and the chief opium producer) was estimated in 1881 by a very competent observer (the late Mr. Donald Spence) as twice the whole Indian import into China. The latter has largely decreased since then, while Ssü-ch'üan production has increased.

19. I cannot estimate the amount of revenue derived from native opium by the Chinese Government, but it is certainly very large. The taxation on it is lighter than that on Indian opium. For details I must refer to the Decennial Customs Reports, where much other valuable information about opium may also be found.

20. I had intended to add a few general remarks, but this paper has already reached such a length that I abstain.

HENRY COCKBURN,
Acting Assistant Chinese Secretary,
H.M. Legation, Peking.

BISHOP SCOTT.

Church of England Mission, Peking,

DEAR MR. O'CONNOR, 4th February 1894.

I enclose herewith two reports (in reply to the paper of questions issued by the Opium Commission), one by the Rev. F. L. Norris, one by Dr. Alice Marston; both have been in this country and in frequent contact with the people for more than four years. All the facts which they adduce are consistent with my own experience, and I see no reason to dissent from the opinions expressed. My own evidence was given to the best of my ability in 1880, before a Committee of the Convocation of Canterbury. Since that time I have been less in contact with the Chinese outside the Church, and could add nothing to the valuable contributions from the two missionaries of the Church of England named above.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES P. SCOTT,
Bishop of the Church of England
in North China.

Rev. F. L. NORRIS, M.A., of the Church of England
Mission in North China.

1. Opium is, as far as my experience goes in the province of Chihli, "commonly consumed" by the official classes, in the yamens, and less commonly, but by no means rarely, by those shopkeepers who can afford it.

2. I can give no conjecture as to the proportions of adult males smoking opium; but at Yungch'ing, a district town 50 miles from Peking, there have been five magistrates in succession in the last four years, of whom four have been opium-smokers; of the men connected with yamen as writers, police sergeants, &c., with whom I have come in contact, more than two-thirds have been opium-smokers; of the scholars, i.e., literary class, and better-to-do residents, something like one-third have been smokers. Of the poorer classes, exclusive of yamen runners, and servants at inns (among whom it is very common), I know but few instances of men addicted to the habit. N.B.—These figures are not conjectures as to the general extent, but rough conclusions as to the proportion of smokers to non-smokers among the men I have come across, directly or indirectly. I have only known one woman who smoked, though doubtless there is a larger proportion.

3. Effects of opium.—*Moral*: deterioration, corresponding very much to that caused by habitual drunkenness in England. *Physical*: until it has become a fixed habit, i.e., until what the natives call the yinz, or regular craving has set in, there is no apparent harm done to the system, any more than is done by occasional excessive use of alcohol in Europe. But, at the same time, Chinamen can recognise an

opium-smoker, even in the first stage, 'with almost unerring certainty, showing that there is a physical effect. Confirmed smokers are unfitted for transacting any business until after their smoke, when they seem, if anything, brighter than the same stamp of man who did not smoke would be. But the effect does not last for many hours. They are liable to certain forms of illness, *e.g.*, dysentery is almost always fatal to an opium-smoker; though conversely, opium is sometimes recommended as a cure for dysentery to non-smokers. When the quantity smoked is large, inability to obtain it, or to get it at the right time, results in great misery to the smoker, who will resort to almost any expedient sooner than endure the pain caused by unsatisfied craving. *Social*: I know few Chinamen (not Christians) who make a really strong protest against the use of opium. Most acquiesce in it as a recognised evil, and treat the smoker as they would a non-smoker. This used not to be so formerly, when the consumption was tabooed, and the drug looked upon as an accursed thing by nearly all educated men. Indian and Chinese opium, so far as I am aware, are to each other much as Havannas and cheap cigars, *i.e.*, the former, more expensive and of better quality, does really less harm than the latter, which is of a coarser quality.

4. In my experience, the Northern Chinese always smoke opium when they can get it in that form. Beggars drink concoctions to quench their cravings, and opium pills are resorted to by those who wish to break themselves of the habit of smoking.

5. In my experience the three divisions mentioned refer rather to the three stages of the use of the drug. I have repeatedly questioned opium-smokers and non-smokers, and they have led me to this conclusion as regards North China.

6. As regards North China (and so far as I can learn, it is quite unreliable to generalise on the subject, owing to the different effects of climate on constitution) instances of "moderation" are very rare, if by "moderation" is meant lifelong, harmless, or advantageous use of the drug. I know of none such cases myself. Of the smokers I have known I could quote many examples, such as the following:—(1.) A well-to-do middle-class farmer reduced to absolute beggary by opium; bad harvests doubtless assisted in his ruin, but his friends, and he himself, ascribed it mainly to opium. When I last saw him his mother of 85 was ill starving and miserably clad, and his family in great distress, while he himself was possessed by only one idea, *viz.*, to get opium which he had been without for two days. (2.) A well-to-do better class sort of man, corresponding to the upper classes of some small country town at home, who has a very strong constitution. He smokes now an ounce a day of native Chinese opium. He is heavily burdened with debt, and at 2 o'clock in the afternoon or so (before his first smoke, when just up) utterly despondent. At 10 p.m., when he has got through the best part of his ounce, he takes a bright view of the future and is full of plans, never destined to be fulfilled. I was assured by his cousin, an ex-smoker, that this is a common feature of opium-smoking, and further that this man, who now seems hale and hearty, will break down in less than two years (*i.e.*, before he is 50), and become simply a slave to his pipe. (3.) Officials, district magistrates, &c., who smoke are regarded as bad men of business, at all events by their inferiors.

7. No. In the case of labourers and artisans very few smoke. Of merchants, the really active managers of the business seldom smoke; the sleeping partners often do. I have rather gathered that when the head of a business takes to hard smoking he looks out for a manager who does not smoke, and I know they are usually very strict with clerks, &c. In inns, the waiters, called upon to work very hard about twice a day, *viz.*, 9 to 12 a.m. and 4 to 10 p.m., usually smoke; several have told me (truthfully or not) that they could not stand the work otherwise. But very seldom have they looked upon it as anything but an evil necessity.

8. The use of alcohol in North China is confined to drinking more or less neat spirits made from rice or millet. The drunkard is almost always quarrelsome, the opium-smoker not so. Carters (all travelling and conveyance of merchandise is by road throughout two-thirds of this province of Chihli) nearly all drink, to "keep themselves warm"; very few that I have met with smoke. The drunkard leaves off wine (spirits) much more readily than the smoker leaves off opium.

9. As far as my experience goes (and it lies more among the poorer classes of peasantry and country farmers) opium-smoking is looked upon as a great evil belonging to the rich and official classes. One of themselves giving way to it is regarded much as the notorious drunkard of an English village.

10. Before the yin or habit has set in, which depends on the amount taken, and usually occurs between five and ten years after the man begins to smoke, it is easily left off by a strong-minded man. Afterwards, instances are very rare. The Chinese medicine shops sell opium pills, which are supposed to help smokers to leave off the habit, but the confirmed opium-smoker seldom has sufficient moral fibre left to avail himself of any voluntary means for breaking it off. I was told this by a most interesting Chinaman of the better class, who began to smoke about 20. He was a hard smoker long before he was 30. He broke himself of it without any recourse to pills or other alleviation, after four days of intense suffering; and he took to it again before a year had elapsed. He was enabled to break himself of it again by the help of an English missionary and doctor some years later, and becoming a Christian he has not gone back to it. He told me that the second time he could not have broken himself of it; he felt his will was sensibly weaker than five years earlier. His wife was the only instance I have known of a woman who smoked, and she was only cured by the help of the English missionary.

11. The large majority of opium smoked in North China is native grown. It is very much cheaper than the Indian drug, which is smoked only by the richer classes, though every one who has tried it prefers it. The Chinaman referred to in the preceding paragraph told me he thought the Indian drug less injurious, and far preferable to the native drug.

12. Opium-consumers are led to smoke either by the desire for self-indulgence—quite the commonest reason as far as I have been able to ascertain—or in some few cases it has been prescribed by native doctors as a cure for dysentery and rheumatism. I have no medical knowledge to test the efficacy of such prescription, but the opinion amongst the Chinese poor, as far as I have learnt it, is that the probable good effect is not a sufficient gain to counteract the danger of meddling with the drug. Two other causes have been suggested by a missionary of great experience: (1) for alleviation of pain of all sorts; (2) for swaggar.

13. I have hardly seen a single opium-smoker who has not expressed either a desire to be cured or a more or less real regret that cure seems impossible.

14. I cannot say there is any such general wish. I have sometimes but not often (perhaps from the politeness which, in my experience, is a very marked characteristic of the Chinese) been asked why England has allowed it, but the country people are generally ignorant on the subject beyond calling the drug "foreign tobacco."

15. The use of Indian and native opium is a matter of price, so far as I have learnt, in North China at least; the price of the latter is very much lower.

16. I cannot say.

17. I cannot say.

18. I cannot say.

19. In conclusion, I would remark that the essential difference between opium-smoking and the use of alcohol in the West seems to be that while the latter is more generally used in moderation than in excess, advantageously than injuriously, the former in North China at least is hardly ever used without injury to the consumer, and he can hardly ever break himself successfully (*i.e.*, without returning to it even if he gives it up for a time). But it is worth while to remark further that in comparing the two much weight must be given to the difference in character between eastern and western nations; if the Chinaman had the self-control of the Englishman, it is quite possible that the evil effects of opium would not exceed those of alcohol in the west, though this does not imply that it is an advantageous habit for the inhabitants of this part of China, whatever it may be in South China or India. And one cannot but feel that the moral effect of the refusal of the English Government to allow the export of opium to China, if it can be justly carried out, must have some weight with the official classes of China in their treatment of the opium evil.

N.B.—It may be worth while to mention that the Chinaman referred to in paragraph 10 told me that his

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father was one of the first two men to smoke in Yung Ching, led to do so by a military official who had returned from the South of China some 40 years ago. But the use of opium in and around Yung Ching was very rare till after the war of 1871, since when it has increased with rapid strides.

(14.) N.B.—A missionary of long experience tells me that the motive assigned by opium-smokers for wishing to give it up has, in his experience, been almost invariably a pecuniary one, the expenditure on the drug, or the loss ensuing from slavery to the habit.

MISS MARSTON.

Church of England Mission,
Peking, North China.

1. Opium is commonly consumed in this part of China.

2. The proportion of consumers, I should conjecture, is about 10 per cent. of adult males. Women are also consumers, but not so frequently as men. Children are sometimes given it by their mothers to quiet them, but do not take it voluntarily.

3. The effects of opium are to weaken the nervous system, and produce mental and moral turpitude, also, by interfering with digestion, to cause general debility and emaciation. The confirmed opium-smoker is generally sluggish, self-absorbed, and indifferent to the claims of his family and friends. I believe the effects are the same on the consumers of each race. I have not distinguished between the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium.

4. In China consumers almost invariably smoke opium. The crude opium is taken in the form of decoction only with suicidal intent, and in that case the effects are those of acute narcotic poisoning.

6. I cannot imagine "moderation in the use of opium," because as toleration is established larger and larger doses must be taken to produce the same effect. I have not met with any cases of consumers who have taken their opium for years without harm to themselves, but I believe that exceptionally there are people who take it without apparent injury; it certainly has a less pernicious effect on some persons than on others. As an example of a case of great injury, a young woman was brought to my dispensary by her husband, apparently at the point of death. She was cold, collapsed, and almost pulseless, with contracted pupils. She was half unconscious, moaning feebly, but unable to answer when spoken to. There had been constipation and complete arrest of secretions for some days. I was at first at a loss to determine the nature of her complaint until the husband informed me that they had both been opium-smokers for 10 years, and that once before she had had an attack of this kind, from which she had been recovered with difficulty. I administered the usual remedies, and after an hour or two she revived sufficiently to walk to the cart. I spoke to her and her husband strongly on the danger to her life if she continued to use opium at her present rate, and urged them both to break off the habit. They promised they would if I would give them medicine to help them. The next day I went to see them, and found the woman lying on her kang in a half somnolent condition, and with her opium pipe and its appurtenances beside her. I begged the husband to take them away, which he did, again assuring me that they would make an effort to give it up. I left them medicine, and promised to come again if they sent for me, but they never did, and I was told soon afterwards that they were both smoking as hard as ever. I realised then how entirely confirmed opium-smokers are slaves to the habit.

8. The Chinese sometimes use opium as a remedy for their complaints, in which case it ranks as a medicine, only that it is taken at their own discretion, and therefore may lead to abuse. When not used as a medicine it can hardly be called anything but the abuse of the drug, and the effects have been already described. Most of the Chinese use alcoholic liquors in moderation, but there are few confirmed drunkards. They may get intoxicated at their feasts, but they rarely become slaves to alcohol.

9. The habit of consuming opium is condemned as degrading and injurious by the Chinese. Many of them regard it as a calamity from which they cannot escape, and all know that it is injurious to their health and prosperity. The habitual opium-smoker ranks in the

opinion of the Chinese as about on a par with the habitual drunkard.

10. Persons who have consumed opium for any length of time appear quite unable to break off the habit of themselves. The inability lies, no doubt, partly in the moral paralysis and irresolution induced by the drug. Many of them voluntarily become inmates of opium refuges and mission hospitals. To ensure their remaining under treatment they are required to deposit a sum of money on entrance, which is forfeited if they leave before the time appointed for their cure. Naturally, only those who are in earnest will accept these terms, and a certain proportion are cured, though some of them relapse after returning to their homes.

11. I gather from what the Chinese tell me that if the supply of Indian opium were cut off the custom would probably decrease. The present opium-smokers would resort, if possible, to Chinese-grown opium. Whether they would take to any substitute it is impossible to say. At present, I am told, the number of opium-smokers is on the increase, and the facility for obtaining the drug is alleged as the reason. Probably there would not be the same facility in obtaining a substitute.

12. There are comparatively few Europeans in this part of China. I have not heard of their contracting the opium habit. Moral and religious differences would no doubt have some weight in differentiating between Europeans and Asiatics in this respect. The Chinaman smokes opium because it is the custom, and because he finds it pleasant to do so, with little regard to consequences and conscience or to self-respect. When he finds it a hindrance to his worldly prosperity and injurious to his health, he wishes to give it up, but by that time he finds it impossible, or thinks he does.

13. Many opium-smokers take to it, in the way I have mentioned, because it is sociable and customary. Some commence the habit in order to relieve pain in illness, but few, if any, I believe, adopt it as a prophylactic. Opium is of use, as a medicine, in some cases of malarial fever, but I have not heard of the Chinese using it for this purpose. The majority of the women opium-smokers I have met with tell me that they acquired the habit during illness, and found it impossible to give it up afterwards. This is, I believe, much more often the case with women than with men. When we know the inefficiency of Chinese doctors, it is not surprising that opium is resorted to for the relief of pain.

14. Opium-smokers frequently express a strong desire to get free from the opium habit, and apply for medicine to enable them to break it off, but it seems hopeless unless they can be shut up in some place, such as a hospital, where they cannot get at the drug. They find the craving, and the nervous depression accompanying it, impossible to resist. Among my patients I have a young woman in good circumstances who is a confirmed opium-smoker. She sent her first baby to me with the request that I would save him, as he was suffering from opium poisoning, due to her having nursed him. By my direction she engaged a wet nurse for him, and the child flourished. Her second child has been brought up in the same way. She is fond of her children, but when I remonstrate with her, and beg her to break off the habit for their sakes, she says, "I wish very much to do so, but it is impossible," and all her relations seem of the same opinion.

15. The opium-smokers are glad to get their opium easily and cheaply, and naturally do not wish the importation from India to cease. The non-smokers on the contrary, who see the ruin and misery caused by it in their families, would gladly hear that England had ceased to export it from India. It is realised, I believe, to be a great national evil, and the best of the people would rejoice to have it lessened. They would also, I believe, respect the action of England in withdrawing the opium supplies at some loss to herself. (The remaining questions I do not feel competent to answer.)

ALICE K. MARSTON, L.K.Q.C.P.I.
Medical Mission to Women and Children.

REV. GEORGE OWEN.

1. Opium is very commonly smoked in Peking and neighbourhood.

2. From 20 to 30 per cent. of the adult male population of Peking are opium-smokers, and in the cities and towns around about 20 per cent. In the villages

the proportion is much smaller, being only one or two per cent. The proportion of women smokers is from 10 to 20 per cent. in Peking. The Manchus having Government allowance and an abundance of idle time, are opium-smokers in larger proportion than the Chinese.

3. *Physical Effects.*—Gradual loss of appetite, slowing of the digestive processes, weakening of the digestive powers, emaciation, loss of strength and energy, pallid, sickly appearance. These effects are usually much more marked and rapid in the poor than in the rich. *Social Effects.*—The lazy, indolent habit produced by opium-smoking leads to neglect of public duties, business, and family affairs. The confirmed opium-smoker neglects everything public and private which he can neglect, and never does to-day what he can put off till to-morrow. He exerts himself under compulsion only. The consequences to himself and family are necessarily disastrous, and also very detrimental to the commonweal. *Moral Effects.*—Opium-smoking in the earlier stages of the habit greatly stimulates the sexual passion leading to private excess and public immorality, to the smoker's own hurt and the injury of public morals. It should also be stated, however, that in course of time, partly from the direct effects of opium and partly from excessive indulgence of the sexual passion, the opium-smoker loses his virility more or less completely. (b.) The increased outlay and diminished income of the opium-smoker lead him to adopt all sorts of shifty, lying, and dishonest ways of getting money, to the great injury of his moral sense. Of course, opium can have no direct moral effect; but in the ways indicated it weakens his moral fibre, so that other things being equal, an opium-smoker is much more distrusted and suspected than a non-opium-smoker.

NOTE.—As already stated, the evil effects of opium-smoking are usually much more apparent in the poor than in the rich, especially at first. Given a fairly strong constitution, plenty of good food, an easy life, and moderation in the use of the drug, a man will stand a lot of opium-smoking without much apparent harm. But a poor man soon shows the effects of the vice. It is too expensive, and leaves him poorly fed and poorly clad. It also takes too much time as smoked by the Chinese, leading to loss of employment, and thus ruin, more or less complete, soon overtakes the poor man who indulges in opium.

I do not know that there is any difference between the effects of opium-smoking on Mongols, Manchus, and Chinese. Nor am I aware of any difference between the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium.

4. Consumers mostly smoke. They eat opium in the form of pills when there is no time or place to smoke. Most opium-smokers carry a small bottle of these pills about with them and take one when they feel the need. Old sots whom the pipe hardly satisfies drink a decoction of opium. Poor people also, who cannot afford the pipe, eat and drink opium, the drug being more powerful thus taken than when smoked.

5. From observation and inquiry I judge that not more than 2 per cent. take opium without injury; (ii.) not more than 3 per cent. take it with only slight injury; *(iii.) half of those that consume opium do so with great injury to themselves and become more or less sottish.

6. No; but moderation is very rare, the tendency to increase the dose being very strong. I know no case of the continued use of opium for years without harm, though I do not deny that there are such cases, but they are certainly rare. From what I hear on every hand the number of those that ruin themselves through opium must be very great; but I do not come in close contact with them, and do not know the details of their lives. From Chinese sources it would be easy to fill volumes with stories of persons ruined through opium. I will mention two cases from my own experience. (i.) Li Ho-Chi'ao, a literary graduate, and member of a highly respectable family residing in T'ung-Chou, near Peking, took to opium-smoking and soon ran through his patrimony. He then became a teacher of Chinese to foreigners. He had been an opium-smoker for many years before I engaged him, and was very poor. I could never get him to come early in the morning, he had to sleep off his nightly debauch. At about half-past 9 he would generally arrive, bright and well up to his work, but towards 12 o'clock he would begin to flag

and get stupid. He would then slip a pill or two into his mouth, and soon recover his energy. This went on for some years. Though receiving a fair wage he was always in great straits for money. The opium craving was growing upon him, and he sacrificed everything to its gratification. When he could not borrow money he would pawn his clothes and go about almost in rags, more like a beggar than a teacher. When about 55 years of age he began to fail rapidly; became very weak; could not eat nor digest the little he did eat; the digestive organs ceased to work. After lying in that state for some days he died, ruined in body and estate. (ii.) A cousin of the foregoing, also a literary graduate, was my writer for a short time. From his fallow, sickly appearance I suspected that he was an opium-smoker, and questioned him, but he stoutly denied it, declaring that his appearance was due to sickness. The statement was false. He was not only an opium-smoker, but an opium-eater, which is worse. When not under the influence of opium he was sleepy and dull. Just three years ago he borrowed a little money to go home for the new year's holidays; but instead of going home he went to his lodgings and indulged in an opium debauch. After two or three days I heard he was ill, and one of our hospital dispensers visited him. He was in a semi-conscious condition. The digestive organs had ceased to act, and he could not eat. In a day or two he was dead, killed by opium. He was only a little over 40 years of age, and a strongly-built man. Like his cousin, he sold everything he possessed to satisfy the opium craving, and died miserably poor.

7. The following is an approximate estimate of the proportion of opium-smokers among the various classes in Peking:—Officials, 70 per cent.; Manchu banner men, 40 to 50 per cent.; Chinese soldiers, 30 per cent.; merchants, 30 per cent.; literati, 20 to 30 per cent.; official underlings and police, 30 per cent.; servants in rich and official families, 20 to 30 per cent.; mechanics, very few; labourers, very few, not more than 1 per cent., if as many. (b.) The effect on the calling of all classes is to render them more or less inefficient and unsatisfactory. Every opium-smoker sooner or later becomes indolent and averse to work. All who can afford it turn night into day and never rise till mid-day. The poor man does the same as far as he can. The effects of this alone on their calling are disastrous, to say nothing of weakened physique, &c., &c. I have heard of many instances of persons losing their employment, and of business men gradually losing their business through indolence and late rising induced by the opium habit.

8. Here in North China those who drink alcohol (mostly whiskey) moderately, greatly outnumber those who smoke opium. Almost every adult male drinks a little whiskey. Those who abuse alcohol to any great extent are not more than 5 per cent. Carters and cab-drivers are almost all heavy drinkers. As to the effect on their efficiency in their calling, their use of alcohol being generally moderate, the evil effects are comparatively trifling. The sots of course suffer, but happily they are not very numerous.

9. The use of opium is universally condemned by the Chinese as injurious while the moderate use of alcohol is generally held to be beneficial.

10. A considerable number of opium-smokers, on account of poverty, try to give up the habit, and a good many succeed in giving it up for a time; but they then suffer from so many nervous and other complaints that they generally go back to the pipe again. Those who really break themselves of the habit are very few.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off the effect would be the increased consumption of Chinese opium. I do not think it would have any effect on the consumption of alcohol. In North China, so far as I know, there is no connexion between the use or non-use of opium and the use of alcohol.

12. I am not aware that any Europeans in North China smoke or eat opium. I think it is the phlegmatic disposition of the Chinese, and their love of sensuous dreamy pleasure that lead them to take so readily to opium.

13. The Chinese are led to use the drug through their companions and through family and business connexions. Also through desire for new and pleasing sensations, and through desire to stimulate the sexual appetite. Sickness is a very common reason for taking to opium. Whenever a Chinese doctor does not know what is the matter with a man or woman or does not know how to cure him, he always recommends the

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Peking.

* A large number of smokers must be placed between the (ii.) and (iii.) classes.

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opium pipe. The effect is immediate and magical. Opium is a wonderful panacea at least for a time. This is why many men and more women contract the habit of opium smoking. (b.) So far as I know, the Chinese in this part of China do not regard opium as a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, or malaria. I have never heard any Chinese claim for it these beneficial effects, but from inquiries which I have made I gather that opium renders a person less sensitive to cold and heat, and is to a considerable extent a preventative against chills, diarrhoea, and malaria, though when an opium-smoker does become ill, particularly of dysentery, his recovery is very difficult, the Chinese say hopeless.

14. Those whom opium has greatly injured, especially those whom it has brought to penury, are generally pitiable in their lamentations, and loudly proclaim their desire to give up the habit. But fear of the suffering involved, and dread of consequent sickness, usually prevent their trying to do so. Opium-smokers gradually lose their moral fibre and become flabby as jelly-fish.

15. I have often heard England, and foreign countries in general, abused for bringing opium to China, and charged with being the cause of this fearful curse to the flowery land. Opium is always put among the dire evils which foreigners have inflicted on China. When preaching to Chinese I have had it thrown in my face. But I am not aware of any general desire among the Chinese that England should forbid the export of opium from India. They do not know enough probably about the subject to form such a wish.

16. I know very little of the relative consumption &c., of India and Chinese opium.

17. (a., b.) In the proportion that the importation of Indian opium is restricted the production and consumption of Chinese opium will be increased.

(c.) What the effect would be on the fiscal arrangements of the Chinese Government I have no means of knowing.

18. From my own observation I can give no reliable information regarding the area under poppy cultivation in each province.

19. I have no special knowledge of opium taxation.

20. Just one remark in conclusion. Possibly by an arrangement with the Chinese Government something might be done to prohibit the production and use of opium in China, though I doubt if China could or would prohibit either. The evil is too widely spread and too deeply rooted. It is to be hoped, however, that no doubt or fear regarding China's action will prevent England freeing herself from the abominable traffic. Opium is a terrible curse to the Chinese and it is a disgrace to England to bring the accursed stuff to them. Though late, let us even now, at whatever cost, wash our hands of the evil thing.

GEORGE OWEN,
28 years a Missionary of the
London Missionary Society
in China.
Peking,
February 5th, 1894.

REV. E. BRYANT.

1. Having resided in Central China for over 12 years as a missionary of the London Missionary Society, and in North China for another period of 12 years as an agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society, or as a missionary of the London Missionary Society, and having travelled a great deal during that time in both regions, I have seen much of the habits and practices of the Chinese, and I have no hesitation in stating that the consumption of opium among the people throughout Hupai, Hunan, Chili, Honan, Shantung, Shansi, and Shensi, is exceedingly common; and I am told that it is also common among the Manchus of this city, Peking, where I now reside.

2. It is difficult to find out the proportion of the adult males that are consumers of opium; it varies greatly in different localities, from 20 to 80 or 90 per cent. of the male population. When travelling in Shansi and Shensi in the years 1884 and 1885, I made

special inquiries of the natives there at several points, regarding the proportion of opium-consumers, and the invariable answer was eight or nine out of every ten of the men, and about two out of every ten women; and not a few young children, it was said, were addicted to the use of the drug.

3. The effects of opium on the Chinese is generally to damage them morally, physically, and socially; but there are unquestionably some, perhaps many, exceptions. As to the moral effects on consumers they are commonly, weakened will power, deadening of their naturally feeble conscience, obliteration of their sense of self-respect and of shame for evil-doing, and an abnormal quickening of their innate meanness and duplicity, so that they become proverbially untrustworthy. The physical effects are commonly, at first soothing or stimulating, according as the consumers are in an irritable or depressed condition, but gradually and surely a disordered stomach, weakened appetite for food, great lassitude, loss of flesh, a haggard, cadaverous look, an unnaturally glossy eye, and a general muscular debility, which seriously interferes with the faithful discharge of duties, and not infrequently incapacitates the opium-consumers altogether for any physical or mental work. The social effects are lamentably in harmony with the moral and physical effects. Neglect and diminished capability for the fulfilment of duties lead to diminished income, or loss of situation; the increasing hold of the opium habit on the consumers often lead to increased expenditure on the indulgence, and the consequence of this is the selling of all that is saleable in order to get money to purchase opium and to gratify the now uncontrollable craving. Not only are lands and house property and household furniture parted with for money to buy opium, but also children, and even wives, are sold or made prostitutes for the same purpose. I myself have known one such case at least as is hinted at in the last phrase, and the Chinese tell me that such cases are not uncommon.

4. In China smoking seems to be the more common method of consuming opium, but eating it is also not uncommon, especially in Shansi and Shensi. I never heard of the Chinese drinking any decoction of the drug, except for purpose of suicide. As a non-medical man I can only state, respecting the different effects of these two methods, what the Chinese consumers say, viz., that opium eaten is stronger in its effects on the system than opium smoked.

5. It is difficult to answer this question except in very general terms; but my conviction, supported by Chinese testimony, is that comparatively few consume the drug without any injury, indeed, it is doubtful whether any consume it without ultimate serious injury, but the great mass of those that use opium do so to their present and visible great injury, morally and physically. It is indelibly stamped on their bodies and characters.

6. To say that there is or can be moderation in the consumption of opium, except medicinally, seems to me to be anything but correct. As above stated, there are some who use opium daily, and I may say, who use a considerable amount of it for years, apparently without injury, but such persons are comparatively few, and it is at least doubtful whether advancing years do not disclose that in such cases even, the habit has been very injurious. The bulk of opium consumers, however, are unquestionably injured by it, and it would seem to be as correct to say that there can be moderation in the consumption of arsenic and other eatable or drinkable poisons as to say that there can be moderation in the use of opium. All depends on what is meant by the word moderation. I have met with some instances of opium-consumers who did not seem to be any the worse for it, except that they were impoverished by the habit. Here is an instance of the kind I met with on my travels through Shansi and Shensi Provinces in July 1885, and which I will give in words written at the time: "I met to-day a man, formerly a school-teacher, who had used opium for 30 years, he said; and for more than 10 years had smoked five mace, or half an ounce, per diem, but he is too poor now to afford anything like that, he has therefore taken to eating (or swallowing) opium in the form of small lozenges, which secures for him a stronger effect with less quantity, and therefore with less cost, than he could obtain by smoking it. . . . Strangely enough, this man, though he had consumed (he said) half an ounce per diem for 10 years, did not look so bad as I should have expected to see him. It was

"only by the peculiar glossiness of his eyes that I at first suspected him of taking opium. But nearly all the others I met with in the inn, on the street, and in the shops, carried on their faces and bodies the many unmistakable marks of opium sots, and generally looked indescribably wretched. To a question I put to several such men they all testified that opium-consumers had fewer children than those who do not use the drug." How far this statement is borne out or otherwise by scientific observations, I have no means of ascertaining. I give the testimony of the natives as I received it, whatever may be its worth. Of persons that have been greatly injured, nay, irreparably injured in body and estate by the consumption of opium, I met many daily in my several journeys through the provinces already mentioned, and during my more stated life as a missionary I have met with not a few such cases. Here is an example: A respectable man, whom I knew well, and a nominal Christian for some time, became addicted to the opium pipe. His duties were neglected, his situation he lost. His funds were exhausted, but the craving for opium remained, and all other means of getting opium having failed, he compelled his wife to become a prostitute, so as to earn money for maintaining his opium habit and their wretched subsistence. I know to-day a man and wife who are both opium-consumers, and who have owned in the past a considerable extent of land; but this property is gradually dwindling away, it being sold, plot after plot, to get cash to buy opium and other necessities, which, owing largely to their opium habit, they are unable otherwise to supply. Time and space alike forbid my giving other instances, which might be easily multiplied.

7. The answer to this question is, I think, given in the foregoing. Ultimately and surely the consumption of opium unfits men for their calling, whatever that may be. It may be true that coolies and others who use opium can do their work efficiently in many instances; but that is only when they are able to obtain at definite intervals their usual quantity of opium, and that efficiency again is, as a rule, of very brief duration. Should such men be unable for a day, or half-a-day beyond the usual time, to obtain their supply of opium, their ability and willingness to work would soon come to an end. As a matter of fact, opium-smoking is not a recommendation to any workman or clerk in the estimation of Chinese employers, but the reverse. And even most Europeans, I believe, would rather not employ opium-smoking or opium-eating servants in their homes and offices. In the case of their compradores and those servants attached to the compradores who are opium-consumers, the European masters have, as a rule, to accept the inevitable.

8. Comparison does not seem practicable. Among the Chinese the use of alcoholic drink is all but universal; but its visible injurious effects on the consumers are assuredly nowhere compared with those of opium.

9. When I came to China 28 years ago, the consumption of opium was universally condemned by the Chinese of all classes, as degrading and injurious, and so their opinion has continued; but owing to the known wide prevalence of opium consumption in the country, among all classes, from the Imperial Court to the ragged beggar, that adverse opinion seems to be now slowly modifying; still the respectable non-consumers of opium firmly adhere to the old opinion, and look upon the consumption and the retailing of opium alike as utterly degrading. But the opinion of the Chinese as to the injuriousness of opium consumption is not yet materially changed.

10. Not easily, as a rule. The struggle to escape from the grip of the tyrant is, in many cases, terrible. Still many have done so, though almost always with the help of remedies.

11. Chinese-grown opium seems now to bid fair to drive the Indian article out of the market, except, perhaps, a comparatively small quantity, which may be required to meet the demands of the rich. Whether the Chinese authorities and people would really put down the native growing of opium, if the supply of Indian opium were cut off, is doubtful. It is to be hoped they would, for the sake of their country's prosperity. Their hands would then be free to do it, and they would be deprived of the excuse for allowing native opium to be grown, which they have had in the past.

Natives tell me that it is more than probable that, if the Indian supply were cut off, the native opium

would soon become more expensive. Seeing that the Chinese, previous to the prevalence of their present pernicious habit of consuming opium, were not generally addicted to excessive alcoholic drinking, there does not seem to be any special reason why they should become so in the future, in the event of the Indian supply ceasing, and their own home-growing of the drug being effectively prohibited.

12. It is, I believe, quite a rare thing to find any person of European race in China contracting the opium habit. I have known only two or three cases during my 28 years' connexion with this country. It is probable that the monotony of their life, and the dearth among them of appropriate remedies for the common ills of life—physical, mental, moral, and social—have much to do with the greater liability of Asiatics than of Europeans to contract the habit of consuming opium.

13. Curiosity, and the desire for "fun," lead many to begin the use of the drug; bowel complaints induce others to begin its use; bodily pains of various character and indefinable indisposition, makes others resort to its use; trouble of various kinds drives others to the drug. None of these classes, however, ever think that they will become the perpetual slaves of the habit, and the wretched, helpless victims of its woeful tyranny. But they find that out, when it is too late. It is not considered by the Chinese with whom I have come in contact as "a prophylactic against fever, or rheumatism, or malaria," and so far as my observation goes, smokers and opium-eaters are no more exempt from these ills than others who touch not the drug.

14. As a rule only when poverty makes it impossible for them to gratify their appetite. I have met with multitudes who wanted to give up the habit on that account. Candidates for admission into the Protestant Christian Church, who are addicted to the practice of opium-smoking, or opium-eating, of course, desire to get free of the habit; for on no other condition can they be admitted. On this point the native Christians all through the empire and the missionaries are at one, no opium-consumer or retailer can be admitted into the Christian Church.

15. There used to be a universal wish that England should not allow opium to be exported from India for importation into China, and bitter feelings have often been manifested by Chinese against the fair name of our country solely on account of England's relation to the Indian opium trade with China, but now, I fear, indifference to this matter begins to prevail. The people have become hopeless as to England doing anything to rid them of that which they know to be so destructive to the welfare of their country.

On the remaining questions I do not feel competent to give any testimony.

(Signed) EVAN BRYANT,
Missionary of the London
Missionary Society.

Peking, Feb. 5, 1894.

Mr. W. H. MURRAY.

National Bible Society of Scotland,
Peking, China,
February 5th, 1894.

1. It is common.
2. Some districts, where opium is cultivated and where the people are agricultural, the use is almost universal. Men, women, and children smoke. The sight is harrowing.
3. The effect is the loss of moral distinctions. The rich prefer the Indian. They regard it as much the finer, and can stand the use of it longer by some years.
4. They smoke it.
5. None use it without some result, viz., drying up the constitution, cutting off the hope of propagation. The wealthy, who can nourish themselves, stand out against these dreadful ravages longer.
6. So far as I ever heard. One must go on increasingly to consume the drug. I have heard of none using it with impunity. The cases of injury are numberless; men selling their wives for opium is a common, everyday occurrence.
7. All classes are addicted alike. In prosperous districts artisans are numerous, and they are restrained. To be known to use it means to be cast off, as it means incapacity and wasting time, dishonest, &c., &c.

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8. In regard to alcohol, the people are very temperate.

9. It is universally so understood. None leave off unless where drugs are used, which medical men have devised.

12. No. They regard this as low, vile, and only for sluggards.

13. In the same way as vice of any kind is propagated.

14. It is a commonly expressed wish. But they believe it means great pain and endurance, and probably death.

10. The curse of the Creation must follow it. Are there no proofs of this? So, if those who do not wish to be partakers of curse, how can they question the propriety of being the means of supply?

I am, &c.,
(Signed) WILLIAM HILL MURRAY.

PRÉCIS of MEMORIAL from the TSUNG LI YAMÉN, supported by the BOARD OF REVENUE, with regard to the TAXATION of NATIVE OPIUM.

June 1891.

A decree was issued in 1890, in reply to a memorial from the Yamen and the Board of Revenue, directing that native opium should be taxed either at the place of production or in transit; and that evasion of the duties should be severely repressed, and calling on the provincial authorities to report on the circumstances of each province.

These reports have now been received, and have engaged the Yamen's attention. They have to observe that mature deliberation is necessary in dealing with this question, in order that the revenues of the State may be benefited without interference with the means of livelihood of the people. From the reports which have now come in from the provinces it is evident that the conditions of the production of native opium vary so much in different provinces, and differ so widely from those affecting foreign opium that no uniformity of treatment is possible. In some provinces the production is so large that there is a surplus over local consumption for export to other provinces; in some the production is only just sufficient for the local demand, while in others no opium is produced, and cognizance has only to be taken of it in transit. Native opium again imported from one province into another differs from foreign opium in this respect, that it reaches the Customs stations from scattered points in the interior, while the foreign opium first passes the Maritime Customs and is then distributed. In the opium-producing provinces, again, the conditions of production vary greatly, causing differences in quantity and quality, with consequent differences in price, so that uniformity of taxation is impossible.

The Yamen then proceed to summarise the suggestions made by the Viceroy and Governors of the different provinces as to the taxation suited to each, giving their own views as to its adequacy. In some cases they consider the tax suggested too light and recommend its increase; in others they accept the suggestions of the provincial authorities. In the case of some provinces they approve the local taxation suggested, but consider the duty proposed on opium exported to another province too heavy if levied more than once. They would, therefore, make it pay duty only at the first Customs station out of the province, and be thereafter free of all levies. They disapprove a proposal to levy an *ad valorem* tax, varying with the price of the drug, as likely to lead to disputes, and would substitute for it a tax based on an estimate of average price.

The authorities of three provinces misunderstood the Imperial edict and have suggested taxation according to the amount of land under poppy cultivation. The Yamen suggest that this system should be given a trial, but that if found to cause trouble and annoyance to the people it should be abandoned and another plan adopted. They make this proviso in the interests of the people's resources and the revenues of the State, the provisional character of their acceptance of the plan being intended to prevent the perpetuation of abuses on the ground of precedent.

After some further criticism of the reports from the provinces, the Yamen conclude by observing that the

collection of *likin* on opium being of recent date there have been no trustworthy statistics of the quantity produced or sold in each province. Under these circumstances, where the duties were not evaded they were pocketed by the officials.

Now that heavier taxation is being imposed, all the provincial authorities should use their best efforts to prevent false returns from the Customs stations and other abuses, and should select competent and upright officers to make the inquiries necessary to supply the statistics above mentioned. The result will be, they hope, an improvement in the Customs revenue. They append to the memorial a tabulated statement of the taxation proposed by the different provincial authorities and the alterations suggested by the Yamen.

The Imperial rescript is—"Proposals approved."

In a postscript memorial to the above the Yamen, supported as before by the Board of Revenue, consider a report by the Viceroy and the Governor of Kiangsu on the so-called "Hsüchou" (i.e., Kiangsu) opium. The report states that the opium is produced in eight districts, and that the quantity varies from 10 million ozs. to 14 or 15 million ozs. in the last years.

The Yamen remark that Hsüchou opium is now the great staple of the province. There were many irregularities in the collection of *likin*, less being reported than was actually collected, and it was not until the Viceroy and Governor were called upon by Imperial decree to make thorough investigations and to put a stop to this speculation, that the actual quantity produced was ascertained.

They have now proposed ten regulations which the Yamen think on the whole satisfactory, though they propose some amendments.

The regulations, with the amendments, are then given.

In conclusion, the Yamen remark that there has been, they hear, a steady increase in the production of Kiangsu opium of late years, and they express their belief that the estimate in the Viceroy and Governor's report of Tls. 300,000 of revenue to be derived from it will be exceeded if proper care is taken in its collection. The officer to whom the supervision of the new arrangements is entrusted should, therefore, be zealous in the discharge of his duty, in which case it may be hoped that the revenue will steadily increase.

Rescript—"Approved."

SHANGHAI.*

Shanghai,

23rd February, 1894.

SIR,

IN accordance with instructions from Her Majesty's Minister, I have the honour to transmit herewith some of the replies received in answer to the questions regarding opium consumption and opium revenue in China furnished by medical men, merchants, and others who are specially conversant with the subject. Such further replies as I may receive I will forward by the next mail.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) NICHOLAS J. HANNEN,
Consul-General.

The Secretary,
Royal Commission on Opium,
Calcutta.

1. REPORT by Dr. COUSLAND, a Medical Missionary residing near Swatow, Southern China. Eight years' experience.

1. Yes.

2. Very difficult to say. Varies in different districts. More common probably in towns and less in villages. Not more than 10 per cent. Perhaps average (about) 5 per cent. Very few women smoke opium. Children, not that I know of.

3. Moral, physical, and social effects depend upon the amount smoked, duration of habit, constitution, and circumstances as regards food and work. *Moral Effects.*—The moral effects are those common to all abuse of narcotics and alcohol. Loss of will power, moral perversion, deceitfulness, untrustworthiness, untruth-

* For other Shanghai papers, see page 329.

fulness. General moral degeneration, loss of self respect. *Physical*.—Emaciation, malnutrition, muscular and nervous debility, diminished capacity for work of all kinds, constipation. *Social*.—The great majority of the Chinese of this part are poor, earnings averaging from 15 to 20 cents per day. A man smokes 10 cents a day, many smoke more, little is left for food. He himself suffers and a vicious circle is set up. Wife and family inadequately provided for. Much suffering from poverty and sickness results. Husbands even steal wife's and children's things and pawn them; sometimes children even are sold; leads to feuds and quarrels; even in wealthier families leads to feuds, &c. Many young men belonging to good families take to it and in the absence of any definite occupation rapidly become slaves to the habit. I do not know whether or not there is any difference between Indian and Chinese grown opium.

4. Consumers chiefly smoke opium; those who become too poor to smoke eat the ashes remaining after the opium is smoked. A number now take foreign powders containing morphine; these are sold as a means of cure, but merely result in the pipe being changed for the powders. Opium is not taken in a liquid form. I cannot distinguish between the effects of opium smoked or eaten, but I have never specially studied the question.

5. It is difficult to classify opium users in this way, and still more difficult to make an estimate. I question if any use it habitually without injury, rather, I should say, it is injurious to all, the amount depending on such factors as work, food, constitution, amount smoked, and duration of habit. 1. Medicinally, in suitable cases. 2. With injury slight up to grave. The great bulk. 3. ? Ten per cent. perhaps. These estimates refer to habitual users; those who take it occasionally or irregularly soon acquire the opium habit.

6. If by "moderation" is meant harmless habitual consumption, then I believe it is correct to say, as far as my observation goes, that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. I know of no cases of consumers who have taken their opium for years without harm to themselves; I know of cases who have done so without very obvious harm; such cases are often quoted as instances of its harmlessness, but if they are followed up for a number of years, the moral and physical degeneration will become apparent, in some exceptional cases very slight, in others more marked; I know of many cases of great injury. I regret that, being at present absent from my station on sick leave, I am not able to give detailed account of cases. Opium sots are to be found in all classes of society. I have known mandarins who would not transact business, doctors who could hardly be got to see patients, officials, shopkeepers, chair-bearers, soldiers, coolies, who have smoked themselves into unfitness for work, leading to loss of occupation, poverty, and distress of self and family. I know of several wealthy and influential families that have been brought to beggary in this way.

7. No, a minority. The effect of opium habit is to diminish their efficiency. An opium-smoking labourer, merchant, artisan, or teacher, is at a discount; both Chinese and foreigners prefer the non-smoker. I never employ an opium-smoker in any capacity if I can help it; if I did, I would get less work and of poorer quality, and would not be able to place any reliance on the man. A chair carrier said to me lately, in recommending his shop, that none of the men took opium or whiskey; this was entirely unsought for, and uninfluenced testimony.

8. As alcohol is not extensively used, and seldom abused, it is difficult to answer this question; the alcohol habit is not readily formed; with opium, on the other hand, the habit is rapidly acquired, and lays firm hold on its victim. The habitual use of a moderate quantity of alcohol does not often lead to the user becoming enslaved, but with opium the habitual smoking of a small amount leads, in the course of a few months, to the opium habit being formed, a habit that cannot be given up without a severe struggle, and almost invariably leads to the dose being increased, and moral and physical deterioration setting in. While I have treated nearly 2,000 applicants for the cure of the opium habit, I have never had a case coming or brought to me for the cure of the alcohol habit, and the cases of

chronic alcoholism that have come under my notice have been few and far between. In short, the abuse of alcohol is rare, while the abuse of opium, *i.e.*, the opium habit, is exceedingly common and is an evil of the most portentous dimensions. There is little to choose between the opium and alcoholic *habitué*; in the case of opium, the moral perversion, and in alcohol, the physical injury are the more marked. The opium habit takes the stronger grip and its cure is more difficult.

9. Yes, universally and unanimously. I have never heard, directly or indirectly, a good word spoken for opium by any Chinamen, while the connexion of England with the importation of it to China is constantly brought up against our country.

10. Very seldom unaided. I have met with two or three cases who profess to have done so. Many try to be cured, and if you ask them they say they have broken off the habit, but on further inquiry you find they are taking powders or pills containing morphine or opium. Some try to cure themselves by gradually diminishing the dose, but this plan seldom succeeds. Native recipes and shops for the sale of native and foreign stop opium pills and powders are common in the larger towns. Lately the method of cure by the hypodermic injection of diminishing doses of morphine has been tried, but without success. Of the hundred odd cases in which this method was employed at Ch'ao-chow-fu, I could not hear of a single cure. In fact, the operator had to flee the city to escape from his exasperated patients. Those cured in hospital or by other means usually relapse after a few months or years. And, even if they do not, they seldom completely regain their moral tone.

11. Opium-consumers already use the native drug to some extent. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off the effect would probably be to raise the price of opium, and force many to resort to our hospitals and to native methods of cure. I feel certain they would not take to alcohol or some other narcotic, for at present those who wish to stop or who have stopped do not take to these substitutes. The effect would tend towards abstinence.

12. I do not know.

13. They are led for the most part by learning from one another, and for mere pleasure. Others commence for the relief of a great variety of ailments, chiefly painful affections, chronic diarrhoea, dyspepsia, phthisis, and cases what the native practitioners fail to cure. I have not seen any evidence of opium being a prophylactic against fever or rheumatism or malaria. I have never heard of its use being advocated by any Chinaman on those grounds. Smokers are found among all classes, and whether on the hills or the plains in highly malarious or slightly malarious districts, the proportion of smokers varies very little. On the other hand, quinine is already much appreciated, and extensively used by the Chinese.

14. Yes, almost universally. Among those who are in comfortable circumstances there are exceptions. Large numbers are always found seeking to break off the habit by one means or another. A satisfactory cure requires residence in hospital for several weeks, and many who are anxious to stop the habit cannot afford to leave their work so long.

15. Yes, a very strong wish. One very able and influential gentleman in my neighbourhood proposed lately to get up a great petition, signed by all the officials, literati, gentry, and business men, to be presented to the Queen of England, begging her not to send any more opium to China.

20. I have spent more than eight years in China in hospital and dispensary work among the people. I have treated nearly 2,000 men who have come into hospital for cure of the opium habit. I have lived for several years alone, in a Chinese house, in Ch'ao-chow-fu, a city of 250,000 inhabitants, and have therefore some acquaintance with the people, and good opportunities of being conversant with this subject. I wish to record my opinion that the consumption of opium among the Chinese around me is rightly regarded by them, as degrading and injurious. For one or two cases of sickness benefited there are one hundred who are injured. And many who use it medicinally do so mistakenly, and add to their former ailment an expensive and debilitating habit.

APP. XXVI.
Shanghai.

APP. XXVI.

I look upon the importation of Indian opium as simply a means of debauching and degrading the people.

N.B.—“China” and the “Chinese” in the above answers mean those in my neighbourhood.

(Signed) PHILIP B. COUSLAND, M.B., C.M., Ed.,
Ch'ao-chow-fu, via Swatow, China.

February 21, 1894.

REPORT by Rev. W. MUIRHEAD, a Missionary who has lived in Shanghai for 46 years.

1. Is opium commonly consumed by the Chinese in the part of China with which you are acquainted?—Very largely.

2. What proportion, should you conjecture, of the adult males of each race are consumers? Do women consume opium to any extent? Do children?—In the circle of 30 miles or so, it is supposed that about 25 or 30 per cent. of the common people consume opium. The proportion of the rich or well-to-do community is less. There are few women who smoke opium, perhaps not more than 1 per cent., and a still smaller number of children.

3. What have you observed to be the effects of opium, moral, physical, and social, on its consumers? Is the effect the same on consumers of each race, or can you draw distinctions between the effects on consumers of different races? Is there any difference between the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium?—Among the higher classes from their standing and position in life, and the circumstances in which they are placed, the effects of opium in these various points of view are not so marked and obvious, though they are often to be met with, but in the case of the poorer classes and lower orders, the results are readily apparent and most distressing. Morally, they soon lose character and face as the Chinese call it. Physically, they are enfeebled and dependent on a constant supply of the drug. Socially, they become lazy and degraded in appearance and habits. They part with everything to supply the craving, and make both themselves and their families wretched. If they become sick, they are more difficult to recover than in other cases, and suicide and murder not infrequently happen in consequence. Indian opium is more powerful, from the preparation it undergoes, and so more baleful in its effects than Chinese-grown opium.

4. Do consumers chiefly smoke or do they eat opium? or do they drink a decoction of opium? If opium is taken in two or all these forms, can you distinguish between the effects of each?—Smoking is the ordinary and universal form of consumption here, and the drug is not eaten or drunk by those who indulge in it, except in the cases of suicides, or it may be, and rarely, in the form of pills, when smoking cannot be provided for.

5. What are the proportions of those who use opium? (1) without injury, (2) with slight injury, (3) with great injury (“opium sots”)?—We unhesitatingly answer that opium is never used in the manner indicated without injury, but, of course, the extent of the injury depends upon the amount used, and on their having a sufficiency of good food or otherwise to sustain them and counteract the effects of the habit. We cannot give a comparative estimate under this head.

6. Is it correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium? Do you know any or many cases of consumers who have taken their opium for years without harm to themselves? If so, please give description of one or two such cases in detail. If you know any or many cases of great injury, give examples?—Moderation in the use of opium is difficult. If the parties are sick, or their minds disturbed about anything, or they are wearied and tired from over-work or other causes, they must and will increase the dose, and so the habit and requirement become a matter of ever-growing intensity, always allowing, however, for the variety of cases. We have never known a case of opium-smoking for years without injury, but we have known many who have suffered great injury in consequence. One was a scholar of high repute who took to the habit after we knew him, or in whom it became more apparent in course of time, that he utterly unfitted himself for the work of teaching

and lapsed into a most degraded state, resorting from time to time to the lowest opium den, until he lost all vital strength and moral character and died in a wretched manner. Another was a compradore in a foreign hong, and in good circumstances. He also took to the drug, became weak in mind, and died an “opium sot.” Such cases are of frequent occurrence, in a greater or less degree; enough, however, to make the habit one of widespread lamentation.

7. Do a majority of the labourers, or of the merchants, or of the artisans, of the part of China with which you are conversant, smoke opium? If so, what is generally the effect of the opium on the efficiency of their calling?—Of common labourers in this neighbourhood a large majority are given to this habit, say seven out of ten. The proportion of merchants may be two out of ten, but of the artisans very few, as they could not otherwise attend to their daily work, and so could not be employed. Many of the literary classes are habitual smokers, as having time and opportunity for indulging in the practice. While under the influence of it they will do splendid work, only requiring a constant supply to keep up their spirits and stimulate them in what they are doing. Here I could specially refer to men who were in my employ, who regarded as the very *élite* of scholars, but were slaves to the habit, and needed after a short time to repair to the open den for refreshment. One in particular had been an opium-smoker for over 30 years, but showed a most withered appearance, while his work, under the drug, exhibited his remarkable powers, though he was fit for nothing in two or three hours at most.

8. How does the use or abuse of opium among the races of that part of China with which you are conversant compare with the use or abuse of alcohol among such races, in regard to the effect on consumers? Alcohol is used to a small degree here as compared to what it is in the West. One rarely sees a drunkard in the streets, though native wine is largely used, especially at evening meals. Still, wine-drinkers are not classed in the ranks of opium smokers, and are not looked on, except in extreme cases, as similarly degraded, from their not being given to the habit like the others. Opium and wine are regarded as two different things, alike in their character and effects.

9. Is the habit of consuming opium condemned as degrading or injurious by the general opinion of the Chinese? How would they regard the opium habit as compared with the alcohol habit?—Everywhere the habit is looked on as degrading and injurious. It is universally condemned, and as we have just remarked it is not considered in the same light as alcohol, and is denounced as a far greater evil, perhaps in some measure from its far greater prevalence.

10. Can and do opium consumers break themselves of the opium habit?—If they are willing they can do so. If it is done gradually there is less inconvenience and trouble than if done at once, only the victims are generally afraid of dying from their giving up the habit unless an availing remedy is at hand. Many come to the hospitals to be cured, and after a time they are made well, but either the craving returns, or temptation comes in their way, or they suffer from sickness, and the habit is resumed. Others purchase medicine for the purpose, alike native and foreign, which in most instances contains morphia, and so the cure is worse than the disease. It is possible to break off the habit, but it requires such a power of will as is rarely possessed by the opium-smoker.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off what would be the effect on opium-smokers, and on the population of your neighbourhood? Would they resort to Chinese-grown opium, or would they take to alcohol or to some narcotic other than opium, or would they abstain altogether?—If things go on in the ordinary way and no change takes place in the administration of Government on the subject, the prohibition of Indian opium would have no effect on the consumers and on the population at large, as the native opium would be more fully resorted to, which is the case to an increasing degree even now. It is hardly likely that alcohol would take the place of opium, certainly not were the drug within reach at all, and in that case also there is no likelihood of abstention.

12. Do people of European race contract the opium habit in any numbers? If not, why not? And what makes Asiatics more liable to contract the habit?—We have heard of a few cases of Europeans contracting the opium habit, but they were very exceptional. There is

something in the national constitution that seems to crave such a narcotic as opium, as alcohol is the demand in the West. The Chinese have taken to the one somehow rather than the other, as it appears to benefit them more readily.

13. How are opium-consumers led to use the drug? Is opium, within your knowledge, a prophylactic against fever, or rheumatism, or malaria? or is it so regarded by the inhabitants of the part of China with which you are conversant?—The reasons that lead the Chinese are such as the following:—(1.) Sickness, chiefly dysentery, diarrhoea, and pain in the stomach. The native pharmacopoeia is ill-provided with remedies for these and other complaints, and the drug is recommended by local practitioners and friends, and this is a great occasion of its use. (2.) It is commonly brought forward in the transaction of business, as wine and tobacco may be elsewhere, and so time and opportunity are allowed for consultation and making bargains. (3.) Bad houses, unhappily so prevalent in this neighbourhood, are largely the scene of dissipation, and of this vice in particular. (4.) We would add that as in the case of many houses at home, where little comfort and enjoyment are provided for working men, and so the public-house is commonly resorted to; in like manner there is little to interest and amuse in the social or domestic life of the Chinese, their current literature and ordinary companionship, and so the attraction of the opium den or divan becomes irresistible, and they are overcome by it. Again, the drug is said to be a prophylactic in the cases referred to, just as tobacco, garlic, &c., are allowed by many to be. Not that they are generally regarded in this light, yet it is declared to be a fact they operate in this way, as in such a place as Formosa, where the soldiers are largely exposed to malaria, and it seems these various drugs are found to be preventive when used only in this manner, while those who do not use them in many more instances succumb.

14. Do opium-consumers themselves usually desire to get free of the opium habit?—We can truly say this is the case in almost every instance. It is universally acknowledged to be only an evil in ordinary experience from its effects on mind and body, in family and social life; only a good remedy is constantly asked for and tried in many ways, only the will of the opium-smoker seems to be paralysed, and it is rarely possible to stir it up in order to bear the trial of abandoning the habit and resist the temptations by which he is surrounded.

15. Is there among the Chinese in the part of China with which you are acquainted any wish that England should not allow opium to be exported from India?—This is the constant cry of the Chinese. The common people only think of England as having introduced it, and they blame us accordingly. They say to us, "Stop the importation and we shall cease to use it." Of course, it is easy to reply on the principle of supply and demand, but this does not change their views on the matter, and the accusation remains.

16. By what classes of persons and in what provinces or districts of China is Indian opium usually consumed, and how far does Chinese-grown opium compete with Indian opium in the provinces or districts in which the two kinds are readily obtainable?—Indian opium is chiefly used at or near the treaty ports, and less in places at a distance, though the two kinds are in current use at the ports in a single and mixed form. The native opium, however, is coming into more frequent use as a cheaper article, though not liked so well on the part of the habitual smoker.

17. What will be the probable consequences of the prohibition or restriction of the Indian opium (1) on the consumption of opium by the Chinese, (2) on the cultivation of the poppy and production of opium in China, (3) on the arrangements made by the Chinese Government for raising a revenue from opium?—In reply we say: (1.) The prohibition or restriction will make no great difference as things now are. (2.) If the cultivation is allowed, the prohibition in question will only increase the amount raised by the Chinese, as the drug is wanted and is far more productive and profitable than the ordinary cereals. This is an important consideration in answer to the question before us, and abundantly verified in many parts of China. (3.) We cannot answer the inquiry as to the arrangements about revenue. All depends upon a continuance or reversal of the present system, and we shall refer to it under section 20.

18. Can you give any estimate of the area now under poppy cultivation in the several provinces of China

and the average annual culture of opium?—This is impossible from our point of view. It is well known that the native growth is largely on the increase, partly owing to its pecuniary value to the cultivators as compared with the cereals, and partly from the soil in some places being more suited to it, as is the case in Shansi. Some time ago I was in the country, and saw the poppy being cultivated where rice used to be grown. I spoke to the farmer about it, and his reply was that hitherto the foreigners had been profiting from the opium trade, but now the Chinese were determined to cultivate it and obtain the benefit of it themselves.

19. What revenue does the Chinese Government derive from opium, and how does the taxation levied on Indian opium compare with that levied on opium produced in China?—This cannot be answered by the writer; the Indian tax can be easily known, so far as the Custom House returns are concerned, but the native growth is altogether uncertain in its amount, numbers, and variety of places, and the honesty alike of the cultivators, purchasers, and officials. There is, we believe, much smuggling carried on by the people interested in it, and overlooked on the part of the authorities both for their own advantage and from the unfaithfulness of their underlings.

20. Have you any remark to make in regard to opium-consumption among the people around you?—In regard to Shanghai as a great emporium of trade, it has drawn vast numbers of people from all parts of the country, yet while allowing for the low character of many of these, and the introduction and encouragement of other evils, especially in the foreign settlements, which were formerly unknown, and which would not be tolerated in the city and suburbs under native jurisdiction, the vice in question has been a most fruitful cause of the deterioration that has taken place in the character and social life of the inhabitants. Large divans have been opened in various places for opium-smoking, which particularly at night are crowded, and young men seem to form a great majority of the guests. These divans and their concomitants attract multitudes of the Chinese, and prove to be a moral ruin in manifold instances. There is nothing like them in any other part of the empire. What is to be done towards remedying the evils of the opium trade and the native-grown cultivation? We beg to suggest that an understanding should be come to between the foreign and the Chinese Governments that the matter should cease on both sides, excepting the requirement, it may be, on medicinal grounds. We see no objection to and no insuperable difficulty in this. We believe it to be possible for the highest authorities in China to issue commands to the local magistrates of various grades, which would in course of time be obeyed, and which in the present instance would be hailed by the vast majority of the people. At the outset there would be difficulties from the habits that have been formed by multitudes, but these at the best would be only temporary, and the affair of the revenue could be tidied over, and gladly so by the voice of the nation at large. Let such an agreement be made between the two governments that the one and the other shall prohibit or restrict the growth or traffic in opium in their respective departments, and that the strict observance of it shall be insisted on, and we do believe a new and better order of things will arise in China in relation to us and the peace and prosperity of the people. We hesitate not to say that were the evil that now so widely exists, and is ever increasing, withdrawn, there would be far greater readiness and ability on the part of the Chinese to adopt the elements of western civilisation and progress, that are now opposed alike on account of their penury and the prejudice they have been led to form in regard to us, which in no small measure has been caused by the opium trade.

I may add, in closing, that the prohibition of opium, either in the foreign trade or the native growth, like the abandonment of the habit, cannot be done all at once or in a short time. Were this attempted, it is a general opinion that it would cause most serious trouble in China from the long continuance and widespread influence of the habit. It would require perhaps 20 or 30 years to bring the matter to a final issue. In the meanwhile a common understanding can be come to and measures taken to terminate both the foreign trade and the native growth. Proclamations might be published far and wide, and so the people would be gradually prepared for the end in view. Were this to be the case, the writer is convinced it would raise us

APP. XXVI.

highly in the estimation of the Chinese, and tend to promote the best interests of all classes.

(Signed) WILLIAM MUIRHEAD,
London Missionary Society.

3. REPORT by Dr. ED. HENDERSON, a Medical Practitioner in Shanghai for 25 years. Has had opportunities of seeing numbers of Chinese in Native Hospitals.

Shanghai,
20th February 1894.

1. I believe that opium is largely consumed in the native city and foreign settlement of Shanghai.

2. I cannot state the proportion of adult males who consume the drug, but certainly not the majority. Few women consume it. No children.

3. I believe that opium smoked in moderation has no very special effect on the health of the consumer, physical or moral. Used immoderately it is, I believe, injurious, physically and morally. The opium smoked in Shanghai is a mixture of the Chinese and Indian drug.

4. Opium is smoked almost invariably.

5. Moderate smokers do not suffer injury, and the majority of those who use the drug use it moderately.

6. No. Incorrect. I cannot at the moment give specific examples, but I have at various times during the past 20 years made the acquaintance of middle-aged Chinamen, said to have been regular opium-smokers for many years, whose health and capacity for work as merchants did not seem to have suffered in any way.

7. The majority. Excessive opium-smoking appears to render men indolent and disinclined for physical exertion; the mental effect is not, perhaps, so apparent; the immoderate smoker has usually other vices.

8. The alcoholic habit is rarely encountered among the Chinese.

9. The moderate use of the drug does not seem to be at all generally condemned. Drunkenness is a rare vice among the Chinese, and no comparison could be fairly made between alcoholic excesses and the excessive use of opium by a Chinaman, unless he had resided in foreign countries.

10. I have known of many cases in which the immoderate use of opium has discontinued, at least for a time. I do not think the moderate consumer has any wish to discontinue the habit.

11. ———

12. No. Europeans prefer alcohol and tobacco.

13. I do not think opium can be regarded as a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, or malaria; but I am informed that there are many among the Chinese who regard it as such.

14. Those who are slaves to the habit, and especially when the over-indulgence has entailed poverty, or, and loss of health, do so.

15. Not to my knowledge.

17. Interference with the Indian imports would probably stimulate the cultivation of the poppy, and lead to improvements in the manufacture of opium in China. The habit of opium-smoking has become so much a national one that restriction in the importation of Indian opium is not likely to have more than a temporary effect.

(Signed) EDWARD HENDERSON,
M.D., F.R.C.S., Edin.,
Surgeon H.B.M.'s Consulate, Shanghai.

4. REPORT by Dr. R. A. JAMIESON, a Medical Practitioner in Shanghai for 26 years, Consulting Surgeon to Imperial Maritime Customs, and Surgeon to St. Luke's Hospital for Chinese.

1. The word "commonly" implies so close an approach to precision in the estimate of the ratio of opium-consumers to the general population, that this question cannot safely be answered by a "Yes" or "No." The large number of opium-smoking establishments maintained in and about the settlements, the amount of imported drug retained in Shanghai for local consumption, and the certainly large but absolutely unknown quantity of native opium used attest that opium is "largely" or "widely" consumed by the Chinese in this district.

2. Failing a definition of the term "consumers," any answer to the first part of this question must be a mere guess. If it is intended to count all usual and occasional consumers who smoke a few pipes on the occasion of some festival such as a marriage, or when coming from the country they arrive in Shanghai to pass a few days in altogether unaccustomed dissipation, the answer would be that almost all adult males at least know the taste of opium. But if "consumers" be intended to denote "habitual consumers," the ratio is a very small one. Many years ago, I found that during an entire year the ratio of "opium-smokers" to the total number of applicants for indoor and outdoor treatment at a largely attended hospital for natives, was almost exactly one-fifteenth. The vast majority of those who acknowledged the habit showed no sign of any evil effect from it. The definition of the term "opium-smoker" which I gave my native assistant, who was charged with the inquiry, was "a man who smokes every day whenever he has the chance." Women rarely—exception made of asthmatic old women, all of whom who can afford it, I think, smoke; prostitutes in fashionable native brothels also excepted—and children, so far as I know, never smoke opium. I should perhaps mention that the nuns in Buddhist convents, about whose habits the more respectable Chinese have nothing but evil to say, are reported to be much addicted to opium-smoking.

3. Many of the most respectable and trustworthy Chinese of my acquaintance are moderate opium-smokers. The same must be said of many officials, bankers, and merchants, who accomplish an enormous amount of work involving much mental and bodily fatigue. In the exceptional cases wherein a condition of opium-craving, strictly comparable with chronic alcoholism, is established, it is true that all moral and social ties are loosened; any means of securing indulgence is seized regardless of consequences, and mental and physical health are alike destroyed. But, I believe, that in such cases we have to deal with individuals who are physically degenerate to start with. I have no experience of any opium-consuming race other than the Chinese. Opium-smokers themselves say that there is no qualitative difference between the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium. The Indian drug possesses, they say, a more agreeable aroma, and "goes farther," quantity for quantity. But it is well-known that the prepared drug is largely a mixture of Indian and Chinese opium in varying proportions according to the honesty of the vendor.

4. The Chinese rarely, if ever, eat opium, except for the purpose of suicide. Opium-consumers have until lately smoked exclusively. Within the past few years, however, the so-called "opium habit curing powders," which are nothing but morphia, have created a taste for morphia consumption, which I learn is rapidly spreading on account of its comparative convenience and cleanliness, and also on account of the secrecy with which the habit may be indulged. Still more recently the hypodermic injection of morphia has been introduced, and this form of the habit is gaining ground with extraordinary rapidity. I am informed on excellent authority that the importation of hypodermic syringes from Europe, but especially from Japan, has already reached enormous proportions. It is, however, too soon to offer any opinion about the result of this growing modification of the habit; but it may safely be predicted that it will prove far more hurtful and far more general than opium-smoking has ever been.

5. In the absence of any statistics, reliable or unreliable, this question is quite unanswerable.

6 and 7. These questions are answered, so far as I can answer them, in my replies to Questions 2 and 3.

8. I consider that the two habits—alcohol consumption and opium consumption—are strictly comparable. As against the individuals who drink a couple of glasses of wine at a wedding or a birthday celebration, and do not again taste alcohol until a similar occasion presents itself, there are multitudes in China who at such feasts and at such alone smoke two or three pipes of opium. So the average moderate drinker who feels and is better for a little wine or beer with his meals is widely represented in China by the moderate smoker who finishes his meals with one or two pipes of opium, and takes no more at any other period of the day. Passing them side by side through all the gradations of excess, the two habits are found in their worst and most hopeless form in alcohol sots and opium sots, there being little or nothing to choose between the two groups.

9. In this part of China the habit of consuming opium is regarded exactly as the habit of consuming alcohol is regarded by reasonable Europeans. In the abstract it is not considered as either degrading or injurious; but if any non-smoker were asked the question he would, just as in the case of alcohol we should, certainly add as a rider to his reply, that excess is a fruitful source of disaster and disgrace. The Chinese, I may remark, are a singularly tolerant, practical, and non-censorious race. They concern themselves but little about what theoretically ought to happen, and wait patiently in each case for the rise of an abuse before they think of preventing or remedying it. The Chinese of this province are naturally so peaceable, that while they regard the opium habit in general with careless indulgence, they would be horrified by the uproar and quarrels which the alcohol habit brings in its train. I am informed, but so far as I am concerned this is mere hearsay, that in the Canton province any degree of indulgence in opium-smoking is condemned by public opinion among the respectable classes.

10. I have heard of such cases, but I have never seen one, and I do not believe that they occur except as the rarest and most extraordinary phenomena.

11. Practically, nothing could entirely cut off the Indian supply. Foreign drug would be smuggled into Shanghai at no matter what risk. It would, of course, become much dearer than it is at present, and unobtainable by the humbler and poorer class of smokers. These would smoke Chinese opium exclusively, and of this the supply which is already very large would become limited only by the demand. I am certain that consumers would not abstain, and I think it highly improbable that alcohol or any narcotic other than opium would to any appreciable extent displace the latter.

12. It is excessively rare for a European to contract the habit of opium-smoking. During 26 years of active medical practice among Europeans, only two instances have come to my knowledge. Many Macao Portuguese smoke opium, but they are Portuguese only by name and courtesy. It would be difficult to give all the possible reasons for the difference in habits between European and Asiatic races. Inherited taste is probably a factor; the far less elaborate preparation necessary for indulgence in alcohol; the fact that to swallow a drink occupies no time worth speaking of; the more sociable character of Europeans which makes them love noise and a crowd while intoxicating themselves, all these and many other facts equally obvious explain in whole or in part the insignificant temptation which opium-smoking presents to Europeans. Added to these is the fact that every European knows that if once he were recognised as an opium-smoker he would be socially lost, and all his chances in life would instantly disappear. On the other hand, the absence of a damnable public opinion, the characteristic carelessness about time-expenditure, the natural quietness and peaceableness of the average Asiatic, probably also inherited taste and tendency make Asiatics far more liable than Europeans to contract the opium habit.

13. Usually, I think, by the natural and general craving for a narcotic of some kind, opium being in China the narcotic in most common use. Sometimes, in order to revive failing sexual power. Very often to relieve the pain of chronic rheumatism, and secure drowsiness, if not sleep. Never, I think, to enjoy

rapturous visions which exist only in European popular imagination. Out of scores of opium-smokers whom I have asked, whether smoking transported them to Paradise, I have never found one who seemed so much as to comprehend the question. Except as affording relief to the pain of rheumatism and to the dyspnoea of asthma or chronic bronchitis, I have not heard any Chinese attribute medicinal virtues to opium-smoking. All agree that in excess it induces absolute sexual impotence after a brief period of super-excitation. So far as I know opium-smoking is not a prophylactic against any disease.

14. Some profess to do so, but they will make no sacrifice worth speaking of to attain freedom.

15. Not the least in the world.

16. It is a matter of relative wealth and of distance from the coast. No doubt very wealthy smokers in all parts of the interior contrive to obtain Indian drug, just as the wealthier smoker on or near the coast seek to consume it exclusively. But as the distance from the ports increases the average consumer becomes more and more dependent on native opium. I am told that in the places where both Indian and Chinese drug are readily obtainable, nobody every asks for Chinese opium, although it is extensively used to replace or adulterate Indian.

17. (a) and (b). These questions are already answered, so far as I can answer them, in my reply to Question 11. (c). Regarding this I have no opinion to offer.

18, 19, 20. I have no information.

(Signed) R. A. JAMIESON, M.D., M.R.C.P.,
Consulting Surgeon to the Imperial Maritime
Customs in China, Surgeon to St. Luke's
Hospital for Chinese.

5. REPORT by Dr. BURGE, a Medical Practitioner in Shanghai for 20 years. Practice entirely among Foreign Shipping.

Shanghai, China,
February 20th, 1894.

1. Yes. In Shanghai opium dens very common.

2. My house boy informs me 50 per cent. of men, 25 per cent. of women, and no children smoke. From my own observation, I should say this per-centage is too heavy, but I have no special knowledge in the matter.

3. I should say it is morally, physically, and socially bad. My boy informs me that Indian opium produces less evil effect than Chinese-grown, especially the common Szechuan variety, which is very bad.

4. Chiefly, I may say, almost entirely smoke. Few eat, and none drink opium, except for suicidal purposes, for which opium is in common use.

5. (1) none; (2) comparatively few; (3) to the majority until they cannot do without it.

6. I think there cannot be moderation, the use tends to increase, and does increase, as a rule. My boy has smoked for 20 years, not to great excess, but is certainly enfeebled in mind and body by it.

7. My boy says 50 per cent. of males of all classes, and certainly renders them less efficient in their calling.

8. I should say the use of opium being more common has a greater evil effect. Opium-smoking probably leads to the drinking of alcohol in the form of rice-spirit (which, as it has very injurious effects on Europeans (sailors), who frequently drink it because it is cheap), it must therefore be highly injurious. This rice-spirit (sanshu) causes vomiting, diarrhoea and brain symptoms of a violent character amongst the sailors; it soon makes them "mad drunk" and quarrelsome.

9. Condemned as both degrading and injurious by Chinese. I should say they would look upon both as equally bad habits, but on drink as more degrading, as it incapacitates from work, whilst most opium-smokers are able to do some work.

10. Very few. They may be able to moderate it.

11. They would consume the Chinese opium without doubt, and as it is cheaper, would probably smoke

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more, to their greater detriment. They would still keep to opium, I believe, especially as it would be cheaper.

12. Extremely few I think, because it is considered so detrimental and debasing, and because the use of alcohol is the rule amongst Europeans. Asiatics have but very few comforts in their homes. They resort to it to dull their cares as Europeans resort to alcohol.

13. Through gambling, their most common vice, and the evil companionship that that entails, I think opium has but little prophylactic effect on fever or rheumatism; it may tend to ward off malaria slightly, and it is considered to do so by the Chinese.

14. I think not, but have no special information.

15. I certainly think not, especially amongst the opium-consumers, as they would smoke nothing else if they could afford it, its expense alone deters them.

16. By all classes, I should say, and, as far as I know, in all provinces and districts.

17.—(a.) That they would consume Chinese-grown. (b.) That it would rapidly increase the cultivation of the poppy and the production of opium in China. (c.) They would probably increase the tax on Chinese opium to make up the deficiency.

18. No.

19. No information.

20. None excepting that if opium-smoking or eating could be prevented, it would undoubtedly be a very great blessing to the country.

I may remark I have lived 20 years in Shanghai, but have no very special information on the subject. The above answers are simply the opinion I have formed from general observation and information.

(Signed) FREDK. J. BURGE,

R.L.C.P., Lond.

6. Report by Mr. W. S. WETMORE, a Merchant in Shanghai and other parts of China, for over 40 years. Must have come in contact with great numbers of the better class of Chinese.

SIR, Shanghai, 19th February 1894.

In conformity with your request, I have the honour to give the following replies to the questions regarding opium consumption in China, contained in the memorandum of the Royal Commission on Opium, which you have sent to me for that purpose.

I will premise that I have never made a special study of the use of opium and its effects on the people, and my answers will, therefore, be confined to such points as I am more or less familiar with from general observation.

1. I do not think that opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese in this part of China. Most of the people here belong to the poor labouring classes, who could not afford to indulge in such a luxury, and an ordinary observer might traverse the streets of the towns and the paths of the country for years without having his attention drawn to any fact which would indicate the existence of such a habit among the people as the use of opium or any other drug or intoxicant.

2. I have never known or seen any women or children who were opium-smokers.

4. Consumers chiefly smoke opium.

6. I have known several inveterate opium-smokers, and from my observation believe that an excessive indulgence in this drug is very pernicious to both mind and body, while its habitual use in moderation appears to have no permanently prejudicial effect. Among the habitual, but moderate smokers, whom I know, is one who has held a position of responsibility on our native staff for more than 20 years, and whom I have known well for double that period. He is now 67 years old and his mental powers are unimpaired, while he is

physically as strong as could be expected of one of his age. Undoubtedly there can be moderation in the use of opium as well as in the use of alcohol.

7. Certainly a majority of labourers, merchants, and artisans in this part of China are not regular consumers of opium, and very few exhibit indications of its use.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off, the Chinese would resort to native-grown opium.

12. Opium-consumers are often led to use the drug very much in the same way that boys at home are led to use tobacco or intoxicating drinks, but it is more generally and freely indulged in to kill time, which must hang very heavily on the hands of people who have no social life in our acceptation of the term, and no rational means of occupying their leisure hours, such as are fortunately possessed by people of the western world; and this is particularly the case, with the classes who have not to obtain their livelihood by manual labour, among whom, in fact, the habit is chiefly prevalent.

15. I have never heard the wish expressed by Chinese that England should not allow opium to be exported from India.

16. The native opium is chiefly consumed by the poorer classes, and the Indian by the well-to-do who can afford to pay for the more expensive drug.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. S. WETMORE.

7. REPORT by GENERAL W. MESNY. This is a gentleman who has long lived in intimate relationship with Chinese, and who even now wears Chinese dress and associates largely with Chinese. Has had greater opportunities of observing inner Chinese life than any other foreigner in China.

2 Tientsin Road, Shanghai,

DEAR SIR, 17th February, 1894.

In answer to your note of the 14th instant, asking me to favour you with replies to questions in accompanying paper from the Royal Commission on Opium, I am sorry to say that, although I have lived for many years in Western China, where opium is very extensively cultivated, and have taken many notes on the subject of opium cultivation, local consumption, and exportation, I have not those notes to hand at present for reference. Therefore, I hope you will excuse me if you find the following notes unequal to what you may have been led to expect from me on the subject.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS on the Use of OPIUM.

1. From 60 to 80 per cent. of the whole population of Western China, viz., Ssü Chuan, Yunnan, and Kuei-Chou, smoke opium habitually, and the remaining portion of the population (with few exceptions) smoke opium occasionally. The same rule will answer for all the provincial capital cities of this vast empire. The proportion of smokers is much less in Northern China generally, excepting in the great commercial centres such as Shanghai, Tientsin, and Hankow, and other places, where the proportion of habitual smokers may be about 50 per cent. and occasional smokers about 10 to 15 per cent.

2. Women and children in Western China consume opium habitually, but I cannot say what per-centage in comparison with men. In the great official and commercial centres the number of women smokers may be about one woman for every two men. Few children smoke under 12 years of age in any but the three Western Provinces.

3. The excessive use of opium, whether foreign or native, tends to make people indolent and lazy, consequently poor, but it never brutalizes the *habitués* of the pipe like alcohol does drunkards. It is in fact the king of drugs, a cure for many ills, a balm for many wounds, and a preventative of many diseases. It is far preferable to alcohol as a stimulant because it does not excite the animal passions as alcohol does.

4. The consumption of opium is almost entirely done by smoking the prepared drug in jelly form toasted in a certain manner over a small lamp. Smokers sometimes take pills of prepared opium when they have no time to smoke. The Katchins spread opium jelly on palm leaves, toast these over a charcoal fire, and chew them as tobacco. I cannot distinguish a smoker from a chewer of opium. I have only known two men to take decoctions of opium. They did it by diluting the jelly with strong native whisky, and sipping the decoction did them more harm than would have been possible by smoking. They were both smokers and only took decoctions of the drug when they had no time to smoke.

5.—1. It is safe to say that one-half the users of opium do so without injury to themselves. 2. Forty per cent. suffer more or less severely of poverty brought on by their indolence owing to the use or abuse of the drug. 3. Ten per cent may be considered "sots." The opium sot is less degraded than the alcohol sot.

6. It is not correct to say there is not such a thing as moderation in the consumption. I speak from practical experience, having lived in China for 33 years, most of that time being entirely isolated from foreigners, and I am well acquainted with many men and some women who habitually use opium in moderation and are none the worse for it, excepting in the matter of laziness. I have known of but few cases of great injury caused by opium to anyone but the actual consumers, but some families are impoverished thereby. An opium-smoker will no doubt sell all his property as well as his wife and children in order to procure opium to satisfy his inordinate craving for the drug. But poor people in all parts of China will do the very same thing to obtain rice when they are hungry. I have actually seen such things done in Shanghai by men who had never smoked or otherwise used opium. It is customary to do so in order to save the lives of all concerned, if possible, by making the sacrifice.

7. The majority of labourers in South and Western China smoke opium in moderate quantities; some of them, however, to excess. Smokers, as a rule, cannot hold out as long as non-smokers without rest, but a smoke of opium revives them. This fact is probably due to the poverty of the smokers, who having spent so much in opium have little for food. It is also an undoubted fact that opium-smokers do not relish the frugal fare that suited them very well before they indulged in opium. They require luxuries which they cannot well afford to buy without depriving themselves of the means of procuring opium. The craving for opium at the customary hour is more difficult to resist than the pangs of hunger; therefore opium must be procured at any price before food. This is where the mischief comes in with the weak-minded smokers; the strong-minded one eats first, and spends the balance of his money in opium, his stomach being full of food, the body is being nourished and the craving for opium is controllable. The weak-minded smoker smokes first, and has not enough money left with which to buy suitable food.

8. The use or abuse of opium compares favourably with the use or abuse of alcohol in every respect everywhere.

9. The habitual use of opium was formerly looked upon as very degrading, but not now. The opium habit is regarded as less degraded than drunkenness.

10. Opium-smokers can and do break themselves of the habit. I have done so, and several others of my acquaintances have done the same. It is an act, however, which requires a good deal of determination; hence the reason so many fail to attain their object.

11. If the importation of foreign opium were to cease to-morrow everyone would resort to Chinese-grown opium, and the cultivation of the drug would increase because it pays better than any other known crop derivable from a given acreage with the same amount of trouble and expense.

12. I have known three Americans, one European besides myself, and a Bagdad Jewess who smoked opium habitually; one of the Americans was a slave to the habit, but he was of such a weak constitution that it is quite possible his life was prolonged by the use of opium.

13. In Western China opium is offered to a visitor the same as cigars are offered in the West, or rather more freely; thus the habit is gradually acquired without making any special effort to that end. Opium-smoking is frequently recommended as the safest,

cheapest, and most convenient cure for various diseases, especially for all kinds of bowel complaints and fevers. Opium-smoking is regarded in Western China as the best possible and sure shield against malaria. It is also used as a painkiller in cases of rheumatism and gout.

14. I have known many opium-smokers express a desire to cure themselves of the habit, but on being given an opportunity to do so under the very best conditions they have been unwilling to deny themselves the craving for the drug until they had conquered it.

15. There are, no doubt, many Chinese who would like to see the importation of opium cease altogether, because they believe that it is impoverishing China by taking away so much money to pay for it. Many years ago H. E. Chang Chih Tung asked my opinion regarding the importation of Indian opium. I presented him with a paper on the subject, whereupon he memorialised the throne, without mentioning my name I believe, and the result was the signing of the Opium Convention between England and China, and giving China a large increase of revenue.

16. Indian opium is mostly consumed by well-to-do people, officials, or merchants in the treaty ports, and in a few of the provincial capitals near the coast. The majority of smokers at Canton, Shanghai, and Hankow probably use a mixture of native and foreign opium, but in the rest of China very few of the natives use anything but Chinese-grown opium. The officials, who are of course strangers where they serve, preferably use foreign opium, but even these often mix the imported with the native-grown drug in such proportions as they believe will satisfy their requirements. I have heard many smokers of the foreign drug declare that they could not satisfy the craving for opium by smoking the pure native-grown drug.

17. The lack of Indian opium is sure to cause:—(a.) An increased demand for native opium; (b.) an increase in the production; and (c.) an increase of duty on all native-grown opium to make up for the deficiency caused by the non-arrival of foreign opium.

18. I believe it is safe to say that two-thirds of the arable dry land in Sst Ch'uan, Kuei Chou, and Yün-nan is used for the cultivation of opium; about one-half of the suitable land in Kan Su, Shen Si, and Shan Si is used for the same purpose, and much less in other provinces. I believe that it is also safe to say that the three Western Provinces of China produce more opium than all the rest of the world put together. Opium is the only crop that pays.

19. I believe that native opium only pays about one half of the amount of duty levied on foreign opium per picul or cwt. I believe that one million of taels was formerly derived by the Provincial Government of Kuei Chou from native opium, as follows:—About 10 per cent. of the cost price was levied as a tax by the local magistrate as his private perquisite. About 10 per cent. more was levied by the Prefectural Octroi officials, and a similar amount was levied as likin or war tax. (The tael silver is about the equivalent of three rupees [weight for weight].) In this manner I reckon that about three million taels worth of opium was annually exported from Kuei Chou chiefly to the neighbouring provinces. The duty has since been increased about 100 per cent., but I do not know with what effect on the produce or export.

20. It is my firm belief that neither the Chinese Government nor the Chinese people wish to do without opium-smoking. They are by no means thankful to the well-meaning but misguided people who have given England so much trouble in the matter. The Christian nations are more likely to become total abstainers from all intoxicating liquors than the Chinese are likely to become total abstainers from the use of opium. It is, no doubt, a great pity that the Chinese should be so addicted to opium. It is also a great pity that all the Christian nations should be so addicted to intoxicating drinks. Both would do well to become total abstainers if they can.

(Signed) WILLIAM MESNY.
Brevet Lieutenant-General, Chinese Army.

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8. REPORT by DR. EDKINS. This gentleman was engaged as a Missionary for about 30 years. He is now employed as a Translator in the Imperial Maritime Customs. He holds an eminent position as a Sinologue and has had much experience of Chinese life. He is, however, a book-scholar rather than a practical man.

1. Is opium commonly consumed by the Chinese in the part of China with which you are acquainted?—Opium-smoking spreads rapidly year by year, each year there are more opium-smokers than in the former year. In Shanghai and its neighbourhood and in Peking and its neighbourhood natives assure me there is no doubt of this.

2. What is the probable proportion of male consumers? Of women? Of children?—In Shanghai, my informant says, 20 to 30 males in 100 smoke. Of women one in 100. Of children two or three in 100. There are more children than women who smoke because they do so by thoughtless and playful imitation with no prudent foresight to guide them. Of prostitutes in Shanghai 10 in 100 smoke. My second informant, a Pekinese, now residing in Shanghai, says, more smoke in Shanghai than in Peking. He believes that in Canton the proportion of smokers is from what he hears greater than in any other province. Of the Canton men resident in Shanghai, 10 in 100 is the proportion. More smoke in Shanghai than in the adjoining country. In Canton more poor men smoke than elsewhere, because a dry opium is manufactured which affords to a poor man a smoke for seven copper cash ($\frac{1}{10}$ th of a dollar).

3. What are the effects of opium on the consumer? Is there any difference in the effects of Indian and Chinese opium?—Smokers of races other than Chinese are very few. Only the Koreans smoke in the proportion of 10 in 100 as seen at Shanghai. Their looks betray smokers whether Chinese or Korean. My Pekinese informant says that as a rule all artisans and day labourers suffer in efficiency at their trade or their remunerative employment. Good work such as needs care in doing it is very reluctantly entrusted to an opium-smoker. If he contracts the habit he loses custom. He adds that all smokers, except those who are rigidly moderate in their indulgence, lose a healthy appearance in the face. In the worst cases victims assume a worn and haggard look. Indian opium as prepared by Cantonese manipulators is far more dangerously powerful in its effects on the bodily constitution than Chinese opium. By the Canton method of boiling 100 ounces Indian opium become 50, and it is the most fascinating and at the same time mischievous in its effects of any kind of opium.

4. Do consumers smoke or eat opium? What number of them drink a decoction of opium? What is the difference in the effects in each case?—Smokers to the number of 30 in 100 must sleep after smoking. Among the 30, says the Shanghai informant, five take raw opium or opium ash by swallowing it. The effects of eating opium are much worse than the effects of smoking it. It causes black features, black teeth, and a dry mouth. Opium prepared in the Shanghai way by Shanghai men is much less deleterious in its effects than that prepared by Cantonese. 3, 4. My Peking informant distinguishes between sound sleepers and those who rest for a brief interval after smoking. Such smokers have what is called the Tengyin "lamp craving," and he regards those who must sleep as only one or two in 100 smokers. Smokers who have the tengyin may be seen to look at the lamp and doze for a few minutes with their eyes open and presenting a glazed appearance. If the lamp is removed or suddenly extinguished they wake immediately.

5.—(i.) How many smoke without injury to themselves? (ii.) How many with slight injury? (iii.) How many suffer great injury?—The Shanghai informant says: (i.) In 100 smokers those who have abundance of good food may, if they are moderate in their use of opium, continue for many years to live without injury. But only five or six in 100 are so fortunate. (ii.) "Slight injury" is, in the case of many smokers, seen in their waste of time, loss of money, and in liability to increase the amount smoked. If they lack money they smoke

less. If they have money they smoke more. Fifteen in 100 are of this character. (iii.) Worst class. Persons who are so unfortunate are likely to fall through poverty into the habit of eating opium or opium ash. Then they suffer most severely. Ten smokers in 100 are of this class. Thirty or 40 in 100 smoke once in two or three days. The daily craving has not arrived in their case. They smoke when friends call. This witness says 20 men in 100 never smoke. The Peking witness says Class i. numbers 10 in 100; Class iii., he says, numbers two or three in 10. In Shanghai and Peking the numbers of the classes are much the same.

6. Is there moderation in opium-smoking? Describe one or two cases of consumers who have not suffered injury. Are there many cases of smokers who suffer great injury?—The Shanghai witness says, five or six in 100 are moderate smokers. He has known some who have smoked for years moderately. Such men eat well, sleep early, get up early, and are moderate in their habits. They smoke one-tenth or two-tenths of an ounce daily, and still no harm comes to them. If they are prudent and in affluent circumstances this is possible. He has known 14 or 15 smokers in 100 who, whether rich or poor, were imprudent and became objects of scorn through yielding to excess in smoking. He has known two or three opium sots in Shanghai who died early and miserably through the habit of opium-smoking. My Peking informant knows a coal mine owner, 60 years of age when he saw him first, who has smoked opium for 30 years. He is very healthy and yet takes opium by smoking every day twice. He smokes after his meals. He smokes lying on his right side and then on his left. He has never taken too much. He has kept rigidly to the quantity each day and has been strong and well all the time. Of such cases there are only one in 10,000; some men at first when they begin to smoke grow fat and stronger in body. It was so with him. In other cases the amount of opium is increased from some pain, some fancy, or some slight temptation. Almost all smokers err in this way. As to opium sots who ruin themselves ultimately, he says there are two or three in 10. He holds to this firmly. In his opinion the country is now honey-combed everywhere by this destructive habit, and there is really no great difference between one place and another; opium sots who come to ruin are found everywhere. The coal owner was able to do so well simply because he kept to a strict limit in the amount of opium smoked by him daily.

7. Do a majority of the labourers, merchants, or artisans where you reside consume opium? What is the effect on the efficiency of those who give way to the opium habit?—About 20 or 30 in 100 smoke, says my Peking informant, and as many in Shanghai. China is getting to be, in regard to this habit, much the same everywhere. In the north all these classes suffer in efficiency. Those who smoke opium are dismissed as not being fit for responsible work. If a man is an opium-smoker he cannot be trusted. At present, in Central China, the rule is relaxed. More license is allowed. Yet it is always worse for the smoker than for the non-smoker.

8. How does the effect of the use or abuse of opium compare with that of the use or abuse of alcohol in your part of China?—It is much worse. The bad effects of alcohol have never in China been regarded as to so large an extent deleterious as the results of the opium habit. Drunkenness is somewhat rare in China.

9. In China does general opinion condemn the opium habit as degrading and injurious?—The use of alcohol does not destroy a man's respectability till he suffers through over indulgence. No respectable person becomes intoxicated. Public opinion is against excess. A native club in Tientsin which prohibits opium and alcohol is very popular there. It is called Tsai li. One-half of the people of Tientsin are thought to belong to it. It also eschews smoking tobacco. In South Peking members of this association are very numerous. More persons than ever belong to it. Yet in the Tartar city of Peking there are scarcely any. Fifteen years ago there were official proclamations warning the people against it as a dangerous political society. Lately the Government has not proscribed them.

10. Do opium-smokers break off the habit?—My Shanghai informant broke it off. For five or six years he smoked mild opium (native) and had the craving.

When he came to Shanghai he smoked Indian opium as prepared by the Cantonese. After this he had no taste for the native prepared opium. Those who have the craving for the opium prepared in the Canton way prefer opium to food. When he rose at 7 or 8 o'clock he first smoked and afterwards had a meal. When under the influence he would not speak with anyone who came to converse till after the smoking bout was finished. He passed through much misery. At night he could not sleep well. Many small troubles resulted. He was unwilling to rise in the morning. He had no animation, no vivacity. Opium must precede luncheon. He passed five years of "heavy craving." Then he was in Jardine and Matheson's firm, in the employment of Mr. Donald Spence, who was the first when British Consul at Tchang to send to the British Foreign Office statistics of the enormous yield of native opium in the province of Schwen. My informant was with him in Jardine and Matheson's service for three or four years. Then he was in the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company for two years. He inquired seriously for a cure. Several recipes quite failed. At last he tried that of Lintsé sui, the Canton Viceroy who destroyed the British and other opium in 1839, and precipitated a war. This cure was successful by the suitability of the drugs used to secure all the internal organs from suffering when the daily indulgence was abandoned, i.e., the kidneys, the bowels, the lachrymal glands, the liver, all continued to act normally. He has been free from the habit for three years. The Tsai li association of Tientsin obtains one-fifth of its members by the desire of candidates to throw off the opium habit. A mixture called Ch'a kao is used. It is said to be green grass, reduced to a pulp and made into a cake. It is drunk as tea (ch'a) and hence the name. The water used is dew. It is dried in the sun till black in colour. Then it is boiled in water and filtered through a cloth. The founder of this association with its triple boycott of opium, alcohol, and tobacco was a mysterious stranger who is buried near Tientsin and taught his disciples the use of a watchword Kwan shi yin pu sa, the Chinese translation of the Sanserit Avalo keteshwara, the Goddess Kanon of the Japanese. He taught that it is of all things important to abstain from opium and alcohol. The Neophytes wear white, with a white sash. They like to be without a cap on the head. They spend the New Year's Night at their founder's grave. My Peking informant thinks that only one smoker in 100 breaks off the habit. Of the cured he thinks half do so by the aid of the foreign medical missionary and half by native cure. He insists that opium is very much worse than alcohol in its effects.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off what would be the effect?—Both the Shanghai and Pekinese informant believe it to be within the power of the Chinese Government to stop the habit of opium-smoking in about 10 years. The Chinese Minister in London, Sie ta jen, told me the same thing in the autumn of 1892, when I saw him in Portland Place. It does not seem possible, but the Chinese believe that it is possible for the Emperor to stop the habit. As to the substitution of other narcotics to take the place of opium, my informants agree that alcohol and tobacco with other articles all fail as substitutes for opium. This inability to remove the opium craving characterising all other narcotics increases the difficulty felt in throwing off the habit.

12. In Shanghai do Europeans contract the opium habit? If not, why not? Why are Asiatics more liable to fall into this habit?—In Shanghai cases are rare. One of my informants knows of two Portuguese who frequent an opium shop. The other has known of two Americans of a low grade in life who had contracted the habit. The Chinese here think the reason why Europeans do not smoke opium is that they are energetic and disposed to activity. It is indolence that leads men to opium-smoking. The example has not been set to Englishmen, for example, as it has been by the Cantonese to their countrymen. The bold and the dangerous has a charm for the Canton people. This, argues my informant, is seen in the history of lotteries. The Canton people run tremendous risks of loss in lotteries for the sake of a possible gain. Through the spread of the lottery epidemic in China of late years a license to issue lottery tickets on the risk of the success of individuals in obtaining the doctor's degree in Peking is sold for an annual sum of Taels 60,000 by the present Viceroy. This is permitted by the Emperor on the ground that if the tickets

were not sold at Canton they would be sold at Macao. This money is supplied to the support of the army. The negotiators of the lottery and the buyers of tickets are mainly Cantonese. As later the Canton people boldly risk money in lotteries, so at an earlier period they were the first to teach the whole country the habit of opium-smoking dangerous as it is. I think myself that the higher tone of European society and the self-respect and love of regular occupation felt by the inhabitants of Christian countries will always prevent them from contracting a love of opium-smoking. Improvidence, moral weakness, and the absence of a healthy fear of the censures of society, renders Asiatics liable to contract the opium habit. The extension of Christianity will elevate the tone of Chinese society and give the people moral strength. At this juncture there is pressing need for the help of the Government to remove temptations to opium-smoking by prohibiting laws and modes of action adapted to check and extinguish the evil.

13. What leads smokers to commence the habit? Is opium regarded as a prophylactic against fever, malaria, or rheumatism?—Many smokers say they began to smoke to relieve pain, but more do so for amusement, either from curiosity or from imitation, as also from politeness in entertaining friends. A fit of indigestion may be relieved by a smoke, and this may be the beginning of a lifelong habit.

14. Do opium-smokers usually desire to get free of the opium habit?—Very many do and try various proposed cures without success. They are under the influence of hereditary moral weakness, and this is aided by the force of the example of a multitude of opium-smokers around them. This renders their efforts to free themselves fruitless and disappointing. The force of the craving and the intolerable discomfort felt in various bodily organs alarm them and compel them to cease from the effort after freedom.

15. Do the Chinese in that part of the country with which you are acquainted feel any wish that England should not allow the Indian export to continue?—My Peking informant said that in the north Christians feel this wish strongly. Others do not think about it. No one talks on political subjects. The matter is not brought up in conversation. My Shanghai informant says that hereabouts the feeling is general that the stoppage of opium import from India would be an immense benefit. The Christians feel so, but not they only. All feel it in his opinion.

16. By whom and in what parts of China is Indian opium consumed? How far do the native and the Indian article compete with each other in parts where both are procurable?—My Peking informant says there is no great competition. The Canton dealer deals only in Indian drug. Those who like a fine rich flavour prefer the Indian. Near the ports open to foreign trade and south of the Yang-tsz-kiang the Indian drug is used, north of the same river and in Western China the drug used is native. At Soochow and Kiahing, two large prefectures near Shanghai, Indian opium is preferred. It is convenient to buy. Where Chinese opium is near at hand and cheap the buyer prefers it. In the competition which occurs the Indian cannot prevail. Smokers of native opium are twice as numerous as smokers of the Indian article. Rich persons prefer Indian opium because it is prepared in the Canton way. In the Canton method 100 ounces of drug are in firing reduced to 50 ounces. If opium is prepared in the Shanghai method it is reduced at the most to 60 ounces.

17. What will be the probable consequences of the prohibition of the Indian drug?—(1.) The smoker of Indian drug will at first use the native drug. A large diminution in the amount consumed will take place. Possibly the Emperor of China will fix five years as a limit at first. Possibly the limit may be 10 years. The want of Indian drug in the market will be viewed as a severe restriction. (2.) The Emperor, it is nearly certain, will add to the duty on opium. At present the duty is at some centres of collection 50 taels per picul (133 lbs.). Then it will probably be 120 or 130 taels.

17, 18. What arrangements will the Chinese Government make in regard to revenue as a consequence of the cessation of the import of Indian opium? What is the area now devoted to the production of native opium?—In the Decennial Reports of the Chinese Maritime Customs, Shanghai, 1893, Mr. A. E. von Rosthorn gives the statistics of 19 counties on the right and left bank of the Yang-tsz river between

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Chung Ching and Wanhien, which are about 150 miles apart. In these 19 counties 37,400 piculs are produced each year, which is nearly a half of the entire Indian export of opium to China. On this quantity of native opium Taels 400,000 of silver are levied locally or nearly 11 taels per picul. In 1859 the Peking Government fixed the duty on native opium at Taels 30 per picul. And it has been since raised to Taels 50. There seems to be no good reason to doubt that the entire native production in different parts of China reaches 400,000 piculs and it may be a much larger quantity. One fertile county may produce 2,000 piculs or nearly so. Ten thousand piculs then may be manufactured in a tract of country where there are five county towns distant from each other about 30 miles.

19. What revenue does the Chinese Government derive from opium, and how does the taxation levied on Indian opium compare with that levied on the native drug?—The levy on Indian opium is Taels 110 per picul (133 lbs.). That on native opium amounts to about Taels 50 per picul. In many cases less is exacted, for instance, Taels 35.

20. Have you any other remark to make on the subject?—(a.) Last year the habit of mixing the native and foreign drug had so much increased at Shanghai that the output at Süchow, in the north part of the province, was doubled. It is customary now for the opium shops to mix six-tenths of Chinese drug with four-tenths Indian drug. (b.) My informant feels sure that opium-smoking might be gradually stamped out by the Government in about 10 years. After the withdrawal of the Indian drug an immense change will take place in China. Patriotic and vigorous viceroys will enter on this noble enterprise, and every friend to mankind will wish them success. But so mighty is the evil and so widespread the corruption existing everywhere in the public service that the foreign onlooker cannot but doubt if they can conquer the foe by political measures alone.

(Signed) J. EDKINS, D.D.,
Shanghai.

9. REPORT by CAPTAIN J. P. McEUEEN.—This gentleman is Captain Superintendent of the Municipal Police of Shanghai, and has been so for 11 years. Previously to that he was Assistant Harbour Master at Hong Kong. He has had exceptional opportunities of observing the class of Chinese who habitually frequent the public opium shops, as well as the criminal and degraded classes generally.

1. If by commonly consumed is meant that the majority of the population are opium-smokers, opium is not commonly consumed in Shanghai.

2. During the 11 years 1883-1893 58,318 males and 624 females have been brought under the notice of the police for various offences, making a total of both sexes of 58,942; out of this number 12,502 males and 51 females were opium-smokers, and it is noteworthy that this proportion holds good for each year of the period. Children do not smoke.

3. The same may be said of the moderate and immoderate use of opium as of alcoholic products. The Indian opium being, it is said, five times stronger than the China drug, the same effect can only be produced by using five times the quantity of the latter.

4. Smoking entirely.

5.—(i.) The larger proportion of those who smoke are moderate smokers without apparent injury; (ii.) probably a small proportion with slight injury; (iii.) with a very small proportion of this class ("opium sots").

6. It would be as correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of alcohol. There are numerous instances in Shanghai of consumers who have smoked opium for years without apparent injury. A, 25 years of age, has been a regular opium-smoker for 30 years; is employed as account and writer; he attends office from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with an interval of an hour and a half for tiffin. He is a very intelligent man with an excellent memory. He has children.

B, 43 years of age, has been an opium-smoker for about 20 years; was formerly the accountant of a large tea hong, is now manager of a line of steam launches; is a smart man of business and enjoys good health. He has children. These cases could be multiplied if time admitted.

7. The same proportion would probably hold good as in Answer 2.

8. From a police point of view the opium-smokers are a very quiet class of people, but those of the population who are given to habits of intemperance (drinking wines, spirits, &c., to excess) become noisy and turbulent, and make themselves a nuisance generally; fortunately these cases are exceptionally few among the Chinese.

9. The abuse is, but the use in moderation is not. Drunkenness among the Chinese is so very rare that it can scarcely be taken into account, but the habitual opium-smoker, as a citizen, is most certainly to be preferred to the habitual drunkard.

10. This, in my opinion, stands on all fours with the use and abuse of alcohol.

11. It is impossible to answer this question with any degree of accuracy. They would probably resort to some other substitute, but certainly not to alcohol.

12. No. For the same reason that they do not do so in England.

13. By being brought into contact socially with those who smoke, that is, custom, as in the case of wines and spirits in Europe, or tobacco.

14. Only when used in excess, and even not then when the smoker is well to do.

15. Not to my knowledge.

16. I am unable to give any information on this point.

17. I am unable to give any information on this point.

18. I am unable to give any information on this point.

19. I am unable to give any information on this point.

20. No. Except that these answers refer to the so-called English and American settlements of Shanghai, and to smoking alone.

J. P. McEUEEN,
Captain Superintendent of Police.

23rd February 1894.

10. REPORT by CONSUL-GENERAL HANNEN.—This Report represents the views of Mr. Hannen and Mr. Jamieson, H.M. Consul at Shanghai. Mr. Hannen has lived in Shanghai for about 28 years with certain intervals of absence. His opportunities of observation have been those of the average foreigner living in the midst of a large Chinese population. Mr. Jamieson has lived in China continuously for 30 years. He has served as Consul in several of the Ports besides Shanghai, and has had ample opportunities of seeing and observing all classes of Chinese, officials included.

1. It is generally understood that opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese in and around Shanghai, but it is done in such a manner and has so little visible or observable effect that I should be unable to say that this was so from my own personal observation.

2. There is practically only one race of Chinese in this neighbourhood. I should conjecture from my own observation and general report that at most one in ten of the adult males are consumers. It is reported that some women amongst the well-to-do classes consume opium, but amongst servants I have never known or heard of an instance. Children do not consume opium. Generally a man does not take seriously to opium before he is at least 30 years old.

3. The moderate use of opium does not have any appreciable effect morally, physically, or socially, so far as my observation goes. Its excessive use up to a certain point is injurious because a man's faculties

need the stimulus of the opium before they are in a normal state; until he has had his pipe an opium-smoker is stupid. I imagine that if opium is used to great excess it may affect the consumer in all these ways, but no case of such excessive use has ever come under my personal observation.

4. Consumers smoke opium; the use in any other form is practically unknown in this neighbourhood.

5. I know of no reliable statistics from which it would be possible to answer this accurately. As a rough guess I should say that about 80 per cent. used it without apparent injury, about 19 per cent. with slight injury, and 1 per cent. at most become opium sots. I personally have never met one.

6. There certainly can be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. The late compradore of this Consulate-General was an habitual smoker. He was always an excellent man of business and carried out his work in a perfectly satisfactory manner for some 40 years. He died last year at an advanced age (nearly 70) of bronchitis. A writer employed in this Consulate was a heavy smoker, but continued to do his work for a great number of years without apparent injury to his physical condition. It was, however, remarked of this man that he was always much keener after his smoke than before. His mind was dull and lethargic until he had had his forenoon pipe.

7. The majority of the labourers and artisans are not consumers of opium. I do not know as to the majority of the merchants, but a very considerable proportion of them do. Those who consume opium are certainly not reported to be injured by it.

8. As a rule the Chinese in this neighbourhood do not use alcohol. If by any chance a Chinese takes alcohol to excess he becomes quarrelsome and exhibits the same symptoms as men of other races under the influence of liquor, but it is a very rare thing for any Chinese to drink alcohol to excess.

9. The habit of consuming opium is condemned as extravagant rather than degrading or injurious. The smoking of opium in the opium shops is condemned as demoralising, but this is rather from the nature of those shops than from the smoking of opium itself. Many of these shops are considered disreputable places the frequenting of which would be demoralising quite apart from the fact that opium was smoked there.

10. Opium-smokers do not as a rule break themselves of the habit. Men have been known to reduce their consumption of opium from an excessive to a moderate use, but whether they can and do give it up entirely I cannot say.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off, the Chinese in this neighbourhood who are consumers of opium would resort to Chinese-grown opium; they would not I think resort to alcohol, and they would certainly not abstain altogether. If the Indian supply were suddenly cut off the natural result would be to enhance largely the cost of all opium, native and foreign, and for a time the poorer would not be able to obtain opium at a price which they could afford. It is a question for a medical man whether those who were deprived of their habitual dose would suffer in health, but the consumers themselves, or at any rate those who have become confirmed smokers, are under the impression that the sudden total abstinence would endanger their lives!

12. People of European race do not contract the opium habit. I have never known or even heard of a case occurring in Shanghai. To sleep and have happy dreams is a Chinaman's beau ideal of earthly bliss. The opium pipe realises this.

13. ———

14. Those opium consumers who use it to excess do desire to get free of the habit. Others do not think anything about it.

15. There is not among the Chinese in this part of China any wish that England should forbid opium to be exported from India. The non-smokers are utterly indifferent on the subject, and the smokers naturally would object.

16. Indian opium is smoked principally by the well-to-do classes. It is of course more used in the open ports than in the interior, but even here in Shanghai a considerable amount of native grown-opium is consumed, generally mixed with Indian.

17.—(a). The effect of prohibiting the export of Indian opium on the consumption of opium by the Chinese will be inappreciable. The supply of the native drug will be stimulated, and after a time the same amount will be consumed as at present. For a time the price will be so enhanced as to deprive the poorer classes of the power to indulge their craving, but the majority of the smokers being well-to-do persons, will only be affected inasmuch as they will be obliged to consume the native drug, which is considered less palatable, and more deleterious.

(b.) It is generally understood that the quantity of native-grown opium is from three to four times greater than that imported. A very moderate extension of the area now under cultivation would, therefore, suffice to produce the additional supply required. Probably two or three years would be all the time required to effect the necessary adjustment, after which prices and consumption would go on as before.

(c.) The prohibition of the export of Indian opium would cause the loss of about one-third of the total amount of duties collected by the Foreign Customs Service for the Chinese Government, or about eight million Haikuan taels, say, 1,600,000*l.* It would be practically impossible for the Chinese Government to raise the whole of this amount by taxes on the native drug. There are no means of ascertaining how much the Chinese Government derives from taxes on native-grown opium, but the amount cannot be very large. If the taxes upon it were increased, a great incentive to smuggling would exist, and as already it is computed that 33 per cent. of the opium made in Szechuan escapes taxation, the amount, if the tax were increased, would probably be 50 per cent. It may be assumed that the same would be true of all opium produced in China. In order to raise the same amount of revenue at the same rate of taxation a very much larger consumption of opium would be required. The revenue from Indian opium is collected with ease and certainty by the Imperial Maritime Customs, that on native opium is collected at the native *likin* and barrier stations, which are mostly on the inland waterways, with much trouble and expense. Smuggling is easy, and, moreover, there is no check on the honesty of the native officials, who, in effect, return what they please. There is no method of levying it on the grower, and even if there were there would be no check against speculation any more than under the present system. It is not in the least contemplated by the Chinese that the production and consumption of opium would be prohibited by the Government, if Indian opium were not imported, but if it were the loss to the Chinese Government would be, as stated before, about one-third of the total Customs receipts, or say seven to eight millions of Haikuan taels per annum.

19. The revenue accruing to the Chinese Government from Indian opium for 1893, was Haikuan taels 7,127,000 (equivalent to 1,425,000*l.*), and the amount collected by the Maritime Customs on native-grown opium was Haikuan Taels, 119,500 (23,900*l.*). No return is made of duties collected by native officials. The rate at which duty is levied on native-grown opium when passing through the Maritime Customs is one-half of the amount fixed for Indian opium.

20. I first arrived in China in February 1868, and have resided in Shanghai since then at various times for about 14 years. Up to 1881 I was practising at the bar, and since then, when in Shanghai, have been acting as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and latterly as Consul-General. None of these positions placed me in intimate relations with the Chinese, but they have enabled me to observe them in many ways which have placed me in a position to form an intelligent opinion upon the consumption of opium. I would call attention to this fact that, during the whole of my 14 years' residence, I have only seen with my own eyes the visible effects of the consumption of opium on three occasions. Once at Foochow, an interpreter was incapable of doing his work because, I was told, he had not had his morning pipe. He was a man of about 35 and bore no outward sign of the injurious effects of opium beyond his stupidity on this particular morning. Once in the streets of Shanghai I saw an opium-smoker carried to his home from an opium shop, in a state of stupefaction, and once I had reason to suspect a servant of my own to be under the influence of the drug. I wish to point out that these are the only actual instances of opium affecting the natives who have come under my observation in the course of 14 years' residence spread over a period of 26. The inference to be drawn is, of course, for the

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Commissioners, but it is only right to point out that, however unobservant a man may be, he must necessarily observe the demeanour of his own and his friends' servants, of the native population moving about the streets, and of the natives in the country where he travels. The streets of Shanghai are crowded, and the native population in the foreign settlements is 190,000, and yet, unless a man goes into the opium shops, he may live here for half his lifetime and never see any signs that the Chinese use opium. With regard to Question 15 as to the wish of the Chinese in this neighbourhood that England should not allow opium to be exported from India, I think it right to point out that the Chinese, like many Oriental races whom brought face to face with an interlocutor, will, if possible, express the opinion which they think the person to whom they are speaking expects and approves of. Thus they would be inclined not to communicate to an official of Her Majesty's Government any wish, even if they entertained it, that the Government should prohibit what it now allows. On the other hand, they know well the general opinion of the missionaries, and would be apt to express to them a wish which they think the missionaries approve of. Under these circumstances it seems fair to point out that the Chinese press, so far as I know, have never expressed any wish, or indication that a wish existed, for the prohibition of the export of Indian opium or its importation here; and I may observe, that whatever may be the habit of Chinese, when conversing with a foreigner, the Chinese Press has never been chary of expressing its opinion, however unpalatable it may be to foreigners.

I would add in conclusion that according to a return made up by the Inspector-General of Customs in 1881, foreign opium was there consumed in China by one-third of 1 per cent. of the total population. Granting that the then native product equalled the foreign import in quantity (which, as far as was known, was not actually the case), it was computed that the total number of opium-smokers in China amounted to 2,000,000, or two-thirds of 1 per cent. of the population. In making this calculation it was assumed that the average consumption of an individual smoker was three mace daily, and on the supposition, even that the quantity of native opium produced were ten times that of the foreign opium imported (then roughly estimated at 10,000,000 catties per annum), the total would yet not suffice for the consumption of even 4 per cent. of the population.

For specific answers to Questions 18 and 19, I have the honour to refer the Commission to the accompanying pamphlet on native opium which contains the latest reliable information obtainable in regard to that article.

(Signed) NICHOLAS J. HANNEN,
Consul-General and Chief Justice,
23rd February 1894. Shanghai.

Shanghai,
2nd March 1894.

SIR,
In continuation of my despatch of 23rd ult. I have the honour to transmit herewith further replies received in answer to the questions regarding opium consumption and opium revenue in China, furnished by medical men, merchants, and others, who are specially conversant with the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) NICHOLAS J. HANNEN,
The Secretary, Consul-General.
Royal Commission on Opium,
Calcutta.

11. REPORT by DR. W. J. MILLES, a medical practitioner in Shanghai for 12 years. He has been for the greater part of that time in charge of the Shantung Road Hospital for Chinese, and as such has had opportunities of seeing and treating medically large numbers of native patients.

1. Yes.

2. I am unable to say what proportion of adult males are consumers. Women rarely and children never, except medicinally.

3. My observations on the effects of opium are derived chiefly from patients treated at the Chinese Hospital, Shanghai. The moderate use of opium does not produce evil effects, moral, physical, or social. The moderate consumers undergo operations of surgery as successfully as the non-consumers, and are not more liable to contract disease. The well-to-do classes can take opium in larger quantities and with less danger than the lower classes, for the habitual opium-consumer in the poorer classes is frequently underfed.

4. Consumers chiefly smoke opium.

5. The large proportion who use opium do so with little or no injury.

6. It is not correct to say that there cannot be moderation in the consumption of opium. I know of several cases of consumers who have taken their opium for years without harm.

7. I should say a minority consume opium.

8. Alcohol is rarely used, and therefore a comparison cannot be formed.

9. Yes.

10. Seldom. Patients who voluntarily come into the hospital for the purpose of breaking themselves of the habit usually relapse after leaving.

11. They would resort to Chinese-grown opium.

12. No.

13. Frequently to obtain relief consequent on an illness. Opium within my knowledge is not a prophylactic against fever or malaria, though it is so commonly regarded by the Chinese.

14. Yes.

17. The consumption would probably remain the same, as there would be increase in the cultivation of the poppy in China.

(Signed) W. JENNINGS MILLES,
Shanghai, China, M.D., F.R.C.S. Eng.
24th February 1894.

12. REPORT by Mr. JAMES McKIE, Assistant to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, & Co.—Being in charge of their Piece-goods Department he has had unusual opportunities of seeing the better class of Chinese Merchants. Experience of about 15 years.

1-5. I do not possess sufficient knowledge to make my opinion on these questions of any reliable importance.

6. It is absolutely incorrect to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. I have been salesman for the largest importing firm in China for 13 years, and constantly coming in contact with the most influential native traders as I have done during that period, I have seen numerous instances of bright, intelligent men who have smoked opium regularly without harm to themselves or their business capabilities. Indeed, I will go further and say that some of the most prosperous men are those who smoke moderately.

7. I should say that about one-fourth of the traders with whom I come into contact smoke opium. At one time one of our dealers smoked to such excess, and his habits became so irregular, that we had to notify him that unless he could confine himself to moderation in the vice we should have to discontinue receiving him, a consideration which had the desired effect, for the same man now smokes once a day only, although it is a most trying effort to decrease the extent to which the habit has been acquired.

8. It is impossible to say, because there is practically no use made of alcohol, and therefore no abuse.

9. The habit of smoking opium is, in the general opinion of the Chinese, regarded much in the same light as drinking is among Europeans.

10. I have known one instance of a man breaking himself from opium-smoking, but such cases are unusual, the habit being more readily acquired than shaken off.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off consumers would use all the more Chinese-grown opium,

and the probabilities are that the greater attention thus diverted to native poppy would tend to develop and improve it.

12. Europeans do not contract the habit of smoking opium.

13. Cannot offer an opinion.

14. Have known cases where the opium-consumer wished to free himself from the habit, but I should not say that such desire is general.

15. Absolutely nothing of the kind has ever been expressed by natives to my knowledge.

16. Indian opium is smoked by the higher classes, and native opium by the poor or coolie classes.

17.—(a.) The consumption of opium will remain the same. (b.) The cultivation and improvement of the poppy in China, also an increase in the area of its cultivation, would certainly result. (c.) Entirely problematic.

18-20 I leave unanswered as I am without necessary data to reply thereto.

(Signed) JAMES McKIE.

Shanghai,
February 26th, 1894.

13. REPORT by Mr. ROBERT FRANCIS.—A merchant of over 40 years' experience. Has lived in several parts of China and had the usual opportunities of observing and studying this question.

1. Yes.

2. Of males aged 15 and upwards 40 per cent., of women 1 to 2 per cent., of children, nil.

4. Opium is smoked in 99 cases out of 100. In this form it is least hurtful.

5. Probably 80 per cent. use opium without apparent injury, 20 per cent. use it to excess, and with more or less injury.

6. I think it would not be correct to say so. I cannot give descriptions or examples of the two classes of consumers, but have heard of many instances of both.

7. The habit is diffused among all classes. The effect is not usually noticeable in their efficiency.

9. The general opinion of the Chinese as regards opium-smoking is unfavourable.

10. Perhaps 5 to 10 per cent. do so.

11. The consumers would probably resort to Chinese-grown opium.

12. This is a question for medical men.

13. Opium is regarded by the Chinese as a valuable medicine in the case of the disorders mentioned.

14. Many do so.

15. A native would say yes, because he would think it the proper thing to say. I doubt the actual existence of any such wish.

16. Indian opium is consumed mostly at the open ports, and Chinese-grown is more used at the coast and great rivers are left behind.

17. a. Nil. b. A great increase. c. Increased taxation in the native drug.

(Signed) R. FRANCIS.

Shanghai,
February 26th, 1894.

14. REPORT by Dr. LALCACA.—This gentleman is Indian* by birth and has been a medical practitioner in Shanghai for some 8 or 10 years. Has had only the ordinary opportunities of observing Chinese.

1. Yes.

2. Men, I should say from 50 to 70 per cent. Women, from 15 to 25 per cent. chiefly amongst the better class. Children, no.

3. When taken in moderation it has no bad moral effect. As far as social effect goes, it is often used to

show hospitality in treating friends, and the man distinctly gains in reputation, provided he is in a position to afford it, without detriment to himself or family. Physical effects, a decided advantage. He is much more fit for continued exertion without feeling exhaustion, and he can even sustain himself without food for a considerable length of time, which would have been impossible otherwise. The enormous amount of work some of the labourers and coolies go through without straining their system is entirely owing to the moderate use of this drug. In this low valley of the Yang-tze abdominal complaints are most common, and a man using opium is almost in every case free from diseases of the abdominal organs, chiefly diarrhoea and dysentery. Even dyspepsia is less amongst opium-consumers. In India and China it is used as an aphrodisiac. Western science does not bear this out, but I am quite convinced of its effects that way. It is also used by the Chinese for toothache and headache, besides a long series of abdominal diseases, also as a sedative and soporific. In cases where it is used in excess, and such cases are rare, naturally the constitution suffers, the abdominal organs being all out of order, and the person is a wreck.

3.—(b.) The Chinese and Asiatics generally being of a more lethargic temperament, slow and dreamy habits are naturally less susceptible to the effect of opium than the European races of highly strung nervous temperament and active habits of working and thinking. (c.) I think the Indian opium is far superior than the Chinese-grown article; although the former may have a greater per-centage of morphia it generally contains a less quantity of other deleterious alkaloids in combination. The Chinese prefer the Indian opium and pay higher prices.

4. In China it is chiefly smoked (something like "chandool" in India); opium taken immoderately in solid or liquid form does more harm to the stomach and bowels and more liable to upset digestion. The effect of smoking it is stronger on the nervous system and generally quicker.

5. Out of 100 men who take opium, I should say about 75 to 80 per cent. take it without injury and with some food, from 20 to 25 per cent. with slight injury, and from 1 to 2 per cent. with great injury.

6. No, majority of opium-eaters do take it in moderation, although there are many who do exceed the bounds. I have a considerable number of Chinese as my patients, both of the rich and poorer classes, and I know dozens of them who are confirmed opium-eaters. They cannot do without the drug, but I am convinced that it is not doing to a great majority of them the least harm, and is doing good to a considerable number of them. I have known one case of pulmonary consumption and another of chronic Bright's disease in whom the quantity of opium taken as by habit was doing harm and hastened their end, also a case of anæmia and dropsy where the habit was doing a great amount of mischief. The medicines could hardly have any effect on that patient. She finally reduced the quantity of opium to a very great extent, and got over her complaint.

7. Yes. As a rule beneficial, all of them can go through much more work whether mechanical or mental when using this drug moderately; some of the skilled artists and specialists would not be able to bring their fine instincts into play without it, a goldsmith or a jeweller as a rule will not be able to give a correct estimate of the value of any article of jewellery unless he has steadied and soothed himself with the drug.

8. Alcohol is ever so much more injurious than opium, when taken habitually in excess. There is less drunkenness and subsequent misery in China as well as in India and other Asiatic countries, because alcohol is so much less used and opium used more. In fact opium in majority of cases is substituted for alcohol. A certain number of people do use alcohol, but cases of drunkards are extremely rare. A London gin shop does infinitely more harm than an opium den in China, taken in whatever light. One used to alcohol as a rule stands much greater danger of being tempted to increase the quantity to a more harmful extent than an opium-smoker. A drunkard goes on lowering himself physically, socially, and much more so morally than an opium-eater.

9. With the exception of the lower middle classes, all the other classes take it openly and do not at all

* Parsi.

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consider it degrading. The Chinese consider it decidedly beneficial. A poor man taking opium who cannot afford it well, I mean to the detriment of his family and himself, is of course considered low in the estimation of his people and friends. A person taking alcohol immoderately and getting boisterous, except at festive occasions, would be considered a bad lot. An opium eater when over indulging in the drug as a rule sleeps out the debauch and no further notice is taken of him.

10. I know of several cases where a man has given up the habit because it interfered with his vocation or in some cases where he is strongly advised to do so on account of his health. In a vast majority of cases there is no necessity for their doing so.

11. They would in a large majority take the Chinese article in a small way perhaps to alcohol or other narcotics, certainly they would not abstain; on the whole it would do much more harm than good to stop the Indian opium.

12. Very rare instances of Europeans having taken to opium habit, a very small number go in for the more fashionable and more pernicious habit of using morphia hypodermically. This is getting introduced amongst the better classes of Chinese who come in contact with foreign shops at the treaty ports. There is also a great sale of anti-opium pills, chiefly containing morphia. I have heard it said that some of the missionaries introduced some of these so-called anti-opium pills. The latter part of this question is answered in the third.

13. In exchanging social amenities and hospitality. Taking it for relieving pain in some of the above-named diseases, opium is a decided prophylactic against fever, malaria, and the vast number of abdominal complaints. It is regarded so by the Chinese also.

14. No, unless in a small number of cases where it does them harm physically, or interferes with their avocations.

15. It would be considered unnecessary and harmful interference.

16. —.

17.—(a.) Answered in No. 11. (b.) —. (c.) —.

18. —.

19. —.

20. Being an Asiatic myself and having also lived in India for several years I feel confident in giving my opinion that both in India and China the opium habit is beneficial to the people on the whole, and its evils are much more exaggerated and only live in the morbid imagination of some of the anti-opium people, who are very often misled into this delusion by the thought that they do not succeed in spreading the Christian propaganda more in this country and show brilliant results of their doings to those in England and America who spend such an amount of money in sending out and supporting these men here with the idea of improving the heathens, when there is a much greater amount of misery among their own people, in their own countries. I am glad to see that there are some very clear minded missionaries, and especially the medical men, who have come to the same conclusions, when judging it without a previous bias. No man has a larger experience, and no one is considered a greater authority on this important subject as the talented editor of the only medical journal in China—I mean Percy Mathews, Esq., M.D., LL.D., F.R.C.S. Besides coming in contact with a vast number of Chinese, he is in touch with all the medical missionaries in China. I am inclined to think his opinion on this subject is the same as mine. I am in favour of the chemists being prohibited from selling anti-opium pills when containing morphia, and the alkaloid morphia without a physician's prescription, as there is a great deal of danger in both those. The prohibition or restriction of Indian opium will only be resented by the Chinese as mischievous interference, and only lead them to take more of the inferior native article as well as go in for other excesses.

(Signed) CAWAS LALCACA, M.D.,
L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

15. REPORT by MESSRS. JARDINE, MATHESON, & CO.—The oldest established firm of merchants in Shanghai. They are not now directly interested in the opium trade, but act as agents or warehousemen, as occasion arises.

1. Yes.

2. In Shanghai about 20 per cent. of the males and 5 per cent. of the females. Most unusual among children. The females in China are said to be about 15 per cent. more in number than the males, so taking the population of Shanghai as 600,000 made up as follows:—

252,000 men,
288,000 women,
60,000 children, i.e., say under 15 years,
600,000

the opium-smokers are 50,400 men and 14,400 women, and it must be borne in mind that Shanghai being as it were the "pleasure" city of the north of China, far more opium is consumed there than in any other city in the north.

3. Opium has no noticeable effect on moderate consumers. If taken in excess it makes the smoker stupid and unfit for work. Its effects are the same on natives of all the different parts of China and on all classes of Chinese. Indian opium, if taken in excess, is less injurious than Chinese.

4. Consumers chiefly smoke. Among the poorer classes a very small per-centage chew. Medicinally, small decoctions of opium are sometimes given. The effect of the drug is the same in whatever form it is taken.

5. In Shanghai out of a population of 600,000 about 64,800 are opium-smokers, and of these 75 per cent. smoke without any injury, 22 per cent. smoke with slight injury, 3 per cent. smoke with great injury.

6. No, most incorrect. Many consumers take opium in moderate quantities for many years without any harm whatever. We have business relations with several Chinese who are habitual smokers and find them very sharp shrewd men, their intellects in no way clouded by the use of the drug. Cases of great injury have never come under our notice.

7. No, not the majority of the labourers in Shanghai, but 20 per cent. or less of the males as stated in answer No. 2. In moderation the smoking does not affect their efficiency in their calling.

8. The excessive use of alcohol is much more injurious in its effects than the excessive use of opium. In China comparatively little alcohol is consumed, and the crimes traceable to opium are few.

9. No, not if taken in moderation. Heavy drinking is looked upon in a much worse light than excessive opium-smoking.

10. They can, but as the large majority are only moderate consumers the necessity of having on account of injurious effects to break themselves of the habit very seldom arises.

11. If Indian opium ceased to be imported into China the native opium would most certainly be used and its production would increase. The larger consumption would, doubtless, be accompanied also by improvement in quality. Very few, if any, of the opium-smokers would on not being able to obtain Indian opium take to alcohol instead, although some might take to morphia. This last, however, is only obtainable in very limited quantities, and only at the treaty ports and Hong Kong, at which last place the use of it has, owing to the cost of opium, become so common that a local ordinance has recently been passed regulating sales.

12 and 13. No. Opium-smoking is very distasteful to all Europeans living in China. Many Chinese, we believe, first smoke opium as a guard against the malarial fever common in the east.

14. No.

15. No.

16. In all the provinces south of the Yang tze Indian opium has the preference amongst all classes. Where

both Indian and Chinese opium are obtainable the consumption is 70 per cent. of the former and 30 per cent. of the latter, the smaller cost of the native drug being its only attraction.

17.—(a) and (b.) If Indian opium were prohibited entirely the consumption of opium would necessarily decrease for a time owing to want of supplies. The cultivation of the poppy in China would at once increase and the Chinese drug very rapidly take the place of the Indian, and thus bring the consumption up to what it was before the importation of Indian opium was stopped. The prohibition of Indian opium would mean a loss of revenue to the Chinese Government as the duty and likin on it are much heavier than on Chinese opium. The Chinese would, however, most certainly recoup their revenue by raising the likin on the native article, and thus continue to collect the same amount of dues as they now do.

18 and 19. We cannot reply with any accuracy to these.

20. No.

JARDINE, MATHESON, & Co.

Shanghai,

2nd March 1894.

16. REPORT by Messrs. D. SASSOON, SONS, & Co.—This firm is the oldest established house in the opium trade. They are large importers themselves, and sell also on commission.

1. Yes.

2. Amongst the Chinese in this part of the country we estimate that about 40 per cent. of the males are smokers; less than 15 per cent. of the females; and the habit is unknown amongst children.

3. *Moral*.—The social contact between foreigners and Chinese is so slight that it becomes rather difficult to answer such a question; but amongst the Chinese merchants and others, with whom we have dealings, we cannot distinguish between the character, moral or otherwise, of those who smoke opium, or those who do not. *Physical*.—None. But to casual observers, or those who are biased against opium, it is very easy to confound the emaciation caused by recurrent fever, for which the sufferers take opium as a preventive, for what the observer supposes to be the effects of opium-smoking. *Social*.—The well-to-do Chinaman asks his friends to join him in a pipe, as a European might ask his to take a cup of tea or a glass of wine. The lower classes go to a public opium divan as a European of a similar class would go to a public-house or café, not solely for the sake of indulging in his pipe but also as a place where he can meet his friends and gossip over the events of the day. We can find no difference between the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium.

4. Practically speaking opium is only smoked in this part of the country, but should a smoker be unable to take a pipe at his usual hour, in consequence of pressure of business or other causes, he may take in place of it a small pill of the drug, and that is the only form in which we know opium-eating to be practised.

5.—(i.) 75 per cent. (ii.) 23 per cent. This does not in any way imply injury to health, but certain physical inconveniences. The heavy smoker is less active, and is liable to delay keeping an appointment rather than forego his accustomed pipe. (iii.) 2 per cent.

6. It is in no way correct to say that there cannot be moderation in the consumption of opium, and, as we have said in reply to the previous question, fully 75 per cent. are moderate smokers, and suffer no injury or inconvenience. We daily come into contact with many of all ages who have been in the habit of smoking opium ever since they became adults, amongst them several members of our Chinese staff. Our Chinese bookkeeper is a man of about 58 years of age, and has been an opium-smoker ever since he was 30 years of age; he is most accurate and reliable in his work, and apparently suffers no inconvenience from the habit, as he is always at his post. We could give numerous similar examples from the members of our Chinese staff, and merchants with whom we are personally acquainted, shrewd, clear-headed business men.

7. Certainly not the majority of either class; as regards the effect of the opium habit on their efficiency in their calling, we can only refer to our reply to the previous question. We do not come sufficiently into contact with the other classes to be able to offer a decided opinion, but as far as we do know the same remark applies to them also. The labourers we have always looked upon as a particularly hardy and hard-working class.

8. There is so little alcohol consumed by the inhabitants of China that it is impossible to make the comparison desired.

9. The consumption of opium in moderation is no more considered degrading or injurious in the general opinion of the Chinese than the consumption of stimulants in the same way is amongst ourselves.

10. Yes. Even in very extreme cases when done gradually.

11. Only one reply is possible to this question. Chinese opium, which has already partially displaced the imported Indian drug, would entirely replace it.

12. No Europeans in this part of China use opium. Asiatics indulge in opium as Europeans do in wine, beer, or spirits.

13. This part of China being an alluvial plain very little raised above the sea level, the inhabitants are much subject to fever, rheumatism, and malaria. Opium being undoubtedly looked upon as a prophylactic in such cases, the habit originates with a considerable proportion of the smokers in consequence of having made use of the drug to alleviate one of these complaints.

14. Only when a man, hitherto comparatively well-to-do, finds himself with straitened means, and then as the habit is a somewhat expensive one he naturally desires to get rid of it, being unable to indulge as before.

15. It is a matter of perfect indifference, excepting to those who would regret being unable to obtain the more highly esteemed drug which is grown in India.

16. Indian opium is consumed throughout the country by the well-to-do classes, and where the two kinds come into competition it is merely a matter of cost.

17.—(a.) None whatever. (b.) A large increase. (c.) We are unable to give any information on this point.

18. It is impossible, in the absence of statistics, to give anything approaching an accurate estimate. It would, however, undoubtedly be correct to say that the out-turn of Chinese opium in a year in which the crop has been an average one, is very considerably larger than the out-turn of Indian opium in a similar year.

19. From foreign opium about 7,000,000 Haikwan taels annually. We are unable to form any estimate of the revenue derived from Chinese opium. The taxation on Indian opium is very heavy as compared with that on Chinese opium. Furthermore, it is collected by the Imperial Maritime Customs (conducted entirely by foreigners), in such an efficient manner so as to render any evasion or smuggling impossible. The bulk of the likin on native opium is, on the other hand, collected by the Chinese Government themselves, and it is well known that the system adopted by them is faulty and unreliable in the extreme, consequently, in addition to the irregularity in its collection, a considerable amount of smuggling also takes place.

20. We have no further remarks to make on the subject, having fully stated our ideas in the preceding answers.

(Signed) DAVID SASSOON, SONS, & Co.

Shanghai,

28th February 1894.

17. REPORT by Messrs. E. D. SASSOON & Co. This firm shares with the preceding the bulk of the opium business. The present managers in both firms are natives of India, who have not had very great experience in China.

Shanghai,

Sir,

28th February 1894.

In reply to your note of the 14th inst., we have much pleasure to give you replies to the questions

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asked in the circular which you have forwarded to us regarding the consumption of opium in China.

1. Opium is commonly consumed in Shanghai and the neighbourhood.

2. About 30 per cent. of the adult males; about 5 per cent. of the adult females; children do not smoke.

3. Broadly speaking the effect of opium on moderate smokers is not injurious either morally, physically, or socially. Indian opium and unadulterated native opium do little if any harm, except when used in immoderate quantities. It is safe to say that over 90 per cent. of the native opium is either of inferior quality or adulterated, and it is this description of opium that does physical harm to the consumers.

4. Almost all consumers of opium smoke it.

5.—(i.) Without injury, 90 per cent. (ii.) With slight injury, 9 per cent. (iii.) With great injury, 1 per cent. roughly.

6. It would be quite incorrect to say that there is no such thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. From the previous answer it will be seen that a very large per-centage of smokers use the drug in moderation. As an instance of not only its harmlessness, but its beneficial effect when used in moderation, we might point out the case of our compradore, or head cashier. He has, moreover, charge of all the goods that we deal in, and all the money passes through his hands. He is 47 years old, and has been in our service for 27 years, and has been a smoker for 15. He has suffered a great deal from asthma and spitting of blood, and since he acquired the habit of smoking he has enjoyed good health. He attributes his cure solely to the use of opium. He uses four mace of opium daily—the same quantity he used for the last 10 to 12 years. He admits that there is a desire to increase the quantity, but has no difficulty in checking it. He attends his work most regularly, is very active, capable, and level-headed, and we have no hesitation in saying that there are very few compradores associated with foreigners who can be compared with him as a shrewd and reliable man of business.

7. We have known several Chinese merchants who have been smokers for 10 to 20 years without any injury either physically or mentally. In our daily intercourse with them we have invariably found them clear-headed, quick, and ready to understand and transact business. Amongst these people we have not come across one who can be called an "opium sot" or one who was incapacitated by an immoderate use of opium. On inquiry we have generally found that they took to smoking on account of some sickness such as diarrhoea, rheumatism, asthma, &c.

8. The Chinese condemn an excessive use of opium as much as they condemn an excessive use of alcohol.

9. The Chinese as a nation do not regard the habit of smoking opium as degrading or injurious. They look upon it in the same way as foreigners do upon alcohol—a moderate use being beneficial and an immoderate use harmful.

10. Certainly they can.

11. If the supply of the Indian opium were cut off, the Chinese would most certainly resort to the opium grown in this country. Persia would also grow opium on an extensive scale, and would be able to export to China in much larger quantities than she does now.

12. We have never heard of Europeans in China contracting the habit of using opium, because their conditions of life are altogether different.

13. With regard to the Asiatics the opium is regarded generally as valuable prophylactic against various kinds of fever and other ailments. With the labouring class it is largely used because it enables them to undergo great physical labour and innumerable hardships, and we have no doubt it would be a great deprivation to all classes of Chinese if the supply is cut off.

14. Very few do.

15. We do not think the Chinese as a body wish that England should prohibit the growth of opium.

16. The Indian opium is principally consumed in the northern and southern provinces and along the east coasts, and when it meets with Chinese opium the competition is very keen between the two, on account of comparative cheapness of the native production.

17. The probable consequences of the prohibition of the export of the Indian opium will be: (a.) The Chinese

will continue consuming just as much opium as they do now or as they may require hereafter. (b.) The cultivation of poppy and production of opium will be on an increased scale in China. (c.) The Chinese Government will probably be more strict in the collection of duties on native opium, in order to compensate them for the loss of present revenue from the Indian opium.

18. It is very difficult to give anything like an accurate estimate of the area under poppy cultivation in the several provinces in China, but we do not think we are over the mark if we take the total production as ten times as much as the importation of foreign opium. Subjoined are the extracts taken from the Digest of Summary of Replies sent to the Inspector-General of Chinese Customs in 1887. It is the most reliable document we can refer to, and will doubtless be found very useful. Native Opium, 1887, p. 48.

1. Consumption at the Treaty Ports.

Native opium is used at all the Treaty ports. At Ichang and Wenchow it is used almost exclusively; at Newchwang, Tientsin, and Chefoo it is used chiefly (reported proportion of smokers of native and foreign drug, 10 to 1 and 10 to 3); at Hankow it is used largely; at Shanghai and Niagpo, to a considerable extent; at the other ports, to a less, and at some of these to a small extent only. At Tientsin, Ichang, and Takow it is used only pure; at Chefoo, pure and mixed with Malwa; at Canton and Pakhoi, pure and mixed; and at Hankow, Wuhu, Chinkiang, Shanghai, Ningpo, Foochow, Tamsui, Amoy, Swatow, and Kiungchow always mixed. Native opium is mixed with all the varieties of the foreign drug; at some ports with one, at others with several, varieties.

2. Production.

The growth of native opium has assumed large proportions during recent years. Every province produces it, the only large areas where it is not grown being the islands of Formosa and Hainan. Of the exporting provinces the following are the more important:—

1. *Szechwan*.—Mr. Bredon (Hankow) estimates the export at at least 10,000 piculs; but this figure, examined in the light of other reports, is probably below the mark. The total production seems enormous. In 1872 Baron von Richthofen estimated it from personal observation at a minimum of 60,000 piculs, and more probably 100,000 piculs. In 1878 Mr. Baber wrote, "We were astounded at the extent of the poppy cultivation"; and Mr. Bredon (Hankow) states in his report: Seven-tenths of the adult male population of Szechwan smoke. The production has been estimated as high as 150,000 piculs.

2. *Yunnan* comes next in order of importance. Yunnan opium was formerly known at nearly all the Treaty ports; now its use on the coast seems to have fallen off. Mr. Barber, in 1872, wrote: "With the consciousness that I am under estimating, I estimate that the poppy fields constitute a third of the whole cultivation of Yunnan." Taking into account that it supplies Annam, Burma, and possibly to some extent Tibet, besides the neighbouring provinces, Kwangsi and Kweichow, the estimate that "the total production of Yunnan cannot be far behind that of Szechwan" is probably correct.

3. *Chelkiang* opium is used at Shanghai, Chinkiang, and Hankow, in Formosa and the northern districts of Fuhkien. It seems to be grown all over the province where the ground is suitable, even in the vegetable gardens and rice fields around large cities (Ningpo Report).

4. *Honan* opium is becoming very popular. It is considered as good as Patna, and its production is increasing rapidly (Hankow Report). It is used in Chihli and Shantung and the Yang-tze provinces.

5. *Manchuria* (Chihli, Shantung, and Shansi).—The reports all testify to the extensive production and use of native drug. The Newchwang Report says: Manchurian opium is extensively cultivated throughout the province; it is considered so superior that there is no demand for other native opium. The production of this province is estimated at 8,000 piculs, of which 5,000 at least are consumed locally, and the remainder smuggled into Shansi. Ninety per cent. of the home smokers use native drug. Native opium meets with more appreciation, because it can be smoked seven or eight times, while foreign drug can be smoked three times at most (Foochow reports so likewise). It is for this reason that smokers object to native drug being

mixed with foreign; it spoils the ashes. The Tientsin report says: Native opium is consumed at Tientsin and all through the province. It is consumed pure, i.e., not mixed with foreign drug. For every chest of foreign opium imported at least nine chests of native opium are consumed. The opium-grown is chiefly consumed in the immediate vicinity of the place where produced. Of the large quantity grown only a small quantity finds its way here. There are seven consumers of native drug for every three consumers of foreign drug at Tientsin. All informants assert that the production of opium in the northern provinces is very large. That consumed at Tientsin is chiefly grown in the province, but Yunnan, Szechwan, Honan, Shansi, Shantung, and Kwangtung contribute likewise. The Chefoo Report says:—Opium is extensively cultivated in this province (Shantung). Since the publication of these reports there can be no doubt the cultivation of poppy in China has enormously increased, as during the last seven years all the restrictions have been gradually relaxed, and it is safe to say that at the present moment the cultivators are not interfered with in any way by the officials.

19. The Chinese Customs collected a revenue of about Haikwan taels 7,500,000 from the foreign opium last year. From the native-grown opium the revenue derived by the Chinese Government must be very small, as the mode adopted for collecting it is very loose and inefficient. The duty and likin on native opium are nominally half that of the foreign opium, but it is well known that only an insignificant portion of the total production contributes to the Imperial Exchequer.

We are, &c.
(Signed) E. D. SASSOON & Co.

20. *REPORT by Rev. TIMOTHY RICHARD.—This gentleman has had very exceptional opportunities of observing the effects of opium-smoking. He has lived in China for some 20 years, the greater part of that time in the interior. He has been concerned in the distribution of relief in the famines of 1878 and 1880–81, and was thus brought into close contact with the better class of Chinese, especially in the provinces of Shantung and Shansi.

NICHOLAS J. HANNEN,
Consul-General.

1. Opium consumption is not common in the province of Shantung, but very general in the province of Shansi.

2. The proportion of adult males smoking opium in Shantung would perhaps be not more than 5 per cent. 15 years ago. In Shansi generally there are about 50 per cent., but 80 per cent. in cities. In cities, perhaps one-fifth of the smokers are women. A few children smoke.

3. The effect of opium depends on the quantity taken. In small quantities its evil effects are not very apparent, but in excessive quantities, in many respects, its effects are—morally, physically, and socially—like those of excessive drink.

4. Consumers generally smoke the opium. The natives often say that drinking opium decoction is worse than smoking.

5. The proportion of those who use opium among the well-to-do (a) without apparent injury may be 50 per cent.; (b) with slight injury 40 per cent.; (c) with great injury 10 per cent. But to the poor the opium habit once confirmed is an immense injury at every stage; they cannot afford it, yet it must be taken daily, for it cannot be broken off without death or great agony. This compels the poor to neglect the other necessities of life, neglect their families and everything else, unless they succeed in earning enough money to cover the cost of their opium luxury in addition to the usual necessities of life. It is in such cases that the chief tragedy of the opium lies.

6. I have known men who have taken opium for 30 years without any apparent harm, and I have known men who after a few years' use of it are complete wrecks.

7. About half the artisans and merchants smoke opium in Shansi, but only a small proportion in Shantung. The effect on their calling is to do their work better when they are at it, but they require more rest than other people to restore their spent energy. Examples without number can be given by any one thoroughly conversant with the subject.

8. Alcohol is a more violent stimulant, and the craving is only occasionally overpowering, while the opium habit once confirmed compels daily use of it.

9. The habit of consuming opium was once universally considered exceedingly degrading and injurious. That opinion is somewhat modified now, but even now it is considered injurious and is classed among the vices which the people warn their friends against. Opium impoverishes more than alcohol as it compels its daily use.

10. Opium-consumers frequently cut off the habit when not long formed, but many who have smoked much for years have died by suddenly breaking it off.

11. The effect of stopping Indian supply of opium would be an increased use of the native drug. The Indian opium even now is used mainly on the sea-coast and along the lower ports of the Yang-tze; the native produced opium is almost exclusively used in the west where opium-smoking is most general, and it is native opium that is mostly used in the north. The Customs' Decennial Reports (1882–91) give in the case of Chungking an inkling, but only an inkling, of the great fact that the native consumption of opium far exceeds many times that of the foreign opium.

12. Europeans very seldom contract the habit. Constitutional and national habit seems to be the reason, just as the Chinese, as a nation, care little comparatively about drink.

13. Many begin the use of opium to alleviate pain. Most contract the habit through social intercourse. In Shansi the poverty of the people is such that they try to live on very coarse food, much of it being only fit for beasts. This causes indigestion, and opium is taken to relieve pain at first, and then the habit is often formed for life. It is not regarded by the natives as a prophylactic generally, though I have met one Chinaman who believed it was so in his case.

14. The poor who smoke opium are universally anxious to get rid of the habit when they cannot afford the money; many of the well-to-do when enchained by it are also anxious to get rid of the habit, and others who have no children want to get rid of it as they believe that the habit prevents them from having children.

15. The wish that England should not allow India to export opium to China was real once; it is now more of an echo of the past than much hope of practical good at present. The remedy is, so far as China is concerned, no longer in England's power, since the arrangement made by Marquis Tseng. Besides, the evil is far too gigantic to be dealt with by sudden and summary measures even if the Chinese Government were anxious to do so. Still, if the Chinese desired to stop the use of opium the problem would be far easier of solution if foreign opium were forbidden altogether.

16. The poorer classes use the native opium as it is cheaper, and the better-off classes near the ports use the foreign drug. The Indian is mainly used in the south of China, and in the lower parts of the Yang-tze-kiang. By far the largest quantity consumed is produced in China itself. (See Question 11.) The northern and western provinces where opium is most in use, besides supplying their own opium, export it to the maritime provinces as well.

17. If Indian opium were stopped there would probably be (a) no decrease in the consumption of opium by the Chinese; (b) a corresponding increase in the cultivation of the native opium; (c) no change by the Chinese Government about revenue except to adopt any plan to increase the revenue from the native opium.

18. —
19. —

APP. XXVI.
Shanghai.

* Enclosures 18 and 19 appear to have been lost or misplaced.
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APP. XXVI.

20. Both the anti-opium and the pro-opium parties have been in the habit of making extreme statements that are contradicted by abundance of facts easily attainable. These extreme statements are not mis-statements but misinterpretations of facts, or presentations of only one part of the facts, or generalisations from too limited a number of facts.

(Signed) TIMOTHY RICHARD,
English Baptist Mission, Shanghai.

March 23rd, 1894.

CHINKIANG.

(M. 28.)

H.M. Consulate,
Chinkiang,
February 26, 1894.

SIR,

In accordance with instructions received from Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, I have circulated the accompanying paper of questions by the Royal Commission on Opium, among those persons at this port whose experience has, in my opinion, rendered them competent to give trustworthy evidence on the subject, from different points of view.

I have now the honour to forward you the answers I have received from—

- (1.) The Rev. Geo. Andrew, a member of the China Inland Mission, for some years resident in the Province of Kuei Chou;
- (2.) Dr. G. A. Cox, of the China Inland Mission, for some years resident in the Province of Shan Si;
- (3.) Mr. T. W. Duff, formerly a very large importer of opium, no longer a resident in China;
- (4.) The Rev. W. J. Hunnex, a British subject, of the Southern Baptist Mission, U.S.A., at this port;
- (5.) Dr. J. A. Lynch, practising in Chinkiang, medical officer to this consulate and to the Imperial Maritime Customs;
- (6.) Mr. E. Starkey, a merchant of this port, and formerly an importer of opium; and
- (7.) Mr. T. Weatherston, mercantile and shipping agent.

I also enclose my own answers to the questions asked.

I have, &c.

The Secretary,
Royal Commission on Opium,
India.

W. R. CARLES,
Consul.

Rev. G. ANDREW, from CHINKIANG.
Enclosure 1.

The following replies refer to some portions of Kuei-cheo province:—

1. Yes.
2. Adult males, 60 per cent.; adult females, 40 per cent.
3. Moral, disastrous; physical, deteriorating; social, impoverishing.
4. Chiefly smoke. Eating, compared with smoking, is far worse in its effects, and is resorted to when the smoker becomes too poor to purchase the quantity required for smoking, or cannot gain access to his pipe.
5. A question hard to answer. The rich suffer the least, as they can always procure nourishing food. With the poor this is different. The opium-smoking labourer must have his opium, whether he has food to eat or not, consequently, when he is ill, or work is scarce, and money too, he runs down hill pretty fast.
6. There are some who do not smoke to the extent others do, yet however small the amount now consumed, it must be increased year by year.
7. An opium-smoking labourer or artisan has very little, if any, "staying power," if the opium is not forthcoming.
8. There is not much drinking of spirits to excess among the Chinese in Kuei-cheo.
9. Yes.
10. Very few, I fear.
11. Indian opium is not consumed in Kuei-cheo.
13. Two reasons: (a.) Relief of pain; or (b.) as a pastime.
14. Yes.
15. A native book circulated in Kuei-cheo declared that the "foreign devils" had brought opium to China to ruin the people.

GEO. ANDREW.

Enclosure 2.

GEORGE ARTHUR COX, L.R.C.P. & S. Ed., China
Inland Mission (at present stationed at Chinkiang),
seventh year in China.

1. It is very commonly consumed.

2. In the province of Shansi fully nine out of ten adults smoke opium. Fewer women smoke, and the proportion of children is small.

3. *Morally and Socially.*—The individual becomes indolent, careless in his business, loses self-respect, and indulges freely in sensual appetites. As the craving for the drug increases he disregards family ties, and even sells his wife and children to obtain the drug. *Physically.*—The appetite gradually fails, the fat and muscles are wasted, the various movements of the body are sluggish. The digestion is so impaired that assimilation of food is very poor. The nervous system becomes affected, and the progenitive function is destroyed.

4. They chiefly smoke opium. I should say it would be difficult to distinguish between the effects of each, unless that it is generally more difficult for those who eat opium to break off the habit. I have not come across any who drink a decoction.

5.—(i.) I should say none smoke it without sustaining injury. (ii.) Roughly speaking, 20 per cent. with slight injury. (iii.) Roughly speaking, 80 per cent. with great injury.

6. There cannot be moderation on the part of the Chinese in smoking opium. Nearly all the opium smokers I have met are those that have received a great deal of injury through the habit. Example.—Man about 55 years old, named Men-teh-huei, admitted into Tai-yuen-fu (Shansi) Opium Refuge with a craving of 4½ ounces of native opium in a day. He had been smoking for 30 years. He was very emaciated, digestion much impaired, suffering from severe cramps, spermatorrhoea, sleeplessness, and chronic bronchitis. He had scores of other similar cases, but not having the case-book cannot refer to them in detail.

7. The majority of patients I have met with are from the labouring class, and from those who are apprenticed to a trade. The effect of the opium habit is to make them neglect their work, and become indolent in their habits. Hence their employers are dissatisfied, and would be glad to have them break off the habit.

8. I have not met, among the Chinese, many cases on whom the use or abuse of alcohol proved injurious. I can only remember three or four cases in whom the abuse of alcohol produced congestion of the liver.

9. The opium habit is very generally condemned by the Chinese as degrading and injurious. They would regard the opium habit as far more injurious than the abuse of alcohol.

10. I have met with only two or three cases in which they broke themselves of the habit.

11. They would most probably resort to the Chinese-grown opium. They would not take to alcohol. Other narcotics are not generally known among the Chinese.

12. Very few Europeans contract the opium habit. Probably because they are of a more active temperament, and a stimulant is more of a temptation than a narcotic.

13. They are led to the habit: 1st. For the sake of keeping company with friends. 2nd. For the relief of pain, such as that of colic, rheumatism, toothache, &c. 3rd. From the force of example. I have not known opium to act as a prophylactic against any disease; nor is it regarded as such by the Chinese. They use it more as a relief from pain and weariness.

14. Yes. They themselves wish to get free.

15. Yes. A great majority have a strong desire to stop the importation of foreign opium.

16. —.

17.—(a.) In the ports there will be less opium consumed. (b.) The cultivation of the poppy in China may be increased.

20. The craving for opium has got such a hold on all those who have begun to smoke it habitually that it is (humanly speaking) impossible to break off the habit effectually. Hundreds break off for a time at the opium

refuges, but in a few months return to it. The well-to-do classes, who are able to take good nourishing food, can go on smoking for 10 or 15 years without much apparent injury. I say apparent, but really their constitutions are gradually undermined, they get prematurely aged, and they have very few children, and these are very sickly. Hence the outlook on the next generation of this class of opium-smokers is very mournful. Whereas the effect of this most degrading vice on the labouring and poor classes is still more melancholy. In Shansi nearly the whole of this class smoke opium, and are consequently very poor. They sell or pawn nearly all their property, and even clothes, wife, and children. While travelling through the country one is beset with requests to help them break off the habit, because they have not enough money to purchase food even. This state of affairs can only be realised by moving among the people and seeing it for oneself.

Mr. THOMAS W. DUFF.

Enclosure 3.

Has been connected with commerce of this country for 33 years, and for most of that period living in contact with the people.

1. Yes.
2. 75 per cent. when they can afford or need it. No, No.
3. About the same as tobacco would affect the morals of people in other countries. Beneficial to a very large class who live in alluvial plains or afloat in canal life amid malaria.

Socially it is almost the only pleasure not having a boisterous nature nor any desire for open-air exercise.

Do not grasp the meaning of different races in this country, all being of the Mongol type, excepting those Europeans spread all over China, which number all told about 3,000, of all nationalities, and which includes the Legations consular staff and the British troops at Hong Kong and the missionaries of the interior thrown in. All these being fed on a more solid food and many having the alcohol habit, could not take opium if they desired, that is to say, to find any pleasure or relief from it.

Yes, Indian opium is better in quality than Chinese, but the latter has much improved of late years. It formerly caused throat irritation but this fault is not so much complained of now. Since the Indian has been so heavily weighted with likin tax, against the native which evades or pays less, they are beginning to accustom themselves to the latter, and when once the taste is acquired they no longer prefer the dearer article unless very rich and able to afford it.

4. They smoke only in China.
5. Without injury, 95 per cent; slight injury, 3 per cent; opium sots, one in every 2,000 or less.
6. It is not correct to say there cannot be moderation. Have known very many thousands of sharp clear-headed business men and officials in general intercourse who have had the habit. The great increase of population during the past 30 years and since the Taeping rebellion, when these provinces were almost laid bare, alone is sufficient to prove that opium has not deprived this race of its vitality.

My own staff of native clerks, who have been with me or in my connexion for the past 20 years, and who all smoke occasionally, are now none the worse for it. Chinese sometimes taken ill with fever or other diseases take to opium as a relief, who may have never smoked opium before. Such cases as seen by foreign missionary or other are thereby deceived by appearances not always attributable to opium in the beginning. I have known of and been deceived by such cases myself. Cases of great injury done by opium might occasionally be found in opium-smoking houses, let for the purpose or convenience of opium smokers, similarly with what one would expect and sometimes do see in the tavern of a low neighbourhood in London or other large towns at home. Apart from these, in all my experience of 33 years I only know of very few cases indeed where opium was taken as an abuse to the constitution.

7. Yes, when they have enough money or require it for comfort or medicine. Beneficial in moderation. For

boatmen and others living in malaria it is indispensable while working hard and in the absence of better food and other stimulant.

8. In China the use and abuse of either opium or alcohol is moderation itself, both being needed as stimulant or aid to constitution in different districts where quality of food and climate differs. Being in demand and so largely required it must have some beneficial effect. An inveterate opium-smoker cannot indulge in alcohol nor can those who take alcohol use opium.

9. I should say not. The opium couch and pipes being necessary and fashionable articles of furniture in every household, from the highest mandarin official to the ordinary merchant. In ordinary conversation by a native to a foreigner inquiring, and who has not the habit, it would be regarded as a politeness to even speak an untruth on the subject. He would describe it as a bad habit, much the same way that an ordinary tobacco smoker at home might say to his abstaining acquaintance that it was a bad habit, and so on. The Chinese in conversation always like to be in accord with your views, it is mere deference to the wishes of an inquirer, whether he be consul, missionary, or merchant, and it is in these statements where so many of us are deceived. As opium causes men to reflect and think, while alcohol makes them turbulent and quarrelsome, it is quite certain they would prefer the former when needed at all.

10. The ordinary opium-smoker has no difficulty in breaking off the habit. It is only those who are bound to it by abuse who cannot suddenly abstain. This class is a very small one compared with moderate smokers.

11. It would have no effect on consumers, except that they would be shut off from the supply of a superior article, and which they cannot produce in their own country at present. It would have the same effect as stopping a brand of good wine or Havannah tobacco at home. They would resort to native-grown, of course, which is always improving in quality, and, like the population which it supplies, has increased in enormous proportions of late years. Alcohol, in this part of China, would never become the favourite stimulant owing to climate and food.

12. No. The habits of the European, both in food and dwelling, whether he be missionary, official, or merchant, is so different to the Chinese that he does not need or care for opium (even if one tries to smoke, as I have done, it has no particular effect). He has not to toil with his body, nor does he live under the same conditions. He has more stimulating food, wheaten flour and quantities of meat and solid material, generally stimulated with his wine or beer, is better housed than the native, whose food consists of rice, cabbage, and other vegetable matter, barely seasoned with the luxury of very dear and very dirty salt, rarely any meat, whose life is passed away on ground floors of brick, in damp, undrained dwellings, drinking dirty boiled, unfiltered water taken from the surrounding canals or stagnant green pools, which are, in fact, the main sewers of the surface-drained towns and highly-manured and human excremented fields. Such watery food and surroundings need a soothing stimulant, and opium does the work, while alcohol would madden the brain. It is a help to them in their fevers, and is a comfort and aid to them in rheumatism, and even necessary in the malarious plains of this district. In mountainous countries, and in the north of China where more solid food is taken, alcohol takes precedence as a stimulant. I speak of the native population, and not the requirements of the numerous native visitors to Peking and its neighbourhood.

13. The foregoing explains this question.

14. Only when they cannot afford it, or abuse it.

15. I have never heard the name of England in its connexion, as the ordinary native knows quite well the difference between Turkish, Persian, or Indian opium, and would never under any circumstances call it English, nor would they imagine that England had anything to do with bringing it here. It is called amongst natives, and advertised on their shop-boards, as foreign medicines. All better-class Chinese know that opium has come from India to China for several hundred years. They have no wish for England to interfere one way or the other. American and other missionaries seem to make it their chief stock-in-trade against England, but

APP. XXVI. the people, if they hear this and know better, never have repeated it to me or those I know.

16. The better class of people, as it is much dearer than the native. It is only in the neighbourhood of the Treaty ports where foreign or Indian opium can be found in any quantity excepting that which gradually finds its way to some of the large capitals like Peking, Nankin, Canton, &c. Indian opium is now never seen in many of the large provinces of China, which now cultivate the poppy so largely as to be able to supply many of the others who do not. In all China the native-grown is as 30 native to one foreign imported. I have seen Chinese opium at Singapore, and it is now regularly supplied to the Chinese of the Straits Settlements.

17. No difference, except they will use native instead of foreign. Increase of poppy cultivation. Detrimental to Imperial authorities at Peking, but favourable to provincial authorities under the separate Viceroys, who form semi-independent Governments under the Empire in their respective districts.

18. I cannot; but since I saw the poppy cultivation in the neighbourhood of Peking in 1870 it has largely increased all over the country, correspondingly with the enormous increase of population.

19. I cannot say. Indian drug H. Tls. 110 per pound, native 30 per pound; the latter of which some escapes taxation altogether.

20. No.

Chinkiang, China,
February 20th, 1894.

THOS. W. DUFF.

Rev. W. HUNNEX.

Enclosure 4.

1. Opium is commonly consumed in this part of China by the Chinese.

2. I do not know the proportion of adult males who are consumers; as a conjecture, I should say, perhaps 40 per cent. The per-centage of women who are consumers is, I judge, very much smaller. I have not met with any cases of children who were consumers of opium.

3. The effects of opium, as far as my observation goes, are:—1. Moral: It appears to be utterly destructive of the moral attributes. 2. Physical: It gradually deprives a man of his physical powers, and leaves him helpless and a wreck. 3. Social: It degrades him in the eyes of his relatives, friends, and neighbours, and renders him unfit to perform his social duties.

4. Consumers chiefly smoke opium; it is, however, frequently eaten by those who wish to commit suicide. It is common, I believe, among the beggars to drink a decoction of opium, as it costs less to procure than it would in any other form. I suppose that the effect is about the same relatively in whatever form it is taken.

5. I think that it is injurious even when taken in small quantities, and the invariable tendency is to gradually increase the quantity taken.

6. I have known cases where opium has been consumed in small quantities for some little time, the only apparent result being a lassitude and increasing unwillingness to engage in the usual occupation. It is not long, however, before other and more serious effects are seen.

7. As far as I can judge, all classes of society are addicted to the use of opium. I am of opinion that the lowest per-centage of opium consumers would be found amongst the merchants and better class tradesmen. By general consent, the fact that a man smokes opium, disqualifies him from making the best use of his ability and power in any position that he may be called upon to occupy. It is always something that tells against him. Household servants and others who consume opium sooner or later become unable to do their work, and are discharged in consequence.

9. I have conversed with hundreds of Chinese about opium, and I have never met with one who looked upon its consumption as otherwise than degrading and injurious, and even the confirmed opium-smokers themselves would, I believe, almost without exception, concur in this opinion. My opinion is that the Chinese regard the opium habit as far more degrading and injurious than the alcohol habit.

10. I have never met with a man who, after having smoked opium for some time, was able, unaided, to

break off the habit. I have met with many who have expressed their inability to do so.

12. I know of no Europeans who have contracted the opium habit in this part of China. I suspect that one at least of the reasons is that it is looked upon as such a low and degrading vice that few are tempted to have anything to do with it. There may be several reasons why Asiatics are more liable to contract the opium habit than Europeans, but I have found little to aid me in forming an opinion on the subject.

13. I suppose that the vast majority of opium-consumers have been led to contract the habit through the invitation and example of friends and neighbours, or through having been brought into contact with opium-smokers in their business transactions. The opium dens to be found everywhere must also prove to be a source of great temptation to many. It is worthy of notice that the opium den and the immoral house are sometimes one and the same place. I have never, as far as my knowledge goes, found opium to be a prophylactic against fever, or rheumatism, or malaria; and I have not found any Chinese who so regarded it.

14. The great majority of opium-smokers with whom I have conversed on the subject have expressed their desire to get free of the habit. It is probable, however, that in some cases, the desire was not a sincere one. In many cases, I judge that they were discouraged because of their repeated failures to free themselves from the habit.

15. Those who smoke opium, in many cases I suspect, care but little whence it comes. I have, however, over and over again heard the Chinese express their surprise and indignation that Great Britain should allow opium to be exported from India into China. The thing is condemned unsparingly by all the Chinese who are cognisant of the fact.

20. Opium is an unmitigated evil, and a great curse to the Chinese people.

W. J. HUNNEX,
Chinkiang, China.

Southern Baptist Mission, U.S.A.
(15 years in China).

Dr. M. LYNCH.

Enclosure 5.

1. Yes.

2. More than half of the adult male population take opium. The habit is general among singing girls and prostitutes; but outside these classes the number of women given to opium-smoking is extremely small.

3. Opium degrades by sapping the will power. Confirmed smokers grow sluggish, careless, and untrustworthy. Their energy and ambition seem to melt away. Their great pre-occupation is the pipe. There is no baseness to which the opium sot will not descend, and no sacrifice he will not make, to appease his intolerable craving.

For a poor man—and nearly all the Chinese are poor—opium is a very costly luxury. It is easy to understand, therefore, what is actually the case, that a smoker very seldom improves his lot in life, and often reduces his family to want.

There is no difference, except one of degree, between the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium. The Chinese is cruder than the Indian drug; and being freely adulterated, is very much weaker, and consequently less injurious.

Immoderate opium-smoking enfeebles the system, and lessens the power of resisting disease.

4. Opium is always smoked, and never taken in any other form.

5. This question I am not sure of my competence to answer. I should say that of opium-consumers one in four, at least, shows appreciable signs of ill effects, and 8 or 9 per cent. are "opium sots."

6. Here again I am somewhat doubtful. I have occasionally heard of men who had taken opium for years without exceeding a small dose, and without suffering from it in any way. But I have never met with such a case myself. If I am to trust my own rather limited experience, I should say there is no such thing as long-continued moderation in the use of opium.

8. It is idle to compare opium and alcohol in China, where the alcohol habit is non-existent.

9. Condemnation of the opium habit is passionate and universal. As regards alcohol, it is true that the strictest of Chinamen will occasionally get tipsy at a feast. But this is a very different thing from being a drunkard, and excites no reprobation whatever.

10. I have never known of an opium-smoker who broke himself of the habit. Large numbers are "cured" in foreign hospitals; but nearly all of them, certainly 90 per cent. and over, relapse.

13. Very often through social temptations, a pipe of opium being offered as a glass of wine is with us; still oftener through its use in cases of illness. I am aware of no evidence of the slightest value to show that opium has any prophylactic virtue against malaria or rheumatism. During the cold stage of an ague-fit, a pipe is comforting; and this is the only foundation I have been able to discover for the belief, which is widely prevalent here, in the power of opium to cure and to prevent malarial fevers. It is worth mentioning that there is no opium-smoker who will not eagerly accept a dose of quinine when he is feverish, and that the consumption of quinine is increasing every year.

20. The Chinese unanimously assert that suicides have become enormously more frequent of late years, owing to the facility of obtaining opium.

(Signed) J. A. LYNCH, M.D.

Mr. E. STARKEY (Merchant).

Enclosure 6.

1. Yes.

2. Chinese only, men 50 per cent., women 5 per cent., children none. Foreigners do not smoke opium.

3. Effects on confirmed smokers and "sots" unspcakably degrading. They become cruel, heartless, and lose all discrimination between right and wrong. Among the poor it is of common occurrence to sell lands, houses, wife, children, &c., to procure opium. They cannot be trusted in anything. Moderate smokers do not at first appear to suffer much, but after 10 or 15 years deteriorate quickly. Confirmed smokers seldom have families, "sots" never. Indian opium, being stronger, is probably more hurtful than Chinese. Indian opium pure is only smoked by well-to-do people. Poorer classes smoke a mixture of Indian and native, or the former adulterated with sesamum seed powder, or Chinese opium pure or adulterated as above. Very poor people are frequently driven to smoke the residue escaped from the opium pipe. This is said to be deadly in its effects, producing lung complaints, dysentery, &c. Consumption of opium has greatly increased during the last 12 or 14 years, when the Chinese drug was first introduced here, the price of the latter bringing it within the reach of all classes.

4. Opium smoked only, not eaten, &c.

5. (i.) 10 per cent. (ii.) 35 and 40 per cent. (iii.) 5 per cent.

About 60 per cent. of public women and singing-girls smoke immoderately.

6. There are many smokers in moderation, but usually after 10 years or so indulgence; they suffer in health and require increased doses. Cases of great injury caused by immoderate indulgence seen every day. I have seen hundreds of Chinese of every class irremediably injured physically and morally by opium.

7.—(1.) Labourers (*i.e.* coolies) and boatmen 20 per cent. habitual smokers. (2.) Artisans, viz., masons, carpenters, blacksmiths, &c., 20–30 per cent. (3.) Shopkeepers and merchants, clerks, &c., 10 per cent. All suffer in strength and energy. Smokers frequently discharged as being unreliable and depraved, &c.

Note.—Well-nourished individuals suffer less from habitual smoking than poorer people.

8. No comparison can be drawn between the effects of opium and alcohol. Opium-smokers are not violent street brawlers, or dangerous in any way, and are not wilful law breakers, but are, in my opinion, infinitely more depraved and lost to shame than alcohol "sots." Their lives are all mean ones; the moral sense appears to be lost completely.

9. Opium-smoking in anything but great moderation is condemned and despised socially, though this con-

tempt is seldom expressed outwardly. There are frequently heard complaints that the opium habit is fatal to the prosperity of the country, and England is blamed for introducing the drug. There is no injurious alcohol drinking in this district.

10. Rarely after five or six years' indulgence. I do not know of a single case after two or three years.

11. All would take to Chinese opium, which, if carefully prepared by boiling and filtering and kept underground in jars for two or three years, is said to resemble and equal the Indian drug. It has about the same effect when thus kept. New crude Chinese opium is only smoked by the poor. It is cheap, and is said not to be so injurious as Indian. The sudden stoppage of Indian opium would probably lead to great mortality among habitual smokers, who would not take to Chinese opium.

12. I do not know of any European opium-smokers; they would probably be deterred by shame from indulgence, as this is looked upon as a purely Chinese vice. Opium is suited to the Asiatic indolent nature. In a badly governed or oppressed country it tends to make the burden of life easier to bear, and the Chinese standard of morals being very low they do not look upon the opium habit with such shame as western people.

13. Generally through example of others, who describe the pleasant effects of a pipe, and the habit grows quickly. Chinese doctors are responsible for a great deal of smoking among the poorer and ignorant classes. They recommend it for fever and ague, malaria, colic, dysentery, &c., and the people are easily duped. I do not know its effect in these diseases. Probably it alleviates at first, but I have heard from numbers that the dose must always be increased to produce an effect, and eventually they cannot do without it. It is said that confirmed opium-smokers never recover from a serious illness. Burden coolies, who smoke habitually, can only work in spells, as they must have their pipe, and do not recover from their lethargy for hours.

14. Confirmed smokers would give anything to get free from the habit, and I know of many who have made determined efforts to throw it off, but none, as far as I have ascertained, have succeeded, they always relapse.

15. Chinese are wont to blame England for introducing opium, and compare Americans and other nations favourably with us in consequence; but they are now so used to it that they would not seriously wish the import stopped. Chinese opium is grown in yearly increasing quantities.

16. Indian opium, being dearer, is consumed by the better classes, pure or slightly mixed with Chinese. The poor smoke principally Chinese drug but prefer Indian.

17.—(a.) At first a slightly decreased consumption among the better classes, who are accustomed to Indian, and to a lesser extent among the middle and lower classes. Eventually all would smoke Chinese drug. (b.) A rapidly increased growth of the poppy to supply demand, and loss of revenue to the Chinese Government, who (c.) would put a heavier tax upon the native growth, but this would fall far short of the revenue now obtained from Indian opium. In the north of this province in some large districts about 25 per cent. of the land is grown with the poppy. There is none grown here, and the local government would not favour its cultivation.

19. I do not know.

Conclusion.

20.—(1.) Confirmed opium-smokers are thieves, cruel, dishonest, untruthful, cowards, brutally lascivious, and debased. (2.) The offspring of opium-smoking parents are notoriously puny and short-lived. (3.) The waste of time in smoking opium is enormous, and a poor man who smokes never becomes prosperous. (4.) The opium habit is undermining society in this province, the moral standard of non-smokers is affected by it, and the people are surely deteriorating. (5.) The Chinese soldiery and the Tartars are all opium-smokers if not checked. The officers in every camp indulge in the pipe. (6.) As long as the smoking of opium in China is tolerated the people will remain inert, and will thus never be a danger to other nations in Asia. I have been 27 years in China, 20 years of which I have been much among

App. XXVI.

the people of all classes. I speak Chinese. Opium is frequently taken as a poison, and suicide in this district has greatly increased since the drug has been introduced.

Chingkiang,
February 20th, 1894.

E. STARKEY.

Mr. T. WEATHERSTON (Merchant).

Enclosure 7.

1. Yes.
2. Eighty per cent. A few. No.
3. Morally, it has the effect of deadening rather than creating evil passions. Physically, if taken to any excess, it is weakening and enervating, but taken in small quantities it has, I think, a refreshing effect, and is a boon to the hardworking classes of this country who have so few pleasures or means of recreation. Indian opium being better in quality, &c. is less hurtful than that grown in China.
- 4.—
- 5.—(i.) 75 per cent. (ii.) 24 per cent. (iii.) 1 per cent.
6. Quite incorrect. Yes, some of my staff, who are good business men, and smoke opium every day. One case, my daughter Amah's husband, who did no work, but at the end of each month took his wife's earnings, and spent most of it on opium, and looked a miserable wreck.
7. Yes; imperceptible.
8. Very favourably.
9. No, only when taken to excess. Very favourably, because when under its influence the Chinese are quiet and inoffensive.
10. Very occasionally.
11. It would have the effect of increasing the production of opium in China, and if still insufficient would cause the Chinese to take to drinking native alcohol.
12. No, spirits and wines taking the place of opium.
13. Cannot say.
14. Cannot say.
15. Never heard the wish expressed.
16. Do not know.

(Signed) T. WEATHERSTON,
Mercantile and Shipping Agent.

With 20 years' residence on the Yang-tze, and constant intercourse with Chinese of different classes.
Chingkiang, T. W.
February 26, 1894.

Consul CARLES.

Enclosure 8.

1. Opium-smoking is general in all parts of China with which I am acquainted.
2. I should judge that half the adult males, Manchu or Chinese, in this province smoke opium. Among women the habit is uncommon. Cases have been quoted to me of children smoking.
3. My opportunities of personal observation of the effects of opium on its consumers have been limited, for the intercourse between Chinese and Europeans is so restricted that I have never known anything of the domestic life even of persons with whom I am in constant contact. It is only by hearsay therefore, or by observation of men's outward lives, that I can speak of opium-smoking and its effect. To ask a man whether he smokes opium is an impertinence which I consider unlikely to produce a truthful reply. So far as I have seen the effect of opium-smoking is prejudicial morally, physically, and socially, but in widely different degrees according to the class of the consumer. Physically and morally the poorest classes suffer most, for the cost of the opium necessarily entails a corresponding diminution of their proper food, and a man who is ill-fed suffers far more physically than a man who takes his pipes after a heavy meal. Further, the need of food and clothing, for which no money is otherwise forthcoming, leads to theft, peculation, and general dishonesty. The injurious effect socially appears to be diminishing. While opium-smoking was forbidden by

law, and offences against the law were punished, smoking was only indulged in more or less clandestinely, thereby entailing association with low characters, and a certain loss of self and general respect. At the present day opium-smoking is so common that I understand among the well-to-do classes a pipe of opium is offered to a visitor almost as readily as a pipe of tobacco. Among officials there are some of the highest rank who no longer make a secret of the habit, though liable to loss of office if denounced. An "opium sot" necessarily ruins his health, and entails misery on his family, if he is a poor man. In any case he must fail to fulfil any of the duties of a citizen towards his state. The habit of opium-smoking entails a certain subservience to it, which prevents a man being his own master even when the quantity is not sufficient to injure his health. Those, however, who smoke, but not habitually (and I believe their number to be very large), do not suffer in any way. I have never heard of any difference in the effect physically on Chinese, Manchu, or Mongol. But Chinese in some provinces appear to suffer much less than in others. In Sze Chuen, for instance, constant smokers are reputed to be little affected by the habit. Any difference in the effect of Indian and Chinese opium is said to be met by larger doses of the latter.

4. Smoking may be said to be the almost universal form of taking opium.

5. As far as I can learn, about 50 per cent. of smokers suffer no injury; 40 per cent. of smokers suffer slight injury; 10 per cent. of smokers suffer great injury.

6. Moderation in opium is very general. Men who smoke moderately are generally regarded as non-smokers. I have no personal knowledge of any "opium sot."

7. The official class and the retinue of officials have the reputation of being more addicted to opium than any other class, except, perhaps, the families of men who have made their fortunes in trade. On the official, literary, and mercantile classes the effect is that their hours of work have to be accommodated to their hours of smoking. Porters and other hard-working men seem often to derive an extra store of energy from a pipe or two on which to work for extra hours. On a journey which lasted 42 days, and in which an average of 25 miles per day (including rests), was made in difficult country, seven muleteers who accompanied me ate opium every day without any other inconvenience than a two hours' rest at noon. The opium which they consumed was a decoction which they said was commonly taken in Shan Tung, but which I have never come across since.

8. The effect of opium on Chinese is absolutely different to that of alcohol, even morally. Heavy drinking is not necessarily regarded with disapprobation. Constant drunkenness is exceedingly rare. In any comparison with alcohol I think that sight should not be lost of the fact that crimes of violence are as unlikely to arise out of the opium habit as they are a natural result of drink.

9. The Chinese undoubtedly condemn the use of opium as degrading and injurious, but no stigma now attaches to those who partake of it with moderation. Indeed they are hardly counted as opium-smokers.

10. Opium-smokers do break themselves of the habit, but relapses are frequent.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off, it is improbable that the measure would have any effect on opium-consumers in China. Attempts have been made to imitate Indian opium with native drug, and the increased demand for opium of the kind would stimulate its preparation.

12. Few Europeans contract the opium habit. The active habits of European life are thoroughly opposed to it, while the sedentary life of the Chinese encourages it.

13. Reluctance to refuse hospitality when offered is often the reason that leads men to smoke. But opium is often suggested as a cure for pain or lack of sleep, or recommended by a native doctor. Opium has the reputation of curing rheumatism, dysentery, and malarial fever.

14. Large opium-smokers frequently profess to be anxious to get rid of the habit, but their sincerity is frequently questionable.

15. At the present day, the growth of native opium is so thoroughly established that the Chinese, who are

opposed to opium, entertain scarcely any hope of seeing the habit eradicated, whether Indian opium is imported or not. There are, however, I believe, not a few who would welcome the news of its importation being prohibited, as the first indispensable step towards reform.

16. Indian opium is chiefly consumed by the richer classes. The proportion of Indian to Chinese opium consumed diminishes with the distance from a Treaty port. In this neighbourhood the consumption of native opium is estimated to be certainly more than three times that of Indian opium.

17.—(a.) The prohibition or restriction of the export of Indian opium is not likely to diminish the consumption of opium by the Chinese. (b.) It would probably increase the cultivation of native opium, and (c) lead the Chinese Government to take measures for the more stringent taxation of native opium.

18. Any estimate of the area now under poppy and of the average annual out-turn of opium in China must be framed on mere guesswork, on account of the large area under consideration. Official native statistics, if available, would intentionally be misleading. The annual production of opium in the north of this province has been estimated at 10,000 chests.

19. The revenue derived by the Chinese Government from native opium is insignificant compared with the cost of collection and the amount of irregular levies to which growers, dealers, and carriers have to submit. The duty on native-grown opium consumed in the province is 30 taels. If exported to another province it is nominally liable to another similar duty. It is understood by all parties concerned that the duty is not to be levied in full, thus four chests would be charged as three.

20. Circumstances have so changed in the last quarter of a century owing to the increased growth of native opium and the increased revenue derived by the Chinese Government from Indian opium, that public opinion has been greatly affected as regards the benefit or expediency of checking the importation of Indian opium. It is to the interest not only of opium-growers and opium dealers, but also of a large army of revenue officers, and of officials, great and small, who derive their income from it, that the trade should exist, and the strenuous efforts made in this province and in Shan Si by the Governors, some 10 years since, to stop its cultivation and extirpate opium-smoking gave hardly any result. History has shown that strong Emperor's decrees were similarly ineffectual. I know of no reason to lead me to expect greater results in the present day.

(Signed) W. R. CARLES,
H.M. Consulate, Chinkiang, Consul.
February 24, 1894.

MACAO.*

H.B.M. Vice-Consulate, Macao, China,
SIR, March 1, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to enclose my replies to the paper of questions. I regret being unable to forward at the same time the answers of those persons to whom I gave a copy of the interrogatories, but I will not fail to send them as soon as they are returned to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. BENCRAFT JOLY,
Vice-Consul.

1. Yes, very commonly.
2. About 2-3. I do not know of any women or children.

3. The effects depend upon the quantity consumed, for excess in opium-smoking or eating is as injurious as any excess even in the most harmless necessities of life. No evil effects seem, however, to be felt by persons who can afford to take a due proportion of food and who are wise enough to keep within the bounds of moderation.

4. Consumers smoke and eat opium. I am not aware of any decoction; nor can I distinguish between the effects of each mode of consumption.

5. I cannot tell what the proportion is of those who use opium without injury, with slight injury, and with great injury; but as far as my experience goes of nearly 14 years in China the proportion of those who consume with great injury is small. Indeed I have seldom seen any opium sots. Of course they could be discovered if one were to hunt in the byways and opium dens.

6. There is such a thing as moderation. Many persons have, I understand, their pipe, just as an Englishman has his cigar or his pipe, and then attend to their daily duties with ease and diligence and ability. Yes, I know of several persons who have taken opium for years without harm. In fact, I know of one man who has steadily taken his opium, of course in moderation, and who is now nearly 80 and in the full possession of all his senses.

7. I cannot say who are in the majority. The poorer classes seem to suffer most, as they deny themselves food to satisfy their craving for opium.

8. The use and abuse of opium in China compares most favourably with the use and abuse of alcohol in England, where I have seen far more scandalous scenes from drink than any that I have seen in China from the effects of opium.

9. Not that I know of. They would regard alcohol as a greater source of trouble and rowdiness.

10. With difficulty for the habit of smoking opium takes as firm a hold over a man as tobacco; but I have known several cases where men have broken themselves of the habit.

11. Were the supply of opium from India cut off the consumers would take entirely to native-grown opium, and do just as well without Indian opium as they did before its introduction, previous to the so-called opium war. Some would probably take to alcohol, but none would abstain from opium altogether.

12. Europeans do not contract the opium habit in any numbers. Why they do not I cannot exactly say. I presume, however, that it is because they prefer their alcohol and tobacco.

13. The use of the drug is taken up just as foreigners take up tobacco. I think it is a splendid tonic for the poor hard-worked coolie. The Chinese view opium as being to a great extent beneficial.

14. Some of them do after a time.

15. None that I know of. Nor have I heard England ever blamed for the introduction of opium. The Chinese know better that it is not the English or Indians who introduced the drug into China. It must have been brought by the Arab traders, who did business with the Chinese long before the arrival of foreigners. Hence the term "opium war" is a misnomer.

16. By the wealthier class and old consumers; and mostly in the south. In the north, native-grown opium has entirely superseded the Indian drug.

17. The consequences of the prohibition or restriction of the export of Indian opium would probably be:—

- (a.) The increase in the consumption of native opium.
- (b.) The increase of the cultivation of the poppy and production of opium.
- (c.) The increase in the collection of revenue on native-grown opium by the Chinese Government as a source of revenue.

18. I cannot give any estimate, but the poppy is mostly cultivated in the North and West of China; and in very large quantities too.

19. Foreign opium pays taels 110 (a tael = 4s.) per 100 catties (a catty = 1½ lbs.). The taxation on native opium is comparatively much lighter than on foreign.

20. None.

H. BENCRAFT JOLY.

* Other papers from Macao will be found on page 303.

APP. XXVI.

HANKOW (*Supplementary*).*

Her Majesty's Consulate, Hankow,
March 21, 1894.

SIR, I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith replies to the Royal Opium Commission's inquiries which I have received from the Reverend Griffith John, D.D., and from the Reverend S. C. Partridge. These replies arrived too late to be forwarded in my despatch of the 6th instant.

I have, &c.

PELHAM WARREN,
Consul.

Rev. GRIFFITH JOHN, D.D.

1. Yes. I have lived in the province of Hupeh, Central China, since 1861, and have travelled extensively in several other provinces. From personal observation I can state confidently that opium is commonly consumed in the provinces of Hupeh, Hunan, Kiang-si, Sze-chwan, and Shen-si. My answers will have special reference to the province of Hupeh.

2. Of the adult males in the province of Hupeh, from 20 to 25 per cent. are consumers; of the adult females about 4 per cent. The great opium-producing provinces, such as Yunnan, Sze-chwan, and Kwei-chow, show a much higher per-centage. When travelling in Sze-chwan in 1868 I came to the conclusion that 70 per cent. of the adult male population took opium, and 30 per cent. of the female. The men and the women, old and young, seemed to me to be playing with the poison; and my impression was that it only required a few years more for opium-smoking to become as common as tobacco-smoking in Western China.

3.—(a.) *Moral Effects*.—The moral effects of opium are of the most pernicious kind. It tends to paralyse the moral nature and prostrate the will. It bedims the moral vision, blunts the moral sentiments, and extinguishes every virtue. The Chinese themselves say that an opium-smoker is ever devising some mischief, and that no confidence can be safely reposed in him. Whilst in affluent circumstances the danger is not so great; but the moment penury sets in, he becomes an object of aversion and suspicion to all around him. There is nothing too mean for him to attempt. He will lie, cheat, and steal without the faintest sense of shame or wrong. In order to satisfy his craving he will sell or let out his wife, starve his children, and sell the clothes off the backs of his aged parents. Not only is the moral sense weakened in the opium victims, but they are led by the habit into associations where they are directly tempted to the most profligate vices. The opium dens are for the most part sinks of iniquity; and opium-smoking is generally associated with debauchery, gambling, and other gross vices.

(b.) *The Physical Effects*.—Opium undermines the constitution, impairs the health, and shortens the life of the smoker. A man of strong constitution, active habits, and well supplied with generous food, may indulge himself in it moderately for some years without apparently sustaining very great physical injury. But the moderate use of it is almost impossible to a man who can indulge in it immoderately. The appetite becomes more intense and insatiable every day. The smallest use leads to an intemperate use, and gradually it so weakens the system that it becomes an easy prey to diseases of all kinds. As soon as the means of gratification are exhausted, or the supply of the necessities of life is diminished, death appears. A strenuous attempt to break off the habit induces an incurable opium diarrhoea, which often proves fatal. In the case of excessive use "the victim is wretched, nerveless, "and imbecile; he has insupportable languor throughout the whole frame, gnawing at the stomach, pulling "at the shoulders, and failing of the spirits; vitality "is gradually destroyed, and the result is premature "death." Opium affects the population by producing impotence and sterility. The Chinese say that about one-half of the regular opium-smokers are childless, and that the children of the other half are few, feeble, and sickly. They also affirm that the family of the opium-smoker will be extinct in the third generation.

(c.) *The Social Effects*.—Impoverishment often leading to crime, family feuds, and beggary. Untrustworthiness leading to the loss of place and confidence. Lazy habits, leading to slothfulness in business, and financial embarrassments. Socially, when a man falls

into the opium-smoking habit, he falls also in the esteem of the virtuous among his neighbours.

(d.) The effects are the same on all the Chinese with whom I have had to do.

(e.) The Indian drug is much stronger than that produced in China, and a much smaller quantity is required to satisfy the craving. The latter is compared to a wood fire, the former to a fire of coal. It is also more expensive, and beyond the reach of the poorer classes. The old wealthy smokers cling to the foreign article.

4. They chiefly smoke; but eating is also practised to a limited extent. The former satisfies the craving more effectually, and is, according to the Chinese taste, the pleasanter mode of consumption. I have never met with a case in which opium was taken as a decoction. I cannot distinguish between the effects of these different forms on the Chinese.

5. It is impossible to give a categorical answer to these questions. I do not believe that anyone can take it habitually without injury. Men of strong constitution, with the means of procuring nutritious food, may indulge for a time without apparent injury. But it is only for a time. All are injured more or less, and the evil effects in every case will make themselves seen and felt sooner or later. In the case of those who are constitutionally weak, and those who have not the means of procuring the accustomed and necessary supply of food, the injury in most cases is rapid and signal. The natives say that from 70 to 80 per cent. of those who smoke habitually acquire the "yin" (craving), and everyone who acquires the "yin" is looked upon as more or less of an "opium sot." Speaking generally, it takes, in the case of those who play with the pipe, from one to two years to contract the craving.

6. If by moderation is meant the ability to stop at pleasure, to throw aside the habit without any undue strain on the part of the opium habitué, then it is correct to say that moderation in the consumption of opium does not exist, or if it does exist at all, it is so rare that it would be misleading to take the fact into calculation. Even the so-called moderate opium-smoker is a slave to his stimulant; without it he is weak, worthless, and wretched. So dependent is he on his artificial strength that he can do nothing without his daily allowance, however small the quantity may be. What might be called the moderate use of opium ought not to be compared with the moderate use of alcohol, but with its habitually excessive use. Moreover, the habitual opium-smoker is never satisfied with less than the intoxicating effects of the drug. He smokes with the view of making himself opium intoxicated, and his cravings are never fully appeased till he gets intoxicated. I know of no cases of consumers who have taken to opium for years without harm to themselves; but I do know of many cases where the drug has worked unspeakable injury to the individual, physically, morally, and socially.

7. In Hupeh the majority do not smoke. See answer to 1st question. Probably 40 per cent. of the officials, 60 per cent. of the yamen runners, and 50 per cent. of the police constables, do smoke. As to tradesmen, artisans, boatmen, coolies, and farmers, the average per-centage is from 20 to 25. The general effect of the opium habit on all classes is to mar their efficiency in their calling. It induces idleness, dishonesty, and general unreliableness. I never employ an opium-smoker as a servant, and in travelling I never employ an opium-smoking coolie, or hire the boat of an opium-smoking boatman, if I can possibly help it. I have seen it stated that opium is helpful to the hard-working coolie in the valley of the Yang-tze, and that without it he cannot do his work efficiently. This can only be true of the opium habitué to whom the artificial stimulant is of course essential. With regard to the coolie class in general it is absolutely false. The non-opium-smoking coolie is far stronger and far more active and reliable than his unfortunate brother.

8. The Chinese have had their alcoholic stimulants for thousands of years, and spirit-drinking is quite general among them. But spirit-drinking is not a national vice in China, whilst opium-smoking is emphatically so. A drunken man is seldom seen in the streets. During the 38 years I have lived in China I have not seen 20 men actually overcome by drinking. But the opium-smoker is everywhere, and the opium vice is everywhere. In China the effects of drink are not marked; the injury from its use is not

* For the rest of the Hankow papers, see page 290.

serious. The evil effects of opium are universally seen and felt.

9. It is universally condemned by the Chinese as degrading and injurious, and they regard the opium habit as immeasurably worse than the alcohol habit. They smile at the attempt to institute a comparison between the two. They say that the two cannot be compared in their effects on the individual, the family, and the nation. I have never yet met a Chinaman, whether a smoker or a non-smoker, whether rich or poor, whether an official or a non-official, who would attempt to defend the practice of opium-smoking as an innocent luxury. They will defend other luxuries, though expensive, on the ground of their harmlessness, but never will they lift a finger or utter a word in defence of this. Even the keepers of opium dens will admit that the practice is wholly bad, and their own conduct immoral. There can be no doubt that the national conscience of the Chinese has pitched upon this one article as the one object of its reprobation, whether as an article of commerce or an article of consumption; and it does so because they can see in it only a poison which threatens their very existence. One native author writes:—"Were it only injurious to property, the baneful influence of opium would be of inferior importance; but when regarded as hurtful to the people, it demands most anxious consideration, for on the people lies the very foundation of the empire." "The Supreme Ruler," says another, "must have a meaning in causing opium-smoking. He must intend to destroy the nation. There is no other way of accounting for the love of the Chinese for opium. They know its baneful effects perfectly well, but still are exceedingly fond of smoking it. He must purpose our national destruction." Another writes:—"In comparison with arsenic, I pronounce opium ten times the greater poison. It exhausts the animal spirits, impedes the regular performance of business, wastes the flesh and blood, dissipates every kind of property, renders the person ill-favoured, promotes obscenity, attacks the vitals, and destroys life." I might go on and quote indefinitely from the popular literature of the Chinese, and from official proclamations, in order to show that the opium habit is utterly condemned by the general opinion of the nation. I may add that opium-smokers are not admitted into the Christian Church in China, and that they are excluded, not by the anti-opium attitude of the missionary merely, but also by the strong anti-opium convictions of the converts themselves.

10. Yes, but not many. Some do succeed in breaking themselves of the habit without medical assistance. But this is very rarely the case. Many come to our hospitals with the view of breaking it off, and are cured for a time. The permanently cured, however, are exceedingly few. By far the majority of cases fall back within a year or two. The more I have to do with opium-smokers, the weaker does my faith become in the possibility of effecting a permanent cure. They lack the will power essential to withstand temptation.

11. The opium-consumers in that case would resort to the Chinese-grown opium, that is unless the growth of the native article were effectually stopped by the Chinese Government. They would certainly not take to alcohol. I know of no narcotic which they might take as a substitute.

12. Very rarely. During my long residence in China I have met with only two cases. The phlegmatic temperament and indolent habits of the Asiatic make him more liable to contract the habit.

13. The causes are many. The following may be regarded as among the chief:—(1.) The love of pleasure and vice. The opium dens are moral sinks, and opium-smoking is associated with gambling and gross sensual indulgence. (2.) Cure of disease or pain. Chinese physicians often prescribe the use of the opium pipe for alleviating distress and pain. (3.) It is supposed to facilitate business transactions, and the striking of bargains. (4.) Indolence, and the want of occupation. I have never heard the Chinese say that opium is a prophylactic against fever, and I do not think that they regard it as such. It is used however to relieve the aches and pains of rheumatism and malaria.

14. When the smoker commences the use of opium it is felt to be a pleasant stimulant. He enjoys the artificial strength and tone derived from it. During the early stage, if possessed of the means of procuring the drug, he shows, generally speaking, no desire to get free of the habit. When, however, the craving is contracted, and he becomes conscious of his misery as

a slave to the habit, he does usually wish to be free, and would abandon the vice if he could do so without pain and effort. Unfortunately by this time the will-power is gone, and deliverance, in by far the majority of cases, has become impossible.

15. There is decidedly a wish that the foreign importation should be discontinued. The people generally look upon the opium vice as having been introduced by foreigners, without distinguishing between one nation and another, and they look upon its introduction as an immoral and hostile act. One native author writes:—"It is not only that they (the foreigners) abstract so many millions of our money, but the direful appearances seem to indicate a wish on their part to utterly root out and extirpate us as a people." The anti-foreign literature of Hunan is full of the severest denunciations against us as the originators of the opium vice in China. I am convinced that the relation between the two countries can never be what it ought to be whilst the traffic lasts, and that the moral effect of its abandonment by England on the Chinese mind would be very powerful and highly favourable. The Chinese as a people would begin to see us in a new light, and feel towards us as they have never done hitherto.

16-19. Others are better able to reply to these four questions than I am. But consult the Imperial Maritime Customs Reports. I would only observe that it is very difficult to say what the Chinese Government or people might do in the event of the prohibition of the export of Indian opium. Much would depend on the action of the Government. As long as the Indian trade in opium exists, the hands of the Chinese Government are tied and paralysed. They can simply do nothing but allow things to go on from bad to worse. Their best efforts, however sincere and energetic, would prove abortive. If the Indian trade in the drug were abandoned, the Government might make an honest effort to stop the native growth, and the attempt might eventuate in a diminution of the evil, if not in its complete suppression. On this point, however, I have my serious doubts. I cannot close my eyes to the fact that opium-smoking has become so common, and that the habit has got such a firm hold upon its victims, that, in my most calm and solemn moments, I can see no hopes of the speedy deliverance of China from the vice, even if the last particle of the Indian article had found its way into the country. The evil is now one of enormous magnitude, and the venality of the officials is as deep-rooted as ever; and I therefore fear that no legislative measures on the part of the Central Government, however honestly adopted, would put an end to opium-smoking, and consequently to opium-growing in China itself. This, however, is only my opinion; others think differently, and they may be right. But whether the Chinese Government would and could put down the native growth or not, the path of England, as a great Christian nation, seems to me to be perfectly clear. It is for us to wash our hands clean of a trade which is unworthy of ourselves and hurtful to the people of China.

20. I should like to call attention to the evil of opium as an agent used by the Chinese to destroy their own lives. In former days the Chinese popular methods of committing suicide were hanging, strangling, and drowning. Now it is opium-poisoning, a far easier and more convenient way. I am satisfied, from all I hear and see, that suicide is much more common in China now than it used to be, and that this is to be ascribed to the advantages of the new method as compared with the old. The old was clumsy, painful, and uncertain in its operation. The new is gentle, painless, and effective. A little scolding on the part of a parent will make the child take opium; a slight quarrel between husband and wife will make the wife take opium; a few sharp words about cash between an employer and an employé will make the employé take opium. In a fit of passion, or when deeply moved by a spirit of revenge, they think no more of swallowing half-an-ounce of raw opium than they do of gulping a cup of tea. There can be no doubt that opium facilitates suicides in China to an enormous extent. I shudder at the thought of the thousands of victims who must be falling week after week, even in this particular way, into the pitiless jaws of this all-devouring demon. Opium in China is an awful curse, and that in more ways than one.

GRIFFITH JOHN,
London Mission, Hankow.

20th March 1894.

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Hankow.

APP. XXVI.

Rev. S. C. PARTRIDGE.

1. Yes.

2. Ordinary adult males, about 50 per cent. Men in yamens as high as 90 per cent. Women about 10 per cent. Children 0.

3. Indian opium is 800 brass-cash an ounce, Chinese opium 250. Indian opium is more powerful, the *habitué* comes more quickly under its influence, and the satisfaction is greater. As to moral and social effects, whenever the opium habit is indulged in with the consequent weakening of the will-power, there is necessarily more or less moral deterioration, though when moderately under the influence of opium the patient is not unsociable.

4. About 90 per cent. are smokers, 9 per cent. eat the drug, and about 1 per cent. drink a decoction.

5. (i.) 20 per cent. (ii.) 50 per cent. (iii.) 30 per cent.

6. The consumers of Indian opium, probably because they are of the wealthier classes, can indulge for a certain time in the habit with comparative impunity, but after two or three years the habit begins to undermine the general health. The lower classes, who mostly use Chinese opium, use the ashes of opium (that has already been consumed) with fresh opium, and this mixture seems to be the most harmful preparation of all. Some are able constantly to use opium for long periods, say from 20 to 30 years, but the health is always affected.

7. Probably 70 per cent. The habit always makes them less efficient.

8. The opium habit is the more pernicious.

9. Yes. They would regard it as above (No. 8).

10. They may for a time discontinue its use, but eventually the habit becomes permanent. There may be a few rare incidents in which a moral reformation (in addition to physical treatment) brings about a recovery, but very rare indeed.

11. Those who were accustomed to use Indian opium would use the Chinese drug.

12. ————

13. More than one-half for pleasure, the remainder for the relief or cure of disease. The Chinese think it is a prophylactic against diseases of the chest, *e.g.*, bronchitis; of the stomach, *e.g.*, dyspepsia, gastritis, and also against rheumatism. They do not use it as a preventative against malaria.

14. Yes, but as in the case of the Anglo-Saxon and other races, the will-power is so weakened that they are powerless to break off the habit.

15. The mandarins may wish so, not on moral grounds at all, but simply that a confining of the people to native opium would mean an enormous increase of revenue to "local" and "transit" officials, that in the case of Indian opium goes direct to Peking. The people are ignorant of, and indifferent to, the entire subject.

16. The use of it is practically universal, and the *habitué* usually prefers the Indian opium if he has money enough to pay for it.

17.—(a.) There would probably be fewer *habitués*, and consequently less opium consumed, for a time. (b.) The cultivation of the plant in China would be extended. (c.) The revenue to the Chinese Government would be increased.

18. ————

19. ————

20. ————

SIDNEY C. PARTRIDGE,
American Church Mission.

7th March 1894.

NEWCHWANG.

H.B.M. Consulate, Newchwang,
February 27, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a number of papers giving answers to the questions of the Royal Commission on Opium. I hope that they may be of service to the Commission. I can testify to the experience and competence of the writers.

The papers are for the most part furnished by missionaries. But missionaries in China, speaking the language, constantly moving about, and always in close

contact with the people, are able to give far more trustworthy opinions on such a subject than any other class of persons can, though many of them, of course, have strong prejudices concerning it.

I have, &c.

T. L. BULLOCK,
Consul.

Consul BULLOCK.

1. Yes.

2. In the Treaty ports more than half the merchants are smokers; artisans less so; many coolies, porters, and such, if earning high wages, smoke. Perhaps in these places 40 per cent. of the adult males smoke. There is much smoking also in other great trading places, and along great lines of route, where many people are gathered together, earning good wages and away from their homes. In the agricultural districts throughout China the proportion is much less, except in the vicinity of the opium-producing localities, where smoking is again more general.

I will say, as a conjecture, that throughout China between 20 and 30 per cent. of adult males smoke. Women, except prostitutes, not to any extent, though more do so in this part of China than elsewhere. Children not at all.

Excepting the Manchus, in the interior north of this place, there are no distinctions of race among the Chinese. There are aboriginal tribes in parts of South and West China, but they are never spoken of or looked upon as Chinese.

3. From my own personal observation I can only say that the effects of opium-smoking are paleness, thinness, languidness, want of energy, and a general appearance of ill-health. But having given a good deal of attention to the subject during my 25 years' service in different parts of the country, I feel justified in adding the following remarks. Morally it is the smokers of the poorer classes who suffer most. If their income be not large enough to supply the quantity of drug required, they cannot be trusted not to steal. They are unquestionably more likely to steal than other Chinese. Whatever harm the poor may suffer physically from the action of the drug, it is less than the effects of the impoverishment caused by its cost. Let the smoker be a strong man, and use so little that the direct effects do not harm him, still he suffers from not having enough money to spend on food and clothing, and his wife and children are in a still worse state. He is just like the frequenter of the public-house in England. The Chinese, so far as I know, are unanimous in agreeing that there is some loss of physical power occasioned by opium-smoking. European writers sometimes note that they have seen opium-smoking chair-bearers and boat-tracker's sustain great fatigue and work as well as the other men with them. But the Chinese firmly believe both that such men are less strong than they would otherwise have been, and that they are wearing themselves out more quickly. Ask a Chinese which would win in a fight, a regiment of men allowed to smoke or one of similar men who were prevented from doing so, and he will laugh at the simplicity of the question.

The Manchus, who form a minority of the population in the provinces north of this port, are greater smokers than the surrounding Chinese, and are more apathetic and less energetic. I cannot say how far these characteristics are the result or the cause of their smoking.

Indian opium is, I believe, stronger than Chinese, and so *per se* more hurtful. But it is so much adulterated in general use that there is little distinction to be drawn between the two. This adulteration may account for the common belief that opium is not now so injurious as it used to be.

4. Opium is always smoked in China.

5. As a conjecture—

(i.) 5 per cent.

(ii.) 90 per cent.

(iii.) 5 per cent.

Of course, if one takes the smokers in China at a given moment, the proportion of uninjured would be very much greater than I have given. But when these uninjured smokers have continued the practice for years nearly all of them will have sunk into Class (ii.). A really moderate smoker will probably not show ill-effects for at least 10 years. It must be noted that many in Class (ii.) will die earlier than they otherwise

would have done, by succumbing to some disease which they would, if not smokers, have recovered from, or, if the Chinese opinion be correct, by growing old prematurely.

6. There can be moderation, but it is difficult to preserve, more so than with alcohol.

I have heard of cases of "no harm for many years," but know none personally. Nor have I ever had to do with a real "sot." Such a man must necessarily be dismissed from a foreigner's service before he comes to that point. I have known plenty of cases which were apparently ones of slight injury, and some rather grave ones. Of course, not being a medical man, I can only note the want of health and the fact of smoking. I cannot say positively the former results from the latter. In a few cases, certainly, men take to smoking because of their ailments.

7. See answer to Question 1. The intellect does not appear to be injured by opium-smoking, and so the man of sedentary occupation fails in proportion as his calling requires constant attention and supervision, but he may get on very well if he has only to think and give orders. Thus a large merchant with a competent staff will do better than a shopkeeper or artisan.

8. The use of alcohol is so moderate, and its abuse so extremely rare among the Chinese, that no comparison can be drawn.

9. Opium-smoking is condemned in Chinese opinion as degrading because injurious. The public voice cries out against it as a great evil to the nation.

10. Yes; perhaps 10 per cent.

11. If Indian opium were cut off, smokers, present and future, would have recourse to Chinese opium. They most certainly would not take to alcohol. It is almost equally inconceivable that they would abstain in any numbers or that they would adopt any other narcotic.

12. Europeans who contract the opium habit in China are perhaps one per 1,000 adult males, and then not badly. Europeans simply have no taste for the practice; besides which, they are aware that if they adopt it they will be objects of contempt even to the least particular of their acquaintances.

13. Chinese generally learn to smoke opium in imitation of, or at the invitation of, friends who practise it. If they frequent gambling houses or brothels, they are very likely to be led into the habit there. A small minority begin in the hopes of benefiting some ailment which troubles them. Opium-smoking is not commonly regarded by the Chinese as a prophylactic against the diseases mentioned. It is held, and doubtless rightly, to be efficacious in the case of previous non-smokers as a cure for diarrhoea complaints.

14. They very often wish in an aimless way to be free from the habit, but seldom have the strength of mind really to try.

15. No; or at any rate not generally speaking. Twenty-five years ago the wish was very strong and common, because it was believed that if Indian opium were kept out, home production could be prevented. Now the cultivation and use of opium have become so extended that the impossibility of stopping them is recognised. There is, on the part of statesmen and thinkers, a dislike of seeing the money for opium going to India; but that I believe is balanced by their knowledge of the ease with which the revenue from foreign opium is collected.

16. Indian opium is smoked by the richer classes, and is very largely used for mixing. It is in general consumption in the provinces on or near the coast from Shanghai southwards. These form the part of China furthest removed from the great producing districts. Elsewhere it is the luxury of the rich. One may say that the use of the one or the other is partly a matter of price and partly of habit. Those who begin with Indian and are accustomed to the taste will stick to it if they can afford it. So-called foreign opium, as smoked by the poor in the south-east (Shanghai to Canton), is mixed with a good deal of native. But those who begin with native, even if price be not an object, as a rule do not care to change.

17.—(a.) Nil. (b.) Equivalent increase in Chinese production. (c.) The Chinese opium revenue would inevitably suffer very greatly. The Government is willing enough to tax native opium, but cannot succeed in doing so beyond a very slight extent. The duties are kept small, in order to diminish the temptation to

smuggle, but all is of no avail. Grown in small patches and carried in small parcels, it cannot be brought under the cognisance of the officials, who have to contend, in addition, with the dishonesty of their own clerks, examiners, and watchers.

18. What is the out-turn of native opium? The general opinion seems to be that a moderate opium-smoker (not a beginner) consumes 3 mace of prepared drug a day. (1 mace is $\frac{1}{10}$ tael; 1 tael is $\frac{1}{16}$ of a catty; 3 catties = 4 lbs. av.) But the cost of 3 mace of the drug (say \$0.10 to \$0.20, according to quality) would absorb nearly the whole wages of many Chinese. Therefore, as smoking is by no means confined to the wealthier minority, such an amount is impossible as an average. I hesitate whether to select $1\frac{1}{2}$ mace or 1 mace. I will take the latter, remembering that with adulteration the actual quantity bought will be a good deal larger. As 30 per cent. of weight is lost in preparing, 1 mace prepared = 1.43 mace crude. 1.43 mace $\times 365 = 521.95$ mace = 52.195 taels = 3.26 catties per smoker per annum. Population of China, say, 300,000,000; adult males, say, one-fifth = 60,000,000; smokers (*vide* Answer 2), say 20 per cent. = 12,000,000; annual consumption = $12,000,000 \times 3.26$ catties = 39,120,000 catties; add another million catties for women; total, 40,120,000 catties. Deduct foreign opium (Indian and Persian), say 7,200,000 catties. Balance, native opium, 32,920,000 catties = lbs. av. 43,892,000. I do not think the out-turn can be less than this. It may be much more.

19. This question cannot be answered, because the taxation on native opium is not known. The amount varies in different provinces, and returns are not published. It is much lighter than that on foreign opium (*see* Answer 17 (c.)). Native opium pays much more than the Government receives from it. From foreign opium I estimate the Government to receive Rs. 7,800,000, less the cost of collection. Foreign opium probably pays something more to local authorities in the shape of saloon fees, licenses, and so on.

T. L. BULLOCK,
Newchwang, Consul.
21st February 1894.

Mr. TURLEY.

Newchwang, North China,
February 22, 1884.

1. Opium is very commonly used throughout Manchuria by Chinese, Manchus, and Mongols, probably more by the Manchus than Chinese, as the proportion of those who lead idle lives is greater amongst the Manchus. The proportion amongst the Mongols is much smaller, and amongst the tent Mongol but few seem to take opium.

It is strictly prohibited in Corea, but where the Chinese come in contact with Coreans, the habit becomes more widespread amongst Coreans.

2. The proportion of opium-consumers amongst the Coreans and Mongols is very small at present, though the habit of taking opium is spreading stealthily, and it is feared, rapidly, especially amongst the Coreans. Amongst the adult male Manchus in Kirin Province, I should say that at least 30 per cent. smoke opium. In Shing King Province probably 25 per cent. Amongst the Chinese in Manchuria generally, probably 20 per cent. smoke opium.

Women do smoke in considerable numbers, probably in less proportion than the men.

Children not known to smoke, rare exceptions only.

3. Effects of opium:—

Moral.—The tendency is to stifle the good qualities in a man, makes him unmanly, low, cunning, artful, indolent, encourages lewdness and adultery, and other immoral actions.

Physical.—In the majority of consumers it makes them prematurely old, susceptible to disease, by sapping the vital powers, offsprings are often weak and sickly.

Social.—By not a few when they commence to use opium, it is taken with companions in same "hail-

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fellow-well-met" idea as English boys learn to smoke cheap cigars.

It, however, after a few years' use, tends to make a man selfish, irritable, unfit for managing important affairs, or even domestic duties.

Indian opium is but little used in Manchuria, and is a luxury indulged in by Cantonese merchants and other wealthy men. Hence unable to state whether the effects are the same as native opium.

4. Probably in Manchuria 95 per cent. of the consumers of opium smoke, 5 per cent. of them eat concoctions made up in pills by native quacks or European medicine shops. These have almost all been smokers, but by the use of pills are attempting to break from the use of opium. By many the eating of these pills is considered even worse than smoking opium. It is more respectable to eat than to smoke in native minds. Poor worn-out smokers drink a decoction made from the ashes of smoked opium, the most hurtful of all forms, especially as these wretches often drag out a miserable existence on this and take but little food.

5.—(i.) From my general observations I should say that 50 per cent. of the consumers may continue to use it for three years without the craving becoming overpowering, and hence not visible injury.

Twenty per cent. before three years will show signs of injury.

Thirty per cent. decided injury.

After three years the proportion who suffer is greater.

(ii.) After 10 years, probably 60 per cent. are unfit for the duties of life, and at least 40 per cent. of these are downright sots.

6. Those who can continue to take it moderately for more than five years cannot exceed 20 per cent.; more than 20 years not 5 per cent. I have met recently with a case of a man in wealthy circumstances who had taken opium for many years, and not exceeded what is considered moderate for a man who can obtain good food. He told me, however, that he dare not discontinue it, as he does, and would suffer from chronic stomach disorders.

I am familiar with many cases where men in important positions have lost their posts, or allowed their business to go to ruin through themselves taking opium, then in despair they go from bad to worse, die at an early age, and leave scattered and ruined families.

7. Labourers engaged in hard manual work cannot continue to take opium, if they do they soon fall out and sink into some other low line of life, where a continuous strain is required. Native employers prefer men of the heterodox Buddhist sects, who are pledged abstainers from opium, alcohol, &c.

Merchants do smoke to a large extent, and when the habit becomes strong often retire behind the scenes, and are not foremost in their hong.

Artisans, those employed in hard manual work, such as blacksmiths, do not smoke; if they do they generally sink out of the work.

Those engaged in lighter occupations sedentary seem to smoke largely. These may continue the habit for years and remain at their calling, doing gradually less and less work.

8. Alcohol is used in Manchuria, but with rare exceptions the people do not abuse it. They seem able to discontinue it at pleasure.

9. The habit of opium-smoking is looked on as degrading and injurious. (Of eating as less degrading because it is not made so public.) Taking opium in any form is regarded as injurious—

(i.) As it injures the body, and thus dishonours the ancestors, no confucianist should use it.

(ii.) All the religious sects, semi-political or otherwise, rigorously condemn the use of opium. With these opium is the greatest curse. Alcohol stands second, tobacco third.

(iii.) Native Christians themselves strictly prohibit opium as a dangerous drug in the hands of unskilled physicians. They condemn it because of the train of wretchedness that almost invariably follows its use.

Opium is worse than alcohol in Chinese minds because they cannot as a rule control its use.

10. Opium consumers cannot as a rule break off the consumption even in the earlier stages.

11. If there were no Indian opium imported the difference in Manchuria would not be perceptible.

12. Not aware of Europeans taking to opium and continuing its use. Some take laudanum and morphia with results similar to opium-smoking—injurious.

13. Five per cent. commence opium to become "social"; 70 per cent. commence opium to cure stomach disorders, dysentery, &c.; 20 per cent. as a panacea for all ills, physical and mental; 5 per cent. as a panacea for all troubles of the mind and worries.

It certainly does cure dysentery and diarrhoea, but once begun it must be continued, whenever left off the opium dysentery comes on. Hence this powerful drug is dangerous in the hands of those who know not its proper use, are ignorant of the proper science of medicine, and cannot substitute less powerful drugs when breaking it off.

14. Ninety per cent. of consumers desire to break off the habit but fear the consequences.

15. There is now, to my knowledge, no desire that England should cease to send opium. They, the Chinese, would thereby lose a weapon which they now continually use against western nations generally, and English in particular. One idea they have thoroughly, and this is fostered and exaggerated by the anti-foreign element, i.e., that England forced opium on China as a subterfuge to undermine the race and possess eventually the land.

16. Indian opium almost nil, a luxury only in Manchuria.

17. (a.) (b.) Consumption of opium will continue to increase, whether there is Indian or not.

Remark:—The Chinese and other Asiatics, should never have been allowed to use opium, wherever there was or is any power to prevent it. They are like children playing with fire or edge tools. They cannot control themselves in the use of it. It should only be used as a medicine, and by properly educated medical men.

(Signed) R. T. TURLEY
(British subject).

Agent, British and Foreign Bible Society, Eastern Mongolia, Manchuria and Corea. Residence in Manchuria dates from November 1886. Constantly travelling and moving amongst the people.

Mr. W. DES TROIX.

1. Yes.

2. Cantonese 1 per cent., Shanghai 40 per cent., Amoy 50 per cent., Tientsin and Newchwang 70 per cent. each. Northern women 30 per cent., chiefly prostitutes. Children, no.

3. Nothing particular.

4. Smoke only, as a rule, but on very rare occasions a decoction, weak, is taken.

5.—(i.) A pipe or two a day is said to act beneficially, and is very usual. (ii.) Four pipes or so makes a smoker disinclined for work. (iii.) "Opium sots" are wealthy men, and cannot feed well. Cannot give proportions.

6. No; there are many cases of moderation. Yes; compradores, &c., who live to a good age and remain well and hearty. Moderate smoking is said to clear their brains, and these men are certainly as acute as any men one need meet. Know no cases of great injury in this class.

7. Coolies smoke and appear refreshed after a pipe or so. This also applies to artisans and merchants.

8. The abuse of opium and alcohol is much deprecated by respectable Chinese, and a dissolute man, from over indulgence in either, is stunned.

9. The abuse is, not the use. Opium and alcohol are good servants but bad masters.

10. Yes. Moderate smokers.

11. Take to Chinese opium or morphia.

12. No; prefer whiskey and cigars. Pleasure in using it.

13.—(a.) Much as western men take to cigars. (b.) Yes. (c.) Yes.

14. No; when they renounce opium they take to narcotics.

15. No. Indian being better is much preferred to native-grown.

16. All. Poor use Chinese when they cannot afford Indian. Indian is used to improve the flavour of Chinese by those who cannot afford pure Indian.

17.—(a.) Increased consumption of Chinese grown. (b.) Increased production of Chinese grown; a piece of land cultivated for opium returns three times as much value as it does for cereals. (c.) Unable to say.

18. No, but it is large and increasing.

19. *Vide* Customs returns.

20. One day, some years ago, I saw a peddler—a skeleton of a man—come into a chemist's shop in Shanghai; put down his pack and take a morphia powder with relish, shoulder his pack, and continue his journey. I was told that he and others had renounced opium-smoking, but was a constant visitor to this shop (foreign). I was also shown a case—about the size of a wine case—full of morphia, kept for these callers who had renounced smoking. I was also told the stock would have to be soon replenished.

After a residence of over 25 years in China, during which period I have resided in Shanghai, Kinkiang, Hankow, Amoy, Tientsin, Newchwang, and Hong Kong, for mercantile pursuits, I have formed the opinion, from general observation, that the use of opium by natives is no more hurtful to them than the use of spirits and tobacco is to the western man or woman.

(Signed) W. DES TROIX,

Newchang, Agent for the firm of
23rd February 1894. Butterfield & Swire.

MR. DE BURGH DALY.

These answers have reference to my knowledge of the subject when in charge of the Church Missionary Society's Hospital in Ningpo from 1886 to 1893, during which time I was also Medical Officer to H.B.M. Consulate and Imperial Maritime Customs, &c.

1. Is opium commonly consumed by the Chinese in the part of China with which you are acquainted?—Yes.

2. What proportion, should you conjecture, of the adult males of each race are consumers?—Of Chinese adult males, 30 per cent. Do Chinese women consume opium to any extent?—No, except the prostitute class. Do children?—No.

3. What have you observed to be the effects of opium, moral, physical, and social, on its consumers?—Amongst moderate smokers:—(a.) No moral effects. (b.) No physical effects, if sufficient food is taken. (c.) No social effects. Amongst excessive consumers of opium:—(a.) In nearly all such the moral sense is blunted. Amongst the rich and middle classes no further mischief results. But below these there is a class, numbering thousands, who cannot afford to buy the pure drug, or sufficient to satisfy their craving, who, therefore, are compelled to buy a vile adulterated drug, spending nearly all their money on it, and consequently deprive themselves and their families of necessary food and clothing. They steadily lose all trace of any thought of duty towards themselves and others, and drag down with them in their fall their wives and children. They will pawn and sell their clothes and household belongings, and in the worst cases, which are exceptional, they will prostitute their wives and sell their children to procure the necessary money to purchase the drug. (b) *Physical effects.*—General loss of health and energy, with the diseases resulting from a chronic condition of impoverished blood—more especially where the supply of opium means insufficient food and clothing. The general opinion, which I have not had the means of verifying, is that excessive consumers of opium have very few

children. (c) *Social effects.*—The duties of citizenship, clan membership, and parentage are neglected, and there is a certain amount of indirect crime, which I have referred to above; but the absence of direct and violent crime makes the results of the abuse of opium infinitely preferable to those of the abuse of alcohol. Is there any difference between the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium?—None, where both are pure.

4. Do consumers chiefly smoke or do they eat opium, or do they drink a decoction of opium?—They chiefly smoke. Though owing to the misguided but would-be benevolent actions of missionaries, the habit of injecting morphia and eating morphia pills has become very prevalent in some districts. The missionaries introduced this practice with the idea of curing opium-smokers, but now, alas! many natives prefer it to smoking. It is only fair to add that at the Shanghai Missionary Conference of 1890, by the unanimous advice of their medical colleagues, all missionaries were urged to give up the practice of distributing pills. If opium is taken in two or all of these forms, can you distinguish between the effects of each?—Without doubt, the injection hypodermically of morphia, or the eating of opium in any form is more injurious to health than smoking opium.

5. What are the proportions of those who use opium?

—(i.) Without injury, 20 per cent. of consumers. (ii.) With slight injury, 40 per cent. of consumers. (iii.) With great injury ("opium sots"), 40 per cent. of consumers.

6. Is it correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium?—No. It is incorrect to say so. Do you know any or many cases of consumers who have taken their opium for years without harm to themselves?—Yes. I have known servants in foreign employment, clerks in the Imperial Maritime Customs Service, and men employed in ordinary business, who have done so, but I would put them all on a lower scale than the clever non-smoking native. If you know any, or many, cases of great injury give examples?—I have treated in hospital many scores of opium-smokers, who, through excessive use of the drug combined with insufficient nourishment, have been seriously injured in health. They generally come into hospital in a miserable and degraded condition, thin and wretched, with little or no appetite, the alimentary system out of order, &c. Immediately and completely the supply of opium was cut off without any ill-effects, except great discomfort and craving. They left the hospital in good condition, fat and healthy and in good spirits, once more in a fit state to earn "rice" for themselves and their families.

7. Do a majority of the labourers, or of the merchants, or of the artisans, of the part of China with which you are conversant consume opium?—No. A very small proportion of the agricultural labourers do, a large proportion of ordinary coolies do so, and a very large majority of chair coolies do so, a fairly large per-centage of merchants and artisans also do so. If so what is generally the effect of the opium habit on their efficiency in their calling?—Their efficiency in their calling very soon becomes dependent on their supply of opium. In the case of burden coolies, but more especially chair coolies, there is no doubt that a little opium occasionally enables them to get through an extraordinary amount of work, but I believe they would be better and stronger men, and able to endure as much work, if they never had commenced the habit. Employés in merchants' houses and artisans, often through the abuse of opium, get into disgrace and trouble with their masters, and I think all native and foreign employers look with a watchful and suspicious eye on an opium-smoker.

8. How does the use or abuse of opium among the races of that part of China with which you are conversant compare with the use or abuse of alcohol among such races, in regard to the effect on consumers?—There is absolutely no abuse of alcohol worth mentioning in Ningpo. The use is moderate. In the course of my duties and pleasure I have been through the city of Ningpo at all hours of the day and night, my hospital being in the city, and I have never seen a drunken Chinaman. The use of opium without abuse is distinctly rarer and more difficult than the use of alcohol without abuse in England.

9. Is the habit of consuming opium condemned as degrading, or injurious, by the general opinion of the Chinese?—No. How would they regard the opium

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habit as compared with the alcohol habit?—They would infinitely prefer the former—the opium habit.

10. Can and do opium-consumers break themselves of the opium habit?—Yes. I have known many cases, who certainly for several years, and up to the present time, as far as I know, abstain, who had been opium “sots” before.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off, what would be the effect on opium-consumers and on the population of your neighbourhood?—Their opium would cost them less and they would take more. The population would in course of time be diminished. Would they resort to the Chinese-grown opium?—Undoubtedly, yes. Or would they take to alcohol or to some narcotic other than opium?—No, unless the native opium was cut off, which is most unlikely. Or would they abstain altogether?—Certainly not.

12. Do people of European race contract the opium habit in any numbers?—No. If not, why not?—Because they prefer alcohol, which is English, and the use, but not abuse, of which is not only health but sociable and fashionable. And what makes Asiatics more liable to contract the habit?—In the first place opium is cheaper, and a person can become intoxicated with opium much more cheaply than he can with alcohol. In the second place, the European is active, keen, and very often ready to fight or have a row—alcohol. The Asiatic is of a more sluggish and peaceable disposition—opium.

13. How are opium-consumers led to use the drug?—The majority from example and persuasion. Others as a remedy against painful and other diseases, such as bowel and lung troubles and fevers. Others take it for good fellowship sake occasionally, and end in liking it. Is opium, within your knowledge, a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, or malaria?—Not within my knowledge. Or is it so regarded commonly by the inhabitants of the part of China with which you are conversant?—Against malarial fevers—yes.

14. Do opium-consumers themselves usually desire to get free of the opium habit?—When not able to afford it, and while still trembling on the balance midway between use and abuse, yes—otherwise, no.

15. Is there among the Chinese in the part of China with which you are acquainted any wish that England should not allow opium to be exported from India?—No.

16. By what classes of persons and in what provinces or districts of China is Indian opium usually consumed, and how far does Chinese-grown opium compete with Indian opium in the provinces or districts in which the two kinds are readily obtainable?—Consular Trade Reports. Imperial Maritime Customs publications will show this.

17. What will be the probable consequences of the prohibition or restriction of the export of Indian opium—(a.) on the consumption of opium by the Chinese?—In all probability none; if any, possibly an increase, owing to the cheapness of the native drug. (b.) On the cultivation of the poppy and production of opium in China?—A large increase, thus lessening the amount of food raised.

18 and 19. I am not in a position to give any useful answer.

20. Have you any other remark to make in regard to opium consumption among the people around you?—Only that in the opinion of nearly all foreign residents in China, outside the missionary body, who are in a position to form an opinion on the subject, the evils of opium-smoking have been greatly exaggerated by missionaries, especially the young and inexperienced ones, who are led, in their enthusiasm, by the evil results they see, to the conclusion that there can be no such thing as moderation or good in the consumption of opium. It further appears to English residents, that it would be as impossible to stop the use of opium in China as it would the use of alcohol in England; and further that the evils resulting from the abuse of alcohol at home are infinitely worse than those of opium in China.

(Signed) C. C. DE BURGH DALY,
M.B., B.Ch. Univ. Dublin,
Medical Officer H.B.M. Consulate
and I.M. Customs.

Rev. J. MACINTYRE.

1. Yes. And I speak for the Province of Shantung, over the length and breadth of which I have travelled on foot, as also for the district of “Manchuria,” known as Fêng Fien, where I have lived and travelled for the last 18 years.

2. My native acquaintances are unwilling to draw any distinction between the races, Manchu and Chinese, in this respect. I am inclined to believe that Manchu women, from their possession of and their naturally active habits, are less liable to the habit than Chinese women. Where I travel it is a common feature to see Manchu women working in the fields like women in certain districts of Europe. The proportion of smokers is greatest in cities. I would reckon that more smoke in Shantung than in Manchuria, because of the more settled state of life. Some say 1 in every 300 of the population smoke (in Fêng Fien). Some even limit the smokers to 1 in 1,000. It depends very much on locality. There are places in our “backwoods” (in the Far East, along the middle reaches of the Jalao River) where one only hears of an occasional case. And, again, the city in which I live is reckoned a perfect opium den (Hai Chêng). From the seaport, Newchwang, into the Interior, along the main line of route, the practice is now tolerated in every inn where I am acquainted. Sometimes it would seem as if “everybody of any consequence smokes.” Women are not so much addicted as the men. One hears of it in “fashionable circles” amongst concubines. In the case of the middle classes it would seem as if women were frequently led into the use of the drug by sickness. As a missionary, I have had many such cases to deal with, and have several painful cases on hand at this present. Again, in a district where I administered famine relief, and where therefore I came into very close contact with the poor, I learned as a fact that the women (to whom most of the work of collecting the juice and preparing it now falls) were becoming generally addicted to the opium pipe. I can only vouch for two cases of “children” addicted to opium. One is 12 years, Chinese style, and the other 13 years. This latter has been smoking for three years.

3. I maintain that the common belief among the Chinese is (and this I give as an experience of 20 years) that a man in the power of the opium habit is injured morally. They say he loses his “conscience.” They say there is no depth of selfishness into which he may not plunge. “He will sell wife and child,” “he will sell his mother,” are phrases one hears. From time to time I have known cases of such barter for the drug. These, of course, are just such cases as we might see in Great Britain if some of our inveterate drunkards could venture the length. But the fact remains that it is opium always and drink never which is credited with these horrors in China. But it is to be borne in mind that a man who uses opium in moderation is not so destroyed, nor yet he who has ample means of gratification. People will then say, an opium-smoker is “selfish beyond all men,” and abominably out of temper when his “time is come,” but not the opportunity of relieving his craving (if he be a hard smoker). Such men are spoken of very much as some tobacco smokers are spoken of amongst ourselves, especially by ladies, in Great Britain. Distinguished statesmen, able magistrates, men high in the ranks in the teaching profession, would only be spoken of as injured morally when they are in the degrading stages of the habit, when their indulgence and its results run them into all manner of mean makeshifts to escape public duties. Then also you will hear the remark made in connexion with honoured names, “his conscience is gone, he is in the power of the opium habit.” As to the physical results, it is a mere matter of use and quantity. Undoubtedly the tendency is to undermine the frame, if the use be prolonged, and if the quantity, as is most commonly the case, increased with the use. I am speaking of the common use, and not of the case where it is taken as medicine. There is no mistaking the sallow complexion, the dry teeth, of a fairly good smoker, i.e., of a man who has used it with considerable caution from youth till past middle age. It is a frequent remark made to us Westerns, “One sees it on you that you do not smoke,” and the explanation is invariably the same—our purer complexion and our physical activity. Socially, I would not say opium entails the degradation which unhappily alcohol is beginning to entail in Great Britain. But we always hear of it wherever a marriage is to be contracted. There are many, of course, who look upon opium-smoking families as on “the down

grade," and therefore avoid matrimonial alliances with them. As to the effects respectively of Indian and Chinese grown opium, there is a perfect consensus of opinion in Manchuria, so far as my experience goes. The native does not produce the same "craving" as the foreign. This may be taken, I fancy, as undisputed.

4. There is only one way in vogue, the pipe. When people want to poison themselves they resort to a pellet of the raw material, or the decoction, and this goes on all the year round wherever there is a family quarrel. But the pipe will always hold its own as the means of taking opium with enjoyment.

P.S.—I know of any amount of opium-eating, but it is always associated, in my mind, with the attempts to renounce the use of the opium pipe, and, indeed, the opium habit. Opium-smokers who dare not be seen smoking have thus frequent recourse to what is known more commonly as "opium medicine," and can always be used openly on the pretence of "reformation."

5.—(i.) The general reply is, none. But this means that none comply absolutely with the conditions of safety, his perpetual self-control, and absolute refusal to increase the quantity. "All in the end receive hurt" more or less" is the reply of a very trustworthy informant who smoked for years, and is now an abstainer. The continuous use of the pipe is thus always associated with injury, but this because it has become an axiom that the "habit" goes from bad to worse. If a smoker could continue as in his initial stages, some go the length of saying that no injury would result. One old doctor tells me that some constitutions would even thrive on it, the description showing it to be a fat producer like English beer. He also believes it useful against ague.

(ii.) With slight injury. Not many. My Chinese friends are reluctant to allow of slight injury where the habit is a lifelong one, and where the account is taken late in life. Please observe this: No injury, slight injury, can be predicated freely in the early stages, and in the case of strong constitutions, and again in the case of some to whom it may have some constitutional adaptations. If you take the account at the end of a man's life, and take the case of a man who has smoked for 30, 40, or even 50 years, the cases of no injury are not worth the counting said an old Chinaman to me. This, however, leaves the question of amount of injury a very difficult one.

(iii.) The worst case of "opium sots," i.e., in which there is a complete breakdown, morally and physically, is difficult to proportion. I have seen them alike among the rich and among the poor. But this extreme case is not, to my mind, so common as that of the large class who are confirmed smokers, and who are declared on medical grounds to be incapable of reformation (without serious physical injury, or at least serious risk to the health). To me this is a mere question of age. The majority of smokers who have attained to the age of 50 may be set down as suffering serious injury. As to the query, what is the nature of the injury? There is undoubted debility. People "are old before their time" is a common phrase. Such suffer acutely from alternations of constipation and diarrhoea. Thus, though the smoker does not become the disgusting "sot" he is too often painted, he is generally one who will be the first to say, and with a very wide reference, "I parted with my health when I took to opium."

6. When Chinese say there cannot be moderation in the use of opium they mean it as a practical opinion in a practical matter. Observation and experience go to show that moderation is not common. Theoretically, as I have shown above, moderation is conceived as possible. Given a good, sound, practical resolution, and a sound constitution (says an old native doctor to me) and a man may smoke without hurt. But the same man believes there is not 1 in 1,000 of his countrymen who could comply, or rather who would take the trouble to comply with his conditions of success. For myself, I have had two very remarkable cases of "slight injury" under my notice for a period of 10 years. One is an old Manchu of over 70 years of age. He has renounced the habit and taken to it again several times since I knew him. He is well-to-do, of active habits, owns and works his own farm. The one complaint he makes is that he cannot utterly renounce the habit without inconvenience. Having no children, he adopted a son, who also took to opium. This last is the most perfect case I have known of "no apparent injury" as one might fairly term it. A man of very robust make, an exceptionally active man,

and who did the bulk of the farm work, besides carrying on an extensive business in the city (Hai Ch'ang) at a distance of 13 English miles from his village, I have known no deterioration since I first knew him. His law was to smoke once a day, and he was able to keep it. Nay, he frequently went for days without. I have every reason to believe that up to the last (he died recently while I was absent on furlough) he was able to keep to his resolution, and that the only physical suffering he had was associated with the seasons of disuse. He always frankly confessed to me as a fact that abstinence led to indigestion and an irritating form of diarrhoea. It may be prejudice, but those who best knew him agree in saying his last sickness was aggravated, if not brought on, by what was meant as a final effort to renounce the habit. As to a case of great injury there is one near me, that of a widow lady whose husband was once the chief magistrate of this city. I have known her over a period of 10 years. I have been to the house and have seen the results for myself. It is a case of utter ruin owing to the use of opium. The old lady was hale and hearty when I last saw her. She managed all the rents, mortgages, &c. of a family once in good circumstances. Yet she was a habitual opium-smoker. She had her hour when she must smoke or be miserable, and she had her quantity which she never inclined to reduce (so far as I have ever heard) even when she was in desperate straits for money. When I first visited her house it was at her own request, and with a view to have me buy some of her best furniture. There was no hiding her trouble. The house was full of strangers, who seemed to make themselves quite at home. There were people who were dunning her for money due to them. According to our custom here, in cases of desperation, and where it is known there is an intention to carry off property, these duns lived and slept on the premises. She had even to furnish them with opium! I heard her state what it cost her daily for opium, and I heard her ascribe all her troubles to the drug. Her eldest son, quite a youth, lay there in the fullest sense of the word an opium sot. I have been there several times, but I never saw him on his feet. And his young bride (or wife as we say) was as far gone as himself! On the old lady's testimony, the two were opium wrecks. Action of any sort was an abomination to them. An ordinary smoker can "tweeze" and work up his own opium, i.e., can fill his own pipe, if need be; but that was utterly beyond them. Yet the old lady's abiding grudge against the drug lay only in its excessive use. She saw no evil in it when it was kept in its place. She pressed my companion (an old gentleman attempting to get free from the habit) much as people press drink in certain circles. "You can take it and keep it in its place." And this is, perhaps, the fairest statement against the opium pipe when we complain of it on the general ground of health, and when no questions of morality or religion comes in, viz., it is clearly a very viper in the path to all weaklings. Thus to the case of the father and son above mentioned I have in honesty to add the sequel that the grandson, a man verging now on 30, has turned out an opium weakling, as I would say. I have had to dismiss him from a valuable post. He is, in fact, good for nothing but to lounge and loiter about. The probability is nothing will save him. Then a younger brother, 25, has taken to it, a ruddy picture of health at this present. Not, however, that he had a craving for opium. He sees the patrimony melting away at the hands of the eldest son, and this is his protest. He has ceased farm work therefore and taken to gentlemanly lounging like the other. This at all events is the story as it is given me by those mostly interested. In this connexion, an old Chinaman said very naively, "The worst I can say of opium" is that our "young bloods" (as we would say) have "no other way of spending, i.e., getting through, their money. If we had your outlets in the way of travel, &c., opium would not bulk so largely." This came from a native doctor in relation to the above second son, and shows no fear of heredity. It has a bearing also on Q. 12.

7. "People who are occupied" are not expected to come under the power of the habit, and are not supposed, indeed, to be in the way of using the pipe. Merchants in some cases are, however, exposed to special danger. In many large firms business cannot be carried on without treating buyers to the pipe. I have been intimately acquainted with men who were thus led into the use of the drug, and who found it impossible therefore to back out of the habit when it

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had become a burden. As to labourers and artisans, it is the "loafers" only who are supposed to indulge. The opinion in the north here, as far as I have ever heard it, is very unanimous in condemning opium where hard and continuous work is expected of any class. Opium requires leisure, and has its fixed periods of gratification, and this answers the question as to its effect on a man's efficiency. If a man is wanted early in the morning, if he is to be always at call, if he is liable to be called out for indefinite service, or subject to a prolonged strain, no one would like to set an opium-smoker to the task (unless the ideal one who is in his early stages, or who can take it or want it). I hear the Chinese speak of the following classes as showing a larger proportion of opium smokers: Play actors (very much addicted), all manner of mountebanks, all manner of servitors about the county courts, the soldiers (unless under very exceptional circumstances), the idle and wealthy, or the wealthy idle class.

8. We have virtually no abuse of alcohol here. I have heard medical men (Europeans) say that great Chinese officials frequently complain of the effects upon themselves of alcohol (they are compelled to partake by the laws of courtesy). The last time I travelled there was a theatrical troupe in the inn, and there was a regular bout of drinking and opium-smoking. My carter complained to his fellow carter of head-ache and thirst, and vowed he would never drink again "while on duty." But after 20 years' travel I have to say that alcohol does not count for anything, even though it is served to every man with his food, and costs him the same to take it or leave it. We are frequently in a barn-like building with from 50 to 100 common Chinamen all drinking a villainous sort of alcoholic liquor, full of poison, as English analysts have declared. Yet there is the indisputable fact that you have no stirring up of the fiercer passions as with us, and every man is content with his measure, and does not drink till he is drunk as so many of the same class would do with us in Great Britain. Their alcohol, though it would kill out our drinking population (as proved at least by the effects on our sailors and others) does not seem to produce a craving as does opium.

9. Public opinion is undoubtedly against the use of opium. Witness the fact that all "sects" which contemplate a reformation among the people begin with opium. Also the fact that if any Christian preacher were privately addicted to its use, as in the shape of what is known as "opium medicine," the common street people would lift up their voices against him, and the further fact that the natives themselves in our Christian churches are the most forward in their demands for a stern discipline in the matter of opium. No reforming society can gain so much as a footing unless it break completely with what the Chinese declare to be their national misfortune. The word "degrading" does not so much fit in with the Chinese ideas as the word "injurious." Opium is a calamity with them, as we say alcohol is a vice with us. To my mind they easily associate alcohol with degradation, but this only in the case of foreigners. Where our countrymen have been seen in a beastly state of drunkenness, wallowing in the gutter, or, on the other hand, as mad as tigers (as the Chinese say), I know to my cost the contempt which comes to be felt for all "Westerners." But I would not say that drinking implies "degradation" in China as amongst "celestials." It does not amount to a vice among them, and it certainly is not a drain upon their resources as is opium. It takes quite an inferior place in both respects in the category of evils. But alcohol is also prohibited in all the reforming societies I know of, *i.e.*, among the native sects.

10. At certain stages, certainly, yes. I have quite a number of people about me who are undoubtedly reformed opium-smokers. It is all a matter of "will," they say. And they generally add, a man must not be too far advanced in the habit. I have a melancholy experience, on the other hand, of poor weaklings, of whom one has to say, "It is no use hoping." Their will-power seems quite gone. Their health suffers so with every honest attempt at reformation that British medical authorities declare it is best to let them alone. These are the best and the worst. I have had, further, a large experience among men of the middle class of society, who are "off and on" (as we say of drinking in Britain). I find it wants a very honest will indeed to accomplish a permanent cure. But I am frequently pointed, and that outside of Christian circles, to un-

doubted cases of reformation, and that in all stages from 30 years of age to 70. This is where only native opium was in use.

11. We are already independent of Indian opium in Manchuria. The Chinese article has run out the foreign. When I first came to the province in 1876 there were two foreign opium hongs in the port of Newchwang. These have been, both of them, cleared out by the Chinese dealers in Indian opium. Now that the Chinese Government has legalised the growth of native opium, the quantity cultivated is already more than suffices for local consumption. Our native opium, they say, has not the flavour of the Indian, but it is cheaper, and is less enslaving. As I understand it, native opium is legalised purposely to run out the foreign article. The question we put, therefore, is, What would happen if the native opium were prohibited? Would the Chinese Government be able to put down opium even if they had the Indian trade suppressed by convention with Great Britain? And I always hear the one answer, opium could not now be put down even if there were a most competent ruler on the throne. It suits the people, and alcohol could not replace it. The question of "abstinence altogether" is a pure question of morality and religion. From what I see prohibition of opium as such would simply convulse the present Chinese Government. The cure of opium in China will be a more herculean task than the passing of a Maine law in Great Britain.

12. The Chinese tell me of "Europeans" who indulge in the opium pipe in San Francisco. But they have not been able to locate any in our own part of the world. The feeling here is that we Westerners are too active in our habits to take to opium. Once the natives have seen the *élite* of our foreign community stripped out in mid-winter at football, they are always ready to explain why it is we who sell them the opium do not use it ourselves. Opium, they feel, demands both leisure and laziness, and does not suit the haste and hurry and love of physical exercise which they usually see in the Western.

13. Very common through sickness. People take the pipe where we would take a few drops of laudanum or morphia. Every summer the pipe is pressed upon men and women, and sometimes upon young people as a cure for the aggravating form of diarrhoea which is common here, and which arises from heats and chills. So in every case of acute internal pain, opium is held to be a cure-all; and an average opium-smoker will be glad to fill a friendly pipe for the sake of the countenance it gives him. I have consulted several native doctors in writing this article, and it is agreed among them that opium is a valuable prophylactic. One old gentleman to whom I explained the desire on the part of many in Britain and China to suppress the opium trade, stated very ably the immense service of opium to humanity. He was zealous for his profession, and showed great knowledge of the medicinal uses of the drug. And this though a stern opponent of the use of opium save under medical direction.

14. In my experience, unless the smoker have a powerful motive in his own mind, no outside pressure will prompt him, or enable him to give up the habit. Those who give it up do so because they have counted the cost. But I have a very large experience in regard to men who would gladly give it up if the effort would not cost them so much. There must, however, always be a class who smoke because they like it, and who deem the habit a means of enjoyment. I always see great similarity between this and the drink question with ourselves. I have seen men in high positions in certain parts of our own island who knew infallibly what their third rummer of whisky toddy would cost them, but who mixed it as if the mixing had a relish, and who drank it with enthusiasm. So it is with opium. From time to time, when I travel, I have to lie down at night in sight of opium-smokers. Sometimes we are screened off from each other by a paper partition. I therefore hear all that is going on. I know the number of pipes taken, and I know the number of hours consumed at the task. I hear all manner of confidences, but I am compelled to believe that the opium-smoker is extremely happy over his pipe (even when he has all the tweezing to do for himself, a labour which would simply disgust an average Western with the practice in a single evening. If only the smoker can get his pipe in season, and under fairly comfortable circumstances, and have a companion or two to keep him in countenance, he is a very happy, and sometimes a very interesting man to overhear. In my very last experience,

less than a month ago, I heard the most thrilling stories in folk lore which it has ever been my privilege to hear. So if the query means, are opium-smokers, as a rule, discontented with themselves or their state? I answer unhesitatingly, by no means. Of course they have their "mornings" as devotees of whiskey have. But, to tell the truth, they take their "mornings" as best they can, and would rather have the pain than lose the pleasure. Government prohibitions conjointly in India and China would be a rare scare for that large class to whom the pipe is a refined enjoyment, which nothing within the present horizon could possibly supply.

15. There used to be, but the day is gone by. It is of no consequence now in this respect what India does, or rather Great Britain. The Chinese have the matter in their own hands. Merchants used to grumble that so much silver "went out of the country." There is no occasion now for the grumble. They have even a chance now of bringing in silver by the export of opium. I never at any time believed it was a matter of morality with the Chinese. It was a question of interfering with their fiscal arrangements. The voice of reproach is vanished from our province, at least where people sow the poppy in what used to be their cabbage garden.

N.B.—Not a matter of morality with the Chinese. I mean to say I disbelieve the loud talk about morality in which Chinese statesmen have from time to time indulged when they speak on so-called "opium war," and the use of opium. The opium war was a war in which the Chinamen fought to keep out the foreigner as such. I regret we took the opium in with us. Had we dropped it then we should have had an unequalled position to-day in China. But the opium was an accident of the war. Nothing but war could have brought the Chinese of that day to acknowledge us as belonging to the *genus homo*, and not only so, but as subjects of a free and independent sovereign, and a power infinitely superior to themselves. That, to my mind, was the subject matter of war.

16. I have heard say a few "old hands," and these men of means, have kept up the use of the Indian drug. Otherwise it is used to give "flavour" to the native. But as I have said above, it is of no practical account.

17. As I have shown, India no longer concerns us in Manchuria. The Government arrangements are already made, and native opium is legalised and taxed.

18. I have direct information from the "Yamèn" here (Hai Ch'èng) that in this "hsien" over 10,000 "mu" were reported as under opium crop last year, and that for every such Chinese acre reported and taxed another acre was under cultivation and escaped taxation. The average is said to be 6 mu to the English acre. If this 10,000 be multiplied by 20, they tell me it will be a near approximation to the entire acreage for our province of "Fèng Fien." But the remaining two provinces of Manchuria, *i.e.*, Kirin and Tsi-Tsi-Han, grow much more than we do.

19. The tax on native opium is 11s. 0.22 per mu, or, say, one-sixth per English acre.

I should like to be allowed to add, without offence, that it would pay the British Government to back out of the opium trade in China. The great mass of the people would really believe us if we put it as a moral question. If we put it as a matter of friendship with China, it would make us an immense force in Chinese politics. I am satisfied we are even now the "favoured nation." But with this opium question in the air, we give a truculent party a chance of alienating the more friendly disposed. And, as a fact, we are forcing the hand of the Chinese Government, and compelling them to grow opium in order to kick out the trade if it will not go peacefully.

(Signed) JOHN MACINTYRE,
Missionary of the United Presbyterian Church, Scotland.

Arrived in Chefoo, province of Shantung, China, 1st January 1872. Travelled all over Shantung between that date and July 1876, when I was transferred to this province. Lived for 10 years in the Port of Newchwang, and have now been several years resident in Hai Ch'èng, 33 miles inland. Have visited the interior cities of Kirin and Ku'an Ch'èng Tsu, and that while the poppy was in blossom, and the extent of ground covered by the crop could not be hidden.

Rev J. Ross.

Monkden, via Newchwang,
19th February 1894.

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Newchwang.

SIR,

RESPONDING to the circular from the Royal Commission on Opium received from you a few days ago, let me briefly reply to the questions in their order and under their respective numbers.

1. Opium is commonly used by Chinese and Manchus throughout those three provinces.

2. The proportion of smokers in any city or district differs according to the social rank or financial condition of the people, there being no distinction of race. For approximate proportions, *see* below 7. Not many years ago, I was informed, as of a new thing, that women were known to smoke opium. Most women of bad reputation are now addicted to the use of opium; of respectable women, probably 1 per cent. No children are allowed to smoke, smokers being very particular on this point.

3. In the initial stages in all cases, and for a greater or lesser number of years—depending on the amount smoked and on the nurture otherwise of the system—no serious results of any kind are noticeable. Beyond the age of 40 years, physical deterioration is patent in the vast majority of cases. Once the habit is established, and the strong craving takes possession of a man of limited means, the moral effects are deplorable, the man in his craving mood being ready to steal, to sell children or wife, or compel the latter to prostitute herself, if there is no other available means of securing so much opium as quenches the craving. In the case of even the young and wealthy, who can afford to nourish their bodies, if the craving to increase the amount needful for the pleasurable sensations of opium is indulged, the deterioration physically, mentally, and morally is rapid. This rapid deterioration is, however, comparatively rare, though cases are numerous enough. But when the prime of vigour is attained—an age set down at 40 years—there is a gradual enfeeblement in certainly 90 per cent. of moderate smokers. Ultimately there is, as far as my experience and information can carry me, premature old age and death. I have had to lament the premature death of several earnest Christian men, enthusiastic evangelists, who were opium-smokers up to and in some cases beyond the age of 40, before they were reclaimed by Christianity. Of reclaimed opium-smokers there is not one who is not prematurely and permanently enfeebled physically, even though Christianity has restored the moral power which opium had destroyed. There is no difference between Manchu and Chinese. There is no difference between the effects of Indian and Chinese opium.

4. All who can afford it smoke opium; but in the case of labourers who from lack of time or means are unable to smoke, opium is mixed with water and drunk. It is also taken in the form of pills or drink by those who seek to hide the habit, or whose immediate duties forbid the use of the pipe at the craving hour. As far as I can learn the effects are virtually similar in whatever form opium is taken. But apparently the smoke is the more pleasant form.

5. It is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to give even an approximately correct answer to the three sub-questions. I shall make these four to better represent my own experience:—(i.) To begin with there is no apparent injury, a condition which may continue for years (*see* above 3). (ii.) As far as experience guides me, and as information from all classes of Chinese leads me to infer, no opium-smoker escapes, sooner or later, injurious effects (*see* above 3). (iii.) The number of "sots" of the extreme kind is comparatively few. (iv.) The number of those who suffer serious injuries is large, and increasingly so with advancing age (*see* above 3).

6. I have known men, officials, and in private life, who used opium in "moderation" as that term is applied to drink, *i.e.*, men who smoked merely to satisfy the opium craving, and who never smoked to stupefaction. Indeed this latter kind of smoker is but a small proportion of the whole. If by "harm to themselves" is meant the "moral, physical" results, *see* above 3. Many smoke for years without apparent harm; but I have not known one who was not ultimately "harméd" by the habit. As to effects on their ability to work, *see* below 7. Of those whom I have known to suffer serious injury, it is difficult to make a selection. A neighbour, who is still a young man, was left a wealthy lad by one of the most prosperous merchants in town, soon after my arrival here. As a boy he was tempted to indulge in the pipe by other young men of "fast" society. The youth, on coming of age, paid no attention to any of

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the various flourishing places of business. Now not one of them remains, and his representatives are selling off the valuable curios left by his father and are trying to sell the good house in which the family is still living. The young man is dead at once to feelings of shame and sense of duty. His young and comely wife, whom he treated disgracefully, and who has no child, has, to kill her misery, betaken herself to the pipe. His mother alone is responsible for the well-being, such as it can be, of the family. Not long ago I encountered in an inn a youth of 23, gorgeously arrayed in rich satin robes and attended by many servants. They brought him food for his mid-day meal—he having had no meal since the preceding evening—but he turned it away with expressions of loathing. His pipe was then prepared for him. While my food was getting ready I entered into conversation with him, and ultimately expressed my regret that one so young and scholarly as he should have allowed himself to become so enslaved to his pipe. He smoked over a Chinese ounce per day, probably somewhat nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. avoirdupois. He asked if there was any mode of curing the habit. I referred him to our hospital where cases were already cured. "But," he replied, "I cannot face any mode of curing implying suffering, I would rather die." He was emaciated so that he could scarcely become more so; his face was the colour of a dead man. He had to lean on a servant when going away. I was requested to see another young man, also wealthy, dying of what the Chinese term opium-dysentery, which by the way is said to cut off at last a large proportion of opium-smokers.

7. From what I can learn a majority of any class of men cannot be found addicted to opium in any form. Of common labourers only a small per-centage indulge in the habit, principally because they cannot afford it. Possibly from 3 to 5 per cent. Of artisans there may be double that number. Of merchants from 20 to 30 per cent.; and of mandarins, 30 to 40 per cent. Mandarins and merchants transact their business like non-smokers (but see above 3). Artisans, though smokers, are employed; and it is true of them, if their work is not physically trying, as of the preceding classes, that they work like their neighbours. Labourers who have smoked for years are not able to overtake as much work as non-smokers. Hence, except when labourers are in great demand, opium-using labourers are not engaged. Here, in building, labourers are engaged by the day. When a man is found to be an opium-smoker he is generally not engaged again after the fact is discovered. This I have repeatedly seen. When servants are known to be opium-smokers, they are usually dismissed. In this city of over "20,000 shops" with from 5 to 400 men in each, as soon as a shopman is known to be an opium-smoker he is dismissed without an hour's warning, this being the only cause of such summary dismissal I have heard of. One such young man who was trusted with goods to sell to people in their homes, and who sold me articles not infrequently, was thus dismissed. He came to my compound, sat for some time with my servants, to whom he was well known, waited till the room was clear, and made off with several native garments. Those who have not themselves the means to gratify their craving are never trusted or believed.

8. Contrary to general belief in the west, Chinese consume ardent spirits very largely; but all but universally at meals. Drunkards are extremely rare, though heavy drinkers are common enough. Almost every man drinks strong alcoholic liquors; only a proportion, a minority, of adult men use opium. When men drink to exhilaration they are inclined to quarrel as in the west, while opium has the contrary influence. I have never heard ascribed to alcoholic liquors the evil results stated above on the fruit of opium.

9. I never met a Chinaman, smoker or non-smoker, who did not consider the habit injurious and degrading. The opium habit is considered incomparably worse than the drinking habit; but, of course, this latter habit is not as mischievous here as in western lands. It is therefore difficult to say how the Chinese would compare the opium habit with the western drinking habits.

10. In our Church there are those—men and women,—who have been reclaimed from the opium habit. These are few. Of non-Christians, I can only recall two men who of themselves broke off the habit. There is a sect widely spread throughout the centre and north of this province—Tsai Li—the members of which are total abstainers from opium and tobacco, and have renounced all kinds of strong drink. Opium-smokers joining that sect have some potent medicine administered; and,

usually, after excruciating experiences, are broken entirely off the habit. A few I have known, who have cured themselves by using morphia pills instead of the pipe, and by gradually decreasing the number or size of pill till they could drop the habit altogether. Some I have known go so far as to reach the smallest possible quantity; but this they could not renounce, as more sickness was the immediate result of total abstinence.

11. At the present stage the presence or absence of Indian opium would have no influence whatever. The province produces all the opium consumed, and even, I am informed, exports it elsewhere. (See 201.) In any case they would not resort to further indulgence in strong drink, the customs connected with which are of long standing.

12. I know of no reason why Asiatics should be more liable to contract the opium habit than any European.

13. Some resort to opium to cure stomach-ache or bowel complaints, as dysentery, frequent diarrhoea, or great pain. Others I have known to smoke because of bronchitis, which is relieved by the pipe. To begin with, these resort to the pipe intermittently and only as for medicine; usually the insidious craving takes possession of them, and they must have their pipe daily. They differ then in nothing from any other smoker. But the most fertile cause of the opium habit is fashion. It was the vice of the great and the wealthy, and those who were neither great nor wealthy betook themselves to this habit because it was fashionable. Young men, left a good deal of money by their industrious and sober fathers, generally betake themselves to the pipe, recruits being constantly added to the number of smokers through the influence of example. A high official, himself a moderate smoker all his days, in talking of the possible cure of the habit, told me frankly that no efforts of India or China would stop the habit while it was fashionable; but if it became so common that it ceased to be noteworthy for anything save its deleterious influences, respectable people would cease to enter the ranks of the smokers. In not a single instance did I ever hear of the opium habit as the result of taking it to prevent or to cure fever, rheumatism, or malaria; and though it is used commonly by native practitioners in cases of bowel or stomach complaints, it is not so used for any other complaint. Except for the troubles mentioned above, I have never heard of the use of opium medicinally. The number of those who smoke to ward off sickness is but a fraction of the number who smoke to secure pleasurable sensations, and these again are fewer than those who smoke to satisfy a craving.

14. Whether sincere or not, opium-smokers in town and country are ever asking for some medicine or method to cure them of the habit, but on condition that it does not imply the fearful suffering which cessation from smoking is said always to produce.

15. I have often heard England denounced for bringing opium into China and compelling the people by war to use it; but I have not heard any desire expressed that England should stop it. Probably the reason is that the commerce is believed to be so profitable that England would not consent to abandon it. The chief reason given for its compulsory introduction into China was usually that thus England wished to enfeeble the Chinese race before making a serious attempt to conquer the country. For several years I have not heard these arguments.

16. Twenty years ago the great opium merchants, "Old" and "New" Sassoon, were both represented by several agents in Newchwang, and the two houses were supported by their extensive sales. Years ago they ceased to be represented in Newchwang, the native-grown article having rapidly increased and driven out Indian opium. When used now it is smoked only by a few who were accustomed to the foreign article. Native opium for several years could not compare with Indian, and the latter was largely used to flavour the former. Now the native differs very little from the Indian. It is mixed, not with Indian opium, but with lard and calfsfoot jelly.

17. As far as Manchuria is concerned, I do not see that the prohibition of Indian opium can have any influence in any direction, unless, indeed, the Chinese Government would take steps to root out the native plant, which it could easily do. One mandarin of my acquaintance was sent to a very large county, which he found covered all over with the gaudy poppy flowers. He issued orders that next spring no poppy be sown. This was believed to be a pretext for "squeezing,"

so the poppy was sown, and the plant appeared above ground, the growers being willing enough to pay a liberal "squeeze." The mandarin sent out his men and had every plant plucked up, and for the next seven years of his office not a poppy flower was seen. The law is what it was; but poppy-growing is tolerated by most mandarins.

18. The area under cultivation is considerable in Manchuria, but fractional as compared to the soil under cereals.

19. The tax imposed by the local mandarin on land under opium is, as far as I know, about 12 times that on ordinary land; but this is small compared with the tax on Indian opium. I have not made inquiries in trustworthy quarters as to how much of the opium tax goes to Government; but it is generally believed that little, if any, of that tax finds its way into the imperial exchequer.

20. The first mandarin, one of the fourth grade, with whom I had friendly acquaintance, informed me years ago that when he was quite a small boy his father, also a mandarin, sent him to a high official to buy as much opium as would make a smoke. He never got it directly, for smoking was strictly prohibited; but it was sent by a servant, after it was "borrowed" by the official. It then sold for 15 times its present price. The port of Newchwang was not open to foreign ships. Balls of opium were smuggled on native junks. If the junk were approached by a Customs officer before the opium was landed the article was quietly dropped in the rushing river astern. The penalty of smuggling was severe. So little did the Chinese know about it that they believed it was the long sought for elixir of life; and that it was a medicine compounded of the virgin flesh of a youth and a maiden, a pure mixture of yang and yin principles. Some years after the opening of the port, when it was brought in abundance in foreign ships, seeds of the plant were secured. It was stealthily grown in narrow gullies among remote mountains, and as stealthily brought into this city for private sale. The carriage of grain or other likely produce was so expensive as to make trade in that way prohibitive, but opium was of small bulk and great value. The value has gone down, but the growth has gradually grown till now the pink and white flowers haunt their unblushing gaudiness in gardens within and fields without our city walls.

(Rev.) JOHN ROSS,
Presbyterian Missionary
from Scotland.

Mr. D. CHRISTIE.

1. Opium is largely consumed in Manchuria.

2. About 45 per cent. of the adult male population use it; also, I should say, 10 per cent. of the upper class women, but few among the poor of that sex. The use of it by children has not come under my notice.

3. Effects. (a.) *Physical*.—Opium first stimulates, and afterwards depresses the system. It diminishes the secretions of the body, impairs digestion, lowers functional activity, weakens the nervous centres, and ultimately produces structural changes and diseased conditions in important organs. Its prolonged use often causes extreme emaciation and general weakness; and, by lessening the power of resistance, renders the consumer liable to succumb to acute disease. (b.) *Moral*.—The higher mental faculties are also enfeebled; the moral sensibility becomes gradually blunted; and, in the mind of a confirmed opium-smoker, the ethical distinction between right and wrong, truth and falsehood, becomes confused. (c.) *Social*.—A large proportion of those who habitually use the drug are reduced to poverty, having spent their all to satisfy the craving. If a man is wealthy, neither he nor his family suffer much socially. As to race, we have only Chinese and Manchus to deal with, and I have observed no difference in the effect of opium upon them. The Indian preparation is stronger than the native, and seems more powerful in its action.

4. The method of using opium here is chiefly smoking. Opium pills, and foreign morphia tabloids are taken as a more convenient form. Many of the poor drink an infusion made from the ashes and scrapings of the pipe. Of these methods smoking is, in my opinion, the least harmful, as some of the alkaloids of opium are volatilized by the heat and do not enter the system.

5.—(i.) (ii.) I do not believe that any one can use opium for a length of time without more or less injury.

(iii.) Of those who consume the drug, I should say that about 20 or 30 per cent. are seriously injured by it.

6. It may be possible for a man of strong will to use the drug always in moderation; but of the many hundreds who have come under my observation all had to increase the dose steadily to satisfy the craving. It is true that many in comfortable circumstances and healthy surroundings, with good food and strong constitutions, can smoke for a lengthened period without any apparent deleterious result. An official of my acquaintance smoked heavily for 30 years, and seemed none the worse; but I should not like to be his medical attendant through an acute illness. On the other hand, I have met with hundreds who, with half the quantity, have had body and mind shattered. One of these had occupied an important official position, but he and his family were reduced to poverty and despair. He came to me to be cured of the habit, and was admitted to the hospital. He was old, feeble, his heart very weak, and after some days of careful treatment and observation, I came to the conclusion that giving up opium, which he had used so long, would mean death to him. When I told him this, he pleaded with me to take away his life rather than leave him helpless in his miserable condition.

7. Of labourers, merchants, and artisans, about 35 per cent. use opium; and, owing to the time and money required, as well as its effect on the system, it often interferes seriously with their calling. I am told that merchants in Monkden, even those who smoke themselves, will not employ any young man who tampers with the pipe.

8. The excessive use of alcohol in this province is not common, and its evil effects are not so manifest as in the West, for the stimulant is seldom indulged in on an empty stomach, but sipped out of tiny cups during a meal. A few confirmed drunkards, however, have come under observation, and these are often a disturbance to the community, which is not the case with opium-smokers. I consider, however, that the latter habit is more injurious to the individual who indulges in it, and also to his family because of the greater poverty it brings upon them.

9. The habitual use of opium is considered by the natives here both injurious and degrading. I have conversed on the subject with many intelligent men, officials and others, and, even among those who use it, I have never met with one who said anything in its favour. Alcohol, as consumed here, is by no means regarded in the same light as opium.

10. Those who succeed in overcoming the habit without help are, in my experience, very few, especially when it is fully established.

11. The cutting off of the Indian supply would not in my opinion materially affect the consumption of opium in this province, as those who use it would resort to the native article. I have no reason to believe that abstinence from opium would cause any increase in the use of alcohol. Among the many who have come to us to be cured of the habit I have not observed any tendency to turn to alcohol or any other narcotic.

12. The Chinese seem to be more liable than Europeans to contract the opium habit. Many resort to it in the hope of curing disease, having no other means for relieving pain and other symptoms. To them time is of less importance, and many finding it hang heavily upon them take to the pipe to pass the hours. Another reason may be the absence of such social pleasures as are enjoyed in the West.

13. From our hospital register I note that various reasons are given for beginning to use the drug. Some take it to cure disease, others to soothe sorrow, many because a friend offers the pipe, but the vast majority as a mere luxury. So far as my observation has gone, opium affords no protection against fever, rheumatism, or malaria, and the natives do not seem to regard it as doing so. Malaria, however, is not common in this province. In 1883 we had a severe epidemic of cholera in Manchuria, and the mortality among opium-smokers was very great. They also seem to succumb more readily than others to dysentery and diarrhoea.

14. Many opium-smokers desire to give up the habit, especially when its evil results begin to appear, or when they can no longer afford it.

15. I have seldom heard any opinion expressed regarding the importation of Indian opium.

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16. Chinese-grown opium, owing to its comparative cheapness, is steadily supplanting the foreign article, and its cultivation is extending here every year. The latter is chiefly used by the wealthy, whether officials or merchants.

17. Unless new laws were to be made regarding the cultivation and consumption of opium in China, the prohibition or restriction of the export from India would probably have no effect on its consumption here, and the cultivation of the poppy would, I believe, largely increase.

(Signed) DUGALD CHRISTIE, L.R.C.P.,
L.R.C.S., Ed., Medical Missionary,
United Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

Date of arrival in China:
October 1882

Monkden, Manchuria,
N. China,
February 20th, 1894.

FOOCHOW.

No. 20.

Her Majesty's Consulate, Foochow,
March 8, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith answers to the paper of questions from the Commission forwarded to me by Her Majesty's Minister at Peking.

The paper was sent to several members of the community, but only two have given any answers.*

By the use of these, and by inquiries made through intelligent Chinese, I have compiled the answers sent herewith. Some of these are of necessity rather vague, and some require further investigation, but I trust the Commission will find them of service.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. WATERS,
Her Majesty's Consul.

CONSUL WATERS.

1. Opium is commonly consumed in all the central and northern parts of the Province of Fuhkien and, indeed, throughout the whole province.

2. It is estimated that nearly 80 per cent. of the adult male population of Fuhkien Province take opium. Of the adult female population above 5 per cent. smoke opium. It is not known that any children take opium. At Foochow there is a large colony of Manchu banner-men, and the proportion of these, men and women, addicted to opium is greater than among Chinese.

3. The effects of opium, moral, physical, and social, on its consumers varies with circumstances. An English doctor of long experience in this province tells me that the natives "who are rich and well-to-do some times smoke opium regularly and moderately (from 10 to 30 grains daily) without any apparent injury. morally, physically, mentally, or socially. The well-to-do class who use opium immoderately become extremely indolent, which sometimes leads to poverty and disaster. On the poor, who have irregular employment and are badly fed, the deleterious effects of opium-smoking, morally and physically, are well marked." A missionary, who has resided and travelled much in this Province, states, as his experience of habitual opium-smokers:—"Physically, after a few years of opium-smoking the great majority of opium-smokers, especially among the poor, become perfect wrecks and are incapable of doing any hard or continuous work." "Socially," opium-smoking he states, "works ruin, by reducing families from comparative affluence to extreme poverty. It introduces shame and confusion and misery into the family by the practice of husbands selling their wives and children to procure the means of satisfying their craving for the opium pipe." There is no difference except in degree between the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium.

4. Consumers of opium in this province are nearly all smokers. The missionary above quoted states that in the north part of the province the practice of eating opium in the form of pills has come into use of late years. Secretaries and others in public offices have also taken to the use of such pills. Among the very poor who become victims of opium, the doctor states, "some chew the capsules in which opium is imported,

"whilst others swallow opium-pipe cleanings or drink opium-pipe washings." According to the Chinese, smoking is the least injurious of all the ways of taking opium.

5. The proportion of those who use opium (1) without injury are, according to one estimate, 70 per cent. of all smokers; (2) with slight injury, about 10 per cent.; (3) with great injury, about 10 per cent. Chinese, however, who know well, state that only 50 per cent. of smokers of opium continue to be such without injury. They calculate also that the "opium sots," who "suffer great injury," are at least one-fifth of all smokers.

6. I am of opinion that it is not correct to say "there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium." The doctor, who is also of this opinion, gives the following instances of his own experience. (A.) "S., 60 years of age, a tea broker, native of Canton. He is of good physique, and has always been a healthy man. When about 25 years of age he commenced to smoke opium as a social amusement. At 30 years of age the dose smoked daily was about 30 grains, and he kept up this, never increasing until he was 55 years old, when he gave up the habit." (B.) "C., aged 65, a Government officer. He is a small man, of good physique; has smoked opium for upwards of 30 years, using from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ ounce daily. He is an active man, attends satisfactorily to his duties, and looks fat and well. He is the father of a large family, his two youngest children being aged respectively 9 months and 4 years. Recently he complained of gouty symptoms." As coming within my own experience I may mention the following: (C.) H. was a mandarin, holding an important and responsible position. When I made his acquaintance he was and had been for some years a regular but moderate smoker of opium. Fifteen years afterwards he died in office. A colleague, who saw him the day before death, informed me that then H. was as clear-headed and active-minded as he had ever been. (D.) W. is a Canton man of about 50 years of age. He has been married for about 30 years, and has been an opium-smoker all the time. His body is healthy and his mind vigorous, and he is upright, faithful, and charitable beyond the ordinary Chinese. His wife deals out to him every day his opium money, and he never exceeds, except when he has an extra pipe at a dinner party. As an instance of great injury resulting from the abuse of opium the doctor relates the following: "C. N. M., 50 years of age. When I knew him first, some 14 years ago, he was a foreigner's servant. He was a tall, handsome, well-built man, of good repute, and had good employment. Above 10 years ago he commenced to smoke opium in a companionable way. Eight years ago his consumption of the drug was about three drachms daily. About this time he became so indolent and dishonest that he could no longer find employment as a butler. After this his wife hanged herself on account of the misery induced by her husband's opium-smoking habits. Recently I saw him a miserable coolie, with irregular employment, smoking opium whenever he could get it, and looking more dead than alive. He is now dead, the cause of death being a form of dysentery, which is a common mode of death among opium-smokers. A younger brother of the above, who occupied a position in a household like his elder brother, followed his example, and is now a miserable wretched-looking street beggar."

7. Of the merchants and shopkeepers in this district the great majority smoke opium. But of these not more than 30 per cent., it is computed, are smokers to a serious or excessive degree. Between the merchant who takes opium in regulated moderate quantities and the merchant who does not take any there is practically no difference. But the merchant or shopkeeper who becomes a slave to opium soon becomes careless in business and loses the confidence of his customers. Of labourers, skilled and unskilled, it is estimated that about 40 per cent. smoke opium regularly. Nearly all the street chair coolies and the miscellaneous coolies to be hired for odd jobs are hopeless opium-smokers. It is a common impression among the Chinese that a man who smokes opium in small quantities, strictly regulated, has greater powers of concentration than others. The conversation of such a man is greatly relished, and he is supposed to be able to state his side of a matter with great clearness and fulness. A man of this kind as a skilled artisan is supposed to do his work with great care and neatness. His wages are, accordingly, in some crafts, better than the non-smoker's. The

* For other Foochow papers, see page 297.

coolies who smoke opium, partly because they smoke bad opium, and too much of it, and partly because they have irregular habits and bad and little nourishment, soon lose their health and their physical powers.

8. The Chinese of this province are not addicted to the abuse of alcohol. The native opinion, however, is that excess in the use of alcohol is not so injurious as excess in opium.

9. The excessive use of opium when persisted in is condemned by all right-minded Chinese as degrading and injurious. They despise the opium debauchee much more than the drunkard. But among the people generally there is no stigma attached to the moderate regular use of opium or alcohol.

10. Yes; opium-consumers can and do break themselves of the opium habit. It is seldom, however, that an opium-smoker of long standing is able and willing to give up his pipe. One hears of such cases, but the accounts are always to be received with caution. The missionary, already quoted, writes, "I have known a few, about half-a-dozen, I think, who broke off the opium habit by the natural force of their own will. I have known a good many who have been cured of the habit by remedies administered by medical men and others. The general opinion, however, of the Chinese is that it is next to impossible to break off the habit once it has been confirmed. This is the feeling of the opium victims also."

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off the smokers would certainly resort to native opium. Some might abstain and some might take to alcohol, but most would undoubtedly take to Chinese opium. This is the general opinion among Chinese and foreigners who know them.

12. People of European race in this district do not contract the opium habit in any form. The European residents here have active occupation, which engrosses mind and body. When relieved from work they require open-air exercise and social amusement of a higher and more active character than Chinese know of. The inactive sedentary habits and phlegmatic disposition of Chinese generally seem to suit the opium habit.

13. Many Chinese first take to opium by the advice of the native doctors. My missionary correspondent thinks that probably about 15 per cent. of opium-smokers in this region so began the practice. The doctor also writes, "No doubt some are induced to commence the use of opium with an idea of curing dyspepsia, diarrhoea, dysentery, hernia, and many other painful affections, as well as to soothe their sorrow in times of trouble." Many take to opium merely because others smoke. Opium-smoking in its early stages is essentially a social habit, and the smoker always likes to have a companion. Many are thus induced to take to opium as a simple matter of companionship. Opium is regarded by many Chinese as a prophylactic against fever or malaria. But some natives assert that it loses its power against these with the opium sot, who suffers from malaria like others. Opium is also resorted to by rheumatic patients, but probably not as a cure.

14. Many opium-smokers do desire strongly to get free of the habit. But many will tell the missionary, or doctor, or friend that they abhor the habit and wish to be free from it, while really they have no desire or intention to break it off. My missionary correspondent writes, "Opium-smokers themselves do most earnestly desire to get free of the habit. I have never met, during the 33 years of my residence in this province, with an opium-smoker who did not desire to get rid of the habit. In every town and village one is besieged by opium-smokers begging for medicine to enable them to break off the habit."

15. Certainly some Chinese express the wish that England should not allow opium to be exported from India to China. To missionaries especially such expressions are often addressed, and my missionary correspondent, like his brethren, accepts them. The natives, however, whom I have consulted tell me there is no sincere wish of the kind among the people generally. I have no doubt that some of the officials and many of the landowners would like to have Indian opium prohibited, but their desire is not prompted by any highly moral or benevolent motive. Doubtless there are some honest right-minded Chinese who would like to see all Indian opium cut off from China, but they would also like to see the cultivation of native

opium stopped. Such persons wish to see the use and abuse of opium abolished, so far as their nation is concerned, and not merely the supply of one description cut off.

16. As to this district, Indian opium is used in the port of Foochow and surrounding places by the rich people and most who can afford it. Those who have begun with it and used it for some time prefer it very much to any native-grown opium. But even in Foochow and suburbs the native opium is now very largely used. In all the inland districts the Indian opium is little known, and the native product is in general use. My missionary correspondent states that he knows that "in this province the native opium is now principally consumed, 1st, because it is cheaper by one-half the price, and 2nd, because the native vendors palm off on consumers a mixture containing two-thirds of native opium with one-third of Indian for pure Indian opium." The native opium here is sold at about 35 cents the ounce, while Indian opium is about \$1 an ounce.

17. The probable consequences will be (a) that the Chinese will smoke opium as before; (b) that the cultivation of the opium poppy in China will receive a great development; and (c) a complete change in the treatment of native opium, from the revenue point of view, by the Chinese Government.

18. It is utterly impossible to obtain any trustworthy information as to the area of land in this province now under poppy. The cultivation of the poppy, it is admitted by all, has increased greatly, and is increasing. The missionary writes: "The poppy is cultivated chiefly in the northern part of the province, and about 25 years ago, when I visited that part of the province, I did not find any opium at that time cultivated there. I visited the place again about 4 years ago, and found most of the extensive valleys which, at the time of my first visit, were covered with crops of rice, wheat, &c., now under crops of the poppy, and the cultivation of this is rapidly increasing." Within the last 10 years, the Chinese tell me, the cultivation of the poppy has extended to districts only a few miles from the city. In many places it is grown in gardens, only in sufficient quantities to supply the family with opium. The native opium is not openly advertised for sale, and it is often refused to inquirers who are not known to the vendors. These in and about Foochow often keep both native and foreign opium, but only the latter openly.

19. In 1892 the revenue collected by the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs on foreign opium imported into Foochow was Hiakuan Taels 578,115, or about 115,623*l*. In 1893 the revenue collected was H. Taels 544,171, or about 95,230*l*. Here, as at other Treaty ports, the foreign opium pays duty and tax at the rate of H. Taels 110.00, or about 22*l*. on every lbs. 133½ or 100 catties. The native opium is nominally taxed at a certain rate. But very little of what is consumed in this part of the country is reported at a Custom house. The Government, consequently, derives little revenue from the opium crops.

20. The following official publications of the Imperial Maritime Customs contain much valuable information about the poppy and opium in China:—

Opium, 1881.

Native Opium, 1888.

Opium: Historical Note, 1889.

Medical Reports, Jan. 21, 1881.

T. WATTERS,

H.B.M. Consulate, Foochow,

Consul.

March 7, 1894.

CHEFOO.

CONSUL ALLEN.

SIR.

February 22, 1894.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Her Majesty's Minister at Peking sent me 15 copies of the paper of 20 questions, dated October 1893, with instructions to circulate these among persons at Chefoo competent to give trustworthy evidence on the points referred to, and to transmit their answers to you with as little delay as possible.

In compliance with these instructions I sent copies of the questions, which I translated into Chinese, to Lui Ham fang, the Intendant of Circuit, or Tartai of Chefoo, one of the most progressive officials in the Chinese Empire. I also called on the writer of this Consulate, an intelligent Cantonese, for a memorandum.

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Chefoo.

Then I sent a copy of the paper to Mr. P. F. Levers, one of our trading merchants; to Dr. E. W. von Tunzennann, the medical officer of the Consulate and Custom House, a gentleman who has been in practice both at Singapore and here, where he superintends the native hospital of the S.P.G.; to Dr. Kirk, the head of the medical school at the Chinese Naval Station of Wei Hai Wei; to Dr. Dowthwaite, a medical missionary of long experience in China; to the Rev. H. J. Brown, S.P.G., a missionary who has charge of the S.P.G. hospital; to the Rev. Dr. Corbett, of the American Presbyterian Mission, senior missionary in Chefoo; to the Rev. J. M. Mullan, late of the China Inland Mission; and to the Rev. Dr. C. Mateer, an American missionary of 30 years standing, resident at Teing Chow. I have the honour to enclose replies from all these gentlemen, except from Dr. Kirk, who, I regret to say, excuses himself on the plea that he cannot get his answers ready in time.

The Tartai's reply, as might have been expected, is evasive. I am told that he was a good deal disturbed by the receipt of my letter, suspecting as an Oriental would be sure to do, that there was something more intended than reached his eye. He consulted the Commissioner of Customs on the matter, and sent his interpreter to the Custom House to talk it over, and eventually sent me his reply, which amounts to little more than that the Chinese look on the trade in opium, and on opium-smoking, as disreputable, and that opium-smoking, if indulged in to excess, gives rise to great evils. Beyond this he will not commit himself.

The other Chinese reply is an interesting document. Lu Pao yn admits that opium-smoking is an evil, and that an opium-smoker is not only looked upon as disreputable, but is actually physically deteriorated and mentally perverted. At the same time he comes to the conclusion that a rich man receives no injury from opium-smoking, a well-to-do tradesman but little, while the use of the opium pipe reduces a poor man to utter ruin. He also holds the belief, common to all southern Chinese, that opium is a prophylactic against malarial diseases. I send Chinese versions of the Chinese witnesses' replies for the records of the Commission.

Before epitomising the replies from the European and American witnesses, it may not be out of place for me to invite the attention of the members of the Commission to the climates, and the commercial and social conditions of the place from which this Despatch is written. Chefoo is the Treaty port of the Province of Shantung. The town is mean, and contains according to the Chinese census a little over 32,000 inhabitants. The immediate neighbourhood of Chefoo is unproductive. Its exports are brought from a distance to be shipped here, and its imports are carried away up country on mule back, or are transhipped to some other coast towns by junk. Consequently there is among the population a large proportion of men who have come here only to earn wages for their families in the interior. The harbour is full of junks. 3,000 pack mules, each with a mule driver, are said to enter the town every day. The fact of there being such a large number of men without family ties in Chefoo has a very bad effect on the morals of the place. The Chinese admit that Chefoo contains 132 opium divans, and 245 brothels. The climate is very healthy and bracing. It is too cold for rice culture. There is no malaria, and the natives, though badly nourished, are tall and well-shaped men, with the reputation of being the best coolies on the coast. They have great difficulty in getting a living, and many of them emigrate to Manchuria and the maritime provinces of Siberia. From the above facts I draw this conclusion. The climate does not drive the inhabitants to use opium as a necessary of life, or as a prophylactic against malaria, as the natives of Southern China and of the Straits of Malacca use it. (See Dr. Von Tunzennann's paper.) I have been in no place in China where fewer signs of opium-smoking are brought to one's notice. I have never smelt the scent of opium in my servants' quarters, and the writer of this Consulate shows no sign of having the opium habit. Men of that class are usually confirmed opium-smokers. I believe that the opium dens of Chefoo, like the gin palaces of a seaport town in England, are more to entice strangers than for the use of the residents themselves.

With this preface I proceed to epitomise the answers to the various questions, adding occasionally a remark of my own.

1. All the writers agree in saying that opium is generally consumed in Shantung.

2. All the writers agree that opium-smoking is rare among women, and practically unknown among children. The estimates of the proportion of opium-smokers among adult males vary from Dr. Von Tunzennann's estimate of 10 per cent. to 20 per cent., to Dr. Dowthwaite's of 30 per cent. to 70 per cent. I incline myself to accept a somewhat low estimate, and to put the number of opium-smokers as not more than 25 per cent. of the adult male population. Dr. Corbett asserts that opium-smoking is a vice of the towns, and that the country villages are comparatively free from it, a statement borne out by some of the other witnesses.

3. None of the writers assert that opium has the exciting effect on the Chinese that it is said to have on the Japanese and Malayan races. Dr. Dowthwaite draws attention to this point. Dr. Mateer is the only writer who asserts that opium acts as an aphrodisiac. The evidence regarding the moral effects of opium-smoking is conflicting. Dr. Von Tunzennann does not go into the question. Mr. Brown thinks that it has no demoralising effects. The other missionary witnesses unite in asserting that opium has the most demoralising effects, in which I am bound to say the two Chinese writers bear them out. As regards the physical effects, Dr. Dowthwaite's remarks are most valuable. Dr. Von Tunzennann asserts that opium in moderation has no worse effect than tobacco, but that men who are habitual opium-smokers, though not to excess, are sallow and dyspeptic. The evidence of all the missionaries is that opium has a most harmful effect on the health. It seems to me from the medical evidence that opium is a valuable stimulant, but that unless it is rarely and carefully indulged in, the depression which follows does more harm than the stimulant does good.

Dr. Corbett is the only witness who goes into the question of the social results of opium-smoking. I beg to call particular attention to his observations.

All agree that the Indian drug is stronger than the Chinese, and that the difference between them is only one of degree.

4. Smoking, all admit, is the form in which the Chinese of Chefoo habitually take opium. The use of opium pills and decoctions of opium is rare. A Chinaman will only take opium in these forms when he cannot make use of his pipe.

5. Drs. Corbett and Mateer assert that every opium-smoker is greatly injured. Mr. McMullan and Dr. Dowthwaite leave the question unanswered. Dr. Von Tunzennann and Mr. Levers think the proportion of "opium sots" very small. Mr. Brown, on the other hand, makes the proportion of opium sots to be 40 per cent. of the whole number of smokers. Lu Pao yn takes the matter-of-fact view that the rich form Class I. of the answer—those who receive no injury from opium; the well-to-do make up Class II.; those who receive slight injury, and the poor, Class III., who receive great injury. Personally I cannot say that I have ever been brought into contact with an opium sot at Chefoo.

6. Here, again, the evidence is conflicting, but certainly the weight of it is in favour of the view that opium-smoking in moderation exists. Dr. Von Tunzennann's remarks are very much to the point. Both Mr. Levers and Dr. Corbett give examples of cases in which opium-smoking has occasioned great injury.

7. It seems admitted that the country peasants as a class are not opium-smokers. The various witnesses declare that opium-smokers are principally found among merchants, soldiers, yamen, underlings, and labourers. Dr. Corbett gives some interesting details. Speaking of the various classes of men collectively, I cannot see that the work and occupation of the merchants, artisans, and craftsmen of Chefoo are in any way interfered with by the habit of opium-smoking, and, as I have already mentioned, the coolies of Chefoo are considered the best on the west of China. I expect that the civil and military officials would indignantly deny that the men under their orders smoke opium. In fact, the Brigadier-General in charge of the troops told me that he dismissed at once any soldier caught smoking opium. For all that I believe that the accusation brought against the soldiers and underlings is not undeserved.

8. There is practically no abuse of alcohol among the Chinese of Chefoo, so that no comparison between the opium habit and the alcohol habit can be drawn.

9. From the evidence given by the several writers, as well as from my own experience, I conclude that the Chinese regard the habit of consuming opium as

dangerous. It must, however, not be forgotten that when a Chinaman says, "So-and-so smokes," he means what we mean when we say, "So-and-so drinks." We infer that he drinks to excess. Drunkenness is so rare a vice among the Chinese that they seldom draw any comparison between the degradation of it and the degradation of the opium habit.

10. Dr. Von Tunzemann and Mr. Brown agree in asserting that the opium habit can be broken off. The missionary witnesses either deny the possibility of it or state that instances of it are extremely rare. I presume that they are all thinking of smokers who smoke to excess. Probably the moderate smoker has no wish nor motive to give up his pipe any more than the man who only drinks a glass of wine or beer at his meals desires to become a total abstainer.

11. All the authorities agree that if the supply of Indian opium were cut off smokers would find plenty of native opium to supply its place. They certainly would not abstain, nor would they take to any other narcotic or to alcohol in its stead.

12. Europeans seldom contract the opium habit. It presents no attraction to a healthy European. During my 31 years in China I can only remember knowing two confirmed western opium-smokers, one an American, the other an Englishman. Both died of the habit.

13. I infer, from the various answers to this question, that the majority of smokers begin the practice as a pleasant amusement, or to drive care and *ennui* away, and the minority to ease pain or physical discomfort. The two medical witnesses agree in saying that opium is no prophylactic against fever and rheumatism, but Dr. Von Tunzemann alleges that it is a prophylactic against malaria. I do not know what the natives of Chefoo may think, but I am sure that every Chinaman from the southern and more malarious provinces looks on opium as a specific against all malarious diseases. See Lu Pao yn's statement to this effect. The same idea exists even among the inhabitants of marshy and fen districts in England. I remember when Kiungchow was opened as a Treaty port a Chinese literati telling me what an advantage to the people of Hainan the opportunity of getting Indian opium would be, as the natives of that island suffered so much from malaria.

14. The existence of a desire on the part of opium-smokers to get rid of the habit is also disputed. I am of opinion that the evidence in favour of this desire preponderates, although, as the missionaries say, few have the moral courage to undergo the pain and discomfort which must be endured when an attempt is made to break off the habit.

15. Dr. Corbett is the only witness who states that the majority of Chinese would hail with joy the news that England would no longer allow opium to be imported into China from India. No doubt, as some of the witnesses say, the Chinese have a vague sense of grievance against foreigners for importing opium, and are glad to throw any blame and responsibility that there may be off their own shoulders on to theirs. This is human nature.

16-20. The answers to the last five questions call for little remark. A good many of the questions can hardly be properly answered here. In reply to No. 18, Dr. Dowthwaite states that Shantung produces annually 28,000 piculs of native opium. I do not know where he collects his statistics. Less than 10,000 piculs of native opium pass through Chefoo in a year. In answer to Question 19, I may say that the likin tax on native opium in this province is Taels 48 per picul (133½ lbs.) against Taels 110 (import duty, Taels 30; likin, Taels 80) on the Indian article. I beg to call attention to Dr. Von Tunzemann's reply to Question 20, though I do not quite agree with his views. I cannot consider the Chinese one of the successful races of the world. They can make a living where other men would starve, and are quiet and law-abiding subjects under good government, as in Burmah or in the Straits Settlements; but it is rare indeed to see the members of a Chinese community out of China other than mere money-grubbers or else the hewers of wood and drawers of water for the Europeans. Nor is China itself as an empire to be envied or copied. If opium has been, as Dr. Von Tunzemann alleges, a benefit to the Chinese, it has not raised them to any point of vantage above the rest of the world.

I now venture to submit a few observations on opium from my own points of view. I draw on my experiences,

which are both those of an ordinary resident in China for 31 years, and those of a consular official for the same period.

As a private resident in China my experiences in China have not the weight either of those of a medical man or of those of a missionary. We consuls have little private intercourse with the natives outside our homes and offices. As I have said already, I believe that I have no opium-smokers about me in this Consulate. If any of my men smoke, they conceal it cleverly. Elsewhere I have not been so fortunate. I have nearly always had opium-smoking servants. They have usually remained with me as long as I have been in the port where I engaged them. One man, who smoked regularly, was with me at Pakhoi, and accompanied me thence to Amoy, Kankiang, and Hankow, only parting from me when I returned to England on leave. He was an excellent servant, and I would gladly take him into my employ again. On the other hand, two opium-smoking servants of mine, brothers, went blind from the use of the drug. One was a messenger for 20 years in the Hankow Consulate.

Office writers (moonshes), who belong to the literary class, I have usually found to be opium-smokers. The habit, even if indulged in to excess, interferes little with office work, as they do most of their smoking in the evening, after office hours. The literates of China are, as a class, physically weak and effeminate to a degree, weaker even than the Burgalis. In spite of the pleasing theory that in China honours are to the learned alone, and that the son of a peasant may compete at the examinations with the son of a viceroy, and beat him, yet as a fact nine literates out of 10 are sons of officials or of well-to-do men, who can afford to pay for their schooling. Lads of this class are taught to despise play, sport, and manly exercises of any sort, and naturally grow up weak and enervated. Not one literate in a dozen can walk 5 miles without distress. I have never known a writer who made it his practice even in winter to walk from his house to the office and back. He must have a sedan chair. Moreover, although one reads marvellous stories of the application of Chinese scholars, my experience has been that when there is any press of office work the Consulate writer gives in long before his European employer. A large proportion of them, too, die or are invalidated at an early age. Still I am not inclined to attribute their mental and physical weakness to opium-smoking. I am inclined rather to attribute their opium-smoking to their debility. I may mention another temptation to opium-smoking among the literates. The majority of them waste a great portion of their lives waiting for employment or seeking and intriguing for an appointment. It seems to me that if anything could drive a man to the solace of the opium-pipe, this perpetual heart-breaking anxiety would.

Consular officials in China, especially those who hold the post of assessor at the mixed court at Shanghai, get a certain amount of insight into the ways of "opium sots," who have sunk in the world and have become members of the criminal classes. I held the post of mixed court assessor for two years, and certainly there were considerable numbers of "opium sots" brought before the Chinese magistrate and myself every week. These men would be arrested for petty thefts, to which they had been impelled by their craving for the drug. They were most miserable and degraded specimens of humanity, evidently not long for this world, but I am bound to say that the proportion of opium sots to other criminals was not greater than the proportion of habitual drunkards would be to other offenders in the police courts of our large cities, and that none of these miserable wretches were arrested for breaches of the peace or for violent assaults, as drunkards would assuredly have been.

A consul, having constant official intercourse with the mandarins, ought to be in a position to ascertain their views and ideas on the opium question. I will try to describe a few of the impressions which official intercourse has left on me. First of all, I have never had made to me, nor have I ever heard of its being made to my colleagues, the observation which seems so commonly made to missionaries: "How can you dare to talk of introducing Christianity and civilization among us, and to teach us righteousness and morality, while you import opium to poison us?" See missionary reports, *passim*. No Chinese official has ever in my presence complained of England's injuring the people by opium. The effect of opium on the consumers seems to occur but seldom to a mandarin's

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mind or conscience. On the other hand, before the time of the Chefoo Convention I have often heard officials, especially at Chinkiang and Foochow, complain bitterly of the opium trade. It must be remembered that at that time the opium trade brought three evils in its train: (1.) Injury to the consumer; (2.) injury to the wealth of the country; (3.) injury to peace and good order. Of the first the officials said, and seemed to think, little. The second evil was, no doubt, ever present in their minds, though I do not recall any conversations on the subject. They were sorry to see vast sums of silver, or of its equivalent in goods, paid for what was at best an unproductive luxury. Although they did not often speak of this, they were full of complaints about the injury occasioned by opium-smuggling. It will be remembered that No. 5 of the Tariff Rules attached to the Treaty of Tientsin prescribes that opium shall pay Taels 30 per picul import duty, and that the importer shall sell it only at the port. The Chinese tried to argue that the ship on which the opium arrived was the limit of the port, and that the moment the opium left it it became liable to whatever duties the authorities might choose to lay on it, but the compromise practically arrived at was that when there was a defined concession, as at Canton or Hankow, no likin nor other taxes should be levied within its limits, and that where, as at Foochow, there was no separate concession, the door of the merchant's hong or godown formed the limit of the port, so far as the sale of opium was concerned. The European merchant, of course, claimed the right to send opium in charge of his own servants to any house within the limits of the port. At Foochow there was a likin watch-station on the right and left of the larger merchants' houses, and a likin watch-boat on the river in front. When a Chinese customer honestly bought opium and took it away openly, he would be stopped as he left the merchant's door, and would be taxed by these likin runners; but there were great numbers of disreputable Chinese who would, if they could, smuggle opium into the port without paying the opium dues, and afterwards smuggle it out of port without paying the likin. At the southern ports there was a good deal of inward smuggling, but at all the ports of China, except, perhaps, at Canton, it was the outward smuggling which was the worse. I am sorry to have to admit that Europeans, if they did not actually assist, certainly shut their eyes to what their employés did. A Chinese customer would come to the European merchant and buy, say, a chest of opium. The merchant would give him an order on his godown keeper for the delivery of it. The purchaser would not, however, take delivery in open day. He would come at night and take away a few balls at a time, which would be tied up in a coverlet, or put inside an innocent looking box or basket, until he had cleared the whole chest, while the British merchant would profess utter ignorance of what went on in his godown, and would disclaim all responsibility for his servants' acts. At Foochow the custom was to have the opium sent down at night from the foreign settlement to the anchorage, 12 miles away, in a foreign-owned house-boat. On the way down a native boat would come alongside, and the opium would be passed on board. If it was seized on the house-boat the owner would come to the Consulate with a furious complaint that while he was conveying, as he had a perfect right to do, opium in his own boat in charge of his own servants from Nantai to Pagoda Anchorage, both within the limits of the port, the likin runners boarded his boat and carried off his property. He must have restitution and redress. Smugglers and likin runners did not scruple to use firearms. I remember at Foochow a merchant bringing to the Consulate a bullet which had been lodged in the wall of one of his rooms the night before. At Chinkiang, where this likin smuggling was probably more disgraceful than at any other port in China, there was a collection of dangerous rowdies. Night after night I have seen these men in gangs armed with pieces of chain fastened to the end of a thick stick, coming out of foreign hongs with bags of opium. I was once witness to a fight between these ruffians and some runners, in which revolvers were freely used. At Foochow, too, and Amoy dangerous characters collected, and at Canton it is not too much to say that a smuggler and a pirate are practically synonymous. Now a mandarin's ideal of an official position is one in which the people under him give him no trouble, and when his revenue is collected for him without friction. If some one will farm it and pay him an annual lump sum, all the better. It can, therefore, be easily imagined what

a thorn in the flesh to every mandarin the opium trade was, collecting, as it did, all the roughs and rowdies of the district to raise trouble, and bringing him into endless disputes with foreigners. This aggravation of evils has all been removed by the system, introduced under the Chefoo Convention, by which all opium on landing is lodged at the Custom House, and cannot be cleared until import and likin duties have both been paid. Since the introduction of this system I have not heard a word of complaint from any Chinese official, and the subject of opium is rarely broached.

To sum up—

1. I do not agree with those who hold that opium adds to the sum of human happiness in China. I believe, on the contrary, that it increases the sum of human misery. The comfort and pleasure that it gives to the moderate smoker is more than counterbalanced by the harm that it does to the opium sot.

2. I believe, all the same, that there is a demand for opium in China, and that if the import of Indian opium was stopped there would not be a single smoker the less. The natural conditions of China cannot be altered. The climate of the greater part is enervating and malarious, and in a climate of this sort there must be a craving for opium. I am further convinced that an embargo on Indian opium would never give rise to the prohibition of the cultivation of the poppy in China. On the contrary, such an embargo would at once increase the production of native opium.

3. I believe that now the trade in Indian opium is carried on with the full sanction of the Chinese officials, high and low, who set great store by the revenue which both it and native opium produce, and that these officials would be much taken aback if they were to be deprived of this revenue. Further, I am convinced that the system of levying the duties, as described above, prevents all friction.

4. I firmly believe that the abuse of opium-smoking is an effect of evil, not a cause; a punishment, not a vice. Consequently the remedies for the evils of opium-smoking to excess will be found, not by restricting or forbidding the opium trade, but by promoting among the Chinese a healthier state of things, material, mental, and moral, and thereby dissipating those feelings of ennui and discontent which produce the desire for the delights of opium. May this in time be accomplished by the forces of civilisation and Christianity.

I have, &c.

CLEMENT F. R. ALLEN,
Consul.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have received a set of answers from the Rev. Charles Judd, a missionary of 26 years' standing. I have the honour to enclose a copy of them with the other papers.

CLEMENT F. R. ALLEN,
Consul.

LIN HAN FANG, Intendant of the Teng Lai Ching Circuit.

I AM in receipt of your letter on the subject of opium, in which you enclose a paper of questions in English and Chinese, and request me to give you detailed replies to them.

I find on examination of the English documents that it contains in all 20 questions, and on reading the translation of these several questions I learn for the first time that you have been called upon by the Royal Commission for a Report on the subject. To you, as a gentleman in whose friendly relations with myself there has been no breach, I send the following general summary of the whole matter.

I find that opium, since the restrictions on trade were withdrawn 50 years ago, has been a never ending evil. Chinese and Europeans have long ago known the harm that it does. There have been articles about it in the newspapers for years past. You, sir, have been a long time in China, and I think have a thorough knowledge of the matter, so there is no occasion to recapitulate the case to you.

Putting the case generally, men who sell opium and men who consume it are universally looked on by their neighbours with contempt, and as men of no respectability.

You ask me whether the consumers of opium are men or women, to what class of people they belong, and how

the opium is taken (i.e., eaten, drunk, or smoked), and what is the total number of smokers. Now, even if I were to get hold of the opium dealers and were to question them they would be unable to tell me. But to sum up, I may say that of those who smoke opium so much that they acquire a craving for it, less than 1 or 2 per cent. can break off the opium habit. It is an evil that occasions waste of time, loss of property, laziness, and exhaustion, and a complication of diseases, and by degrees the smoker becomes utterly good for nothing. The harm done is much more than the harm done by alcohol.

A special reply sent with the compliments of the season.

February 17, 1894.

LU PAO YÜ, a Chinese Literate, Official Writer at
H.B.M. Consulate, Chefoo.

1. Opium is certainly commonly consumed at Chefoo, as a thing that cannot be done without.

2. Of the males, about 25 per cent. There are also women who smoke opium, but not children.

3. There is a great difference between opium-smokers and non-smokers. Smokers have a sallow complexion, while non-smokers' complexions are clear. The difference can be detected at a glance. Smokers are enfeebled in body while non-smokers are robust. Smokers become mentally perverted, while non-smokers are honest, liberal, good, and respectable. There is a very slight difference between the men who smoke foreign opium and the men who smoke native opium. The craving in the latter is comparatively light; therefore its consequent evils are not so severe. The craving in the former is stronger and so its consequent evils are worse. This is due to the fact that native opium is milder than foreign.

4. Opium is always smoked and not eaten or taken in a decoction.

5. Ten per cent. of opium-smokers smoke without injury, about 20 per cent. with slight injury, and 70 per cent. with great injury. When the rich and well-to-do of the upper classes have the opium craving, they only spend too much money on it, but otherwise are not injured in their affairs. The second class of men, that is to say, traders and merchants on a large scale, who have the opium craving, may spend too much on opium and yet their profits are enough for their own wants. But artisans and coolies who have the opium craving suffer in a manner indescribable. If they cannot procure the drug they have a running at the eyes and nose. Their limbs become weak and feeble. They must satisfy their craving before they can do anything. They look on this as more important than their food. To be without opium is to them worse than being without food. They earn but little wages, out of which they have to get their opium and their food. An evil of this sort is immeasurable.

6. The fact of there being persons who consume opium in moderation without wishing to increase their consumption, is due to their not having acquired the craving, and the same cause accounts for those who have smoked opium for years without injury. When once the craving is acquired the smoker must smoke large quantities which he cannot reduce. There is no one that smokes for years without injury.

7. But few of the merchants smoke opium. Most of the opium-smokers are artisans and coolies. About half of them may be estimated to smoke. Opium-smokers can only do their work under pressure, but there is no opium-smoker that is not a shirker and lazy. There is a still worse evil to which they are addicted. They are all day trying some plan to cheat people out of their money. They go down hill and become thieves, and fall into the grasp of the law, bringing their own retribution on themselves in a pitiable manner.

8. The abuse of opium is worse than that of alcohol.

9. Chinese know that the habit of opium-smoking is shameful. If opium-smoking and drinking are compared, opium-smoking is the more disgraceful.

10. Opium-consumers can, as a fact, break themselves of the opium habit, and this breaking of the habit constantly occurs. But after breaking off the habit it is rather difficult to keep up the resolution.

One wants to relapse after a while. After a relapse the opium habit becomes a degree more confirmed.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off at Chefoo, all the natives (who smoke opium) would naturally be forced to use native opium instead. As for drinking alcohol, or taking other drugs in its place, they would abstain from them.

12. There are no European opium-smokers at Chefoo. There is no reason why Chinese should smoke and Europeans not except the difference of custom. Persons' likings are not the same. Besides, there are many non-smokers among the Chinese. Europeans cannot claim the monopoly of this virtue. Smoking or not smoking depends on a man himself.

13. There are those who smoke opium because they have some complaint. Others take to it as an amusement for their leisure, and thus acquire a craving for it, and are unable to refrain. Opium-smokers seldom have fever, malaria, or rheumatism.

14. Opium-smokers being slaves to their craving never fail to desire with all their might to break off the habit, but most of them when they set to work to do it, perhaps because of the distress it causes, stop short in the midst of the work of reformation. Besides, it is difficult to be sure that those who have abstained will not relapse.

15. The inhabitants of Shantung naturally do not like England to import Indian opium. Every chest of opium imported is so much injury to the people, and the flood of poison is never ending.

Mr. P. F. LAVER.

1. Freely consumed and on the increase.

2. Cannot say. A very small number of people smoke in the interior. A few women smoke. Children, no.

3. Moderate smokers have not any symptoms of general deterioration; of those who show the effects of their smoking propensities there is a feeling of distrust, whether deserved or otherwise I am not able to say. The Indian product blends with and strengthens the China opium, but the mixture is only within the reach of the richer classes.

4. Chiefly smoke; old smokers also drink a little.

5. 1 and 2, Cannot say. 3. Apparently not many.

6. I should say there are moderate opium-smokers; I know smokers of long standing who appear well and capable, but cannot supply details of their lives. I know of one instance of great injury arising—presumably from opium-smoking—by which an active and intelligent man became an enfeebled beggar. I am also aware of another instance of a young man, who, I believe, owes his penurious state to opium, but his father has been his example. Had the youth been a European he need not have followed it, but a father's control here is such that a son is more than likely to contract a vicious habit, of whatever character, from his parent.

7. Not a majority by any means.

8. Alcohol is little consumed here by natives.

9. A steady-going Shantung man would not employ an opium-smoker if the latter had to live amongst other natives in the same employ. Under ordinary circumstances an opium-smoker would be preferable to a consumer of alcohol.

10. It is difficult to say. Opium-smokers, like other smokers, see no reason for changing their habits until perhaps they feel it is too late.

11. The supply of foreign opium here is a mere trifle, and does not at all affect the habit of opium-smoking.

12. Europeans here do not contract the habit. The climate of China, from the heat, produces a laziness and the desire for a narcotic; a European drinks first in company and while conversing; the Asiatic appeals to opium from a lazy tendency.

13. An opium-smoker says to his friend, "Come and smoke." This is not a feverish region, but Chinese here understand from those of other parts that opium is an absolute essential in some places.

14. No; they do not realise any necessity or advantage in giving up smoking.

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15. None whatever. Chinese simply call it "foreign" opium, and have no sentimental feelings about it.

16. By the richer classes a small quantity is consumed mixed with native opium.

17.—(a) None here. (b) None here. (c) The same. The production of opium in Shantung is said to be a good deal in excess of the requirements of the province, and given a market its export would result.

18. No.

19. The opium produced in this province pays taxes little, if any, short of imported opium.

20. I believe if the province had more wealth the consumption of opium would increase faster than it is doing; the race of men here is naturally strong and big, and this will perhaps be influenced adversely if opium-smoking becomes a very general habit. Chinese are not an active people in their leisure hours, having a preference for indoor games and gambling; it would therefore seem almost certain that some narcotic will find favour amongst them. The Indian drug affects Shantung not at all, but the fact that a considerable population can and does get its opium from its own locality points to an inadequate benefit being derived from any alteration in present opium legislation in India; that is of course as regards this part of the world.

P. F. LAVERS.

Chefoo, 14th February 1894.

Dr. VON TUNZEHMANN.

Chefoo, 17th February 1894.

1. Yes.

2. I should guess that from 10 to 20 per cent. of the adult males of Chefoo consume opium; this is, however, purely a guess, and I have no figures on which to base it. Women, to the best of my belief, do not consume it, nor children. Outside the town the consumption of opium is, I believe, much less.

3. The moral and social effects of opium among the Chinese whom I have had opportunities of observing in Chefoo are not very apparent, except in the very rare, in my experience, cases of "opium sots"; in the vast majority of opium-consumers these same effects are no more obtrusive than are those of the analogous habit of tobacco-smoking among Europeans. The physical effects are somewhat more marked. The habitual consumer of opium, not to excess, is usually of a more spare frame of body, the complexion is often somewhat sallow, the food requirement is commonly lessened; they are liable to dyspeptic troubles. On the other hand, I have seen many men whose occupation is exclusively out of doors, such as farmers, muleteers, &c., who have stated to me that they have smoked opium for years, and who yet in their physical appearance showed no trace of any ill-effect.

4. Consumers chiefly smoke opium. The effects of eating opium or of drinking a decoction of opium, themselves indistinguishable, are much more marked.

5. I cannot give the proportions, but may observe that the proportion of "opium sots" is extremely small.

6. Certainly not. I have known many persons who have come to me for treatment of morbid conditions in no way related to opium, such *e.g.*, as wounds, fractures, &c., whom I should never have suspected of being opium-consumers had they not themselves admitted it. I have, however, no detailed notes of any such cases. I have never seen any case of great injury, except in two or three instances, these were sons of well-to-do Chinese officials and merchants, idle, debauched youths, who had no occupation, indulged all their appetites to excess, and were prematurely old and worn out.

7. I believe the majority of the well-to-do merchants, a smaller proportion of the artisans, and a small minority of the labourers, consume opium; poverty, and consequent inability to procure the luxury, is the main reason why only a minority of the labourers are opium-consumers; added to the fact that in the bracing, healthy climate of Chefoo there is less requirement for the drug than there is in the more enervating climate of South China. I am of opinion that their efficiency in their calling is in no way affected by the habit.

8. Alcohol is comparatively little used by the mass of the natives of Chefoo; on the other hand, I have

seen more cases of harm caused by its abuse than by the abuse of opium, though probably not more than a dozen, in the course of two years' work at the Anglican Mission Hospital in the native town here.

9. The moderate use of opium is not, I think, regarded as degrading or injurious, but the danger of moderate passing into immoderate use is of course recognised by sensible Chinese, and naturally induces many to discountenance the indulgence entirely. The alcohol habit is extremely rare and, I believe, regarded as far more disgraceful.

10. They commonly do break off the habit. Converts to the Catholic Church are obliged to do so, and I am informed on good authority that it is often done without any great difficulty. This statement of course applies only to moderate consumers.

11. Very little Indian opium is used here; if the supply were cut off recourse would undoubtedly be had to Chinese-grown opium.

12. No. For sundry reasons: (1.) It is not the custom, and the European is not tempted to use opium; the ordinary European regards opium solely as a somewhat dangerous medicine, and has little or no knowledge as to the character of the enjoyment which it affords to its *habitues*. (2.) Opium-smoking, or eating, is a solitary enjoyment, and as such is not attractive to the European. (3.) The European has far more resources, physical and mental, than the Oriental, so is much less troubled by *ennui*, the worst torment of the leisured classes in China, and the chief persuasive to the use of opium. The European prefers an agent which will quicken rather than slacken the current of life; and usually has no desire to dull his passions, thereby lessening the sum of pleasure derivable from them. The well-to-do Oriental, on the contrary, if intellectual, derives his highest bliss from contemplation, and luxuriates in the stimulus which opium gives to his imaginative faculties; even if not intellectual, he enjoys the subjective sensations of well-being and content which it affords. If poor, he commonly prefers to dull the edge of the passions which he has not the means to gratify, whereas the European is more often goaded by them to efforts to attain the desired means.

13. *Vide* above; example also: everything which induces men to adopt the current custom, or vice. Also the fact that it undoubtedly economises vital energy. Opium is not, I think, a prophylactic against most fevers or rheumatism; nor is it, to the best of my knowledge, so regarded by the Chinese. Chefoo is not a malarious place. During two years' residence in Singapore I found many Chinese regarded opium as prophylactic against malaria; and I am inclined to be of the same opinion.

14. No.

15. No.

16. —————

17.—(a.) Nil. (b.) It will stimulate these. (c.) ————

18. —————

19. —————

20. The struggle for existence is probably fiercer in China than anywhere else in the world, as it is much less affected by the altruism taught both by Christianity and by living Buddhism; the fact that the use of opium is so prevalent in China is itself evidence that it does not unfavourably affect the actors in the struggle. The eminent success of the Chinese, when allowed to compete on equal terms with other races, powerfully corroborates this view. Opium should be compared with tobacco (*vide* Kingsley's Eulogium) not with alcohol. It is of course liable to abuse, and its abuse entails disagreeable consequences, but no competent and unbiassed observer can question that by its use the sum of human happiness in the Chinese Empire is vastly increased, and the unavoidable misery of the failures in the bitter struggle for existence which rages there to a very great extent alleviated. Nearly every race of mankind uses some drug to influence their nervous mechanisms, and thereby agreeably modify their subjective existence; and of all these drugs opium is certainly the most efficacious and the least harmful.

ETR. VON TUNZEHMANN.

M.B. Lond., M.R.C.S. Eng.
Medical Officer I. C. Customs, Chefoo.
" in charge of Anglican
Mission Hospital, &c.

Dr. DOUTHWAITE.

1. I believe opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese in all parts of the Empire. Certainly it is in the four provinces with which I am acquainted.

2. It would be impossible to give even approximately the proportion of opium-smokers. In some cities the native estimate of the number of adult males who smoke opium varies from 30 to 70 per cent. In country districts, except where the poppy is grown, the opium habit is comparatively rare. I have known very few women contract the habit, and never heard of children being addicted to it; but in one city with which I am acquainted the majority of men and women, even young boys and girls, have the characteristic appearance which the consumption of opium gives to the face.

3. The physical effects of this drug are most manifest on the poor ill-fed coolies and other labourers, who cannot out of their scanty wages procure both food and opium, and are compelled by the ever-increasing craving for the latter to deprive themselves of the former. Many of these people suffer the more because, being too poor to increase the quantity of opium smoked, they are driven to the necessity of swallowing the ashes scraped from their pipes, and thus speedily ruin their digestive organs. The wealthier smokers, who by reason of education have more power of self-restraint, and who, as a rule, only smoke after meals, suffer much less than their poorer brethren do, and so long as they confine the habit to smoking, and avoid eating the drug, they may consume enormous quantities with apparent impunity. I say "apparent," for eventually they, with few exceptions, have to pay the usual penalty of their indulgence. Opium has not the same effect on all persons, and people of different races are differently affected by its use. The Japanese, for instance, are driven almost crazy by this drug, while on the Chinese its effect is almost universally stimulating and soothing. This will account to a large extent for the rapid spread of opium-smoking and eating in China, for any preparation containing this drug is eagerly accepted by the natives. The effect of opium-smoking depends largely on its quality, which varies very much. Indian opium contains from 12 to 20 per cent. of morphia, its principal alkaloid, while that produced in China is much inferior. In 1881 I was asked by a British Government official to analyse several specimens of opium, Taichow and Wenchow, in the province of Cheh-kiang, and the best sample only contained 8 per cent. of morphia. Since that time, I am informed, the native drug has improved in quality, and that produced in some districts in Western China is little inferior to the imported article, which is gradually being driven out of the market. In moderate doses it first acts as a stimulant, affecting largely the nerve centres, through which it acts on the whole body, increasing the force, fullness and frequency of the pulse. It raises the temperature of the skin, invigorates the muscles, and quickens all the senses, putting new life and energy into the whole being. This effect may daily be observed in the Chinese coolies, who, after toiling wearily under their burdens, will, after a pipe of opium and a short rest, resume their journey with astonishing energy and sprightliness. I have tested its effects on myself for several weeks, and can bear witness to the power of this drug as a stimulant of the intellect and an energizer of the whole body. But after the stimulation comes a corresponding depression, energy gives place to lethargy, the muscles become tremulous, and the nervous system exhausted. There is often headache, nausea, and vomiting, and a general feeling of weariness takes the place of the sensation of well-being before experienced. The frequent and regular repetition of this process of stimulation and depression induces the "ying" or craving, which is simply a demand by the nervous system for its accustomed stimulant, without which it is unable properly to perform its functions. I have observed that men who smoke at irregular intervals do not acquire the "ying" so readily as those who have fixed hours for smoking. But three or four months' regular indulgence in the drug is usually enough to bring a man fairly under its influence, when he quickly discovers he is no longer master of his desire; the habit, which at first held him with the slender threads of a cobweb, now binds him with a chain of iron, and requires a greater power than he possesses to get him free. There is nothing more remarkable than the rapidity with which an opium-smoker loses that quality of so-called "moral courage," and becomes so degraded that it is hard to find a vestige of anything that is manly or noble in his character.

4. Smoking is the more favourite habit, but the poor, and those who wish to get the full effect of the drug, scrape the ashes of the opium off their pipes, and swallow them mixed with tea or whiskey. Many labouring men who cannot give the time necessary for smoking, carry with them pills composed of opium and opium ashes, which they take whenever the craving comes on. The injurious effect of eating opium is far greater than that of smoking; in fact, when undertaking the cure of opium *habitués*, I always consider that one dram swallowed will require the same treatment as three drams smoked.

5. It would be impossible to give the proportions asked for, but these questions are partly answered already.

6. It is not correct to say that there is no such thing as moderation in the consumption of opium, if by moderation is meant occasional indulgence. As already stated, the smoking or eating of opium, even in small quantities, at regular intervals, induces a craving; and when a man is thus enslaved by the drug, he can hardly be said to use it in moderation. I have known some, but not many, who have consumed large quantities of opium without any apparent harm. One man, for instance, with whom I was acquainted assured me that he had smoked opium for 20 years, and for a long time had consumed one ounce per day, yet he was stout and apparently in good health. On the other hand, I have had scores of men under treatment who have consumed but from two to four drams of opium daily, yet have been so wrecked, morally, mentally, and physically, as to be good for nothing. That their wretched condition was due to the opium is proved by the fact that, after being cured of the habit, they, in every case, were restored to fairly good health and strength.

7. I am acquainted with several cities in which the majority of the labourers consumed opium, and have observed that it induced in them habits of indolence which have a very detrimental effect on their efficiency in their calling. In one city I entered several large houses formerly occupied by wealthy tradesmen, but now either empty or occupied by poor families. In every case I was told that this condition was the result of the indulgence in opium by the male members of the various families. Doubtless other vicious habits had also contributed to the downfall, but the love of opium was the first cause.

8. The abuse of alcohol among the Chinese is a rare vice, and no comparison can be made between alcohol and opium in its effects upon the Chinese.

9. The more respectable of the Chinese certainly condemn opium-smoking as degrading and injurious, and even those who indulge in it are ready enough to admit the charge, but they consider drunkenness as a far more degrading habit.

10. Occasionally one meets with men who have broken off the opium habit without human aid, but they are chiefly Christians who have been taught to look to God for His help. Others have attempted to cure themselves by gradually reducing their allowance of opium, or by means of the various anti-opium pills or powders supplied by native or foreign druggists, but comparatively few of these who make the attempt succeed in breaking off the habit unless taken in hand by their friends, who deprive them entirely of the drug.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off, the effect would undoubtedly be an increase in the area of poppy cultivation by the natives. It is most improbable that they would take to any other narcotic or entertain the thought of abstaining.

12. Europeans do not contract the habit in any number. They are an energetic race, and seek rather to stimulate their latent energy than to deaden it by narcotics. The Asiatics, on the contrary, are naturally lethargic, and the drugs which create a sense of dreamy pleasure will meet with more acceptance than alcoholic stimulants.

13. Most of the opium-smokers with whom I am acquainted began the use of the drug to ease pain. The native doctors are largely to blame for the spread of the opium habit, for they give the drug in pill form, for pain of any kind, and often when the doctor's services are dispensed with the patient finds to his dismay that he has acquired a craving for opium. Many of course are led into the opium habit by their companions, beginning with a small quantity and gradually increasing the allowance until they become enslaved by it. I have no hesitation in saying that

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opium is not a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, or malaria. In one district with which I am acquainted, opium is extensively produced and freely consumed by both men and women, and yet in that district the majority of deaths are from malarial fever. The people take opium, not with the idea of preventing the disease, but to obtain relief from their sufferings. I never heard of any of the Chinese attributing prophylactic powers to opium.

14. I never yet spoke to an opium-smoker who did not express a desire to get rid of the habit, but comparatively few are willing to undergo the suffering and discomfort inseparable from the breaking off of opium-smoking. During one year I admitted over 200 opium-smokers into my hospital for the cure of the habit, but most of them came either because they had not sufficient money to purchase the drug, or they were urged by their friends to give it up. Certain English and Chinese druggists do an enormous trade in so-called anti-opium medicines. These, with few exceptions, contain morphia, and the natives have found out that this will to a large extent take the place of opium, satisfying their craving at a lower cost in time and money than the made drug. Morphia is imported as "foreign medicine" and pays no duty, hence it is relatively much cheaper than opium, on which a heavy tax is levied.

15. I have met with a few Chinamen, but very few who have expressed any strong opinion as to the connexion of England with the opium traffic. Most of them deplore that the opium habit has spread so rapidly over the country, and there is a vague idea among the people that "foreign countries" are in some way to blame for it.

16. Indian opium is principally consumed in the coast provinces and in those parts adjacent to the ports on the River Yang-tze. In this province (Shantung) the import of Indian opium has decreased since 1879 from 3,500 piculs per annum to about 300 piculs (1 picul = 133 lbs.), while the native opium has increased in the same period from a mere trifle to over 28,000 piculs per annum. In the town of Chefoo there are 132 licensed opium-smoking houses; of these only five sell pure foreign opium, 10 profess to sell a mixture of half foreign and half native opium, 20 sell a mixture of three-tenths foreign and seven-tenths native opium, and the remaining 97 sell only native opium. Indian opium is dearer than the native drug and is consumed chiefly by the wealthier class of smokers.

17. The probable consequence of the prohibition of the import of Indian opium would be the increase in native production, but it would have no effect on the quantity consumed by the Chinese. As to its effect on the arrangement of the Chinese Government for raising a revenue I am unable to express an opinion.

18. I have no idea of the area now under poppy cultivation in the various provinces of China; in this province, as already stated, the annual quantity now amounts to over 28,000 piculs.

19. I am unable to say what revenue the Chinese Government derive from opium. The tax on native opium, I am informed, is 22 taels per picul, which is considerably less than the import duty on the Indian drug. The native opium is sold at about 3 dollars a catty, while the foreign drug is 5 dollars or 6 dollars a catty. This will, to some extent, account for the large increase in the consumption of native opium, and the consequent decrease in the importation of the Indian drug.

20. One can but deeply deplore the rapid spread of the opium habit among the Chinese, for the injury already done to the nation is very great, and what the results will be in the future it is easy to predict. The mischief is done and will never be undone till the people themselves are aroused to see the evil they have brought upon themselves and their children, and force their rulers to adopt some measures for restricting the supply of opium.

Without such pressure from below it is improbable that the Government will seriously attempt restriction on any large scale, for China is now almost as dependent on the revenue from opium as India is.

A. W. DOUTHWAITE, M.D.
(20 years engaged in the practice of
medicine among the Chinese).

Chefoo, China,
16th February, 1894.

The Rev. H. J. BROWN.

1. Yes.

2.—(a.) Adult males, about two-fifths ($\frac{2}{5}$) of the entire population. (b.) Yes, but not to any great extent. (c.) I have known one or two, but none under 14 years of age, and such cases are very rare.

3. It is difficult to say whether the use of opium has the demoralising effect upon its consumers which many writers on the subject would have us believe. Personally I am inclined to think that it has not.

Physically it has a decided effect, causing weakness and general debility, and, when used in excess, incapacity for work of any kind. Socially I am of opinion that it does not affect the Chinamen in the least.

4. The Chinese smoke opium to a very large extent. As far as my experience goes, it is only eaten by the poorer class of people who have become confirmed smokers, and are unable to provide the necessary amount of the drug required for the pipe. A decoction of opium is frequently used by persons who desire to commit suicide. 77 such cases in one small district were brought to our notice last year (1893).

5.—(i.) One-fifth ($\frac{1}{5}$) } Approximately.
(ii.) Two-fifths ($\frac{2}{5}$) }
(iii.) Two-fifths ($\frac{2}{5}$) }

6. No. Opium can and is taken in moderation by a large number of *habituals*, and I know of one or two cases in which opium has been taken for years without any apparent harm to the consumers beyond a mere pecuniary loss.

7. In the south-west of Shantung it is principally the merchants, tradesmen, and soldiers who are addicted to the use of opium. The majority of the agricultural labourers, artisans, &c., do not consume opium in any form whatever. In the case of those who become habitual smokers, the tendency is to produce physical weakness and a general incapacity to undertake work requiring more than an ordinary amount of mental effort.

8. Abuse of alcohol is rarely met with; abuse of opium frequently.

9. A vast majority of the Chinese (Christian converts excepted) do not look upon the opium habit as degrading in any sense whatever, though from a physical and financial point of view most of them would readily acknowledge that it was injurious.

10. Yes, I have known many cases where the habit has been entirely given up and never again resumed.

11. It would have no appreciable effect at all. The Chinese would at once resort to native opium, of which considerable quantities are grown in most parts of the province.

12. I have never met a European who had contracted the habit in any form whatever. A general lack of stimulants and proper nourishing food is, I think, one of the chief reasons why Chinamen resort to opium.

13. Eight-tenths ($\frac{8}{10}$) by force of example and a certain desire to drive away "dull care," and the other two-tenths have been led to use the drug in the first instance as a means of allaying pain, cure of dysentery, coughs, &c., &c.

14. Very infrequently, and only then with an ulterior object in view.

15. I have never heard such a desire expressed.

16. Native opium is used extensively by the middle and lower classes of the people. Indian opium (as far as my experience goes) is used only by officials and men of wealth and means.

17.—(a.) Practically none. (b.) Native opium would be grown in larger quantities to meet the demand. (c.) Unable to give an opinion.

18. No. But I should imagine that it was considerable.

HENRY J. BROWN,
February 14th, 1894. Clerk in Holy Orders,
S.P.G. Mission, Chefoo.

The Rev. Dr. CORBETT.

Chefoo, China,
February 20, 1894.

DEAR SIR,

In reply to the questions of the Royal Commission on Opium my remarks apply solely to the Province of Shantung, where for more than 30 years I have lived and travelled extensively in almost every district.

Very truly,
HUNTER CORBETT.

1. In hundreds of villages which I have repeatedly visited no opium-smokers are found. It is in the cities and large towns, especially market towns, where men live who consume opium.

2. Many intelligent Chinese, men whom I have asked, estimate that the proportion of men who live in the cities and towns addicted to opium would probably average one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the whole. In some places fully one-half or more are said to use opium, in others, a much smaller proportion. Women, as a class, do not consume opium. It is said that the wives of wealthy men who smoke opium frequently fall into this habit. The husbands often exhort their wives to smoke, so that their lips will be closed to all upbraiding. Widows in wealthy homes are said to frequently indulge in opium. Children of 14 years and upwards reared in the homes of opium-smokers are found smokers, but their number is limited.

3. Moral, social, and physical degradation undoubtedly follows in the wake of the habitual use of opium. The most common answer given by the Chinese may be summed up as follows:—

Moral.—The first effect is to destroy or deaden conscience. Opium-smokers are regarded by the people generally as depraved and capable of doing things which are only done by men who have lost the sense of shame. Second. Makes men inefficient and lazy. Third. When resources fail they become thieves and vagabonds. It is a common saying that no thieves are found who do not use opium.

Physically.—Muleteers, boatmen, farmers, and coolies and others who daily use opium do not have the power of endurance nor the strength of will possessed by others. They are rejected rather than sought for by employers. After a few years of even moderate use, most become more or less emaciated and have a sickly and unnatural appearance. Hollow eyes, smokers' cheeks, and an indescribable stare are the sure signs of a victim. A few days ago a Chinese friend of mine, a prominent business man at Chefoo, received a proposal to betroth his daughter to the son of a wealthy man of good family but an opium-smoker. The reply was emphatically no. He did not wish to be related to an opium-smoker. I know of no parents who have their daughters' welfare at heart who would willingly betroth their daughters to young men of whatever position if given to the opium habit. All agree that the use of Indian-grown opium is more powerful in its effects than the native-grown. I have heard the statement made that it is regarded as less difficult to break off the smoking of five years of native opium than it is of only three years' smoking of the Indian.

4. Chiefly smoke. Those who are pressed for time or wish to keep the fact concealed eat opium. A few are said to drink a decoction of opium. Smoking is said to be less trying on the constitution than taking it in any other form. The ashes used by the poor is regarded as the worst of all.

5. The general verdict is that opium used even in moderation has a demoralising influence, weakens the will, and makes men less capable of enduring fatigue. I have found no one who had used opium for years claiming that he had sustained no injury. The "opium sots" all seem to die early. I have personally met large numbers of opium-smokers, but not one who had reached the age of 70.

6. The rule is said to be to gradually increase the quantity year by year, and not to diminish it until poverty compels. It is said that many do not increase the quantity smoked, but in addition to this extra opium is eaten to satisfy the growing appetite. Upon repeated inquiry I have not been able to hear of any who have smoked opium for years without injury to themselves. Twenty-five years ago I made the acquaintance of a young man living at a village 30 miles south of Chefoo. He was a man of education and

owned more than two hundred Chinese acres of land and good buildings. Last October I visited again the same village and found this man ragged, emaciated, and more corpse-like than alive in appearance. The reason for this was that both he and his wife are opium-smokers, and have sold, little by little, all that they owned and now are on the verge of starvation. They were trying to sell their daughter. The neighbours all seemed to fear him, saying he would falsely accuse or do anything to gain an advantage. A Tavish priest from whom I rented a building, and for more than 20 years paid him rent, fell into the habit of opium-smoking and increased the amount until, the last time I talked with him, he told me that a Chinese ounce per day was barely enough. He died last year under 60 years of age. Some years ago I was asked to perform a marriage ceremony for a man the name of "Li." After a few years he became such a slave to opium that no one would employ him. He spent all that he owned, then pawned his clothing, and later stole his wife's clothing and pawned it, and still later, sold his wife to a soldier and disappeared and no one here knows whether he is living or dead.

7. No, not a majority. I have heard one-tenth or more mentioned as the probable number of labourers who use opium. A larger proportion of merchants are said to use it. The general effect, as expressed by an educated man is: 1st, leads rapidly to poverty; 2nd, to theft; 3rd, to selling wives and children; 4th, a dishonoured death. Twenty years ago I employed a master workman, the name of Li, to build a house. He proved to be a good workman, and gave satisfaction. A few years later he had, through the use of opium, become so unreliable and lazy that I could no longer employ him. The last I heard of him was that he had abandoned work and opened a little opium den. Dr. Nevins employed a mason who did his work faithfully until the opium habit grew and so demoralised him that he could no longer employ him. A man named Yuen in the "Chi mo" district supported himself by selling medicine until opium demoralised him. He squandered more than fifty acres of land owned by the family and died a miserable death about five years ago. His father, now 75 years of age, is paralysed and supported by friends. Poverty overtook him solely in consequence of the doings of his profligate and unmanageable son. A Mrs. Lin, a member of our Church, states that when she married her husband, he owned land and they had abundance. After he became an opium-smoker he ceased to work and soon squandered all his property. When he could not purchase opium he acted like a madman. He would beat his wife and treat his children with the greatest cruelty. When he died his wife said she had no tears to shed for him. These are but samples of many cases known to me. Five days ago, in the village of Hai Yang, in sight of my door, an opium-smoker sold his wife, who was seized and forcibly carried away.

8. Comparatively few die in this province from the excessive use of alcohol, but great numbers die from the use and abuse of opium.

9. All classes unite in the condemnation of the injurious and degrading effects of opium-smoking. Nothing seems so powerful in destroying self-respect and paralysing industry as the opium habit. An opium-smoking son is a curse dreaded and universally detested. All say that when men are unable to get alcohol they can still live, but the confirmed opium-smoker cannot live without it.

10. Yes, possibly, one in a thousand breaks the habit permanently. Sin Shutang, now 75 years of age, ceased nearly 30 years ago, after many years of smoking. He has told me that he has only heard of one other case of permanent cure.

11. The general opinion among the Chinese seems to be that if the supply of the Indian opium were to be cut off, smokers would be compelled to resort to Chinese-grown opium. Alcohol does not seem to be regarded as a substitute for opium.

12. No. Europeans are not charmed with the sleepy and death-like habits of the opium-smokers.

13. Dr. Ting She Hao, a scholarly man of much experience, says the chief causes which lead to opium-smoking are:—

1. To relieve pain, as in head-ache, bowel trouble, &c.
2. To relieve sorrow, worry, and disappointment.
3. In sport. When men meet socially they challenge one another to try the effect of opium.

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4. At feasts and the reception of guests. The custom prevails of always offering opium to guests, and it is generally easier to take a smoke than to decline.
5. Wicked men who frequent brothels become an easy prey, as opium dens and brothels are closely connected, and often in the same buildings.

Dr. Ting's experience is that opium is not a prophylactic against fever, or rheumatism, or malaria, nor is so regarded by the people generally. Dr. Ting says opium-smokers are less liable to suffer from diarrhoea and dysentery in the early years of smoking. If, however, an opium-smoker is taken with either fever, cholera, or dysentery, it generally proves fatal, as the system has become weakened, and medicine will not act as it does upon others.

14. Many make the attempt, though generally unsuccessful, to get free of the opium habit. This would seem to imply that men are often sincere when they say they wish to be cured of opium. Most, however, seem to have no desire to throw off the habit until poverty and ruin overtake them. The earnest pleading of impoverished, emaciated, and corpse-like men for relief, which I have often heard, would surely move the hardest heart to pity. Eight young men of fine talent and education have within the past three years been members of our normal school. They seemed to sincerely desire to get free of their accursed taste for opium. After months of struggle they one by one climbed the wall at different times, and in the night went in search of opium. We were compelled to dismiss them, anxious as we were to help them to escape the thralldom.

Within the past two or three years a benevolent society at Chefoo has been in the habit of receiving bands of from 15 to 20 opium-smokers, who said they wished to be cured, and giving them free medical attendance and good food until the intense craving for opium subsides. They are then dismissed, and others taken in their place. Thus a large number have received special help, and thought they were cured. A few days ago the head men of this society told us that investigation had shown that all, so far as they could learn, had fallen into the old habit, and seemed more hopeless than before. The leaders of the society are now seriously considering whether it would not be best to abandon this branch of their work and apply the money to something else. This society is purely Chinese, and in no way connected with the Christian Church or with foreigners.

15. The vast majority of the Chinese would hail with joy the news that England should no longer allow opium to be exported from India. Many thoughtful men who sincerely desire the best interests of their countrymen say that, so long as opium is allowed to be imported, it is useless for the Chinese Government to attempt to check or even control it, but if the entire control were in the hands of the Chinese the eradication of this evil is still possible.

16. The official class, and the people of wealth and leisure, are said to be most addicted to this vice. Large numbers of the coolie class have become victims. The latter class are able only to use the ashes alone, or remixed with varying proportions of the fresh drug. The wealthy are said to use the Indian opium, while others use a mixture of Indian and native, or the native exclusively.

17. I am unable to give even a conjecture. It is said that the Government receives no revenue from the opium which is grown and consumed within the province.

18. Nothing reliable. I have heard natives estimate that probably one hien or county in a hundred is given to the cultivation of opium.

19. I can give no date.

20. Suicides by swallowing opium, now so easily obtained, have become painfully common, and are said to be yearly on the increase. Again and again have I been called to try to save men in the agonies of death. The use of opium is steadily increasing, and at the inns and elsewhere openly smoked, in striking contrast to the secrecy of early years. It is said that but few children are born in homes where the opium habit has become masterful. Children brought up in opium-smoking homes seem to become easy victims. In one wealthy family known to me, five sons are following in their father's footsteps, and leaving their aged and widowed mother to mourn and do her utmost to save her property. The impoverished opium-smokers usually

die in hopelessness and agony. The families of such are reduced to destitution and misery—daughters sold into slavery or shame. Not a word is ever heard spoken in favour of the use, which always ends in abuse, of opium. All feel that the trade in opium is a monstrous wrong, and the curse of China.

The Rev. Y. McMULLAN.

1. Opium is extensively used in the Province of Szechwan, but not so largely in Shantung.

2. In Chefoo I would think of the males 30 to 40 per cent. use opium. My knowledge does not extend to children, but I know some women smoke. Country (Shantung promontory), about 10 per cent. of the men smoke opium.

Opium dens abound in the back streets of Chefoo, and many of the villages have now opium dens.

Szechwan, 60 to 80 per cent. of the men smoke.

3. Those who use opium become deceitful and undependable. The injurious effects of opium on the body are more rapid and severe in the case of the poor than the rich. The use of opium often causes trouble and division in families.

The Indian drug is more powerful and the effects more injurious than the native drug.

4. I believe opium is principally smoked, but many take it in the form of pills, because they could not hold their positions if known to be opium-consumers.

6. I think it is almost impossible to use opium without gradually increasing the quantity, and eventually becoming a slave to the habit. On the other hand there are some who have consumed opium for years without much evident physical injury.

9. The habit of using opium is universally condemned by the Chinese.

10. A great many try to break off the habit of opium-smoking, but few are permanently successful.

13. Often by young men as an amusement, from idle curiosity, or through the influence of companions. Sometimes as a cure or supposed cure for some ailment.

14. Opium-smokers, especially those who have been long slaves to the drug, are frequently anxious to get free from the habit.

16. In West China only native opium is consumed. I believe it is frequently mixed in this district.

17.—(a.) It would now be difficult for the Chinese Government to stop the consumption of opium.

(b.) It is said that cultivation of the native drug would be restricted if the importation of the foreign drug was stopped.

18. I think opium is hardly, if at all, cultivated in this part of Shantung. It is said to be cultivated further west in the province.

Opium is cultivated extensively in the portions of Western China with which I am acquainted, viz., Southern Shensi, Szechwan, and Yunnan.

Chefoo, February 15, 1894.

P.S.—I noticed the following after writing replies to queries.

(By a literary man in Ninghai.)

In Ninghai 15 per cent. of the men smoke. In the country 2 or 3 per cent.

The proportion of women is much smaller.

There are probably 60 or 70 opium dens in Ninghai; 25 years ago there were not 10.

Nearly all the officials and their underlings take opium.

Indian opium can be smoked 5 or 6 times.

Native " " " " 3 or 4 " (at most).

Opium-smoking injures the poorer classes much more than the rich, the reason the natives give is that the rich only smoke the drug once, whereas the poor smoke the ashes.

Rev. C. W. MATEER, of Tengchow, Province of Shantung.

The answers have reference to the immediate district with which the writer is acquainted, but are probably equally applicable to the Province of Shantung.

1. Opium is commonly consumed by all classes.
2. About one-fifth of the adult males smoke opium, and probably about one-fiftieth of the women.

3. The effect is bad and only bad, both physically and morally. It goes hand in hand with other vices, and is most used by the worst men in the community. It gives strength for a spurt, but unfits men for continuous labour. It protects men from colds but not from dysentery, or fevers, or cholera, to which its consumers, when attacked, generally succumb. It stimulates the passions, but by and by renders both men and women impotent and sterile. It undermines the vital powers, and debauches the moral sense. The effect of the Indian opium is worse than the Chinese, because the opium is stronger.

4. Nearly all consumers smoke, a few eat it in pills, mostly such as wish to conceal the habit or quit it. When the appetite becomes insatiable they use a tincture of opium. The effect is substantially the same in each case, in proportion to the quantity.

5. None take opium without injury. About the half of those who use it do so with comparatively slight injury, and the other half with great injury, sooner or later becoming "sots."

6. Opium may, I suppose, be taken in moderation just as wine may be so taken, but not generally without some bad effect. I have known considerable numbers of men who have taken opium for many years without apparent harm being generally men who had the means of living well and pursued an active life. Opium wrecks are everywhere to be seen. I have rarely been in a crowd where I could not pick out a number whose sallow and enervated appearance marked them as victims of opium.

7. In Yaméns nearly all underlings of every class smoke opium, and of merchants nearly, if not quite, one-half. Farmers are least addicted to the habit.

8. The effect of using opium is distinctly worse on the individual than that of alcoholic drinks, but leads to fewer breaches of the peace.

9. The opium habit is universally condemned by the Chinese as both wrong morally, and injurious physically. I have never heard a Chinaman seriously attempt to defend it as a good thing. They regard it as much worse than drinking wine.

10. Of those who contract the "opium appetite," not one in a hundred is ever able to quit it, however hard he may try to do so.

11. The cutting off of Indian opium would have no appreciable effect in this region. The native article would simply be substituted for it.

12. So far as I know very few Europeans contract the opium habit. Wine and brandy suit the European temperament better. Chinese like opium, and use it because it suits their lethargic temperament.

13. A few learn to use opium by first taking it to relieve pain, but the vast majority learn it just in the same way and for the same reasons that young men in the west learn to drink. Opium is not in any proper sense a prophylactic, nor is it so regarded by the people.

14. Opium-consumers always profess to want to get free of the habit. I have never met one who did not speak thus; the subject of opium never comes up in a company of Chinamen but that someone is eagerly inquiring for some "antidote" by which he can break off the habit.

15. The responsibility for introducing opium into China and so spreading the vice of its use is universally laid at the door of foreigners, and a strong feeling of wrong everywhere exists. At the present time the Chinese are largely indifferent about foreigners bringing opium to China, as it is practically impossible to stop the production of it at home. Bringing or not bringing opium into China is purely a moral question so far as China is concerned.

16, 17, 18, and 19. I cannot answer.

The Rev. C. Judd.

1. Yes.

2. Fully one-half of the adult males (the natives say more) are consumers. Less than that number of adult

women, and but very few children. This applies to the town; in the country villages opium-smokers are fewer, and in some villages they will not allow an opium-smoker in the place.

3. The effects of opium-smoking are not the same on the rich as on the poorer classes. Those who can get plenty of good food may smoke for a long time with little or no apparent injury physically. Or the poorer classes, poor literary men, working men, and small tradesmen, the effect is more severe, as their pale sunken cheeks, staring eyes, bloodless lips, and stooping form, all bear witness. And as the smoker must, at any cost, have his opium, his food may be hard to get with diminished means, and thus his emaciated body suffers the more. The prolonged use of opium is commonly said to decrease, or even destroy, the power of the procreation of offspring. Among the moral effects, most smokers seem to lose much of their energy of character, and become lazy, slovenly, and dirty. Those who are not compelled to work spend half the night in smoking and vice, and sleep the early half of the day. On the poorer and working classes it is worse. I know personally of many cases where the man cannot go without his opium for himself, and buys the best food he can to support his emaciated body, leaving wife and children to beg or starve. In not a few cases he earns little, if any, more than enough for his opium, and eats the food, which his wife and children must beg, which, failing to do, they get beaten. Having smoked for some time, the drug is no longer a luxury only, but a necessity, without which he must suffer severely. I have myself seen a poor beggar in such pain for want of his opium, which he had no longer the means to procure, that I gave him money to get it rather than see him suffer. Another young man who had come to beggary at not more than nineteen years of age, through opium, I took into my house, giving him good food and all he needed but the opium; the next day but one he ran away, unable to bear the pain caused by the privation from the drug. The smoker of opium when he has no money steals almost of necessity. One of its moral and social evils is that in many cases harlots and opium are supplied in the same shop. One may ask, does this coupling of vices bear any relation to the State regulation of opium and immorality by the Indian Government? I do not know if there be any difference between Indian and Chinese grown opium in its effects.

4. In my neighbourhood (Ning-hai-chow) it is chiefly smoked. When too poor to buy the drug, they swallow the dregs, which are easily procured. It is said to be harder to give up the taking of the dregs than the purer opium.

5. The proportion of those who smoke opium:—

- (i.) Without injury—very small in this neighbourhood.
- (ii.) With slight injury—many.
- (iii.) With great injury—many more.

6. It is difficult to speak of "moderation" in the use of a drug that must be increased in order to keep up its effect.

The cases of smoking opium for years "without injury" are said to exist and doubtless do so with some degree of qualification. The cases of "great injury" known to me personally are too numerous to mention. I will mention two.

(i.) A literary man, Mr. K'ü, formerly in my employ, had very good abilities as a teacher, but lost his situation with natives several times on account of his opium. He at last came down to beg from me food given to the common beggars, and clothing to save his being actually frozen. At the same time his family were in fairly good circumstances, but dare not allow him to come home lest he should ruin them all. His sunken cheeks, and stooping gait are a great contrast to his healthy appearance only a year or so before. He owns that opium is the cause.

(ii.) Another literary man, named Wang, of excellent abilities, a teacher to a missionary friend, through the use of opium became unable to attend to his duties, his increase of salary only helped to hasten his moral and physical ruin, and hence he soon lost his position and was despised by his family, going about in rags. I have seen several cases of men once much better off so reduced by opium as to die on the streets, or outside the city walls, outcasts even from former friends and relatives.

7. Many coolies on the streets take opium, and a good number of the artisans; but tradespeople, even when

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they themselves consume it, will rarely retain a smoker in their employ, on account of the great temptation to steal in order to satisfy the opium crave. No one cares to employ a known opium-smoker as artisan, because, however urgent his business, he must stop to smoke at or near the usual time for the crave to return. Some, however, carry with them small pills of opium to take at such time, and tide over the trouble. The worst opium-smokers are usually found in the Yamens, where they have plenty of leisure. Many cases of men turned away for opium-smoking might be given, both from places of business and private families.

8. Alcohol makes men more violent when taken to excess than opium does. The latter rather takes the energy out of a man. But the opium takes more hold of the man, and if the supply stops, without other aid he suffers severely; that is, when he has taken it long enough (say, a few months in some cases) to establish the "ying" or craving.

9. During 25 years in China I have always heard the Chinese speak of the opium habit as degrading and injurious in the extreme, and it is constantly thrown in our face that our country sends it here.

They speak of excess in alcohol as bad; but I rarely, if ever, hear them speak of opium being anything but bad, except as used medicinally.

10. Many opium-smokers temporarily cure themselves of the habit by taking medicines for the purpose. But, unless they become converted to God and thus receive the Saviour's help, about 80 or 90 per cent. are said to revert to it before long. Of those who become Christians probably not more than 3 per cent. return to the drug. This is corroborated by some who have had much to do with opium refugees.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off, I think most of the smokers would turn to native-grown opium.

12. I have not heard of many Europeans taking to opium in China, and only recently I hear it is being taken to by many in London, but know nothing of this personally.

13. I think there is little doubt but that the majority begin with the drug for various diseases—toothache, rheumatism, and other pains, and not being under good medical care, are not able to leave it off. I know of many such cases; but among many tradespeople it has become common to offer opium, instead of merely tobacco, to their friends, and thus the taste for it is rapidly spreading.

14. Large numbers of consumers desire to get free: (i.) because they find the expense too great; (ii.) because they frequently lose their situations on account of it; (iii.) because they are in many cases cast off by their families; (iv.) because many lose their physical strength through its use, and others become diseased in other ways, especially when they are too poor to counteract its effects by good and nourishing food.

15. There is a wish among many that England would stop the traffic, even at this late hour when it is already so deeply rooted.

16. Indian opium is consumed more in the open ports, where the people are rich, the native more in the interior. The Indian, although more expensive, is said to be better.

17. The consequences of the prohibition of the export of Indian opium:—

(a.) On the consumption of opium by the Chinese, would be to put a considerable check upon it; and at least give the Chinese Government some opportunity to restrict its use.

(b.) On the cultivation of the poppy. If the Chinese were to cultivate the poppy to any further considerable extent, there would not be land enough to grow the needful grain for food. In Shantung alone, one great reason for its present poverty is, that the land does not produce enough grain to supply its dense population. How then if they should use more land for the poppy?

(c.) On the arrangements made by the Chinese Government for raising revenue from opium, I have no decided opinion.

18. I have not sufficient knowledge to answer this question. Shan-si, Honan, Kansuh, Sze-Chuan, and Yunnan are large opium-growing provinces.

19. I do not know.

20. I would remark:—

(i.) That it is degrading the already low condition of the people wherever the opium is consumed.

(ii.) That the amount in value of the opium consumed within the walls of Ninghai city would easily support all its poor, aged, and sick, as well as blind, and this, too, in a place notoriously poor; it would also pay for the streets being kept in order and well lighted, and may other temporal blessings to them, instead of going to enrich an already wealthy country by its opium revenue.

(iii.) It keeps up a continual hatred towards British influence, which otherwise would be honoured and esteemed by the mass of Chinese people.

Whether this flood of opium already all over the Empire can now be stopped is a question not easy to answer, even should the Indian opium be stopped, but it looks very much as though it would soon destroy a large part of the population, except such as come to be delivered from its power by divine grace, and, thank God, that number is daily increasing.

I think that its influence as a hindrance to the progress of Christianity has been greatly over-estimated. Large numbers of opium-smokers turn to the Christians to get aid for their deliverance, and finding it, they become followers of Christ and faithful upright citizens. Numerous instances of these can be given.

CHAS. H. JUDD,

China Inland Mission, Ninghai Chou, Shantung.
Arrived in China, March 1868.

PAKHOL.

Her Majesty's Consulate, Pakhoi,
(China), 8th March 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, in original, my own replies, and those of a resident medical man, Dr. Horder, of the Church Missionary Society, to the enclosed questions of the Royal Commission on Opium.

On 28th February I received the questions through Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, with instructions to forward the replies which I should receive, with my own statement, within 10 days. I have, therefore, hardly had time to answer questions of such scope in a very satisfactory manner as to fulness, but have done the best I could.

I am sorry that I have only been able to obtain the answers of one person besides my own, and have to offer the following explanation:—The Commissioner of Customs, Mr. H. M. Hillier, could not undertake to give replies before receiving express permission from Sir Robert Hart, the head of the service, and the same difficulty, of course, stood in the way of obtaining replies from his subordinates, Dr. Deane, medical assistant, and Mr. Byworth, head of the out-door staff here. (All these gentlemen are British.) These are the only officials of the Chinese Government whom it could be desirable or unobjectionable to consult. As regards natives, even if a "mandarin" could have been induced to give a reply in such a short time (which is highly improbable), his reply would have been utterly unreliable, from carelessness and want of information, if given *bonâ fide*, and from intention to deceive if he had thought there was any advantage in doing so. The same objection applies in a less degree to native merchants, a far more honourable class of men albeit they are.

Here is only one European merchant, a German, and even if he were present instead of absent, he has nothing to do with the opium trade, which is passing into Chinese hands.

I have, &c.

M. F. A. FRASER,
Her Majesty's Consul.

Consul FRASER.

1. I believe that opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese in the part of China with which I am acquainted, that is to say, that a great many Chinese smoke opium.

[But I have spent over 18 years in China (after deducting leaves of absence), and resided at 10 Treaty

ports, without being much in the homes of the Chinese; the mandarins and "gentry" have kept me at a distance as much as possible, and the other classes have not been desirous of intercourse. My experience in this respect is that of all foreigners in my position. My opportunities of gaining direct knowledge by watching the people's daily life have therefore been rare, although I have lived long in China and travelled a good deal in the interior, understand, more or less, several Chinese dialects, and read their books and newspapers.]

I think opium-smoking in China is about as common as tobacco-smoking in England.

2. I conjecture that half the adult Chinese males smoke opium. (Opinions vary greatly on this subject.)

In some places even women smoke it. At Shanghai I know that native women of loose life recline on a divan, smoking with native customers in some "opium dens," or "opium palaces"; but this is rare. In Kwangsi Province I believe that many women, and even children smoke, at least in the part between Nanning and Lungchow. Taking the whole Empire, I suppose few women, and still less children, smoke.

3. I believe, from my own observation, that opium refreshes the labouring men (the class who comes most under a European's observation), such as sedan-chair bearers, boatmen, &c., who require some stimulant, as their work is terribly hard. Unfortunately, as with wines amongst ourselves, the rich, who need stimulants least, take most, and the poor find it hard to buy enough.

I have not observed the moral and social effects, but suppose on moderate smokers these are good (if the man's health is benefited by smoking), or, at least, indifferent; on immoderate, bad.

The Chinese are in the main a homogeneous nation, and I should imagine the effects must be much the same on all, but there are also climatic and hygienic conditions in different parts of such a large country which must be factors in the question.

As to the effects of Chinese and Indian opium respectively, I gather, from what I hear, that 1 oz. of Indian goes as far as 2 oz. of Chinese. The quality of native opium has, however, greatly improved of late. The native drug is often much adulterated with various substances, but the Indian drug is often adulterated also. The two are frequently taken mixed together. [I respectfully refer to the Reports of the Imperial Chinese Customs on this subject. In the Reports for 1892 is an Index showing in what Reports it is dealt with.]

4. Smoking opium is, I believe, the usual form of taking it, but swallowing it is not unknown. The comparative effects of each method are a subject for medical testimony, and I can express no opinion.

5. I believe that of opium-consumers those who thus inflict injury on themselves are in the minority, as is the case with wine-drinkers. The time wasted is considerable, but the Chinese have few rational innocent pastimes. It is impossible to state the proportions of the classes (i.), (ii.), (iii.), with any accuracy.

6. I believe it is perfectly incorrect to say that there cannot be moderation in the consumption of opium. There can be no doubt, however, I think, that, especially with people of so little energy, force of will, moral courage, or ambition, as the average Chinese, the habit is very hard to break off when once acquired, and that a moderate use to begin with often ends in excess. [But Dr. Horder says it is easier, nevertheless, to cure a Chinaman of the habit than a European, and I may well be wrong in my opinion.]

7. I believe a considerable proportion of all these classes take opium. With the labourer, whose small means restrict him to a modicum, I believe opium is useful as a stimulant, in the absence of something better, after the excessive fatigues to which he is subjected in his calling. When the merchant takes to it, he is, I am afraid (when with means and leisure) having few rational pastimes, apt to increase the dose, and impair his efficiency, and I fear the same must be the case with the artisan, at least him who makes a good living.

In a land where the chief "moral law" enjoins the propagation of male children to carry on the feeding of the ancestral manes, and where every young man has a wife and family to support, expensive or even comfortable habits for the father often entail want on the son. (The wife and daughters are a "negligible quantity" in native eyes.)

8. Alcohol is generally, as yet, not presented in very attractive form (in the guise of native "samschoo") in China; and I do not think much is consumed, except about China New Year, and at dinner-parties. On visits, where the European says to his friend, "have a drink," the native says, "have some tea and a pipe." A drunken Chinaman is a rare sight, a Chinaman drunk and violent rarer still. I never heard of a man drunk and violent with opium-smoking. That I conceive to be the main difference. Opium is a sedative as well as a stimulant.

[Suicide is appallingly common in China, especially among the young men and women, who are, owing to their weakness, greatly oppressed; and also in "suttee," a practice common in China and highly venerated. Opium is a very common—probably the most common—means of suicide, and this is an abuse of the drug, but hanging and drowning are also resorted to, and would be more so if opium were not procurable.]

9. I have no doubt that the habit of consuming opium is condemned as degrading and injurious, or at least as a lazy extravagant habit, by the general opinion of the Chinese, and has been so since the habit showed symptoms of becoming widely diffused, which is now probably nearly 200 years ago.*

The alcohol habit, I believe, they regard with comparative leniency; but if the immoderate use of alcohol in China were as striking an abuse as it is in the countries of northern Europe and America, they would no doubt regard it with horror. At present the wine-cup is regarded as an elegant adjunct to a feast and a source of poetic inspiration, and the poets of China have long praised it as poets have done in other countries.

10. I believe that the number of opium-consumers who break themselves of the habit is small compared with the number of those who do not do so. It is possible to break off the habit, but difficult in the extreme in many cases, which is true, I suppose, of all stimulants.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off, the people who consume it would, I think, take to Chinese opium (as they are doing more and more every year), and to foreign opium from other countries than India. I do not know if they would substitute tobacco or liquor; opium-consumers already consume tobacco and liquor as well as opium, I believe. The race is said to have an inclination for narcotics.

12. People of European race do not contract the opium habit in any numbers, I believe. They have other stimulants and other pastimes, and have no congenital predisposition to it. Opium-smoking is both a stimulant and a pastime for the Chinaman. I have heard of Europeans taking to it in malarious countries with a depressing routine of life, as a few French military men stationed in parts of the jungle in Tonkin or Annam. I have known other isolated instances without this particular excuse.

13. I understand that opium-consumers are often led to consume the drug habitually by once or a few times using it as a medicinal remedy; but fashion in China, and imitation, must be responsible for much. I do not know if the Chinese look on it as a prophylactic, but believe not. Here I am told by a Chinese that there exists some belief among the labourers and others who use it that it relieves difficulty of breathing. [In malarious regions there is, I believe, most resort to it; I infer, therefore, that it is held to be remedial in malaria. As I have no medical knowledge I am here expressing what is purely a conjecture.]

14. I have no doubt that persons who consume opium excessively have a desire to get rid of the habit. I do not think that those who take it in moderation, and can afford it, have this wish, at least not many of them.

15. I have, on a few rare occasions, become aware of such a wish being expressed by a few persons among the Chinese, on moral grounds. It is often expressed in the native press of Shanghai. On grounds of political economy the wish is, I believe, generally, in fact, perhaps I may say, universally entertained among the so-called educated classes; as they are in favour (if they cannot break off relations with Europeans for good and all, which they would much prefer) of increasing China's money by fostering China's export trade, and look with disfavour on the outdrain of money to buy imports.

16. I think it may be said, generally, that Indian opium, from its greater cost, is consumed by the rich,

* See "Historical Note on the Poppy in China," by the Rev. Dr. Joseph Edkins, London: P. S. King and Son, 1889.

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and Chinese opium by the poor; although owing to the improvement in the Chinese product it is now in some places taking the place of Indian in the favour of even well-to-do customers. The two are often taken mixed, both for taste and for economy.

[On these points I beg reference to Customs and Consular Reports on China.]

17.—(a.) If the export of Indian opium were prohibited or restricted, I believe the Chinese would consume as much opium as they do now, supplying the deficiency in foreign drug by Chinese and other non-Indian opium.

(b.) The production in China would increase, as the crop is, it is said, more profitable to the grower than any other.

(c.) The Chinese Government would probably, finding the revenue from Indian opium diminished, take more stringent steps to diminish the smuggling of native opium, which is carried on to an enormous extent, as is indeed also the case with Indian opium.

18. I can give no estimate of the area under the poppy in China, nor the average annual out-turn of opium. It is said to have been grown in China for 400 years past*; it is now extensively grown in Manchuria, Shantung, Kiangsu, Anhui, Chekiang, Yunnan, Kweichow, Lzechuen, Shensi, Shansi, Kwangsi, Hupeh, and a little in Fuhkien, and is exported to Tonkin and even a little to Malaysia. Many estimates of the area and out-turn have been given, but must be largely speculative. The culture is apparently everywhere increasing; in the province in which Ningpo is (Chekiang), it more than doubled between 1879 and 1889, according to Commissioner of Customs Report.

19. The Revenue collected from foreign opium by the Chinese Government through the Imperial Maritime Customs is fully dealt with in the Customs Trade Returns and Reports published, in English, in China and in London, by order of Sir Robert Hart. Besides the revenues legitimately accrued by Treaty to the Central Government, the Chinese Government's Agents in the provinces (the provincial authorities) are continually striving to burden imported opium with extra charges for their own benefit.

I extract the following notes from Customs Decennial Reports, 1883-91 :—

(NATIVE OPIUM.)

In 1886 the cultivation was legalised, and a tax authorised.

At Wuhu, native opium was taxed, in 1889, Taels 20 a picul. [The tael is an ounce of silver; there are nearly 17 piculs in a ton.]

At Ningpo, same date, Taels 24 a picul.

At Tchang, in 1890, a tax-office was established (Taels 34 7 per picul); and the price of Lzechuen opium rose from Taels 190 to Taels 240 per picul, and that of Yunnan opium from Taels 266 to Taels 285 per picul. In Fuhkien likin tax Taels 42 per picul raw native opium.

At Wuhu, in 1890, about Taels 22 per picul, tax.

At Wenchow, in 1890, about Taels 24 per picul, tax.

There are also varying transit fees from province to province.

The tax must be much smaller than that levied on Indian opium, which is Taels 110 per chest. I have no statistics of the total tax collected on native opium, nor of how much of it goes to the Central Government.

20. Opium-consumption, and particularly the evils of excess in it, if any excess there is, among the Pakhoi people, does not come conspicuously under a European's notice, if he is not a doctor. The people generally look healthy and cheerful, for Chinese, although the proportion of them who smoke opium is said to be considerable.

I have long thought that it is only in excess that opium does harm to the race, not in moderation. In watching the natives around me, in whom I take a friendly interest, I form the opinion that each of the terrible abuses, gambling, foot-laming of women, geomancy, official peculation and cruelty, slavery, superstition, and ignorance, cause far more distress than does excess in opium. To prevent them indulging in opium to excess, and to cure them of far worse faults, the moral tone and manliness, and the material prosperity of the people must be raised. This can only be done by the opening of the country to those European influences against which the mandarins and "gentry"

work with such bitter hatred and contempt, and with such methods as attacks on missionaries and Christians, and obstruction to trade, travel, residence, and intercourse of Europeans.

Pakhoi, South China,
8th March 1894.

M. F. E. FRASER,
H.B.M.'s Consul.

Dr. HORDER, Church Missionary Society, Pakhoi,
China.

1. Not to the extent it is in some other parts.
2. A small proportion of women and a few children.
3. Morally, most degrading; an opium-smoker is utterly mistrusted by his fellow men, and finds it difficult to gain employment of any kind. I refer to those who smoke large quantities.

Physically, if taken to any extent the consumer becomes a complete wreck.

Socially, he seeks no society but what he finds in the opium den.

These remarks do not refer to the consumers of small doses.

4. Smoke.
5. ———
6. There is such a thing as "moderation in the consumption of opium," but in so many cases this "moderation" quickly becomes excess.
7. "With which I am conversant?" No.
8. I cannot see what the alcohol question has to do with opium consumed by the Chinese.
9. Yes, certainly.
10. A few, but the majority seek help.

11. In my opinion these questions cannot be answered.

12. ———
- 13.—(a.) Friends, sickness.

(b.) Never heard it was in this part of China, and the Chinese do not ask for it to prevent or remove such maladies, and I should not think of prescribing opium for these diseases or as a prophylactic.

14. A large number apply for treatment.

15. I have not heard any express such a wish. Probably they have not the slightest idea here that England has anything to do with it, and to a large majority in Pakhoi "England" and "India" are utterly unknown.

16. ———

20. My wish is to see the consumption of opium by the Chinese entirely done away. It degrades the consumer, and thus far hinders the progress of mission work.

EDWARD G. HORDER,
Medical Missionary, Church Missionary
Society, Pakhoi.

South China, March 1894.

HANKOW.*

H.B.M. Consulate, Hankow,
March 6, 1894.

SIR,
In obedience to instructions received from Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, I have the honour to forward herewith answers to the questions asked by the Royal Commission on Opium.

I have, &c.

PELHAM WARREN,
Consul.

The Secretary,
Royal Commission on Opium, India.

1. Opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese in all parts of China with which I am acquainted.

2. I have not been sufficiently long at Hankow to offer an opinion as to the proportion of the adult males of the neighbouring districts who are consumers. In other parts of China the proportion varies very considerably. In some I have known it as high as from 70 to 80 per cent., and in those districts both women and children consume it. I have seldom heard it put lower than from 30 to 40 per cent. in any district. The consumption, as far as my experience goes, depends

* Edkins, op. cit., p. 23. See Vol. I. App.

* For other statements from Hankow, see page 264.

greatly on the climate and the nature of the occupation of the inhabitants.

3. Opium when indulged in to excess produces both moral and physical deterioration; taken in moderation it is often beneficial rather than injurious, and enables the lower classes to support hardships, undergo toil, and resist climatic influences, to which they would otherwise succumb more rapidly than they now do. I cannot say of my own knowledge whether there is any difference between the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium, but Chinese smokers have assured me that the Indian drug is less likely to do harm.

4. As a rule consumers chiefly smoke opium. I have known few cases of eating opium, save in the form of anti-opium pills, which as a rule contain morphia, or with the object of committing suicide.

5. Is a question that can only be answered by a medical man.

6 and 7. It is utterly incorrect to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. I have known parts of China where the climate was highly malarious in which it would not be too much to say that the whole of the labouring classes smoked. The amount daily consumed by each individual was almost infinitesimal, merely sufficient to afford one pipe taken at the end of the day's work, the cost being about the equivalent of one halfpenny. It is rare to meet any of the mercantile class who do not indulge in a pipe occasionally, but they are not on that account classed as "opium smokers," nor has it any effect on their efficiency in their calling. Of course there are exceptions to the rule. Some persons gradually increase their daily consumption until they develop into "opium sots," but such cases are far rarer than is generally imagined.

8. Is a question for a medical man.

9. I have not found as a general rule that the use of opium is condemned by the Chinese as degrading or injurious; the abuse is so condemned, and is looked upon as worse than the abuse of alcohol. Practically there is no such thing as habitual drunkenness amongst the Chinese. Men may on occasions drink to excess, but it is an exception, not a habit.

10. Opium-smokers both can and do break themselves of the habit. When very far advanced in the practice, however, they cannot break themselves of it without medical assistance.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off in this neighbourhood I should say, judging from my experience here and in other places, the result would simply be an increase in the consumption of Chinese-grown opium. The consumption of Indian opium here is very small, and is yearly becoming less, opium from Szechüan taking its place. This native-grown opium is not much inferior to Indian and is far cheaper, and though I am not in a position to speak positively as regards this district, I am distinctly of opinion that the replacing of Indian by native drug leads to an increase of the numbers of those who consume opium. I am led to this conclusion by the fact that in those ports where Persian opium has taken the place of Indian, and is used mixed with native drug, there has been, owing to the comparative cheapness of the mixture, a very marked increase both in the number of smokers and in the amount consumed by individuals. It is in these ports that the practice is extending amongst the women and children.

12. There are very few cases within my knowledge of the contraction of the opium habit by Europeans. I can only call to mind two cases.

13. Opium-consumers use the drug as a stimulant, especially the hard-worked lower classes, who also believe in it as a preventative of malarial complaints.

14. I have known several cases of "opium sots" wishing to get free of the habit, sometimes because they found it too expensive, sometimes because they felt that their excess was producing physical and moral degradation.

15. I have never myself heard a wish expressed that England should not allow opium to be exported from India. On the other hand I have seen in some ports proclamations posted by the Chinese authorities forbidding the import of native opium, on the grounds that it would check the import of Indian drug and injure the revenue collected from its taxation.

It is very difficult to get at the real views of a Chinaman on the subject. He is very apt to say what he thinks will coincide with the views of his questioner.

16. Indian opium is chiefly consumed by the well-to-do classes; the poorer cannot afford it, except when mixed with native drug and other mixtures, such as sesamum cake for instance. Native opium is rapidly driving out Indian from the northern districts, and apparently the replacing of Indian by native drug throughout China is only a question of time. Where Chinese opium is easily obtainable Indian has sooner or later to give way.

17. The probable consequences of the prohibition or restriction of the export of Indian opium would be:—

- (a.) That the consumption of opium by the Chinese would be temporarily checked.
- (b.) That the increase of poppy cultivation in China and in the production of opium would be very considerable, tending to a very large increase of the number of smokers.
- (c.) That the Chinese Government, having lost the revenue they now derive from the duties on Indian opium, would be compelled to tax the native drug higher than they now do, but they could not afford to tax it so highly as to make the diminishing of the consumption more than very temporary.

18. I am unable to give any estimate as to the area now under poppy cultivation, or as to the average out-turn of opium. Any such estimate would be pure guesswork. All that is absolutely certain is that the production is daily increasing, that the out-turn is very large, as is also the consumption, and that the proportion of Indian drug to native is small and rapidly decreasing.

19. The native drug that reaches this port from up river would, if passed through the foreign customs, pay in all a duty of 60 per picul. It is not possible to say with any degree of certainty what the duty levied at the native custom houses would be. I have usually found the tariff rates in most parts of China to be about 50 dollars per picul of 133½ pounds. But the merchant as a rule makes his own terms with the native custom house, and generally succeeds in passing his opium much below tariff rates. The duty and likin on Indian opium amount to 110 Haikwan taels per picul.

20. There is no doubt that excess in opium-smoking leads to very grievous results. At the same time it is a question whether the moderate smoker does not derive a certain amount of good from his pipe. I am inclined to think that he does. In stating that I have found the average in some parts of China as high as 70 to 80 per cent.—I mean that that proportion of the people of those districts use the pipe more or less. "Opium sots" are not met with to any great extent unless sought for in opium dens or in hospitals.

(Signed) PELHAM WARREN,
H.B.M. Consulate, Hankow, Consul.
March 6, 1894.

Mr. CHARLES BEGE, of Hankow.

1. Yes.

2. Twenty per cent. of adult males consume opium in a greater or less quantity, women very rarely, children never.

3. The effects of opium depend entirely on the amount consumed. I believe the great majority obtain only the stimulant action, making them brighter and more fit to transact business, acting first as a moderate use of alcohol acts when taken with food. Once the line between moderation and excess is overstepped, then the effect, moral, social, and physical, on its consumers is merely a question of degree. Although it is known to be a cumulative drug, yet my experience leads me to believe that a very large proportion of opium-consumers do not step over that line, but continue all their lives as moderate consumers. I have never had an applicant for cure who was able to procure his usual supply of the drug, or who desired to be cured because of the bad effects of the habit. Poverty had overtaken all, bad food and exposure had added their quota to the effects of the drug, the opium craze had long become developed, and the patient was a moral and physical wreck, unable to obtain the necessaries of life, or a supply of his loved opium. I have never been applied

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to by the friends of a consumer to undertake his cure, a rather important statement in this land of strong family ties and other relationships. Consumers in China are of the same race and not as in India, the only difference is in social position, and what effect good surroundings and a purer specimen of the drug may have as contrasted with cheap drug and bad hygiene generally. Indian opium is much more powerful than Chinese-grown, and when possible is always mixed with the latter. It would require a series of special observations to clear up this point. My opinion is it would turn out merely a question of degree.

4. Chiefly smoke. To distinguish a habitual smoker from one who drank the drug I do not think possible.

5. (i.) 88 per cent.
- (ii.) 10 per cent.
- (iii.) 2 per cent.

6. As above stated, it is my belief that moderation is not only perfectly possible, but is to a large extent the rule. Injury from opium-consuming is not visible to the ordinary observer in China; it has to be looked for most carefully till found, and yet, with the exception of the coolie class, I believe it is safe to state that every Chinaman one meets may be put in the class of moderate consumers of opium, although he may not always admit the same if asked by a foreigner—a natural enough result of the hue and cry that has been raised about the habit. If he were in the foreigner's employ he certainly would not admit it. An opium consumer suffering from the effects of it cannot escape a medical eye, yet it is a rare sight to see one when walking in the crowded streets of a Chinese town. You could certainly count on your fingers the number met during a long walk. It follows, therefore, that either the consumption of the drug is limited to those few, or that a much greater proportion of consumers than is allowed by certain writers on the subject stop short of the stage where opium becomes their curse. If one, living among them, has to hunt for a sample, it speaks volumes, considering that custom house returns will give information as to the great quantity of the drug that is imported, and that has to be added to the very rapidly-growing amount of Chinese-grown opium. If the opium habit was what it has been made out to be, one would expect to see evidence of it on every hand, and not be compelled to search very far. I personally know many Chinese who have smoked opium for years, and who are still smoking, and I would defy anyone to convict them of the habit. I have known men who smoked from time to time, and who could give it up at will, although as a medical man I have had the care also of many who were out and out "opium sots." The question of what the drug can do when abused is not in question, but my experience of 15 years leads me to believe that it can be used in moderation without injury, and that an opium sot is one who has met with monetary or other loss, and gone to excess to drown his cares, plus those on whom the drug takes hold from the beginning, as there is a chance of its doing, and then the patient proceeds from stage to stage with greater or less rapidity depending on environment. In writing an answer at such short notice, it is only possible to record the convictions forced upon one by 15 years' life and practice among them. A case illustrative of the evils of opium taken to excess can be obtained from any text-book. I have never felt it necessary to burden my note-books with them.

7. My experience is that it is the exception for the ordinary labourer to consume opium. Merchants generally do, and also well-to-do artisans. The effect on their calling depends on the quantity consumed. See answer to 5.

8. The use of opium is not in my opinion to be named in the same breath with that of alcohol, or rather I should say the abuse of either, for I doubt if the use of either can be condemned on rational grounds, whether they be taken medicinally for "the stomach's sake," or taken because they are desired and can be obtained without wronging any one. Any article of consumption beyond the bare necessities of life might as justly be condemned. The abuse of either or any cannot be too strongly condemned, but to my mind it is foolish to compare opium and alcohol except in one particular, viz., the common effect of shortening life, and depriving the patient and those depending on him or her for their means of livelihood—an equal crime and a danger to the common well-being. But take the case of moderate opium-consumers. They will tell you how they find their brains clearer to act, and themselves

stronger and in every way more fitted after their "dose," a fact confirmed by every physician, who has reason very often to be thankful for that well-known quality of the drug. Alcohol acts in the same way in moderation, only custom has ordained that it shall be a servant of our idle moments instead of a help in our labours, and the result of even moderate drinking is generally a waste of time. Alcohol also seems to derive a great deal of its attraction from numbers, "the more the merrier," and therefore to be a greater danger, in that it tends to increase its ranks. Opium, even by its bitterest enemies, is called a secret vice, but when one goes beyond these first stages and sees the opium sot quietly sleeping off the effects of his debauch, his only crime having spent the money urgently required by starving wife and children, not to speak of his own starved body, to compare him for an instant with the brute who, as he proceeds from stage to stage of intoxication, becomes more and more violent and lawless as the animal part of him gains possession, and the radius of his influence for evil merely depends on his opportunities, an animal calling for the several methods of repression, and capable of working untold harm, is simply foolish. It is rare to see a Chinaman under the influence of alcohol, although a large quantity of it is consumed, as every out-door clinic of a hospital can prove, but when seen it is the usual exhibition, and to my mind emphasises the vast difference between the drugs in their effect, either on himself or through himself on his surroundings. From a medical point of view, we have only to remember the changes brought about in the various organs from the habitual use of alcohol, changes which, once established, are incurable. To mark one great difference between the drugs, I doubt if any case of opium is incurable in the same sense, or if any permanent effect be produced upon the tissues, a most important point when dealing with the question of heredity.

9. A most difficult question to answer, from the difficulty of obtaining true answers to questions. I cannot believe that the habit of consuming opium is looked upon as degrading, seeing how common it is among the better class. The abuse of it would be as freely condemned by us, and the same remark applies to the opium habit, seeing that it is used at every dinner table in the land.

10. I have no reason to doubt statements made to me by most intelligent business men that they smoke a little, and have done so for years, and can give it up when they wish to do so. The habit or craving once formed, however, which results from the abuse of it, is beyond their control, and they have to consult their physicians. Drugs, specific of various kinds, enable many to conduct their own cure, but an "opium sot" requires to be under lock and key, just as a dipsomaniac would need to be in order to have a reasonable chance of cure.

11. The increased tax on Indian opium has resulted in a great impetus to the culture of the native drug. I doubt if anything else would take its place, and believe the only result would be more land would be devoted to the production of opium. The opportunity to abuse alcohol has existed for so long that I cannot believe it would have any influence on it, and I also doubt they would not abstain altogether.

12. No, I do not know a case, although I know of several who have "done a little smoking" from curiosity, and then given it up.

13. Most difficult to say. Opium is most justly looked upon as a most valuable medicine, and I am certain that it does act to a degree as a prophylactic against fevers, especially malaria. It is freely used for the relief of all pain, and enters very largely into the prescriptions of Chinese doctors.

14. No, except under the circumstances described in answer to Question 3.

15. I should say most certainly not, and that it is merely looked on in the light they regard the importation of edible birds' nests, and an individual question entirely as to whether the consumer takes too much.

16. The better class, well-to-do people, and the other extreme, i.e., beggars, among whom are found the bulk of the "opium sots." Native-grown opium is every year becoming a more formidable competitor to the Indian drug, due to the increased taxes levied by the Chinese authorities on the latter, but it is held to be inferior in many qualities and is never used when Indian opium can be procured.

- 17.—(a.) A temporary check on the consumption.
 (b.) A large increase of the area of cultivation.
 (c.) Additional taxes on other things, and, perhaps, on native growers.
 18. No.
 19. Cannot say.

20. Except to repeat that I feel certain a great deal too much has been made of the subject, and that it is anything but the crying evil it is said to be; otherwise the effects of it would be more noticeable. An evil that requires to be sought after is a very different thing from one that cries out for notice at every street corner. That opium is abused no sensible man will deny, but that it is abused to anything approaching the way alcohol is in our own country I cannot deny too strongly. Remembering this, those who do not live in China can form a true idea on the subject.

(Signed) CHARLES BEGG, M.B.C.M.

Mr. J. ARCHIBALD.

The parts of China with which I am acquainted are the central provinces of Hupeh, Hunan, and Kiangsi, with adjacent parts of the provinces of Honan and Nganhui. It has been my business for the last 17 years to travel in these regions in the service of the National Bible Society of Scotland, and I thus know them intimately.

1. In every place where I have been opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese, as is proved by the fact that, wherever shops of any kind are to be found, the opium den is sure to be amongst them. Everywhere it is just as easy to obtain opium as to procure a meal, and often more so.

2. It is impossible to give per-centages of smokers. In some districts the whole of the adult male population seems to have contracted the habit, while in others the chief support of the dens is derived from travellers. Generally, in these regions, women and children do not use the drug. Those who chiefly do so belong to the two extremes of society, that is, to the well off and leisured class, and to the coolies. The Yamun people also are nearly all smokers.

3. The effect of the opium habit on the individual, the family, and the district given up to it, is, in the long run, ruin. It must be remembered that this vice seldom stands by itself, but has certain most hurtful accompaniments going along with it. Amongst the rich, these are other forms of debauchery which I need not specify; and among the poor, starvation. The opium crave is most imperious, and they sacrifice both food and clothing to satisfy it. A dozen years unrestricted indulgence in opium leaves the victim with little to boast of morally, physically, or socially.

4, 5, 6. It is quite correct to say that there can be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium, at all events by smoking, which is the method which has come under my observation. There are cases of men who, through easy circumstances and some peculiarity of temperament, have been able to carry on the habit for many years without doing themselves apparent harm. Also any number of cases occur of others who, on the other hand, are brought to ruin through opium with great rapidity. It is impossible to give per-centages, but the former seem to be few in number compared with the latter. To give particulars of cases would involve writing a book.

7. The effect of the opium habit on the efficiency of labourers, artisans, &c., is such that employers generally will not engage men addicted to it, if they can by any means get others. Personally, I have seen a good deal of how it works in connexion with boatmen, coolies, and the soldiers and police of escorts, when travelling. If there are opium-smokers amongst one's crew it means that the boat will be constantly delayed by these men making off to smoke; and if they are prevented from doing this they are simply good for nothing. It is thus necessary to have them changed the first chance. When the habit obtains amongst the coolies it means that the traveller will have no command over his party. They will obey no master but this appetite of theirs; they will start when they please and stop when they like; they will leave the baggage about in the streets unprotected, and by their disobedience and untrustworthiness constantly cause serious trouble.

It is true that these men, with the aid of opium, can carry loads and perform feats of endurance which, considering their physical condition, are simply astonishing; but deprived of the drug they have no strength at all. The official escorts, when opium-smokers, are equally unreliable. The time when their assistance would be valuable is when the traveller first arrives in a town. A few words from them then can do a great deal towards calming the excitement which generally arises among the people in these central provinces, especially in places which have not been visited by a foreigner before. But although sent by the authorities for this very purpose, the first thing the opium-smokers do is to disappear into the nearest den, and leave the traveller to fight his own battle. I have often had to "eat bitterness" from this cause.

In a sedentary life, and under circumstances where the smoker can have his opium when he likes, and work when he likes, the mischief is not so apparent; but in cases where men are called on to put forth effort at a moment's notice, to be in the hands of opium-smokers is to ensure disaster. The Chinese themselves understand this perfectly. The officers in charge of the military in active service amongst the aborigines have often told me that they would not have an opium-smoker amongst their men at any price, and sometimes had to resort to the extreme measure of taking off heads in order to put a stop to the practice.

8, 9. Although alcohol in these regions is cheap, and in constant use, the natives do not drink to excess. A drunk Chinaman is very seldom to be seen, and they would not think of comparing alcohol and opium. The people universally regard the opium habit as degrading and injurious, and none condemn it more earnestly than those addicted to it. As to alcohol, it is spoken of in the same terms as other articles of food.

10. Nearly all opium-smokers say they intend to break off the habit sometime, and a good many succeed in doing so. The sale of anti-opium medicine in the shape of pills and powders—most of them containing opium in some of its forms—comes next to the sale of the drug itself. Many leave off smoking by the aid of these, and many are cured in foreign hospitals and native refuges. Unfortunately, whenever the pinch which leads them to break off the habit ceases to be felt, they generally begin again.

11. The supply of Indian opium does not affect these regions to any appreciable extent. Smokers use the native article, and will probably continue to do so whatever becomes of the Indian drug.

12, 13. Europeans do not contract the opium habit, but why I do not know. Nor do I know why Asiatics are so liable to contract it. Some natives have told me that they began smoking in order to get relief for some ailment, but the great majority take to it because they like it, and because other smokers tempt them. I never heard of anyone who troubled his head about "prophylactics," nor does the character of the district—malarious or otherwise—seem to make the least difference.

14. See 10. No only do smokers desire to be free of the habit, but non-smokers often bind themselves to keep free. I have frequently met instances of families and clans who had undertaken to expel any member who might adopt the habit.

15. The Chinese, in the part of China with which I am acquainted, are supremely indifferent to anything England or India may do in connexion with the opium traffic or any other matter.

16. In these regions foreign opium is only consumed by wealthy traders from other provinces in the Yamuns, and used for mixing. It is a mere fraction of the total quantity consumed.

17. See 11. As far as I can judge there is no likelihood that anything the Indian Government may now do will appreciably affect for the better the opium-smoking habits of the Chinese. Nor do I think the Chinese Government, even if willing—which for revenue reasons is doubtful—could restrict the practice very much. The officials themselves, on whom it would fall to enforce the prohibitions, are the chief offenders.

18. It is doubtful if even the authorities could give an accurate estimate of the area given up to the poppy in the central provinces. I can only state that 15 years ago it was never to be seen, but now it is constantly to be met with, more especially in the districts remote from waterways, and the cultivation is rapidly extending. There is now no hindrance placed in its way by

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the officials, and as in the roadless condition of China it is the only crop which can readily stand the expense of transport to a distant market, the temptation to earn a little money by growing it is to the poor out of the way farmer, irresistible. Unfortunately, when opium begins to be grown in a locality, the use of it spreads with increasing rapidity until nearly every one has adopted the habit. Then a deterioration sets in which is visible on every hand. Instead of an industrious, healthy, happy people—exceedingly poor it may be but quite contented—the traveller finds a population of lazy, sickly, ragged loafers, with hardly a visible virtue to recommend them, and poorer even than they were before.

19. I do not know what revenue the Chinese government derives from opium, but I believe it varies in different districts. There is a special tax levied on it when growing, but not enough to discourage the cultivation. Then, taxes are levied on it at all the likin stations when in transit, but whenever these exceed the expense of carrying it over the mountains by unfrequented routes this plan is adopted, and the drug ceases to travel by the main roads. On the borders of Szechwan, both north and south of the Yang-tsze, I have met with numbers of such routes coming eastward, and with strong bands of opium coolies passing daily. The opium dens are also taxed, in regular and irregular ways, to a considerable amount, but no one can say how much.

20. The way in which the opium plague is spread through the regions with which I am familiar is as follows:—In a district where the vice is not prevalent, someone, generally a disreputable and dangerous character, sees there is money in the opium business, so for the sake of gain he starts a den. In addition to opium-smoking, women and gambling are often added to increase its attractions, and before long the establishment begins to be well patronised. Then someone else starts another, and so on it goes till the district magistrate comes down upon them and orders them to be shut up. Unfortunately, his object in so doing is generally not so much to secure the welfare of the neighbourhood as to make sure of a full share of the profits. As soon as the Yamen has reaped its harvest of presents from the keepers, the dens are all opened again and continue to remain so unmolested till something happens in connexion with them which gives the magistrate an excuse for proceeding against them afresh, after the same manner and with the same result as before.

The district takes a further downward plunge when the farmers discover that there is money to be made by poppy growing. Then it becomes an article of daily household use; then also the women learn to smoke, and may be seen blowing the fumes into the nostrils of the children. Although the opium business is thus started and carried on for gain, yet neither grower nor seller seems to thrive on it, but poverty and wretchedness sets its stamp on the whole region.

Cure for this deplorable state of matters; humanly speaking, I believe there is none. At least not till such time as the government concerned can be brought to forego their share of the profits accruing from this source. From top to bottom the love of money is the root of the whole evil; and so long as governments regard the opium traffic mainly as a desirable means of replenishing the exchequer, so long—in China at all events—will magistrates, dealers, and growers alike, see in it a promising source of income for themselves, and carefully nourish and extend it accordingly.

In the above I have endeavoured, honestly and conscientiously, to state the facts of the case as they have come under my observation.

JOHN ARCHIBALD.

Colporteur of the National Bible Society
of Scotland.

Hankow,
February 26th, 1894.

Mr. KU HUNG MING, Interpreter to the Viceroy of
Hukwang.

1. Yes.

2. I should say from 10 to 20 per cent. of the male adult population, and perhaps more in the worst districts. This is, of course, a mere conjecture, but I have observed the opium habit to be more prevalent

where the conditions of life are hard, in large towns and poverty-stricken districts, where men are overworked and insufficiently fed. (b.) The habit is not prevalent among women to any extent; and (c) among children not at all.

3. The effect "morally" is to make them capable of any meanness and crime, except those for which physical courage and animal spirits are necessary. "Physically" it takes all the stamina out of them for any sustained exertion, whether physical or mental, and "socially" it makes them unsuccessful for life; (b) opium-smokers say they require less of the foreign drug to satisfy their craving.

4. It is invariably smoked, except when so-called opium-curing pills are used.

5.—(i.) None, except perhaps in the early stage of the habit.

(ii.) and (iii.) The injury is more or less according to the quantity taken, and the length of time the habit has been acquired, as the victim is constitutionally strong or weak, and especially as he is well or insufficiently fed. Over and above the injury they do themselves it will not be out of place to call attention to the enormous amount of misery which opium smokers in China bring upon their family, women and children, who depend upon them for support.

6. Yes, if the word habitual is added. (b.) No. (c.) The end in the worst cases is suicide; at least, I have known many in all ranks of life.

7. Not the majority. The effect may be judged from the fact that anyone looking out for an employé would certainly not, unless under influence of family or other consideration, take an opium-smoker if he could engage one who does not smoke.

8. The injury would seem to be less in that opium-smokers are not liable to break out into crimes of open violence, but in reality I think it is worse in that the craving for opium is more easily acquired, and when once acquired its hold upon the victim is more tenacious. I do not think that anyone can smoke opium, in however moderate a quantity, regularly for one year, without acquiring the habit, and the habit means that its victim cannot be deprived of its use without pain and distress.

9. It is regarded as morally degrading and physically injurious, but it is ceasing to be regarded as socially degrading for men. For women it is still looked upon as socially degrading. (b) The alcohol habit is scarcely known in China.

10. I should say no, except in the early stage of the habit, say before the end of two years.

11. The effect for the moment would certainly be to make smokers take to the native drug, and where that is accessible and plentiful, as it is in the Yang-tsze districts, it would not make much difference, but in places on the coast, and especially in Canton, where consumers depend wholly or for the most part on foreign opium, it would certainly bring hardship on actual smokers for some time, until the supply of native drug could be sufficiently increased to reach them at the prices quoted for foreign opium. But as the increase of supply would take time, the non-smoking population might benefit by being deterred by the high price and difficulty of obtaining it. The eventual effect of the stoppage of the Indian trade would naturally depend upon the action taken by the Imperial Government of China.

12. Not that I know of. Flesh food, temperament, and perhaps habits of thought,* which make Europeans more liable to excesses, faults of commission, whereas Asiatics, from different modes of life and temperament, are more liable to weaknesses, faults of omission.

13.—(a.) Sensual excesses and dissipation; overwork, mental or physical, and hence broken health. Insufficient nourishment and physical weakness, and distress attendant thereon. (b.) It is so regarded as against malaria by many Chinese; it is also regarded as an aphrodisiac for heightening the power of obtaining, or rather prolonging, sensual enjoyments.

14. Yes, certainly.

15. Yes, I must confess, however, that among the scholars and officials I am acquainted with, who have expressed their interest in this subject, their views of

* Confucius said: "Extravagance leads men to sin, and thrift makes men liable to be mean, but it is better to be mean than to sin."

dealing with the opium question are either very vague or extravagant, but I must say also that I think it is the impossibility of checking or in any way controlling the Indian trade that has made many earnest and thinking statesmen in China shelve the question as one incapable of practical solution.

16, 17, 18, and 19. I do not venture to give any answers, not only because, as an official in the Government service, I do not think I am entitled to express my opinions on questions relating to the policy and revenue of the Imperial Government, but also because I have not sufficiently studied the statistics of the question to enable me to give answers of any value.

20. My last observation is this: believing as I do that, except in the few cases of men who acquire the opium habit by their own excesses, most of the opium-smokers are driven to it by the results of overwork, mental distress, and insufficiency of food. I do not think the opium question can ever be adequately solved, unless the conditions of life and society can be so made that the evils I have indicated as driving men to take refuge in opium shall cease to exist. Indeed it would be almost cruel to deprive men suffering from the ills and miseries of life of the anodyne which would seem to be provided by beneficent Nature, except for the fact that the condition of those who take refuge in opium is, I am afraid, in the end worse than if they had never taken to it.

Wuchang,

28th February 1894.

KU HUNG MING.

REV. D. HILL and MR. S. HODGE.

1. Yes, both in the Province of Hupeh, Central China, and in that of Shansi, North China.

2. In the large cities and along the waterways of Hupeh 25 to 30 per cent.

This estimate is based upon many inquiries amongst the natives, questioning them both in regard to the population as a whole, and also testing their estimates by further inquiries as to the prevalence of the habit in the principal classes of society; it is further confirmed by hospital statistics covering some thousands of cases.

In the hill country and villages generally the proportion is much smaller, rarely exceeding 10 per cent., and often much lower.

Women do not smoke to any large extent. Amongst the poor and working classes probably not more than 3 per cent. Amongst the official and wealthier classes the per-centage is much higher, say 20 per cent.

The seclusion of the women prevents them frequenting opium taverns, and consequently frees from temptation those whose husbands do not smoke at home. Children do not take opium. The above estimates refer entirely to the Hupeh Province, Central China.

In some cities in the Shansi Province, North China, the proportion of opium-smokers is much higher. In Tai Yuen Fu, the provincial capital, it is estimated by the natives, and personal observation would lead me to the same conclusion, that 70 per cent. of the adult male population take opium. (D. H.)

3. The moral effects are: A consciousness of wrongdoing, prostration of will-power, indolence and waste of time, deceptiveness, and, as the habit grows, hopelessness in struggling against it. Where poverty renders it difficult to provide the drug recourse is frequently had to lying and theft, and in some cases even to the sale of wife and children. The physical effects are: Impaired digestion, constipation, depraved and lessened appetite, dry skin, muscular weakness, anaemia, emaciation. At a later stage constant and uncontrollable diarrhoea (termed "opium-leaking" by the Chinese), diminished sexual appetite, and when the drug loses its power, spermatorrhoea. The social effects are: An impoverished exchequer leading in some cases to family quarrels, bankruptcy, and beggary. In commercial life it is used as a means of cultivating intercourse and entertaining purchasers, but not infrequently results in an acquirement of the "craving" (the "yin," as the Chinese term it), and such consequent expenditure of time and money as hampers or even ruins the trader. Amongst the religious classes of the country it is frowned upon and the opium-smoker is counted an unworthy member of the community, whilst the facility for suicide afforded by the unrestricted sale of the drug has rendered such cases very frequent,

(b.) The effects are the same on all the Chinese we have met with.

(c.) The Indian drug being much stronger than that produced in China, a much smaller amount—the natives say one-half the quantity—is required to satisfy the craving, but of late years Chinese opium has been much improved in quality, and the best samples approach much nearer the Indian standard.

4. They chiefly smoke, since smoking more effectually satisfies the craving, but eating also is practised, especially when business engagements do not allow time for smoking, and also when the money is insufficient to procure the amount of opium required for smoking. Some with a large "yin" (craving) do both, but smoking is preferred being the pleasanter method of consumption. We cannot recall any cases in Hupeh in which it was taken in the form of a decoction, but in Shansi opium-smokers, when reduced to the last extremity, take it in this form. We cannot distinguish the different effects of these various forms.

5. This question can only be answered in the most general terms. (i.) There are undoubtedly a few who take it without obvious injury. These are men of naturally strong constitution who have sufficient money at their disposal to enable them to obtain food, the most nutritive and easily digested. But (ii.) and (iii.) the great majority in the long run are unquestionably injured, the difference being chiefly one of time, and dependent on the above conditions. According to a native estimate 70 to 80 per cent. of those who smoke acquire the "yin" (craving), but with such varying degrees that a clear definition of an "opium sot" would be necessary before a proportion can be ventured upon.

6. If by taking opium in moderation it be meant that a man can go on smoking regularly for years without contracting the "yin" (craving), the proportion of such cases is exceedingly small, probably not more than 1 or 2 per cent. At the same time we freely admit that many cases may be met with where the drug has been indulged in for years without obvious harm, especially when accompanied with nutritive food and a strong constitution, but even in these cases, from a strictly scientific point of view, injury has been done, as is evidenced by a weakened digestion, habitual constipation, and general enfeeblement, which in time will more or less tell on the health; but where these conditions (viz., a strong constitution and good food) do not exist, deterioration is rapid.

CASES.

The following is the only case that I have met of a regular smoker who appeared to have suffered very little harm. He was 60 years old when I saw him, and had been a native policeman for 20 years. He had been a smoker for 36 years, and for the last 20 years had smoked $2\frac{1}{2}$ drams of opium per day. He said he was in as good health as ever, appetite good, and bowels regular. He had 11 children, and his sexual appetite was as good as could be expected in a man of 60. He is an instance of a man fairly well to do with an exceptionally strong constitution withstanding the drug. Such cases are rare.

Cases where the drug has worked ruin are numerous. I select the following which have come under my personal notice:—

(1.) Mr. Tso, aged 42, an opium-den keeper, was left an orphan at 22, very well off. His father was in the fruit trade and had several hongts. The youth took to opium-smoking, lost all his property, and was reduced almost to beggary.

(2.) Mr. Liu Hsia Tin, aged 42, began to smoke opium when he was 20 years old, was then a well-to-do writer in the Native Customs Service and earning 10,000 cash a month. In four years time he was dismissed from his post on account of his opium habits; he then sponged on friends for some time, and finally when I saw him had been for six years helping in an opium-den, where he got his food and opium.

(3.) Mr. Hsieh, 33 years old, began to smoke at 19, was then well off, owning a boat of his own and earning about 6,000 cash a month. His boat and everything got sold for opium, his parents support his wife and children, and when I saw him he was what is technically known as an opium monkey, i.e., a man who hangs about the den preparing the opium for heavy smokers who give him one-third of all they smoke for his trouble.

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(4.) Mr. Tang, aged 36, has been a smoker 14 years; formerly was an assistant in a large oil shop earning 150,000 cash a year and his food; was dismissed for his opium habit. When I met him in the den he was both eating and smoking opium, weak and emaciated, and earning a precarious living as a small huckster of peanuts; his clothes were ragged, and his wife and children were supported by an uncle.

7. Reliable natives with whom we have conversed give the following estimates of various classes of opium-smokers, *i.e.*, persons who have acquired the craving or yin, but does not include those who tamper with the pipe:—

Officials, 30 to 40 per cent.
 Tamun runners, 50 to 60 per cent.
 Police constables, 50 per cent.
 Tradesmen, 15 to 20 per cent.
 Artizans, 20 to 30 per cent.
 Boatmen, 30 per cent.
 Coolies, 20 per cent.

As to the effect of the habit on their efficiency in their calling *see* the cases given above under 2 and 6, where representatives of various classes are cited, and but one instance found where efficiency has not been impaired by the habit. Cases in proof of this might be multiplied to almost any extent.

8. Spirit-drinking, though fairly general amongst the Chinese, is not commonly carried to excess, and it is rare to meet with any serious injury from its use. A drunken man is a *rara avis*, and the social effects of drink are not marked. In a word, whilst alcohol is a weakness of the Chinese, opium is a vice.

9. It is unquestionably condemned by the Chinese both as degrading and injurious, as witness—

(i.) The popular moral literature of the Chinese sold in the form of tracts in the streets of all large cities in which opium-smoking is commonly classified with licentious gambling and gross vice.

(ii.) Official proclamations issued with a view to the suppression of the practice of opium-smoking.

(iii.) Regulations in public institutions forbidding the employment of opium-smokers.

(iv.) The fact that opium dens are rarely found in the principal streets of cities; these are almost always in the back streets; a blind is hung before the door, and in some cases the opium divan is relegated to the upper storey to be out of sight, whilst in some there will be an ordinary tradesman's shop facing the street and behind it an opium den.

Like all vice in China opium-smoking is veiled.

(v.) Opium-smokers are not admitted into the Christian Church. Should any missionary attempt the admission of an acknowledged opium-smoker and allow the habit he would have the whole body of Christians against him.

From these facts and the general testimony of the people we conclude that the national conscience unequivocally condemns the habit.

From what the mass of the Chinese know of the alcohol habit they count that of opium immeasurably worse.

10. Rarely. Cases are not infrequent in our hospitals of persons desiring to do so, and treatment, though successful for a while, is permanently so only in 25 or 30 cases out of the 100. In rare instances men have been known to break it off without medical assistance, but it is our deepening conviction that without Divine help the majority of cases do and must lapse again.

11. If the supply of opium from India ceased the Chinese opium-smoker would unquestionably resort to Chinese-grown opium, unless the most stringent measures were introduced by the Government, which is perhaps not likely.

The consumer would certainly (S. R. H.) not take to alcohol, as this would only increase the craving for opium, and therefore not meet the case.

We know of no narcotic that is likely to be substituted for opium.

12. No. Cases of European opium-smokers are extremely rare. The temptation is never presented, and the indolence of the opium-smoker is contrary to the active habits of the European, but we cannot ignore the possibility of the opium habit spreading widely in another form, say by injection or as a decoction amongst European races.

13. Opium-smokers are led to use the drug from the following causes:—

(i.) For pleasure, young men go "on the spree;" in many cases friends treat them to the pipe.

(ii.) In connexion with business negotiations.

(iii.) For the relief of pain or as treatment in illness.

I have not known opium to be a prophylactic against fever, but it is used to relieve the aches and pains of rheumatism and malaria.—S. R. H.

14. In the early stages before the "yin" or craving is fully contracted the opium-smoker is usually blinded by present pleasure and does not care to keep from the drug.

But when he does feel himself victimised by an increasingly powerful craving he usually does wish to be free, but with will-power prostrated is too languid resolutely to abandon it.

And when the sting is deep he hates the habit to which he is now a slave.

The numerous native opium curing establishments prove the desire to be free from it which many have.

15. The mass of the people do not know that opium is exported from India, or even that there is such a country as India. The usual term by which the drug is spoken of is "yang yien," or foreign smoke, and they do not differentiate one nation from another, but they not infrequently taunt the foreign missionary with the introduction of what they deem the opium vice.

Amongst the better informed of the official classes there are men who desire the suppression of the Indian trade in opium. On the other hand there are probably some who for the sake of the revenue now derived from that source would allow it.

16, 17, 18, and 19. For replies to these inquiries *see* the Imperial Maritime Customs Report, Special Series, Nos. 1, 4, 9, published in Shanghai, at the Statistical Department of the Inspectorate General of Customs, and sold by P. S. King & Son, King Street, Westminster, S.W.

(Signed) DAVID HILL,
 Twenty-eight years missionary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and has travelled over considerable area both in the Hupeh and Shansi Provinces, living for years right amongst the people.

(Signed) SYDNEY R. HODGE, M.R.C.S.,
 L.R.C.P.

Seven years medical missionary in charge of the Wesleyan mission work in Hankow. Has personally visited some 50 opium dens of all classes in Hankow, besides his experience with opium suicides and smokers in homes, wealthy and otherwise.

THOMAS GILLISON.

1. Yes.

2. I have no data on which I can rely as giving a correct guess as to the proportion who smoke. A small proportion of women in general smoke; nearly all prostitutes smoke. Very few children smoke.

3.—(i.) Moral effect decidedly degrading, especially as it is against the moral conscience of most of the smokers. It induces much laziness also.

(ii.) Physical effect. It produces constipation, loss of appetite, sallowness, lowering of the physical tone, so that the smoker bears pain much worse than the non-smoker, and there is often in the long run loss of flesh, and in bad cases the smoker becomes extremely emaciated. I have frequently been told by smokers that they lie in bed late into the day, and do not care for their morning meal. They do not sleep well at night, and rise late in the morning.

(iii.) Social effect. I do not understand this question fully. Quarrels, wife-beatings, &c. are common in opium-smoker's homes. Indian opium is stronger than the native grown, and it takes less Indian opium to satisfy the craving than native grown, perhaps because purer, *i.e.* less adulterated than the Chinese drug.

4. Most commonly smoked, and much preferred taken in this way. Only swallowed when no time to smoke, or when the smoker is too poor to afford all that he would require to smoke to satisfy his craving.

I have not met with cases where drinking a decoction is resorted to. The Chinese look upon swallowing as more hurtful than smoking, and say it is more constipating.

5. This question is difficult to answer, and at best the answer would only be a guess, so I leave it unanswered.

6. In my opinion every smoker who smokes regularly, i.e., once or twice or three times per day, cannot be truly said to smoke in moderation, for he must have his pipe, and he suffers if deprived of it. There are those who at first smoke only occasionally, but not at the same time each day. Many avoid smoking at the same time each day for fear of becoming slaves to the drug, and those who have "played" longest with the pipe without becoming victims attribute their escape to their not smoking at the same time each day, nor dare they smoke every day, but must break off every now and then before it is too late, or they know they will get the craving and then will have to continue. I have known very few who have taken opium for long without harm. I remember one constable who had smoked for 30 years. He said it did him no harm. He looked well. But such cases are in my experience very exceptional. Cases of great injury are innumerable. I have seen many such, both in the hospital and the opium dens which I have visited. A man was in my house three days ago who sold his wife to buy opium. I have known him for years. In fact he does not disguise the fact, but is very sorry for it. He has lost a good situation through it, and is now almost reduced to beggary, and quite to rags. He came to me to beg a few cash. Did time permit I could quote many other cases noted down from visits to the opium dens of this city.

7. Not a majority of the labourers or merchants or artisans, but a majority of mandarins, police constables, and prostitutes. The effect of opium-smoking on the calling of consumers is that in the long run frequently their business or trade goes from bad to worse. Many are beggars in the street to-day, having lost their business through opium; many are in small businesses to-day that were once in large ones. One firm with which I have dealings is said to have had five large stores in Hankow, and to have lost them all but one by opium. That last house was next door to my hospital, and was lately offered for sale and a smaller place built, because money was wanted. Other cases might be given did time permit.

8. Alcohol excites, opium narcotises, and the effects correspond to the respective actions of the drugs. Opium brings a man to rags, through laziness induced thereby, through loss of time spent in the den, and through loss of physical strength.

9. Opium-smoking is considered degrading by the Chinese. It is classified by them amongst the greatest sins, and when a person wants to say he is a good man and free from vice, he says, "I do not fornicate or gamble, I am not arrogant and proud, and do not smoke opium." I asked a denkeeper whether he thought his trade respectable, and he said, "I have sold my 'face' to get my food." I have often asked what is the good of opium, and have got the reply, "No good, only evil." We are taunted with having brought the drug to China. It is called "foreign smoke."

10. Comparatively few smokers are able to break themselves of the habit, but some do. Many, in fact most of those who get cured, go back to it again. Of nine opium smokers who got cured in my hospital and presented me with an honorary tablet of thanks, eight, if not all the nine, went back, some sooner and some later. One man was cured (so-called) some six times, one four times, and so on.

11. Chinese-grown opium is largely used now, and would be still more largely used and grown.

12. Not to my knowledge. The results are produced too slowly for the energetic European. The Asiatic is more willing to give the time.

13. Some begin for pleasure, some for sickness. The latter become victims more rapidly than the former. I have not heard of opium being used in Hankow as a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, or malaria. Those whom I have asked deny that it has any value as such.

14. Yes.

15. Slight wish, but much blame to us for introducing it.

16. By all classes. Indian opium is consumed here.

17. ———

18. No.

19. See Customs Reports.

20. I regard opium as one of the greatest curses that any country could be afflicted with. Its consumption is increasing rapidly in Hankow. The opium-smoker is a slave. One man whom I spoke to consumed six mace per day, two mace in the morning, two at noon, and two at night. I asked him if he were prevented from smoking in the morning by business engagements what would he do. He said, "I would get it as soon as possible." If kept from getting it till night, what would you do? Would you be content with your usual two mace at night? "No, I must have the whole six mace before I can be satisfied."

THOMAS GILLISON, M.B., C.M. (Edin.).
Resident in China for nine years, in charge of a hospital in which I have treated some 1,500 to 2,000 opium-smokers. I have also visited about 50 opium dens, and questioned about 80 of the inmates.

Hankow, China,
5th March, 1894.

FOOCHOW (Supplementary).*

H.B.M. Consulate, Foochow,
March 19, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose herewith a further series of answers to the queries from your Commission. These answers, which reached me on the 17th instant, are from Dr. J. Rigg, a devoted missionary of the Church Missionary Society. Dr. Rigg has been working for several years in an inland district of this province, and he has had abundant opportunities for observing the effects of intemperance in the use of opium among the poorer classes of Chinese.

With reference to my answer to query No. 19, I wish to add a fact which has come to my knowledge since my last letter. The fact is this: That in some districts of this province native opium is duty taxed. In the Funing Prefecture, the chief district of its production, the yearly revenue from it is stated to be above 1,000*l*.

I have, &c.

T. WATTERS,
H.B.M. Consul.

Dr. J. Rigg.

1. It is. I am acquainted with the Fuh-ning, Fuh-chow, and Kien-ning Prefectures of the Fuh-kien Province, having worked in them as a medical missionary for over five years, speaking the dialects, and constantly in charge of opium refugees.

2. Of men in the Fuh-ning and Fuh-chow Prefectures 50 per cent.; in the Kien-ning Prefecture, 70 per cent.

I have seen only about half-a-dozen women who consumed opium and no children, neither have I heard of any children using the drug.

3. I have observed effects of opium. (a.) Moral: Idleness, dishonesty, pilfering or theft and robbery (highway robbery especially in the Kien-ning Prefecture), untrustworthiness. All Chinese are liars, but opium-smokers especially so—liars and cheats.

(b.) Physical: Rags, dirt, loss of flesh and strength and development of *facies opii* (face dusky, sclerotic dull and yellowish, cheeks sunken), sleeplessness in early part of night and drowsiness in morning, absolute dependence on the drug for fitness for daily work. Impotence, or at any rate sterility; this without question allowed by all.

(c.) Social: Domestic quarrels, anxiety of relatives regarding their future, progressive poverty. In advanced cases leading to beggary and death by the roadside of the opium-consumer.

Effects of Indian and Chinese opium the same, except that Indian opium stronger.

4. Both smoked and eaten, the richer and more leisured class smoke mostly but also eat; the poorer smoke when they can, and only eat when they cannot smoke.

The opium-eater is more difficult to cure of the habit than the opium-smoker, and more apt to relapse. All old smokers eat as well.

5.—(1.) I never saw a single Chinaman who took opium habitually without injury.

* For rest of Foochow papers see page 276.

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(2.) With slight injury; not more than 5 to 10 per cent. of consumers of the drug.

(3.) With great injury, or I should prefer to say "marked injury," 90 to 95 per cent. of consumers.

6. I think there cannot be such a thing as "moderation in the consumption of opium," except in cases of sickness, in which its temporary use would be of benefit to the disease, but dangerous in leading towards habitual use.

Among the thousands of opium-smokers and consumers I have met with (almost all habitual consumers) and dealt with, I have not known one who was not injured by the habit.

Examples of great injury:—

(a.) A boatman with a boat of his own and able to earn plenty of money, opium-smoking impoverished him; his boat when damaged could not be repaired on account of his poverty, and he lost employment, then boat was seized for debt, and he had to become an under boatman on another's boat; now employment uncertain and a day's wages needed for a day's food and opium.

(b.) A wood gatherer who ill or well, weather bad or good, is compelled to get two heavy loads of wood, sold for about 120 cash; about 80 of this goes for opium, and only remainder for rice.

(c.) A raft maker who had a widowed mother, a wife and three children, could earn about four dollars a month. Smoked and ate opium for over 10 years and brought his relatives into great poverty and distress, so that on two occasions mother and wife tried to poison themselves by swallowing a quantity of opium. Both recovered by help of native Christian (foreign-taught) doctors. The wife driven by the husband to prostitution (over a long period) to earn money to help to supply the husband's demands for opium.

The above three cases are perhaps not very striking, but are examples of what is very common. I could give hundreds of such cases.

7. The majority of opium-smokers in my districts are of the following classes somewhat in order of frequency. Field-workers, petty tradesmen, chair coolies, boatmen, especially those on smaller boats. I am not sure of the proportion of the artisans, but think it less than the other classes, decidedly less.

Effect of habit on their callings:—

Field workers: Loss of energy and industry, often leading to poverty and sale of fields.

Petty tradesmen: Loss of energy, industry and enterprise. Idleness, neglect, a tumble-along style of living, certain poverty and domestic misery.

Innkeepers: Loss of custom, inn filthy beyond custom, certain loss of trade and poverty.

Chair coolies: Never early in morning; delays at least twice or thrice a day at opium shops; a marked difference in cleanliness and dress between those who use and those who do not use opium (in favour of non-users); unmanageableness; want of staying power often leading to complete exhaustion before the end of a fair day's journey (40 to 80 li). Extortionate demands for money—often want over a dollar a day per man (in villages). If it were possible to get non-smokers I would never employ a smoker or eater of opium.

Boatmen: Much the same as chair coolies; boats often unsafe from lack of needed repairs.

Artisans: Unless specially skilful lose their employment.

8. The use of alcohol may be called harmless comparatively. I have known of only three or four cases of injury through alcohol but of hundreds or more correctly thousands of cases of injury from opium. Wine (native) is more generally and liberally taken in China than I supposed when I first came from England, but drunkenness is rare. I now and then see cases of dyspepsia aggravated or caused by wine drinking, but these bear no comparison to the evil of opium.

9. If opium is condemned as degrading and injurious by the Chinese. I never heard one say it was a boon and I have very often asked them or said "Opium is a boon to you, is it not?" The answer is always "No, it is an injury to me."

The alcohol habit in China is of little consequence comparatively to the "opium habit" which is ruining the country.

10. They can and do, but not commonly; more often they diminish the dose to the lowest amount they can or take to morphia when they can afford it.

11. Beneficial, because a great many would be unable to obtain any opium at all, no native opium being produced in the districts (except in Fuh-Ning) and the supply of native opium from other places being very insufficient to supply all. Even though native opium were sent into the unsupplied districts there would be time before it came to cause a great many to compulsorily break off the habit, and some of them at any rate when once free would not resume its use. They would not take to alcohol or any other narcotic than opium.

12. No. Why not? They are more active mentally and have stronger motives to preserve self-respect, more social pleasures, and life is less bare and hopeless to Europeans. The Chinese have little to occupy them mentally and in their leisure time; to many of them life is a dull humdrum and they have no hope of anything after life. No fear of God or desire to attain to a high standard. The same moral causes which make Asiatics so untruthful help to make them fall into the most inviting vice.

13. Chiefly they begin by invitation of a friend or as recreation when they are at leisure or to refresh them when overtired or to cure or relieve stomach ailments or diarrhoea or dysentery. No, not prophylactic against any of the three, neither is it regarded so by the people.

14. Without exception they do but dread the suffering of giving up the habit and the difficulty of again resisting the many temptations about them.

15. There is a strong and frequently expressed wish that no opium should ever come from England (India). I have been frequently asked if opium did not come from my country, the object being to show that because I was associated with a country sending opium whatever I said about religion was unworthy of credit.

16. Chinese opium is cheaper and I believe only used by those who cannot afford Indian. In Fuh-Ning a fair amount of Chinese opium is used; about Fuh-Chow I am not so sure; in Kien Ning district very little native opium is used.

17. (a.) Very beneficial.

(b.) Increase unless stopped by Government.

(c.) I do not know.

18. I do not know.

19. Ditto.

20. Only that it is a disgrace to be associated with such a ruinous trade; ruinous that is to a people that cannot resist the temptations of the drug.

JOHN REE, M.B., C.M. Edin.

Church Missionary Society,
Kien-Ning Fu, Foochow,
China.

KINKIANG.

Her Majesty's Consulate, Kinkiang,
11th March, 1894.

SIR,
In obedience to instructions from Her Majesty's Minister at Peking under date of 29th January last, I have the honour to enclose the answers of residents at this port, including my own, to the questions regarding opium consumption and opium revenue in China,
I have, &c.

GEORGE BROWN,

Consul.

Consul Brown.

1. Opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese of this province, Kiangsi. In the city and suburbs of Kinkiang, with a population roughly estimated at 50,000 souls, there are 537 licensed opium divans. To these may be added 200 illicit divans, making about 730 of all classes. Less opium is consumed among agriculturists than in the towns, but many small farmers grow their own little patch of the poppy for home use.

2. Beyond a hundred or so of Europeans, among whom an opium-smoker is very rarely found, the only race living in this province is Chinese. My opinion is that about 20 per cent. of Chinese adults are consumers. Women rarely consume the drug, children never.

3. Excessive consumption of opium undoubtedly causes a deterioration of the individual, morally, physi-

cally, and socially, but I do not believe that its habitual moderate use has any bad effect. Indian opium is said by Chinese connoisseurs to be stronger than the native article, and therefore it takes less of the former to satisfy the consumer, otherwise the effects are similar. The locally-grown opium however is said to have an unpleasant flavour.

4. Consumers in this district and in China generally smoke only I have never heard of their eating the drug or drinking a decoction of it as a habit, although these are favourite forms of suicide.

5. From personal observation, necessarily of a somewhat superficial nature, because in ordinary life it is difficult to distinguish with certainty between those who smoke and those who do not, I should say that probably 80 out of every 100 smokers suffer no injury, 16 per cent. are slightly the worse, and 4 per cent. are seriously affected in health of soul, mind, and body.

6. It is very incorrect to say that there cannot be moderation in opium-smoking. A proof of this is that though so many of the natives smoke the drug, we European residents see little or nothing of it in ordinary life, while excessive opium-smoking would, if it were largely prevalent, be constantly coming to our notice in the daily intercourse we have with servants, work-people, tradesmen, officials, and acquaintances, for opium-smoking is common to all classes. The inference, therefore, is that there are very few smokers who are immoderate consumers. If moderation were impossible then 20 per cent. of the people, according to my estimate of the proportion of smokers, would be either excessive smokers already or in process of becoming so. In that case the fact would be made patent to us at every turn; yet in China, so far from having it constantly thrust under our eyes, we ordinary residents are obliged to go out of our way to learn anything at all about opium-smoking. What the state of affairs would be if the number of smokers among the population were really as large as some estimate it, and if excessive smoking were the rule among them, is hard to contemplate.

At the present time I know of several cases of consumers who have taken their opium for years without harm to themselves. One is an official—shrewd, bright, and industrious. He is 56 years of age, having smoked opium in moderation, as far as I can learn, for 20 years and more. He has a fresh complexion with some colour in his cheeks, a sparkling eye, and well nourished body. He looks scarcely 40. Another is a clerk in constant employment. He is about 40 years of age, and has smoked opium for over 10 years. Although for a time I was in daily contact with him I should never have judged that he smoked had not the faint unpleasant odour of the drug in his clothes occasionally betrayed the fact and excited my curiosity on the subject. During a residence of 22 years in China I have only met one instance of an opium-smoker the ruin of whose life could clearly be set down to opium-smoking. He was a domestic servant, and for several years indulged the habit without detection. The craving, however, at last grew upon him so strongly and rapidly that he spent every available moment with his beloved pipe, and became a total wreck, utterly regardless of his duties, his personal appearance, and his family ties. Finally he took to petty stealing to supply means for his expensive indulgence, and was dismissed. When I last saw him he was living in penury. One other case I have known of an accountant whose constitution was, by common report, supposed to be prejudicially affected by the heavy indulgence in the drug, which he undoubtedly practised every night. It was, however, by no means certain that his weak health was caused by the smoking of opium. It might just as well have been set down to constitutional causes, for he was always of poor physique. In mental activity, energy of character, and capacity for work, he had few equals during the daytime, and, in these respects, was a marked contrast to one of his relations, who was engaged in the same office, and who did not smoke opium. Some years ago I personally knew two cases where opium-smoking was beneficial. Both were clerks, and suffered from serious pulmonary disease. The opium pipe acted with them as a stimulant to the flagging powers, and at the same time seemed to soothe the irritated air passages so that they were able with its help to get through a day's work and save themselves from being thrown out of employment. They were also strongly of opinion that the course of the disease itself was influenced for the better by the inhalation of the drug.

7. The smoking of opium is common among all classes in China. Probably among officials and their numberless retainers the habit would be found most prevalent. Taking the whole people the average of smokers does not, I believe, exceed 20 per cent. The general effect, whether on labourers, merchants, artisans, officials, or official followers, in their calling, is not appreciable by the ordinary unbiassed resident except in special cases. To quote from the *Essay on Opium* in Giles' *Chinese Sketches*: "In some parts of Formosa a great quantity is smoked by the well-paid chair-coolies, to enable them to perform the prodigies of endurance so often required of them. Two of these fellows will carry an ordinary Chinaman, with his box of clothes, 30 miles in from eight to ten hours on the hottest days in summer. They travel between five and six miles an hour, and on coming to a stage pass without a moment's delay to the place where food and opium are awaiting their arrival. After smoking their allowance, and snatching as much rest as the traveller will permit, they start once more upon the road, and the occupant of the chair cannot fail to perceive the lightness and elasticity of their tread as compared with the dull tired gait of half an hour before." The accuracy of this description I can bear witness to from personal experience.

Mr. Giles adds: "They die early, of course, but we have trades in civilised England in which a man 36 years of age is pointed at as a patriarch." It by no means follows that opium is responsible for the mortality. The constant rapid travelling with heavy weights in great heat for long distances would sufficiently account for it.

8. The use of alcohol in this district is not common. Its abuse is almost unknown. No comparison, therefore, is possible.

9. The opium habit is, no doubt, condemned as degrading and injurious by literate Chinese when they express an opinion on the subject, especially in conversation with Europeans. So also is Christianity, the introduction of missionaries, intercourse with Europeans, and the adoption of Western methods. Whether the professed antipathy to the drug will disappear when the home-grown article is good and plentiful enough to stop the import from India is very questionable. In some instances the expression of condemnation is doubtless sincere, but I have never heard of the Chinese starting an anti-opium society or giving any practical shape to the sentiment they profess. Most women would condemn it, because in the case of limited incomes it undoubtedly lessens the sum available for household expenses. The lower classes of Chinese are, I believe, quite indifferent on the subject.

10. I have no personal knowledge on this point.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off opium consumers would fly to the native article, which would instantly rise in value. The increased demand for the latter would stimulate the growth of the poppy not only in this district but throughout China. A smaller area of land would consequently be available for the growth of rice and agricultural produce, and the direct result would be that the cost of living would be considerably increased for the people. In course of time, as the supply over-passed the demand, its price would fall, and with cheapness its use would become more common.

12. Europeans in China rarely contract the habit of opium-smoking. The European lives more in public, is more inclined to take his pleasure in active exertion or excitement. The Oriental loves privacy and seclusion, as witness the way in which his dwelling is closed on the side of the street or thoroughfare; he is also inclined to indolence and quietude, all of which are necessary for the proper enjoyment of the opium pipe. It is a matter of temperament.

13. Some opium-smokers have been led to use the drug by the advice of friends or physicians to alleviate the severity of chest troubles or painful affections. In ordinary cases the habit has been probably acquired from curiosity, imitation, or persuasion, just as is the habit of tobacco-smoking. I have no knowledge of the value of opium as a prophylactic. In some parts of China where I have been stationed the inhabitants have largely regarded it as a prophylactic against malaria.

14. I have never heard the wish expressed. Opium-smoking, except in very rare cases, could be given up with little more difficulty than tobacco-smoking.

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15. Not to my knowledge, except amongst the official class, by whom such wishes are apt to be put forward as political makeweights.

16. Indian opium is consumed by all classes in China, but chiefly by the official and mercantile classes. It is said to be much more palatable than the native article, which is also regarded with prejudice in some districts because it is supposed to produce skin eruptions. The Indian drug is more expensive, and therefore the opium divans, to obtain greater profit, often substitute the native for it, their customers being for the most part of the lower classes, who do not readily distinguish the difference.

17.—(a.) Restricting the supply of Indian opium will not diminish opium-smoking among the Chinese. On the contrary, for the reasons given in answer to Question 11, a speedy increase might be looked for.

(b.) The cultivation of the poppy and the production of opium in China would receive a great stimulus.

(c.) The Chinese Government would probably make some effort to reorganise their system for the collection of internal duties on opium. The provincial authorities would warmly welcome the change, as now it is a great grievance with them that the whole of the revenue collected on Indian opium is accounted for by the Foreign Customs to Peking. That on native opium, of course, filters through many channels. Whatever changes the Imperial Government introduced for its own protection would certainly be so manipulated by the provincial authorities as to leave them some advantages of which they are deprived by present arrangements.

18. No. The annual out-turn in this province does not exceed 100,000 lbs. from an area of about 70 square miles partially under poppy cultivation.

19. It is impossible to say. The duty is collected by the native Custom houses and likin stations, which publish no returns. Much native opium is smuggled from place to place, and pays no duty.

(Signed) GEORGE BROWN,
H.B.M. Consul at Kinkiang.

4th March 1894.

SUB-PREFECT SHENG FU-HUAL.

1. Yes, commonly consumed.

2. Thirty per cent. of adult males are consumers. Some of the women consumers, but none of children.

3. Some of the consumers are somewhat clever. The effect of the Indian opium is much stronger than that of the Chinese.

4. Consumers do not eat opium, but have it decocted and generally smoke with a pipe.

5. Some consumers taking a small quantity of opium without any injury, while others just the opposite when taking too much.

6. Consumption of opium cannot be considered as an immoderation, unless it is being much used. Consumers do harm themselves if they smoke heartily. A greedy consumer will become very weak and feeble, and so it is of great injury.

7. Their efficiency in calling for opium is just the same as a man wants food in hunger and clothing in cold.

8. Both opium and alcohol are harmless, if people are not confined by them.

9. Great opium-smokers will hurt themselves very much. The habit of opium and alcohol are equal to each other.

10. If consumers eagerly wish to break their opium habit they can do so.

11. At present the Chinese-grown opium is sufficient for the use of consumers, and there is no need if the supply of Indian opium be cut off. The habit of smoking Indian opium is much harder to get free than that of smoking Chinese opium.

12. Some of the Europeans do take opium, but not many, while the Asiatics getting deeper and deeper in their interest, cannot get rid of their old habit.

13. It derives from the old bad customariness to lead them to smoke opium. It appears rather cool when smoke opium in summer, and warm in winter.

14. Some desire and others not.

15. Some wish but not all.

16. Indian opium is chiefly used by the official departments, and a great quantity is to be seen in the provinces of Yunnan and Canton. Each province has its own native opium.

17.—(b.) Some Chinese consumers like to take Indian opium and reject the native drug.

(c.) The tax now levied on opium has already been raised to a high term, and cannot be considered as a light taxation.

18. ———.

19. The revenue of opium derived by the Chinese Government is hardly to be known, except by the Board of Revenue that keeps its account.

20. ———.

(Signed) SHENG FU-HUAL,
Sub-Prefect of Kinkiang, Province of Kiangsi.
7th March 1894.

Mr. SCHLEE.

1. No!

2. One in 20. Women do consume opium, but not to any great extent. Children do not that I am aware of.

3. The effects of opium morally appear to me to depend on the extent it is consumed. I cannot say that it has any special moral effect. Physically it appears to be beneficial under certain circumstances, and only detrimental when taken immoderately. Its effect then appears to be emaciation of the body, a general distaste for any exertion, bodily or mentally, and craving for more opium. Socially it has no particular effect that I have noticed. I cannot notice any difference of effect on consumers of different races. I do not know if there is any difference of the effects of Chinese and Indian grown opium.

4. My opinion is that consumers chiefly smoke opium when taking it for pleasure. The difference of effect in eating and smoking is different, and much depends on the amount taken, but I am not able to give an opinion as I have not studied it sufficiently.

5. ———.

6. I think it is certainly incorrect to say that opium cannot be taken in moderation. I think there can be as much moderation in smoking opium as in anything else. I know of as many cases where men have taken opium without harm to themselves for many years as I do of men who smoke tobacco or drink wine. I have observed that the consumption of it in immoderation always does injury in some shape or form, either physically or morally, but where taken moderately I have never known of any ill-effects.

7. A fair number of labourers, merchants, and artisans consume opium, but, taken as a whole, consume it very moderately. As regards the effect upon their calling, in the case of the labourer, I consider that the use of opium is beneficial. His work is so arduous at times, carrying heavy loads from daylight to all hours at night, that he is often so overtired and the stifling nights so unrefreshing that without his opium he could not get sufficient sleep to enable him to bear the fatigues of the day's work. The amount he takes is small but it induces sleep and soothes his overworked body. In the case of the merchant it tends to make him perhaps rather less active than he otherwise might be, but in many cases this is beneficial to him, as he often would otherwise overwork himself. It happens that they use it in immoderation, but this is when they do not use it but abuse it.

8. ———.

9. The habit of consuming opium is condemned as injurious and degrading, in the same way as the alcoholic habit is in our own country, but as with us the use and abuse are confounded. As alcohol is not condemned as injurious and degrading by those who use it with us, opium is not condemned by those who use it in China.

10. Certainly! just as much as any other person from other habits.

11. If the supply of opium were cut off I feel certain that they would resort to China-grown opium.

15. I think not.

20. With regard to opium-consumption I consider that, like wines, spirits, tobacco, and other stimulants

or sedatives, it is the abuse and not the use that harms, and further I think that the abuse of opium is not as great in China as the abuse of alcohol in European countries; that opium is a necessity to a large class of labourers, under the present amount of labour they undergo in their climate, and that if opium were not used more people would suffer from the want of it than those who at present suffer from the abuse of it.

CHAS. SCHLEE,
Of Messrs. Robert Anderson & Co.,
Tea Merchants, Kinkiang.

Rev. E. S. LITTLE.

1. Yes.

2. *Males*.—I am continually told by natives in the country where I travel and reside that at least seventenths smoke opium. *Women*.—Not very generally. *Children*.—Sometimes; rarely.

N.B.—Distinctions between various races are asked, but I would remark that there is only one race found in this neighbourhood—the Chinese—and it is to this race my answers refer in all cases.

3. *Moral*.—In very many cases the ruin is complete. A regular department of a number of opium dens is a brothel. But apart from this men who habitually take opium seem to lose character—they become untrustworthy, careless, more than usually dishonest and untruthful. *Physical*.—Chinese will say that they can tell by a man's face whether he be an opium-smoker or not. They are often emaciated, but whether this be due to the opium or to the fact that money which should have been used for the purchase of food has been used for opium, and hence an insufficient quantity of nourishment taken, I cannot say. Habitual opium-smokers seem unable to do a full day's work without stopping to take their regular smoke or in lieu of that an opium pill to swallow. I have frequently employed at the same time a number of men, smokers and non-smokers, and when a man has fallen out unable to keep up with the others, they have given me as an answer to my question as to the reason of his failure to keep up, "He is an opium-smoker." *Social*.—The habit is spreading and it is now quite customary to invite a guest or caller on business or otherwise to invite him to an opium couch and a smoke. I have known good men led by this practice into the habit and gradually bring moral and business ruin upon themselves.

4. They generally smoke it; I have had opium-smokers in my employ, and when the passion or craving has come upon them and they have been unable to go and get their smoke they swallow a pill which seems to satisfy the craving much in the same way as a smoke. The effect seems to be just about the same.

5. This is a difficulty question. Beyond well-to-do people I do not think there are many who take opium without injury to themselves. The tendency is to increase the quantity taken. I have met old men who have taken opium for 20 or 30 years and who seemed to be in health, but when questioned some have told me that they suffered, had disturbing dreams and restlessness at night, and were compelled to get up and take opium to quiet themselves. I am of opinion that well fed men can take opium moderately without seeming to suffer injury therefrom.

6. I think there can be moderation in opium-smoking, and I think there is in many cases.

A part of No. 5 above will answer the question as to men taking opium for a number of years without apparent injury, but a close inquiry would, I think, almost always prove some injury. I have known a number of cases of utter ruin through opium and could give 50 or more instances.

(a.) Was a well-to-do man owning land and his own house with a wife and two children. He commenced opium-smoking and soon the habit so grew upon him that he gave up everything for it. He was finally compelled to sell in turn his land, his house, and then his wife and children. The proceeds of these were all consumed, and he is now a loathsome beggar.

(b.) Was a literary man with a degree in my own employ. He was baptised by me and received into the Church. He led an exemplary life and was respected by all. During a sickness a native doctor

recommended opium-smoking. He contracted the habit, became dishonest, indeed a thief, his word could not be believed, and was not to be depended upon to do his ordinary work. Finally I was compelled to expel him from the Church and dismiss him from my employ. He finally died at an early age. His own relatives lost all respect and regard for him.

7. I think a majority* smoke opium. I know a man who had a good business, was himself a skilful mechanic and making a comfortable living, but took to opium, and has lost nearly all his trade, and only recently applied to me to find for him any, even the most menial, employment.

8. Alcohol seems to be almost without any effect beyond a temporary one, and totally different from that of opium.

9. I have spoken with thousands of people upon the subject of opium and have never found one person who did not condemn it. Often when preaching before large crowds who have not been sympathetic with my subject, and have then introduced opium-smoking, I have always secured attention and exclamations of consent when I condemned opium and stated its effects. Opium-smokers have invariably stated to me that the practice was an evil one.

Opium is condemned, and alcohol or "wine" drinking is regarded as harmless.

10. Hundreds of opium-smokers have told me they would like to break themselves of the habit, and it is the usual thing to be asked if I can cure the opium habit when I am on my journeys. Some may break themselves of the habit, and I know many purchase native drugs to assist themselves. I have known several opium smokers cured of opium, but they have always been in connexion with the Christian church or under treatment in a foreign hospital.

11. The probability is there would be no other effect than to substitute native for Indian opium.

12. I have only known one European smoke opium. I heard him strongly condemn the habit, and saw him give it up before he died.

13. They often get the habit through the social custom referred to in Answer 3. Others commence by taking it now and again for "fun," as they call it, and by degrees the habit grows upon them.

I have never known it taken as a prophylactic against these sicknesses, nor have I ever heard it referred to as any use in this connexion. It is frequently taken in lung troubles, blood spitting, and so on. Native doctors prescribe it, and many patients who have smoked opium when sick have clung to and continued the habit when the sickness has passed away.

14. I have found it so invariably, or at any rate this is the statement made to me in thousands of instances by opium-smokers themselves. I must confess I often doubt the sincerity of the statement, because I see no effort on their part to get rid of the habit. There is a universal idea that to give up the habit means serious and painful sickness and even death to the opium-smoker who should attempt it.

15. I have never heard the question discussed. I am always told when I preach that it is we foreign men who have introduced and continue to sell the drug in China, and I am frequently asked to have a pipe. Surprise is sometimes expressed when I state that I do not smoke.

16. As far as my information goes, I think it is consumed to a large extent all over China. Szchuen, Yunnan, and Hunan are, I believe, the provinces largely given to its cultivation. Here the better financial classes smoke the Indian drug, the poorer people take the native because it is cheaper. I have heard opium-smokers say they prefer the Indian drug, because it is better to smoke; I suppose they mean the taste or flavour is superior to the native.

17.—(a.) I imagine there would be no difference in the quantity consumed.

(b.) There would be a larger demand for the native drug, and I should imagine a larger area would be devoted to the cultivation of the poppy.

(c.) It is probable a heavier tax would be laid on the native cultivator and seller.

18. No.

* I cannot be certain of this; it is very difficult to obtain statistical information in China.

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19. I do not know.

20. The opium habit is growing upon the people, and in remote interior districts, even in the mountains and hills, and at solitary and lonely hamlets, opium dens are always to be found. The number of these is growing rapidly. The Christian church has a strict rule excluding opium-smokers from her pale, and it is common to expel members of the church when they contract the habit.

I have heard it stated again and again by the natives that opium is causing poverty and ruin to come upon China.

Personally I am anxious to see England's connexion with the trade cease. It will probably not cause opium-smoking to decrease, but it will wash a deep stain from our hands, and give reformers a much better opportunity for success in their efforts for the prohibition of the traffic. I regard opium, except when used medicinally, as an unmixed evil and an unspeakable hindrance to the rise and progress of the Chinese people.

E. S. LITTLE,
Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. J. JACKSON.

1. Yes.

2. It is difficult to form an opinion in the absence of statistics. I have often heard it said that one in ten of the adult male population are smokers. This is probably a low estimate. Many women smoke, but I believe few if any children. Boys in their early teens often contract the habit.

3. *Moral.*—I myself have little confidence in the integrity or honesty of a confirmed opium-smoker. The Chinese themselves regard such as being untrustworthy.

Physical.—The physical effects are very apparent in the general emaciation of the smoker. A coolie who uses opium is not equal to a non-smoker in ability to endure the hard work and continued strain. I would not set out on a long journey with an opium-smoking chair coolie.

Social.—The influence of opium-smoking on social life I regard as only evil. Opium shops are generally dens of infamy.

4. Smoke. But when unable through any circumstances to attain the regular smoke, opium pills are taken to satisfy the craving. I should think the effects are not greatly different.

5. I can give no satisfactory answer to this question. Among the wealthy and better fed classes less injury arises. I much doubt whether anyone can take opium habitually without injury.

6. I think that some take opium in moderation. I have not personally known any case of long use of opium without injury. I have known cases where great injury has been the result. A young Mr. Tsiang, a bright young fellow, educated in a mission school, took to smoking opium when about the age of 18. He was soon a beggar on the street, and died about the age of 22. A Mr. Li I have known for 11 years as a carpenter and contractor. He did well in his business, but taking to opium-smoking his business gradually declined until quite ruined, and he himself is now in such a condition physically as presages an early death.

7. I do not think that a majority use opium. Its effects upon those who do is to greatly decrease their efficiency.

8. There can be no comparison between the use of opium and alcohol in this part of China. I have known no cases where there has been a craving for alcohol at all like that for opium. The effects of the two are not comparable.

9. It is generally condemned. I never hear the use of opium commended. The use of wine is not regarded at all in the same light. An opium-smoker himself usually condemns the habit.

10. Some do break off the habit; but I am of opinion from my observation that comparatively few smokers are cured, if they have used the drug for any considerable length of time. I have seen many attempts to break off in the hospital, but of the number of those who have a real desire to be cured only a small proportion are willing to go through the ordeal. Many who profess to be cured relapse after leaving the hospital.

11. If the foreign drug were not procurable I think that the native article would be resorted to still more than at present. I fear that the cutting off of the Indian opium would have little effect in ultimately reducing the number of smokers. I do not think alcohol at all likely to take the place of opium.

12. Few Europeans resort to opium in China. So far as I know, I have known only one such case personally. The reason for this I am not able to state positively. I think it is largely a matter of temperament.

13. Many are now led to use opium in a social way. The pipe is often offered to guests in the same way that tea is offered. I believe this social use of opium is much on the increase. I do not know whether it is ever used as a prophylactic. It is often taken as a remedy for lung troubles, and I have been often told that the habit of using opium was first contracted in this way.

14. Many, indeed most that I have known profess a desire to be cured of the habit.

15. I have often heard great objection made to England's connexion with the trade. I believe that the Chinese generally regard this connexion with the Indian opium trade as discreditable to her.

16. Indian opium is consumed generally by smokers in this part of China, but more especially by the well-to-do classes. It is preferred to native opium by those who can afford it.

17. I do not think that there will be any permanent decrease in the use of opium by the cutting off of the Indian drug. I think it likely that in any case the cultivation of the poppy will increase.

20. I regard the use of opium in the Yang-tze Valley as a most serious drawback to the improvement of the condition of the people. It is the cause of great poverty and untold misery. No well-wisher of the Chinese can see without sorrow and dismay the inroads which opium is making among the people. If the habit continues to spread, I regard the Chinese race as doomed to decrepitude, there can be no hope of general social improvement or of physical and intellectual vigour among a race of opium-smokers.

JAS. JACKSON.
Kinkiang Institute, Kinkiang.

February 24, 1894.

Dr. UNDERWOOD.

1. Opium is commonly used by the Chinese in this part of China.

2. In the city of Kinkiang, about 10 per cent. of the adult males, and in the country around about 3 per cent. smoke opium daily. Less than 1 per cent. of women use the drug. These latter are usually the inmates of brothels and opium houses, though occasionally the ladies in official families smoke. Children rarely or never smoke in this part of China.

3. Amongst those who use opium to excess I have observed a moral degeneration just as complete as in the case of drunkards at home. My experience is that physically the habitual opium-smoker is weakened, and is not able to undergo an operation, or pass through a severe illness, with anything like the chances of a man who does not use the drug, or who uses it only occasionally. The social position of a heavy smoker depends on his financial position. A poor man taking the drug to excess must go down. I cannot draw a distinction between the effects on different races, nor between the effects of the Indian and Chinese grown drug.

4. Consumers here smoke the drug. I have known chair coolies, where there was no opportunity for smoking, swallow a small piece of the extract. This method of using the drug is uncommon.

5. I cannot give a direct answer to this question. My belief is that those who smoke only occasionally, in the great majority of cases they do so without injury. Very few of those who have smoked regularly for three years escape injury more or less. "Opium sots" must be a small per-centage, but I cannot even guess at their proportion.

6. It is not correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. In Kinkiang it is quite customary for the pipe to be pro-

duced on the arrival of a guest, or other similar occasion, even in the houses of those who detest opium. A man takes a pipe at such a time, and may not again touch it for weeks. If one put the per-centage of habitual smokers at 10, the number of those who take it occasionally may be put at 50.

Of those who take the drug regularly, and have the craving for it, there are few who do not increase the quantity as time goes on. I know two men, the one a student who has smoked for nine years, and has not increased his daily consumption, and the other a caste who for 12 years has used the drug, and is much as he was when he began. On the other hand, a domestic servant whom I knew became a beggar; a second, a clerk in a yamen, got through all his means, and finally tried to sell his wife and child; and a third, a student, was when last I saw him living on money obtained by the prostitution of his wife.

7. Many labourers and artisans—but far from a majority—and of merchants only a few, smoke opium. The first two classes get very small wages, and cannot both buy opium and get good food. They must, if they lose much, by damaging their health, become inefficient. In going a long journey I would not knowingly take an opium-smoking chair coolie. He would be too apt to break down without the drug. Failure in punctuality is the usual reason for the dismissal of opium-smoking domestic servants in foreign employment. Merchants who smoke to excess become negligent of their business in the course of time.

8. Those using opium to excess in this part of China are to those using alcohol to excess as probably 300 to one. I do not remember to have seen six drunkards amongst 60,000 patients at the hospital during the past 12 years. There are habitual drunkards, though few. Crimes by violence are very rarely committed under the influence of alcohol in this neighbourhood.

9. The opium habit is condemned as degrading and injurious by the generally expressed opinion of the Chinese. The sincerity of this opinion is, in a very great number of cases, open to doubt. The opium habit is considered to be more serious than the alcohol habit.

10. Opium-smokers can and do break themselves of the habit. Few do so, and of those few many go back.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were stopped there would be an immediate increase in the consumption of native opium which is already largely used by the poorer classes. Those accustomed to the Indian drug would take to the home-grown, and not to alcohol, or some other narcotic. I do not think any would stop smoking.

12. I have known only one man in the course of 13 years' residence. The fact that opium-smoking is the vice of what he considers an inferior race would go a long way in preventing a European from smoking, and thus exposing himself to the contempt of his fellows.

13. Many are induced by social customs, others have begun by using the drug for diarrhoea, dysentery, and painful affections such as cancer. Opium is not within my knowledge, a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, or malaria. It is not so regarded by the people of this part of China.

14. Some really desire to give up the habit. Many pretend to wish to get free from it.

15. Some of the best Chinese wish that there were no opium in the country, and these know that the home opium is largely taking the place of the foreign. Many of the common people here do not know that opium is produced in China.

16. ———.

17. On the prohibition or restriction of the export of Indian opium (a) there will be no decrease in the consumption of opium in China; (b) the cultivation of the poppy will be increased in this country; and (c) the Chinese Government will more than make up for the loss of revenue from foreign opium by largely increasing the duty on the native-grown.

18. ———.

19. ———.

20. ———.

GEO. R. UNDERWOOD, M.D.,
Kinkiang, Feb. 26th, 1894. Medical Officer.

MACAO (Supplementary).*

H.B.M. Consulate, Macao,
March 14th, 1894.

APP. XXVI.
Macao.

SIR,

REFERRING to my despatch of the 1st instant, I have the honour to enclose the replies kindly sent to me by Dr. Gomes da Silva, the Colonial Surgeon of this possession, by Mr. Nolasco da Silva, ex-chief interpreter to the Government here, and by Messrs. Milisch & Co., merchants of long standing in this colony.

These officials and merchants have been so long resident among the Chinese, and have reaped in their various professions so much experience, that their opinions are of great worth, especially so in the case of Mr. N. da Silva, who has gained a thorough insight into the Chinese character.

I have, &c.

H. BENCRAFT JOLY,
Vice-Consul.

P.S.—The papers are forwarded under separate cover.

Dr. JOSÉ GOMES DA SILVA (*Translation*).

1. Yes.

2. More than half, possibly two-thirds of the Chinese adult male population smoke opium. With women the vice is more rare, and with children exceptional.

3. The opium-smoker presents, more or less accentuated, the following physical, functional, and psychological symptoms: Emaciation, with earthy yellowness of the skin, curvation of the spinal cord, sinking of the eyes, considerable diminution of weight of body, anorexia, constipation of the bowels, impotence of the genital organs, muscular paralysis, tremulousness, abstraction, egotism, indolence. I only know the effects of opium-smoking on the Chinese inhabitants of Macao. The only opium imported and smoked in Macao is Indian.

4. The persons who have no sufficient means to purchase prepared opium make use of the residue which remains in the pipes, and mixing this with rice and forming it into a ball they masticate and wash it down with the help of tea. The wealthy people smoke the opium and sell the residue or give it to their servants. The opium-eater presents the identical symptoms as those of the smoker, more exaggerated, as his skin assumes a dark colour of a sombre yellow.

5. It is difficult to establish the proportions required. I believe, however, that the greater part of the smokers of opium in Macao belong to the number of those with whom the vice causes little harm.

6. As regards moderation, I know of a case which appears to me deserving of notice. John Situ, a Chinaman, a Catholic, and a resident of Macao, died at the age of 60. Ever since his youth he acquired the habit of smoking opium, but he only smoked on Sundays from the time he had finished hearing mass to night, getting up, after the interruptions imposed by sleep, to smoke as he woke up each time. On the return of 9 o'clock he went to sleep, and on the Monday morning he got up and proceeded to his shop (to this day a rice shop), feeling as fit for work as if he had not smoked at all. In this manner he went on during the rest of the week until the evening of the following Sunday, when he took again to smoking from the close of mass to night. He was a man healthy and robust, of a gay and communicative temperament, and he died of a disease entirely alien from the poisoning of opium. I also know of a few individuals who after smoking from the commencement of virility have been able to attain the age of 80 and 90 years.

7. In general labourers, workers in the fields, coolies, &c. only smoke after the hours of work, as they are aware that when under the effects of opium they would not be able to work.

8. The abuse in alcoholic drinks is relatively rare among the Chinese of this locality. I have not, however, at hand any facts in order to compare the effects of the use and abuse of the one and the other. The individuals who consume alcohol are exclusively to be found among the low classes, and the drinker of alcohol is, as a rule, no smoker of opium. I can, nevertheless, quote as an exception the case of a boy in my service, who, though he drank with a certain frequency, never gave up smoking opium. He stated that he had acquired the vice of drinking in order to cure himself of the habit

* For other papers from Macao see page 263.

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of smoking opium, which he considered more noxious, and that at present he finds it absolutely impossible to free himself of either of the two vices. During the day, even at dinner time, this servant attended to me with all diligence, much to my satisfaction, but at night I could not depend upon him for anything. The sole apparent effect of opium in him is tremulousness, which made him break many plates on account of a lack of firmness in the arms and hands.

9. No. The use or abuse of opium, like the use or abuse of alcohol, is not considered degrading or injurious by the Chinese. If the poor families oppose themselves generally to their head contracting either of these vices, it is principally because they know that the outlay for alcohol or opium will absorb the greater part of the common income.

10. I know only of one case well verified. Ah-on, of San-hui, a married man, not a Christian, promised to rid himself of the vice of opium-smoking if he got a son. From the age of 20 to 50 he got three daughters, during which time he continued the vice. But at 50 his wife gave birth to a son, and Ah-on at once and immediately gave up opium-smoking, though it brought him to the brink of the grave. By force of much strength of will, of an alimentation richly azotated, and of generous wines he managed to recoup himself after a period sufficiently long and painful. And he thus was able to see this child, whose birth caused him so tremendous a sacrifice, arrive to manhood.

11. The greatest peril for a smoker of opium is the sudden suppression of the vice. Admitting that they unexpectedly had to do without opium, the greater part of them would die of inertia. Others would still try the use of drugs to which they would attribute properties antagonistic to opium. But in my conviction all would have recourse to indigenous opium as soon as this drug will have been presented to them as such.

12. Of the Asiatic Portuguese (Macaists) there are many who acquire the vice of opium-smoking. Of European Portuguese I know of only one case. He was a soldier, who lived with a Chinese woman, whose brother, a native policeman, was an old smoker. Such scarcity can be explained by the fact that it is not the fashion or custom amongst us to smoke opium, such as it is with tobacco-smoking or snuff-taking. It is well known that those who begin to smoke tobacco feel some special uneasiness, and a certain intoxication accompanied with nausea, due to the nicotine. Nevertheless, the beginner, slave of the fashion or of the desire to imitate the greater number of his countrymen, succeeds at last to make his organism tolerate the nicotine, and acquires the custom of smoking tobacco. The same phenomena happens with opium-smoking, which is far from being agreeable to the beginner, so much so that it is only after some time that the smoker cannot dispense with opium. Nevertheless, opium-smokers are as abundant in China as tobacco-smokers in Europe.

13. Because it is a common custom, because it is the fashion, as I have said. I am not aware that opium is taken by Chinese as a prophylactic against any malady. I know, however, of several cases in which sick persons (such as consumptives and dyspeptics) have acquired the vice under the excuse that it was for healing purposes.

14. No, they do not think about it. They would prefer to die of hunger and inanition.

15. Only those who do not smoke would desire to see the importation of opium forbidden, as they know that opium enervates and renders useless for work, at least while the drug acts on the organism; or by those who would desire it for reasons mentioned in my answer to query No. 9.

16, 17, 18, 19, 20. As in Macao and its dependencies Indian opium is smoked exclusively and the poppy is not cultivated, I cannot answer the questions under those numbers.

JOSÉ GOMES DA SILVA,
Chief of the Health Service.

Macao, 6th March 1894.

Mr. P. DA SILVA.

1 and 2. Amongst the Chinese in Macao the vice of smoking opium is not very common. I cannot say what is the proportion between the inhabitants and

smokers, but I have seen that amongst artisans, shop-keepers, servants, workmen, and generally those that work for a living, there are few smokers; amongst the wealthy and well-to-do classes the use of opium-smoking is more general. Honest women, with rare exceptions, do not smoke, but old prostitutes generally smoke opium. Children never smoke.

3. Physical effects: The opium-smokers become emaciated, and their faces become yellow. Moral effects: In my dealings with Chinese I never met with facts that convince me that the vice of opium-smoking renders the men more immoral. Opium-smoking is expensive and repulsive to persons of clean habits, but does not seem to have any peculiar influence on morality. Some Chinese families in Macao like that their young men should take to opium-smoking in order to keep them at home, and to avoid them from going to brothels and gambling-houses. Social effects: Chinese opium-smokers are not despised by their countrymen, and do not lose influence and reputation. In business they are trusted as well as any other who does not smoke. Many merchants discuss their affairs between themselves while smoking opium.

4. In Macao there are no opium-eaters. The consumers smoke opium through the usual Chinese opium pipe.

5. Amongst the Chinese opium-smokers that I have known in Macao I believe that there are 60 per cent. that smoke it without injury, and 30 per cent. that smoke it with slight injury, and 10 per cent. that are really opium sots.

6. Amongst opium-consumers that I know to have smoked opium for a long time without harm I will mention specially two cases. The first case is of a Chinese writer that worked under me in my department. He smoked opium for more than 30 years, until he died at the old age of 60 years, but worked very well, was intelligent and clever. The other case is of a Portuguese that acted as Chinese interpreter, who is living yet. He is now 58 years old, having smoked opium for 40 years; he began when he was 18 years. He has been working and enjoying health the whole time. But I have seen also very sad cases of Chinese opium-smokers that become dissolute and died miserably.

10. I can mention a remarkable case. One Portuguese gentleman who attained great wealth, and became a nobleman, smoked opium for more than 20 years, but at last gave it up of his own free will; after that he lived for more 25 years, enjoying health, and died at the ripe age of 80 years.

12. The Portuguese population of Macao numbers 5,000 persons, and there are very few Portuguese opium-smokers; I believe their number does not exceed 10 or 12. They are held in bad repute and are considered degraded; that is the reason why everyone shuns the vice.

17. The prohibition or restriction of the export of Indian opium will stimulate the consumption of Chinese-grown opium, and will not abate the vice.

PEDRO M. CARCO DA SILVA.

Macao, 8th March 1894.

Mr. MILISCH.

1. Opium is pretty extensively consumed by the Chinese as I have observed during my 37 years of residence in China.

2. The greatest proportion which are consumers is amongst adult males, and to some extent women, but a very small per-centage. Children do not consume opium so far as I have observed.

3. The effects of opium morally and physically have their attendant evils; socially it is not considered degrading as all classes of people, more or less, smoke it. The effects are the same on consumers of each race, and smokers declare that Chinese-grown opium is less injurious than Indian.

4. Consumers smoke the drug.

5. As to proportions who use opium. (1.) Without injury. (2.) With slight injury. (3.) With great injury. The greatest number come under 1 and 2, while it is certain the number of smokers for whom the habit works great injury is very small indeed.

6. Moderation in the consumption of opium does exist as a great many smokers use a little daily as a stimulant, instead of alcoholic liquors. I have known smokers for years who used the drug in moderation, and it had no perceptible effect on them; but I have also seen cases where it was used in excess, causing dyspepsia and bowel complaints ending in sudden death, similar to that with people addicted to drink and use ardent spirits in excess.

7. A good many merchants, artisans, and labourers are in the habit of smoking, the effects tend to make the person indifferent to his calling.

8. The abuse of opium is predominating, as Chinese as a rule are moderate consumers of alcoholic liquors.

9. The habit of consuming opium is not condemned as degrading, and the general opinion amongst natives is that it is not so injurious as the alcohol habit.

10. Opium-smokers break themselves of the habit, but the per-centage is very small, and when cured of it resort to it again shortly after.

11. In case supplies of Indian opium were to be cut off, smokers would decidedly resort to Chinese-grown, and the deficiency would probably induce importation from Turkey and Persia in large quantities, notwithstanding Indian is preferred to both, and most general in favour.

12. People of the European race contract the habit just as well as it is known that in the United States and Australia where the prepared drug has been introduced from China, a great number of white men and women smoke it, and is spreading to an alarming extent.

13. Some consumers believe that opium-smoking acts as a medicine preventive of disease, but it is not the general opinion.

14. Only a limited number of opium-consumers themselves desire to get free of the opium habit.

15. I never heard amongst Chinese that they wish England should not allow opium to be exported from India.

16. The wealthy and good-to-do classes smoke Indian opium in the treaty ports and provinces adjacent to them, while the lower classes smoke drass opium (refuse from pipes), owing to its being cheaper than the original article.

17. Probable consequences of the prohibition or restriction of the export of Indian opium.

(a.) Smokers could not do without opium, and would resort to Chinese-grown, or other foreign drug

(b.) It would stimulate the growth of the poppy, and production of opium in China, and as it is an excellent subject for taxation, growers no doubt would be induced to increase cultivation with a view of raising a larger revenue.

(c.) The opium revenue for the home product may be put down at taels 50 per picul = \$69-73—say \$70 as a pretty fair average, but there are great irregularities about the collection, and it may be less in one province and more in another.

18. The area under poppy cultivation in China must be very extensive indeed, as the plant is grown wherever it will thrive, and so far as is known in almost all the 18 provinces, as well as in Mongolia and Manchuria; however reliable statistics cannot be obtained respecting the total quantity produced, but the average annual out-turn of opium is estimated at 250,000 to 300,000 piculs.

19. The revenue derived from native-grown opium, calculated at \$70 per picul, would thus amount to \$17,500,000 to \$21,000,000 per annum.

Addenda.—If the lower estimate of production in China is taken, i.e., 250,000 piculs, and the average of 2 mace for a smoker of prepared opium daily, it would give above 3,800,000 smokers. When boiled down the raw drug loses about 30 per cent. in weight, and 250,000 piculs would produce 175,000 piculs of prepared, or 17,500,000 catties à 16 taels = 280,000,000 taels à 10 mace = 2,800,000,000 mace per annum, divided by the number of days in the year, would give per day 7,671,232 mace, and allowing 2 mace per day for an average smoker, 3,835,616 mace is the consumption daily. It is stated that the population of

China is above 300,000,000, but estimating it at 300,000,000, and opium-smokers at 3,835,616, the result is that 128 per cent. of the population smoke the home product.

C. MILISCH,
Of Milisch & Co., Macao (China).

Macao, 13th March 1894.

NINGPO.

H.M. Consulate, Ningpo,
February 26, 1894.

SIR,
By direction of Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, I have the honour to forward herewith, in original, replies to the printed paper of questions regarding opium consumption in China, circulated by order of the Royal Commission on Opium.

I have, &c.
P. F. HAUSSEK,
Acting Consul.

DR. MOLYNEUX.

1. Yes.

2. Judging by amount imported and manufactured, compared with number of adult males, the proportion in this province would be one in six, but making allowance for waste, abnormal individual expenditure, and quantity used in manufactures and medicines it would perhaps be nearer to say one adult male in every 10 consumes opium. No women (save some prostitutes) and no children use opium here.

3. Morally the effect of opium is, if used to excess, undoubtedly pernicious; it is to the Chinese almost as demoralising a drug as morphia is to people of more enlightened countries.

Physically, in moderation, I question if it be very injurious. In excess it interferes with digestion and nutrition, and undoubtedly enfeebles brain and body generally.

Socially it has the effect of making a man a careless, if not absolutely, useless member of the community if used to excess.

4. In this province smoking opium is the only form of consumption in common use.

5. Probably two-thirds of those who smoke opium do so with "slight injury," a number certainly smoke "without injury." "Opium sots" at the most do not number more than 2 per cent. of those who use the drug.

6. It is untrue to say that "there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium." There is a man of over 60 years of age in a position of trust in a public office in this town, who for many years has duly smoked the same small quantity—he himself states that he never exceeds or falls short of a fixed amount. I am assured by his employers that he is active, competent, and trustworthy. His is no isolated case; there are, I believe, numbers of men who habitually smoke a limited amount with so little visible effect that they are easily able to conceal the fact that they are familiar with the drug. An illustration of great injury is the local Chinese manufacturer of European boots. His opium habit has rendered him absolutely unreliable, and it is impossible to make use of him. His business, which should be an excellent one, is completely ruined by opium.

7. The labourers smoke very little for obvious reasons, firstly, the nature of their severe physical toil renders the drug undesirable; again, after a day's work they are generally content to sleep without narcotics; and, lastly, the cost of opium-smoking to excess is beyond the means of the average coolie. I should say the merchants smoke more than the other classes enumerated, and the artisans certainly more than the labourers.

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Ningpo.

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8. I am unfamiliar with the abuse of alcohol among the Chinese in this district; certainly it is an uncommon vice; probably the soldiers and a few men of other irregular occupations drink occasionally, but there is no comparison in the results of alcohol and opium here. I have seen no bad results from alcohol among the natives. Its use is not extensive, and its abuse distinctly rare.

9. The Chinese regard the habit of consuming opium as degrading and injurious, but I have never heard a Chinaman speak of it in stronger terms than to suggest that it was an unfortunate habit. I do not know of any total abstinence institutions, and do not believe for a moment that its suppression is a burning question with them. If Chinamen knew as much as we do of the alcohol habit they would regard the opium mischief as trivial beside alcohol.

10. I am assured that opium-smokers do break themselves of the habit. I never myself knew a case so cured. According to the missionaries (whose statistics should be received with the respect they deserve, and with the caution their natural bias compels) men are cured. Personally, I would not take the solemn affirmation of any so-called convert any more than I would believe the oath of a morphine maniac. A peculiarity of the drug is its effect on men originally truthful; on the question of cure they will lie and deceive with more than natural acumen and depravity.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off, the immediate effect would naturally be a diminution in the quantity consumed until the Chinese had time to produce sufficient for the demand. The population would certainly resort to Chinese opium. The land under poppy would be vastly increased. The people would use alcohol until they could grow enough opium. Stopping Indian opium coming in would in no case lead to abstinence.

12. No. Any European known as an opium-smoker would be an object of contempt to Chinese or Europeans. Certainly Europeans do not contract the habit in number. If they do ever use the drug it is in the form of morphia (a secret habit, and one extremely common among the intelligent classes of every European city). The fact that Europeans consume alcohol is a factor against their abuse of opium. Asiatics contract the habit by heredity, and there is something more appropriate to Eastern taste in the exhilarating but soothing effects of the opium pipe than in the excitement and delirious action of alcohol.

13. By familiarity and, perhaps, also by hereditary taint. There is a strong belief that opium is a prophylactic against disease among its votaries. I am myself of opinion that it is to a certain extent prophylactic against fever and malaria. I am very certain that in medicine opium frequently prevents or cuts short a threatened catarrhal attack. The Chinese decidedly think it virtuous as a prophylactic.

14. Opium-consumers say they wish to get rid of the habit pretty much as old tobacco smokers say they wish that they had never commenced. In China the desire to leave off opium is generally based on the wish to retain the money which they have to spend to procure their gratification. It is not the smoking they wish to leave off, it is the cost they bemoan.

15. Not to my knowledge, unless it be among men who think they see their way to future successful poppy-planting locally.

17.—(a.) No ultimate effect whatever. (b.) Great increase of poppy cultivation and opium production in China.

20. When I first had charge of Chinese passengers at sea, the captain of the ship who had carried many thousands of Chinese through the tropics during a quarter of a century said to me, "Doctor, take a lesson from my experience, do not interfere with the opium-smoking among the Chinese forward. If you wish to have a comfortable voyage and want them to be in health, to stand the trying heat well, to be free from fever, and to be orderly, happy, and satisfied, let them smoke." I will conclude by saying that on many subsequent voyages I followed this, to me at first, curious advice, and never had reason to regret the smell of opium "between decks." To anyone

acquainted with Chinese quarters and discomforts on a tropical voyage my experience will convey more than my moral sense feels quite justified in stating.

(Signed) JOHN FRANCIS MOLYNEUX,
Surgeon to H.B.M. Consulate,
Ningpo.

Mr. MIRRELL.

1. Opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese in Cheh-kiang province.

2. Probably about one in six of the adult males in this province consume opium. It is estimated that there are about 2,000,000 adult males in the province; the opium consumed is about 19,000 piculs, half foreign and half native; the average daily consumption, at a low estimate, for each smoker is $2\frac{1}{2}$ mace or 5.7 catties per year, so that 19,000 piculs would supply 333,333 smokers, or about one in six of the adult males. Neither women nor children consume opium to any considerable extent.

3. Opium used in excess (a) blunts the finer feelings, destroys the moral sense, kills all ambition, and prevents any effort or desire to advance; (b) it destroys the appetite for food, deranges the digestive and nervous system, wastes the tissues, emaciates the body; (c) the craving for opium becomes the controlling desire, to which daily occupation, business demands, and social and domestic obligations are subordinated. Indian and Chinese opium are commonly mixed together for smoking; in many places they are smoked separately. I do not think there is much difference in their effects. Chinese opium is said to take effect a little more quickly than Indian, and to be more liable to adulteration.

4. Opium is rarely taken otherwise than by smoking.

5. It is but a rough guess to say that of habitual opium-smokers a quarter use it without injury, half with slight injury, and a quarter with great injury.

6.—(a) It is not correct to say that there can be no such thing as moderation in opium-smoking. (b, c) I know of one case of a man over 50 years old, an official of vigorous mind and body, who has used opium moderately for several years. He shows no injury from the practice, and declares that he has no difficulty in keeping within moderate bounds. (d) I have seen, and am constantly seeing, victims of excessive indulgence, who bear the marks of the injury done them in their emaciated bodies, pallid faces, dull eyes, and listless manner.

7.—(a) Opium is not consumed by a majority of labourers, merchants, or artisans. Day labourers, having steady work, are rarely opium-smokers; labourers, whose work is not steady but casual, such as chair bearers, stevedores, &c., are apt to smoke. Amongst the mercantile classes principals rather than employees are addicted to the opium habit. (b) Opium-smokers are not generally so efficient in their callings as those who do not smoke; but moderate smokers, especially in callings where no great physical exertion is required, sometimes are not perceptibly affected as regards the efficiency of their work.

8. The abuse of alcohol is not prevalent amongst the people of this part of China.

9.—(a) The excessive consumption of opium is generally condemned by the Chinese as a degrading and injurious habit, and a moderate indulgence is held to be dangerous on account of the difficulty of avoiding a progressive increase in the quantity smoked, until it becomes excessive. (b) The excessive use of alcohol is not sufficiently common in China to invite comparison between its effects and those of opium-smoking; and of the evils of excessive drinking in Western countries the Chinese have no direct knowledge. Their comparisons, therefore, if made at all, would have little value. Foreigners resident in China have better opportunity for comparing the effects of the two habits, and it is generally the verdict of observers that the alcohol habit is the worse; for not only do its victims, as compared with those of the opium habit, suffer a similar moral degeneration, with physical evils somewhat different but not less serious, resulting in the same incapacity for attending adequately to their daily business, domestic and social duties; but alcohol has what opium

has not, the property of crazing its victims and making them irresponsible, leading to acts of violence and serious accidents and calamities, so that its effects are more injurious to the community at large than those of opium, which are chiefly confined to its devotees and their families.

10. Opium-smokers occasionally break themselves of the habit, usually by resorting to morphine, which is taken in daily diminishing doses. But in this way the morphine habit sometimes becomes established instead of the opium habit, leaving the victim no better off.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off, opium-consumers would generally take to Chinese opium exclusively, and the supply of the latter would probably be increased until the demand was satisfied.

12. Europeans sometimes contract the habit of taking opium in the form of morphine, generally by subcutaneous injections. The habit usually begins by taking morphine medicinally in sickness.

13. Opium-smokers are generally led to use the drug just as boys learn to use tobacco, from a desire to find out what its attraction is, or to imitate their elders. Sometimes the use of the drug is resorted to as a palliative of lung disease, and the users profess to derive benefit from it. It is said that opium-smokers are less liable than others to malarial fevers, but of the truth of this I have no knowledge.

14. Opium-consumers would usually be glad to get free of the habit if they could do so without serious effort or inconvenience.

15. There is no desire amongst the Chinese in this part of China that England should not allow opium to be exported from India, though there would be such a desire amongst a considerable portion of the best element of the population, if India were the only source of supply.

16. Indian opium is more generally consumed in all coast provinces south of Kiangsu, though in Cheh-kiang Indian and Chinese opium are about equally used. In the provinces north of Kiangsu and in the interior provinces, Chinese opium is more largely used. Indian opium is more expensive than Chinese, and is used by the more well-to-do smokers generally.

17. The prohibition or restriction of the export of Indian opium would have no permanent effect on the consumption of opium in China. It might force smokers to reduce their daily allowances somewhat until the supply of Chinese opium became adequate to the demand. The cultivation of the poppy and the production of opium in China would be rapidly extended until enough opium was produced to make up for the quantity of Indian opium cut off.

18. No reliable estimate can be given of the area now under poppy in China, and the average annual out-turn of opium.

H. F. MIRILL.

Ningpo, February 21, 1894.

Rev. F. GALPIN.

1. Yes.

2. I think about 5 per cent of adult males (in cities, towns, and villages). Cases of women smoking opium are much less, indeed rare. I have heard of a few instances of young children, born of opium-smoking parents, and being, as they usually are, very weak, having opium smoke blown up their nostrils to revive them.

3. Generally physical injury, destruction of family life, and, therefore, moral deterioration. I know only the effects of opium on the Chinese. I know of no difference between the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium.

4. The consumers chiefly smoke, but when impoverished they eat opium for economic reasons.

5. As to the proportions of those who use opium, I do not know of any, saving a few, suffering from some chronic disease, who may be declared "opium-smokers" without injury." The majority, sooner or later, become "opium sots."

6. The virtue of "moderation" in the use of opium seems most difficult for the Chinese to observe. I only

remember one case, that of an aged Buddhist priest, who had smoked opium for 25 years, and seemed to be hale and hearty. After a close observation for more than 20 years, it seems to me the rule for the Chinese to injure themselves. I attach papers showing details of two instances, which I could easily multiply.

7. As far as I have observed, both Europeans and Chinese object to a servant, or clerk, or boatman, if they know that he smokes opium.

14. Yes, most of the smokers express a desire to be free from the habit, and ask if we know of any good method of cure.

15. There is a strong desire that foreign opium should not be brought to China.

17. I am of opinion that if no Indian opium were imported into China that many of the Chinese would of necessity have to give up its use; but I also think that native opium would rise in value and be largely cultivated by the Chinese in a few years.

20. I am under the impression that the people generally regard foreigners as largely responsible for the introduction, and they are looking to see if we are willing to adopt any measures by which this almost irresistible evil can be removed from their midst.

FREDERICK GALPIN,

Missionary,

Resident in Ningpo 26 years.

P.S.—The apparent contradiction between answers Nos. 17 and 20 is explained by the inconsistency between theory and practice, a condition not unknown in the enlightened West!

Case No. 1.

Mr. Isiu teih ts'ing, at the age of 22, began to smoke opium, and was then well-to-do, and about to succeed his father in the possession of a good business in the rice trade. He at first smoked in secret away from home, but when his father died he purchased an opium pipe and began to smoke at home. He soon became careless of his business, and things were going to the bad, so the shop was closed and Mr. Isiu did little else but look after his opium. His capital being exhausted he began to sell and pawn clothing, his father's, his own, and finally his wife's, and then to dispose of the furniture.

When these articles were sold he sold his only daughter, named Yuen-heang, 9 years of age, to a brothel keeper.

The next move was to mortgage the dwelling-house left him by his father for 140 dollars, 85 of which were seized by creditors to whom Mr. Isiu owed opium bills.

The balance of the money was soon disposed of, and the homeless man sold his wife as a concubine to a Mr. Ching, who lives outside the South Gate, Ningpo.

Mr. Isiu was now left with one son, and they both struggled for a time, the father earning a few cents a day as copying clerk, but only occasionally. The Chinese say he worked two days out of ten.

Mr. Isiu might earn 30 cents and then go to some dining room to feed the starving boy, and take the remainder of the money to some opium den. Next year the boy died and the father struggled along until the next year, when he died in an opium den at the age of 40.

This flourishing family was thus destroyed after a painful struggle of 18 years.

Mr. Isiu commenced the use of opium at 22 years of age. He died at 40.

FREDERICK GALPIN.

Ningpo, February 16, 1894.

Case No. 2.

I had in my school a few years ago a sharp lad, who left to learn the trade of a gem polisher and cutler.

He earned good wages, but soon took to opium-smoking, and the opium seemed to sap his strength and prevent him from regular work. He became very emaciated and weak, and died at the early age of about twenty-two years (22 years).

FREDERICK GALPIN.

Ningpo, February 16th, 1894.

1. Yes, it is.
2. About 7 per cent. Women, a few. Occasionally children are met with.
3. "Morally" bad, physically emaciating, socially disintegrating.
4. They smoke chiefly. When they cannot satisfy their craving by smoking, then they eat too.
- 5.—(i.) "Without injury"?—I do not know of any.
(ii.) "With slight injury"?—When smoking is confined to, say, from the 27th to the 40th years of age.
(iii.) At least 50 per cent. sustain great injury. When they smoke much after, say, 40 years of age, with a few exceptions they go down under it.
6. I do not know of one man, woman, or child, who have consumed opium for years without harm to themselves. "Any, or many, cases of great injury" by smoking?—Examples: I have turned a man out cured (name, Tsiang Moh Sing) who had been an opium-smoker for 18 years. For 10 years or so he managed to live on the proceeds of his toil; for two years more his wife struggled on to support him; for the last six years he did no work, his wife driven to the city to provide funds for him. He got a little out of the country people by extortion. Now he has left work, his wife has returned to her home, he is able to live an honest life, but he will never be able to do hard work again. "Zi-yiu-ding" went on board a steamer when between 17 and 18 years of age. He commenced to smoke when he was 18 years of age. He lost his situation because he could not get out of bed to attend to his work, then he felt so feeble that he was called "lazy." He was dismissed. In three years he has spent more than \$1,000. He is now under my care. It will take a long time to get him strong. Morally he is a changed man, a "wonder" to his friends. "Shu-vu-Yuon" is a man, say, 30 years. He has been a servant in foreign employ, but discharged for opium-smoking. He left our hospital three months ago, and did well, though complaining of debility. He began smoking again. Yesterday, his two brothers and mother were in Ningpo asking me to try him again; if I could not then, they meant asking the mandarin to have him imprisoned for life. "Tsiang-o-Pong" began to smoke early in life, he became emaciated, unable to work. He opened a "den" in his native village. He began quarrelling with his visitors, killing two of them, bringing his relatives into straits over compensation paid to the murdered men's relatives. He came to Nypo for treatment, remaining in the hospital for two months, went home cured, closed his "den." I was in contact with him for 17 years. He was a grand character, but never fully recovered from the injury opium had done him. He died at the age of 56 years, lamented and loved by all who knew him.
7. I think the majority of smokers would be found among the artisans. It brings poverty to the family, often drives the smoker away from home. Daughters are sold very young. Sons are sent away to work to maintain the father.
8. I cannot answer that, as almost all opium-smokers are wine-drinkers too.
9. It is considered degrading by the Chinese. The man who smokes is said to be possessed by the opium demon. Very few Chinese condemn wine-drinking.
10. Some few do cure themselves. I have known a man ask to be tied to a tree when he knew the craving was coming on him, then ask to be loosed when the desire passed away.
11. I think where Indian opium could not be obtained they would have the native-grown.
12. Where Europeans are treated with opium in malarial diseases, they too often continue to be the victims of the habit.
13. Often it is taken for some abdominal trouble, often sexual desire is said to be excited by it, but soon leaves them worse than when they began to take it. So in abdominal trouble, it leaves many of them victims to its power. I am not certain about it being a prophylactic against fever, so reserve my opinion. I do not think it prevents rheumatism. It is not regarded as good in medicine by the natives beyond the second dose; if it does not cure then, it does injury, so say the natives.
14. They do so desire; I am having applications each day to come into hospital.

15. There is a wish that England would not send it, and that China would not grow it.

20. I believe the great power of opium is over the sympathetic nervous system. It does not make much difference to flesh forming how much food a man may eat. If he smokes long he is sure to get emaciated.

R. SWALLOW, M.D.

Nypo, China, 21st February 1894.

CONSUL HAUSER.

1. Yes.
2. I estimate the proportion of adult male consumers in this district to be:—

In towns -	-	-	20-30 per cent.
In country -	-	-	5-10 per cent.

Women are not commonly consumers, though among the rich perhaps 1-2 per cent. smoke opium. I have never heard of children smoking.

3. Morally, the effect of opium is generally deteriorating. Foreigners seldom engage a servant known to be an opium-smoker, experience showing that such mostly prove lazy, slovenly, and dishonest.

Physically, the effects seem to be loss of appetite, want of energy, dull and sluggish intellect—except when fortified by the drug. Heavy smokers are always known by their excessive pallor and emaciation, and are said to suffer from derangements of the digestive organs.

Socially, the effect of opium is disastrous for the poor man who can afford neither the time nor the money required for the indulgence. His business suffers, and his family inevitably sinks in the scale of life. As far as the rich are concerned, I do not think that opium has any pernicious effect from a social point of view.

I cannot draw any distinction between the effects of opium on consumers of different races, nor do I know of any difference between the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium, except that the former being more carefully prepared and of better quality is considered the more efficacious and satisfying.

4. Consumers almost invariably smoke. Chair-bearers when on a journey and unable to stop for a smoke often eat the opium instead. When taken in this form, 1 candareen of opium is said to be equal to 3 mace of opium smoked, and the effect lasts longer. Beggars also eat the refuse coverings of opium balls.

5. In some few cases opium may, I believe, be used in moderation not only without injury, but with positive benefit.

(ii.) Probably 90-95 per cent. use it with slight injury only, and (iii.) some 2-3 per cent. become "opium sots."

6. It is certainly not correct to say there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium, but there is a constant tendency to increase the quantity. I cannot give any specific instances.

7. In this district few agricultural labourers use opium, the bulk of the consumers being artisans, merchants, and gentry. Of the chair-bearer class, some 90 per cent. use opium. Though physically a sorry lot, they accomplish long and exhausting journeys; but to enable them to do this they require to have their smoke two or three times a day *en route*.

8. The abuse of alcohol being extremely rare in China, it is impossible to institute any comparison.

9. The opium habit is not generally regarded by the Chinese as degrading, except possibly in the case of officials who are liable to be denounced and dismissed from office in consequence, but it is considered as more or less injurious. The Chinese are not in a position to compare the effects of the opium habit with those of the alcohol habit, the latter being practically unknown here.

10. Opium-consumers can certainly break themselves of the opium habit, if they really determine to do so, in a period of about 10 days. Such cases are, however, rare.

11. Were the supply of Indian opium to be cut off, consumers would unquestionably resort to native-grown opium.

12. Europeans very seldom contract the opium habit, but the abuse of morphia, in the form of subcutaneous injections, is not so uncommon.

If Europeans had nothing better than Chinese tobacco, Chinese spirits, and opium to fall back on, they would very possibly take to the latter. That they do not do so is, I conjecture, due to the fact that foreign wines, spirits, tobacco, and medicinal tonics sufficiently satisfy the requirements of their physical system.

Asiatics are perhaps hereditarily predisposed to contract the habit, and in China, at all events, there is nothing to take the place of opium. Climatic causes may also have some influence.

13. Consumers are in some cases led to use the drug by the force of example, as a form of fashionable dissipation; in other cases as a palliative of bodily pain. It is not, to my knowledge, a prophylactic against fever, &c., but is undoubtedly more commonly used in the feverish and malarious parts of China, *e.g.*, Formosa, where the bulk of the population, including the women, all smoke more or less.

14. In some cases consumers themselves are anxious to get free of the opium habit, generally when they find it too expensive for them.

15. Professions are sometimes made to this effect, but only by non-consumers.

16. Indian opium is used all over China by those who can afford it. In this province about half the opium consumed is native-grown.

17. The prohibition of the export of Indian opium would probably result:—

- (a.) In a temporarily diminished consumption of opium by the Chinese till the demand was met by the increased output of native-grown opium.
- (b.) In greatly extended cultivation of the poppy, and large increase in the production of native opium.
- (c.) It is said that the Chinese Government would in such case endeavour to suppress the cultivation of opium altogether. The result would probably be a complete failure.

18. Owing to the absence of statistics it is impossible to give any accurate estimate of the area now under poppy cultivation in the several provinces of China, or of the annual out-turn of opium. In this province, however, some 60 per cent. of the cultivated area of the Hsiang-Shan and Taichow districts, south of Ningpo, is under opium cultivation, and the annual out-turn for the whole of the province is estimated at not less than 10,000 piculs (= cwt. 11,905).

19. The revenue derived by the Chinese Government from foreign opium at the treaty ports of China amounted in 1893 to Hk. taels 7,246,596, or 1,088,931*l.* sterling.

The taxation on native opium varies in different provinces. In this province it amounts to about half that levied on Indian opium, being \$96 (11*l.* 12*s.*) per 100 catties. Much of the opium grown escapes taxation altogether, owing to the duty on it being collected, not at the place of production, but at the large centres of consumption. On that locally consumed, therefore, no duty whatever is paid.

20. The conflict of evidence regarding the effects of opium is, in my opinion, greatly due to the different classes of consumers referred to by different witnesses. The evidence of missionaries chiefly relates to the poorer classes, with whom only they generally come in contact. When a man is so poor that he has to choose between his opium pipe and his bowl of rice, the choice of the former, to which he is predisposed by the loss of appetite consequent on the use of opium, will infallibly result in malnutrition and physical incapacity, with consequent poverty and misery for himself and his family. The evil aggravates itself, for the more he smokes the more he requires, and the less he can afford to expend on proper nourishment, this in its turn leading him to have still further recourse to the soothing narcotic, the cheap and adulterated varieties of which are admittedly more pernicious than the pure and high-priced drug. Hence it is that the worst examples of the evil effects of opium are to be found among those in a low rank of life, such as chair-bearers, &c., who earn a precarious existence by irregular day, labour. On the other hand, the well-to-do native merchant or compradore of a foreign hong—invariably a keen man of business—smokes his opium year after year with no perceptible result to the non-medical eye, provided always that he does not go to excess. In their case the moderate use of the drug seems to have little or no effect, whether morally, physically, or socially.

Taking all the circumstances into consideration it appears to me that the abuse of alcohol in Western countries is infinitely more pernicious and degrading both to the individual as well as to the community at large than can ever be the case with regard to opium in the East.

H.B.M. Consulate,
Ningpo,
24th February 1894.

P. F. HAUSSER,

H.B.M.'s Acting-Consul,
Ningpo.

Amoy.

Her Majesty's Consulate,
Amoy, China, 2nd March 1894.

SIR,

HAVING, in obedience to instructions received from Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, distributed amongst those of the residents at this port who I considered would be likely to give trustworthy information, copies of the questions, regarding opium consumption and opium revenue in China, forwarded by the Royal Commission on Opium to Mr. O'Connor, I have now the honour to transmit copies of the replies I have received from seven of those applied to.

In so doing I beg to submit the following remarks, as the results of my own observation, during a residence of 26 years in this country.

1. I have some experience of nearly all the open Treaty Ports of China, and I have found that opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese in all the parts of China with which I am acquainted.

2. I estimate that of adult male Chinese in those parts that I know perhaps 10 or 12 per cent. are consumers of opium. I have heard occasionally of women using it; of children, so far as I can recall, never.

3. Those who consume opium to excess become utterly degraded, both morally and physically, and, as a consequence, sink in the social scale. When not used to excess no such results are perceptible. I have no knowledge of any distinction in the effects produced by consumers of different races. I have already understood that Chinese-grown opium, from its inferior quality, is more deleterious in its effects than the Indian drug.

4. In China consumers chiefly smoke opium. Suicide by opium is not at all an infrequent occurrence in China, when used for this purpose, in all the cases that I have heard of, the opium has been swallowed, either solid, or in the form of a decoction. Seeing that, in such cases, the object sought is death, and that generally a sufficient quantity is taken to attain that object, the distinction in the effects produced is very marked and readily perceived.

5. I cannot pretend to give any accurate statistics in reply to this question, but I shall judge that of the consumers, who, as I have stated above, are about 10 or 12 per cent. of the adult male population,

- (i.) perhaps 30 per cent. use it without any injury,
- (ii.) forty per cent. with but slight injury, and
- (iii.) thirty per cent. with great injury.

6. To say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium is not only incorrect, but it is absurd; it would be just as reasonable to assert that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the use of wine, or of tobacco. I have known many case of consumers who have taken opium regularly for years, apparently without any harm to themselves. One case more particularly present to my mind at the moment is that of the man who was Compradore of the British Consulate at Shanghai for nearly 30 years. I knew him well for over 20 years, and during that time—from early in 1883 till the end of 1886—when I was in charge of the Shipping Department of the Shanghai Consulate, I had business relations with him nearly every day of every week. To my knowledge he smoked opium regularly all that time, and I never once found him affected deleteriously, either in his bodily health or in his capacity for business in consequence. Indeed he gave me to understand that his health was benefited by the habit, as he was very subject to fever, which he used to say the opium always gave him relief from. The present Viceroy of the Two Kiang Provinces, His Excellency Liu K'inyi, who holds perhaps the most important post in the Empire after that filled by the Grand Secretary Li Hung Chang, is well known to be addicted to the opium habit. He now holds that appointment, if I mistake not, for the third time, and the fact that he has been more than once selected for

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the post, and that he is now at the age of nearly 70, capable of efficiently performing the duties of the post, speak for themselves. There was a story current in Nanking at the time when he was last appointed to the post in 1891, that he endeavoured to be excused from taking it up on the plea that he was a habitual opium smoker, and therefore debarred by law from filling so high an office, but that his services were deemed so valuable by the Empress Dowager that he was granted special imperial license to consume a certain quantity daily. I, of course, cannot say how much truth there may be in this story, but its very existence showed how common was the knowledge of the fact that he is habitually addicted to opium. On the other hand, one cannot live in China long without coming across many cases where excessive use of opium has produced the most grievous and deplorable injury.

7. If by this question is meant "whether a majority of each class named are consumers of opium"? I say decidedly, No. If it is meant "to which of the three classes do the majority of consumers belong"? an answer is more difficult. I should say that the majority of those who are most injuriously affected by the consumption of opium belong to the labouring and artisan classes, because, being poorer, it is they who are compelled to consume the inferior qualities of the drug, and who are less able, from spending a part of their earnings on opium, to provide themselves with sufficient food, and consequently, through want of proper nourishment, are more liable to be injuriously affected. The effect of the habit on the efficiency of consumers in each calling depends upon whether they use it to excess or not, not upon the nature of their calling, so far as I know.

8. In every part of China with which I am at all conversant alcohol is, comparatively speaking, very little used, and still less abused. When a Chinese is addicted to the excessive use of alcohol he is a very much worse and more dangerous character than a man who consumes opium to excess.

9. I should say not, by the opinion of Chinese in general. Of course there are many Chinese who do not condemn the habit as both degrading and injurious. Were the Chinese, as a nation, in a position (which they are not) to form any adequate conception of the deplorable effects produced by the alcohol habit in the places, in Europe and elsewhere, where that habit is prevalent, I have not the slightest doubt as to which they would consider the worse of the two.

10. I believe that they have done so, but I have always understood that it is with great difficulty they can do so.

11. Consumers would take to Chinese-grown opium, and failing that, to some other narcotic. They certainly would not abstain altogether.

12. No, hardly ever. Their food, constitution, education, and habits generally do not predispose them to it, while there seems to be something in the constitution and food of Asiatics that makes the use of some narcotic almost a necessity.

13. To the questions under this head I can give no answers from my own knowledge.

14. Many of those who from excess are conscious of injury undoubtedly do desire to get free of the habit; applications at missionary hospitals are too numerous for that to be doubted; but I do not believe that there is any desire among moderate smokers generally to do so.

15. There may be, and very probably is, such a wish amongst certain Chinese of the official class; but I greatly doubt if there are many amongst those who may have that wish in whom it is prompted by motives either of humanity or of patriotism.

17.—(a.) The consumption of native opium will tend to increase, as will

(b.) the cultivation of the poppy and the production of native opium, unless the cultivation is as rigorously prohibited as the export of Indian drug would be; and this is not likely, as thereby

(c.) the Chinese Government would have to find some other source from which to derive the revenue of which it would, by the combined prohibition of the import of Indian and of the production of native opium, be deprived.

16, 18, and 19. These questions could only be adequately answered after a more thorough study of the statistics available than the time at present at my

disposal will allow. Information on the points therein referred to can be found in many of the valuable reports issued from time to time by the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs, notably in the volume of Decennial Reports, published in the end of 1893, and in the Reports on Opium, Nos. 4, 9, 10, 13, and 14 of the Customs' "Special Series," copies of which documents will, I have little doubt, have been made accessible to the Commissioners.

Of the seven persons who have been good enough to furnish me with replies to the questions, four, Messrs. Cass, Leyburn, Price, and Sangar are merchants, whose business has naturally brought them into contact chiefly with the mercantile classes. The two former have resided in this part of China for over 20 years, Mr. Price has been in Amoy for nearly 17 years, and Mr. Sangar, who is the representative of one of the Parsee firms established here, the principal business of which has been connected with the import of Indian opium and Bombay yam, can reckon a residence at the port of nearly 30 years. Messrs. Macgowan and Sadler are missionaries, whose experience extends over a still longer period, and whose work has lain more specially amongst the labouring and artisan classes; while Mr. Hu liyuan is an intelligent Chinaman educated in Hong Kong, who has filled various lesser official positions, and is now interpreter to the intendant of the territorial circuit in which Amoy is situated. I sent the questions to him with the view of getting an opinion from the standpoint of a Chinese official who is sufficiently acquainted with the English language to understand their purport, which I am disappointed in finding he has not, in regard to all of them, done.

I have, &c.

COLIN M. FORD,
H.B.M. Consul, Officiating.

Mr. F. Cass.

Amoy, February 23, 1894.

1. Opium is commonly used in this district.

2. Very difficult to arrive at; in the cities it is estimated that three men in 10 use opium. In the country a far smaller proportion. It is seldom used by women and children.

3. The general effect of the use of opium is degrading from all three standpoints. There is but little difference in the effect of native and Indian opium.

4. Consumers, as a rule, smoke opium.

5. I do not know the various proportions. I know many men who use it without apparent injury. On the other hand, I have known men bright, intelligent, and upright before they have contracted the habit become both moral and physical wrecks after they have contracted it.

6. I think it wrong to say there is no such thing as moderation possible in the consumption of opium. I know the reverse to be the case. I know men who have used it moderately for years, while I know cases where the immoderate use of the drug has caused infinite misery and the break-up of prosperous businesses and happy homes.

7. A majority of the natives that I am acquainted with certainly do not use opium. I think that such people as boatmen, labourers, &c., in country take it in small quantities as a specific, and without injury. I have known officials use it moderately, and with apparent intellectual benefit at the moment. As a rule, I consider that merchants that use it do so to the detriment of their business.

8. Much the same.

9. The habit is generally thought badly of by natives. At the same time, the outcry against it is based far more on political than on moral motives.

10. I have known cases where men have broken themselves of the habit, but they are very rare.

11. If Indian opium were cut off, native-grown opium would very soon supply the deficiency. The officials encourage the growth of native opium, or certainly do nothing to discourage it. Persian opium is very popular.

12. Europeans seldom contract the habit.

13. I have no medical knowledge. Most certainly many very respectable Chinese firmly believe the drug to be a prophylactic against disease.

14. Immoderate consumers—yes. Moderate consumers feeling and knowing no harm are thankful for their pipe of opium. To those suffering from disease and pain it is difficult to believe that they would rather be without the relief the drug affords.

15. Only where the idea has been suggested to them by agitators.

16. By all classes, and practically all over China as at present known.

17. I do not believe that the prohibition of Indian opium will curtail the use of opium amongst the Chinese, as I believe that the native opium and Persian opium will readily supply its place. If the Chinese Government cared to do so it could easily close all the opium dens in China, and so prevent the facilities they afford for the contraction and excessive adoption of the habit. They exhibit no such desire, and to every unbigoted person who has resided in China for any length of time it is absolutely patent that the Government are only making a pretext of the opium question to cover their own treaty delinquencies, and care little or nothing in reality whether India sends the drug here or not. It will be time enough to prohibit the importation of Indian opium when opium dens are closed and the growth of the drug stopped in earnest by the Central Government.

(Signed) FRANCIS CASS.

Mr. F. LEYBURN.

SIR, Amoy, China, February 22, 1894.

I BEG to answer the questions you have put to me regarding the opium consumption and revenue.

1. Yes.
2. Fifty per cent. adult males. Women rarely. Children no.
3. Moderation harmless. Excess ruinous, morally and physically. Can draw no distinction in effects on consumers of different races. Am unaware of any difference in the effect of native and Indian drug.
4. Chiefly smoke, but in certain districts morphia pills and powders are used.
- 5.—(i.) A large proportion; (ii.) a larger proportion; (iii.) a small proportion.
6. There can be moderation. My compradore, a clever business man, aged 64, has smoked freely for 30 years. Know a few who have utterly degenerated from excess.
7. Majority consume to some extent. No effect on their efficiency.
8. Opium preferable to alcohol. Wife-beating almost unknown. Opium a sedative, alcohol an excitant.
9. Not considered degrading.
10. They can rarely do so.
11. If Indian supply cut off China opium will increase more rapidly. They would hardly take to alcohol, as there would be no necessity for so doing with Chinese opium cultivation rapidly increasing. With positively no opium, alcohol might come in as a substitute.
12. Europeans rarely contract the opium-smoking habit, possibly because early bringing up makes it seem degrading. Asiatics regard it as a custom, as Westerns do tobacco or gin.
13. Begin as English boys begin smoking, from force of example. Considered by Chinese as a prophylactic against fever.
- 14 and 15. No.
16. Cannot answer.
- 17.—(a) Consumption temporarily checked until Chinese drug increased in supply; (b) cultivation of Chinese drug will widely increase; (c) do not know.

18. No.

19. Chinese opium taxed about one-fourth of what Indian opium is.

20. No.

Yours, &c.
FRANK LEYBURN.
Agent for Jardine, Matheson, & Co.

Mr. G. W. PRICE.

SIR,
Amoy, February 26, 1894.
WITH reference to the questions asked by the Royal Commission now sitting in India regarding opium consumption and opium revenue in China, I beg to reply as follows:—

1. Yes.
- 2.—(a.) 20 per cent. hard smokers; 40 per cent. moderate.
(b.) Trifling extent.
(c.) No.
- 3.—(a.) Depends on quantity taken.
(b.) Yes.
(c.) Yes.
- 4.—(a.) Smoke.
(b.) Taken otherwise than through a pipe one-twentieth part would suffice, and consequently except at this ratio any injurious effects would be more rapid.
- 5.—(i. and ii.) Depends on constitution, *see* reply 2.
(iii.) Probably not more than 2 per cent.
- 6.—(a.) No.
(b.) Yes.
- 7.—(a.) Depends on "pocket" and leisure.
(b.) Not unless opium is taken to excess.
8. Intoxication is rare.
- 9.—(a.) Those who do not smoke "plume" themselves on the fact, and no doubt with some reason, for it has its dangers.
(b.) Nobody could wish for the opium dens of Chinese cities to be replaced by the gin palaces of our own country.
10. Rarely.
- 11.—(a.) Bad.
(b.) Native opium.
- 12.—(a.) No.
(b.) Alcohol and tobacco suit their temperaments better.
(c.) Happens to be the Asiatic form of indulgence.
- 13.—(a.) Force of example chiefly and sometimes in alleviation of pain.
(b.) No, but am inclined to think so.
(c.) Opinions are divided.
14. Not as a class.
15. Consumers, no; cultivators, probably yes.
- 16.—(a.) All classes.
(b.) Chinese opium would not enter into competition if it were not for price.
- 17.—(a.) Increase as soon as the supply could meet the demand, which doubtless it could quickly do.
(b.) Stimulate.
(c.) Facilitate.
18. Unknown.
19. I believe the attempt to tax land under poppy cultivation has hitherto proved unsuccessful. Some three or four years ago the local authorities decided to get some revenue out of native opium, and they based their tax on a rough estimate as to the quantity of it mixed with foreign drug, levying same on the opium shops according to the volume of their business.

20. The consumption of Chinese opium is increasing rapidly, and with improved quality and lighter taxation it must in time prove a formidable rival to the foreign drug. The restriction or prohibition of the export of Indian opium to China will only hasten the

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day when China will say to India opium "no wantchee."

I have, &c.

GEORGE PRICE.

Mr. P. M. SANGER.

1. Yes, the Chinese commonly consume opium in the part of China where I live.

2. Out of 100 there must be about 40 persons of the adult males consumers of opium. Yes, there are some women also who consume opium. I am sure children never consume any opium.

3. As far as my knowledge goes, opium does not produce any bad effects on morality of its consumers, nor does it tend to reduce their physical strength in any way, or lead them to deviate from the path of their social duties. I am not aware of opium making different effects on consumers of different races, and therefore cannot draw any distinction between them, but am of opinion that the effects must be the same on all the consumers of whatever race they be. Chinese-grown opium is generally not consumed alone on account of its bad taste, and therefore it is to be mixed with the Indian or other foreign opium by some people who seek to economise the expense, but, not minding the taste of the two kinds, the effects of the Indian and Chinese grown opiums cannot be different I think, for opium is opium after all.

4. The consumers mostly smoke opium, and there may be one or two persons among 1,000 who lick boiled or prepared opium and drink tea after it when there is some emergency for them to go out, and they have no time to spare after smoking. The refuse of smoked opium is eaten by some persons of penury, but that is only to satisfy their hankering without giving any effect on such consumers I think.

5. Any case or cases suffering with slight injury or with great injury through the use of opium have not come before me, and I have noticed that opium is always used without any injury on its consumers who wisely take care to take it in moderate and proportionately necessary doses.

6. No, it cannot be said that there is no such thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. There may be many cases of consumers who have taken their opium for years without harm to themselves, and I have never heard a complaint from any of my Chinese neighbours or acquaintances who observe moderation in their use of opium of any harm done to them; though I cannot name here any particular example giving full description of same in detail without inquiring, and, if it be inquired for, I am sure many such cases will be found.

7. I cannot say whether there is a "majority" or what of the opium-consumers among the labourers, or the merchants, or the artisans around me, but this much is certain, that the effects of the opium habit on the consumers of these classes has never proved to be ruinous in their calling, and they have always pursued their career with efficiency.

8. Men given up to alcohol habit do commit various sorts of mischief and sometimes lose their senses, while the opium habit creates quite a contrary effect on its consumers, gives some sort of vigour and activity to them in the performance of their duties, and if they miss their usual doses, they become quite inactive and disregard their work, and sometimes become ill and their lives are in danger.

9. The Chinese never condemn the opium habit as degrading or injurious. On the contrary, for the sake of respect to their callers, friends, and acquaintances who visit them, they offer a smoke of opium just in the same way as European or other civilised nations offer a glass of wine to their visitors. I have not known that they ever offered wine or liquor to their callers, and my belief is that they do condemn the alcohol habit and hate its consumers.

10. It is seldom the opium-consumers leave their habit of opium, and if they want to break themselves of

the habit of course they can do so, but not without first suffering in their health and loss of appetite.

11. If prohibition of the supply of Indian opium be put into effect, the consumers will have of necessity to purchase other foreign opiums, such as Turkey and Persian, at much dearer prices (as these opiums must, of course, rise in prices at the scarcity of the Indian drug), and thus, doubtless, they will be entailing misery upon themselves. Also it is quite natural that they would resort to Chinese-grown opium and other alcoholic drinks more injurious in consequences.

12. European people do not contract the opium habit because this drug is or was never grown and reared on their own soil, and therefore of course they must be unlucky from not knowing what are the beneficial effects of such thing (originally so foreign and new to them) if judiciously and rightly used. European races do know and are keenly aware of the bad results of alcoholic drinks, and yet they blindly and deeply plunge themselves in great numbers into these miseries and make extensively free use of alcohols, and that is why? Only because these narcotics are made and produced in their own soil, and therefore they do not think it degrading or injurious to contract the alcohol habit (though they will have prudence enough to meddle with the affairs of their Asiatic brothers, and advise them to abstain from opium whose real effects and benefits they have scarcely the least knowledge of). Besides, unfortunately, the Asiatics are not blessed with the sanitary arrangements and regulations in the construction of their houses, streets, towns, and cities, which are generally always filthy, close, marshy places, having no drains, that, had it not been for the mercy of God in providing them with such invaluable drug as "opium," there would have been thousands of deaths, and destruction, darkness, and confusion in almost the whole of Asia, and particularly in China, where filthiness knows no bounds and people do not understand what is sanitation.

13. Yes, to my knowledge it is true, and it is also regarded commonly by the Chinese in this part of China where I live, that opium is a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, and malaria, and it is this firm and true impression that leads them to use the drug.

14. No, I have never known so.

15. In this part of China with which I am acquainted I have never noticed any such wish among the Chinese that England should stop opium to be exported from India. Nay, they have not the least thought of it, or of the things going on at present in England in connexion with this foolish agitation, and they would sooner curse England than be glad if the export of Indian opium is prohibited.

16. Indian opium is usually consumed by all classes of people in Amoy, Shanghai, Foochow, and various other parts situated in the north of China (save Taiwanfoo, where almost the whole consumption is of Persian drug). Chinese-grown opium has not yet so improved in taste as it can be taken alone, yet it is certain that it is improving every year, and its use is gradually and steadily increasing day by day.

17.—(a.) If the export of Indian opium will be prohibited or restricted, it cannot materially reduce the consumption of opium by the Chinese, because they will surely make use of other foreign opiums, Persian, Turkey, &c., and also of their own Chinese-grown opium.

(b.) The prohibition or restriction of the export of Indian opium will undoubtedly increase the cultivation of the poppy and production of opium in China.

(c.) The revenue of the Chinese Government will surely suffer a great deal by the prohibition or restriction of the export of Indian opium.

18. The area under poppy in the several provinces of China is very extensively great, and the out-turn of opium is also large, but I cannot give any estimate of the same, but am aware that more light will be thrown on this subject by the various British Consuls of China, who always inquire into these things.

19. The extent of the revenue of the Chinese Government from opium will best be ascertained by looking into the Customs Annual Trade Reports, and also perhaps from the reports of the various H.B.M.'s

Consuls. The taxation on Indian opium is about \$200 per picul, while the same on Chinese-grown opium is about \$40 or so per picul.

PESTONJEE M. SANGAR
(29 years resident in China).

Amoy, 2nd March 1894.

Rev. J. MACGOWAN.

1. Yes.

2. In the town of Amoy fully 20 per cent. of the adult male population, that is, from 16 years old and upwards, smoke opium. In the country districts the proportion as a rule is considerably less, though there are places where it rises as high as that of the city. I have obtained reliable statistics of three villages; first, contains 1,000 adults and 40 smoke; second, 140, of whom eight smoke; third, 700, of whom 150 smoke.

3. An opium-smoker deteriorates morally. He becomes more untruthful, and in all cases where there is a struggle to get the opium his keen sense of right vanishes, and he will do anything almost to get the means of satisfying the intolerable craving from which he suffers. A very large proportion of the thieves and vagabonds of any place are recruited from the ranks of those who have not sufficient money to buy their daily supply of opium.

He also deteriorates physically. If a man is in easy circumstances, and has some very light employment, and has good health generally, he may go on for years apparently without injury.

4. Smoking is the most common form; when a man exhausts all his resources, and is in extreme poverty, he will buy the scrapings of the opium pipes and swallow them. This form of opium indulgence is the most difficult to cure.

5. I cannot conceive of any case in which a man has become a confirmed opium-smoker—and with steady smoking it takes less than two months to become so—where there is absolutely no injury done to him. This may be minimised by the circumstances mentioned in Answer 3. With the mass of the people who have to earn their daily bread the case is different. One has only to look at the experience of an opium-smoker to see how this must be so. After the habit has got hold of him he loses his keen relish for his ordinary food. He now gets a liking for sweets, and cakes, and fruit. Again, until he has taken his pipe he cannot swallow his meal; it would stick in his throat. This abnormal taste and bondage to the pipe interferes with his regular living and tells in time on his general health.

6. That there are moderate smokers is true, but that they are exceedingly rare is just as true. A Chinaman who had smoked for 20 years declared to me that in all his large experience he had known only one man that had consistently remained a moderate smoker. It must be remembered that, even in such a case, abstinence from opium for a day or two now and then, as might be the case with moderate drinkers, would be an impossibility. The examples of men that have injured themselves by the use of opium are exceedingly numerous. A man who was my cook took to opium. He was dismissed for the sufficient reason that one loses faith in such a man, and does not like to have him a resident in his family. After a short time he sold his little son, then his wife, to both of whom he was much attached, and finally he disappeared from sight, amongst the great submerged, to spend his life in one long struggle with the enemy that had ruined his home. Such examples are legion in their numbers.

7. All classes smoke. The effect on the most of smokers is to render them less efficient in their work. All things being equal, a smoker is not equal to a non-smoker. A large employer of labour has informed me that the smokers amongst his men were not able to do the same amount of work as those who did not indulge in opium. They were not up to time, and when the effect of the last smoke began to wane they were not as active. He employed such because of exceptional ability, but otherwise he would never have a smoker on any of his works. When one considers the time

necessarily spent on the pipe, one can see why he should not be up to time. A man smokes say at daylight before he goes to work. At the very least to fill his pipe a number of times would take half an hour. This would allow no sleep after. To do so would require another half hour. At midday a similar length of time is demanded. This taken from his dinner hour is a serious loss of time. When the day is over the same experience is repeated, only now having more leisure more time is spent in the process. He smokes and sleeps, and will often rise and smoke several pipes during the night. His rest is thus broken into, and next day he is not fit for a full day's work.

9. Opium-smoking is looked upon as a disgrace, and no man will willingly confess that he is a smoker, indeed he will deny that he is until convicted by evidence that he cannot refute. The public estimate of those engaged in either the sale or smoking of opium will be understood from the following incident. One day, accompanied by a Chinaman, I went round amongst the native merchants for subscriptions to a hospital. In the round he took me into a fine looking shop on one of the main streets. I found a respectable looking man sitting behind a counter. On entering, my companion, who evidently knew him, said to him, "We are coming for a subscription to the hospital." "Now it is only right that you, who have done such an injury to your fellow-men, should ease your conscience by giving something to save the sick." The man smiled a sickly smile and handed us a donation. I found that we had gone into an opium merchant's establishment.

10. Some do, but they are very few. My experience is that opium-smokers generally have a superstitious dread that if they give up the pipe they will die. This has a strong deterrent effect, and prevents very many from attempting deliverance.

11. The result would be that they would smoke native opium. In this region the growth during the last six years has largely increased, and will continue to do so steadily, for the very strong reason that at present the farmers get at least 500 per cent. more for their opium crop than for any other.

12. No. The reason why the Chinese take to opium is because of the luxury and comfort with which the vice can be enjoyed. The Chinese ideal is rest—inaction. He cannot understand why the Englishman should take exercise, or play at cricket, or dance, &c. The Buddhist heaven is nirvana—absolute quietude—where even thought is not required. In smoking opium a man reclines, he can talk to his neighbour, he slowly imbibes, and his senses are gradually soothed. It is a beau ideal way of indulging in a luxury. If to take opium it were necessary to stand up it would never have become popular in China.

13. At the present time 30 per cent. of the smokers take opium to ease their cough in consumption, and to help them in other diseases. The remaining 70 per cent. smoke because they are vicious. I have never heard of its being taken as a preventative against fever. I do not believe the English doctors in this region at least ever prescribe it as a cure for that disease.

14. Very many do, but for the reason given under No. 10, few ever realise their desire.

15. In travelling in the interior and preaching to heathen audiences the missionary is continually being twitted with the charge that his practice is not consistent with his teaching. They say that his countrymen having brought opium to destroy the Chinese, he is so far involved in their wrong. The masses know nothing about India, or the exportation of opium from that country to China. They believe it comes from England, and that Englishmen bring it from there to sell for gain, without any regard to the morality of the question at all.

17. The restriction of the Indian opium will result in—

- (a.) The widespread use of native opium.
- (b.) In the more extensive growth of it throughout China.
- (c.) The Chinese authorities at present do not wish to restrict opium. They want the revenue. Let the articles in the English Treaty in regard to this question be repealed, and we shall then see what the honest desires of the Government are. Give China a chance to act without the fear of coming

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Amoy.

in collision with England. It would then have the ability to stop the use of opium throughout the Empire. An absolute Government like the present could in the course of a comparatively short time sweep the whole from the country if it were really in earnest.

J. MACGOWAN.

Amoy,
February 27, 1894.

Rev. J. SADLER.

1. Yes.

2. These answers bear on Chinese. In the cities many men smoke, say, a tenth of adult population. In the near villages fewer. The farther inland the more. A few women smoke, *e.g.*, women in mandarin houses and in brothels. Children seldom. In rich families a few youths play with, and neglected ones.

3. Morals destroyed. A man becomes covetous and deceitful and unreliable. As to the body, the man becomes thin and disinclined to eat, he cannot have regular motions, may go several days without a stool. Sterility is often caused. Families are ruined in every way.

4. Smoking the common. If poor, they will swallow, and if no time to smoke. Swallowing is less agreeable.

5. The great majority are greatly injured; only when very strong and able to get good food is injury lessened.

6. The rule is that those who meddle with it sooner or later become enslaved. Every hurt is suffered, to the selling of wife and children, selling self to slavery, becoming utterly heartless, and even self-murder.

7. All classes smoke. The evils are laziness, late to bed and late up, uncertainty in work. Honest men shirk the smokers, and they are not liked for any employment or for marriage.

8. The mischief of opium is more insidious and more enthralling.

9. Yes. There is more fear of opium.

10. Few, and with enormous difficulty. Illness has often to be met.

11. If the growth were forbidden, good. If not a lessening of Indian opium would probably mean a greater growth and a greater price.

12. Asiatics like it because it suits their tendency to a quiet life.

13. Many through idleness, many through self-indulgence and gay company. It is a relief to rheumatic people and sufferers from intestinal troubles, and from certain private troubles.

14. Many would like to be free, yet feel it is a great need, especially in the difficulty of cure.

15. Yes; especially would the non-smokers rejoice; they suffer in endless ways.

16. Every class are said to use Indian opium. Only the poor buy the inferior. Eight-tenths used is said to be Indian. The smokers yearly increase. It is only through native growth that price of Indian opium is not increased.

17.—(a.) It would be dearer, and thus less used.

(b.) But more would be grown.

(c.) The Government must "grin and bear it" so far as the people are concerned.

18. Can only say it seems to be everywhere on the increase.

J. SADLER.

HU LI YÜAN.

1. Yes.

2. Male, about one-tenth of the population. Women, few. Children, none.

3.—(1.) Physical. (2.) No distinction. (3.) Indian opium stronger.

4. Smoke. Never eat. Sometimes drink to commit suicide.

5.—(i.) One or two out of 10. (ii.) 80 per cent. (iii.) 1 or 2 per cent.

6.—(a.) Very correct. (b.) Few cases. Impossible to give. (c.) Cases few. Impossible to give.

7. Yes. Effect, weak and lazy. Impossible to give.

8. Opium worse.

9. More injurious than degrading. Opium habit worse.

10. Yes, but very few.

11. Effect immaterial. Resort to Chinese opium. No. No.

12. None, because they consider it degrading, but Chinamen not.

13. Generally as a matter of pleasure and refreshment.

14. Sometimes.

15. Yes, among the literary class.

16. In all the Treaty Ports and their neighbourhood. Competition equal.

17. Consequences (a) less; (b) more; (c) cannot answer.

18. Impossible to give.

19. Impossible to answer.

20. None.

Answers unsigned. Sent in by Hu Li Yüan, interpreter to the Intendant of Amoy district.

R. WILLIS,

Assistant, H.B.M. Consulate.

PAGODA ISLAND.

H.M. Vice-Consulate,
Pagoda Island,

March 2, 1894.

SIR,

In accordance with instructions received from Her Majesty's Minister in Peking, I have the honour to inclose herewith a paper by Dr. Underwood, medical practitioner in this district, containing answers to the questions regarding opium consumption in China, put by the Royal Commission on Opium. To these answers, which, generally speaking, I agree with, I will add a few remarks.

The word "consumer" seems to give opening for variety in statements of opinion according as the word is understood. "Consumers" may be divided into three well-defined classes, those who only smoke occasionally as on a festive occasion, those who smoke regularly but in small quantities, and those who have contracted what is called the "yin" or craving. Dr. Underwood seems to refer to the last class only when he says that "at least 5 per cent. of the adult males are consumers." I should say that, including the second class, 20 per cent. might be taken as a rough estimate, and, including all three, nearly 50 per cent. It is only on the class that have contracted the craving that bad effects are produced, and, as the doctor says, these effects are often greatly due to the fact the smoker is obliged to reduce his regular food in consequence of his having spent the money that he should have bought it with on opium.

As a rule, labourers and artisans are more given to the habit than shopkeepers.

With regard to Question 8, I do not think that any comparison can be instituted between the use of opium and alcohol by the Chinese. Although it is possible, as Dr. Underwood says, that they get drunk oftener than they are supposed to, it is quite evident that they have no natural impulse towards alcohol such as drives Europeans to the habit. A parallel impulse may exist with them towards opium, but, as yet, it has not shown itself productive of anything like such disastrous effects as that towards alcohol has in the West.

I have, &c.

OCT. JOHNSON,
Vice-Consul.

Dr. UNDERWOOD.

1. Yes.

2. The consumption of opium has increased here during the last six years, owing to the drug being cheaper and the officials less strict in suppressing its sale. It is difficult to give an average, but I should say that at least 5 per cent. of the adult males are consumers. Only a very few old women take it, and it is never given to children except perhaps in case of sickness.

3. The effects of opium on the consumer depend very much on his social position, means, and the quantity taken. If he is able to live well, and smokes a good quality of the drug in moderation, tolerance is established; it seems to affect him very little in any way, but there is undoubtedly a tendency to increase the dose. On the other hand, if a man is poor, and stints his food and other necessities to enable him to buy opium, he naturally becomes weak and emaciated. He is less inclined to exert himself, works slower, and is not considered so trustworthy generally as a non-smoker. Personally an opium-smoker is usually a quiet, inoffensive individual; it does not arouse the fiercer passions, and one seldom hears of a confirmed one being a wife-beater, a gambler, or a frequenter of the brothel. The evil, socially, arises from the habit causing a man to neglect his business, and thus bring poverty on himself and family. The Chinese opium is objected to by smokers on account of its disagreeable smell and taste, and it is always mixed, in some proportion, with the Indian article. The effects of the two kinds are the same, but the Indian is much stronger and less does. I have no experience of opium-smoking in any other race except the Chinese.

4. Consumers nearly always smoke the opium, although in some rare cases they eat it, when it is much more injurious to the digestive and secreting organs generally. It is not used in a liquid form.

5. It is difficult to say how many can use opium without injury, but I consider that more than half the consumers do so. At first sight, to foreign medical men, the number of "sots" appears large in proportion, because they are the only consumers who are likely to be brought to his notice. He is never, as a rule, consulted by the moderate smokers, who are in the majority.

6. Many Chinamen use opium in moderation without harm to themselves. I know a Tingchai or office-boy who has, to my knowledge, smoked opium for 14 years, during which he has been in the same situation, and still continues to give satisfaction to his employer. A Chinese gentleman with whom I am acquainted about six years ago was suffering from severe chronic diarrhoea of a nervous character, which both foreign and native medicines failed to cure. Amongst other things he informed me he took four teaspoonfuls of chlorodyne daily. His friends advised him to try smoking opium, with the result that he recovered in a very short time. He has had no relapse, and has gained 30 lbs. in weight. He has continued the habit and now smokes twice daily. This gentleman holds a good position in the Chinese service, is very able in his profession, a good linguist, and is highly esteemed by his own people and the foreigners who know him. There are many Chinamen one meets who smoke moderately, and yet one may never learn they do so except by accident. On the other hand, it is not difficult to recollect cases of Chinese who have fallen victims to over-indulgence in the habit, because, as I have already mentioned, these are the ones most likely to be forced under one's observation. I attended lately a Chinese gentleman who was formerly a very able draughtsman. He had smoked opium for 20 years, and it affected his working powers so much that his wages were reduced. He continued to increase the amount consumed, and finally became very poor. Two months ago he was seized with an attack of pneumonia, of which he died on the fifth day, and no doubt the fact of his being a smoker told against him by reducing his physical strength.

7. A number of labourers, merchants, and artisans in this place smoke opium, but certainly not the majority of them. The opium-consuming and other artisans and labourers here are less liable to meet with accidents while at work than the corresponding class in England who indulge in alcohol; but this may be partly due to the more cautious and slower nature of the Chinese people. There is a large Government dockyard at this port where, at one time, 3,000 hands

were employed, but now the number is less. The usual work in such places is carried on, and some 33 gunboats and other men-of-war have been turned out. Yet serious accidents amongst the men have been extremely rare in the 14 years I have known the place, certainly not more than one a year, and I cannot recall a case where the injured man has died, so comparatively slight have the accidents been. If the proportion of workmen who take opium indulged in alcohol instead I think it may be safely said that the number of accidents would have been much greater. Workmen who consume opium are not considered to be so active as they who do not. Nearly all the coasting steamers carry Chinese firemen, and for some reason the majority of them do consume opium. The captains of many of the home-trading steamers prefer these firemen on account of their being quieter, less quarrelsome, more amenable to discipline, and less liable to get drunk than Europeans.

8. The Chinese drink native wine, or samshoo, but they seldom become habitual drunkards, although they do get drunk much oftener than many foreigners suppose, but they do so quietly at home. If a man should be found drunk and incapable in the streets, with no friends to protect him, he is liable to be robbed by the passers by. A drunken Chinaman is a much more objectionable individual to meet with than one under the influence of opium. Young natives are more likely to be rude to foreigners when in this state; they are bolder, and have less self-control, and are more inclined to be quarrelsome and aggressive. Opium, on the contrary, has a soothing influence on the consumer, he becomes less active, quieter, and better tempered.

9. The Chinese in conversation condemn generally the habit of opium-smoking, and they are always more or less ashamed to confess that they indulge in it. They also nearly always understate the quantity they consume. A man's family will object to his smoking because it was his substance, which they rightly consider should be spent in other ways. Besides it may lead to his neglecting his work, losing his situation, and thus land them in poverty and want. All the Chinese I have spoken with on the subject agree in saying that it is less degrading to drink wine as they do than to smoke opium, but they are totally unacquainted amongst themselves with the aggravated forms of alcoholism that occur in Europe.

10. Yes; but I do not think in very great numbers, unless compelled to do so by circumstances.

11. If the importation of Indian opium were stopped consumers here would feel the deprivation very acutely at first. Some moderate smokers and new beginners might give up the habit rather than use the unpalatable native stuff, but the greater number would try and console themselves with it. I do not think they would resort to alcohol to any great extent, as it does not suit the quiet, contemplative nature of the people. They do not care for any foreign drinks except sweet champagne, liqueurs, and port. But there is a great danger that they might take to the morphia habit and the hypodermic syringe. Last year it was found in the colony of Hong Kong that some men were doing a thriving business by keeping shops where they injected a solution of morphia into the native coolies at two or three cents a head. The Hong Kong Government has now made this illegal, but it might readily be introduced into China by unscrupulous Chinese or even foreigners anxious to make money, and the custom might be very extensively adopted by the people before the Chinese Government took steps to stop it. There would be the risk of spreading other blood diseases with the syringe as well as the morphia habit. There is little doubt that the consumption of tobacco would be greatly increased if the Indian supply of opium were stopped.

12. Europeans very seldom contract the habit of smoking opium in China, but I know of one case. It does not suit an active race, the having to lie in a recumbent position, the troublesome preparations and time it requires make Europeans averse to it. The subsequent headache which foreigners that have tried it complain of is not to be forgotten. The Chinese have very few social amusements compared with foreigners, such as reading, music, sports, and the like. Life is dull and materialistic to them, and their homes are uncomfortable and squalid, especially so in wet weather. It assists for the time to make their surroundings bearable. It warms them in cold weather, checks the pangs of hunger, and makes them "feel good." Then there is the force of example and custom.

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13. Opium-consumers begin to use the drug very often in the same way that European boys learn to smoke tobacco. The young are curious to try it. Friends meeting together and having nothing to do often smoke a pipe to pass the time. After a Chinese dinner it is a very common custom to offer a pipe to the guests. Some begin to take it because they are worried or in pain. I do not know if it is taken as a prophylactic, but it is very much used for rheumatism and pain generally. One can see any day on the street natives with opium plasters on the face for neuralgic pains. Quinine is preferred by the people here for fever.

14. Yes; many of the older smokers do. I have been consulted, for instance, by an official who wished to regain his virile power, which the continued use of opium destroys.

15. I believe the common people are perfectly indifferent on the subject. The better educated know that it takes away a great deal of money which they would like to see retained in their own country, and I have heard some of them express a desire to see the importation stopped.

16. Indian opium is usually consumed by the wealthier classes only on account of its cost. Chinese cannot compete with Indian opium, except amongst the poorest class of consumers. It has to be mixed with Indian.

17.—(a.) It will decrease the consumption at first. (b.) It will lead to increased cultivation in China, and probably they may try to improve the quality of their own drug. I have heard an educated Chinaman suggest that Indian natives, well acquainted with the cultivation of the poppy, should be introduced into China to instruct the Chinese growers, in much the same way as the Chinese showed them the method of preparing tea. (c.) To make up the deficit the Chinese Government would most probably increase the tax on native opium.

20. It is probable that the increased consumption of opium in this immediate district, as shown by the greater number of shops, may, in addition to the reasons given, be partly due to the constant employment of a large number of hands on the construction of a new graving dock which is being made by the Government.

J. J. UNDERWOOD, M.B., C.M., L.R.C.S.E.,
Medical attendant to H.B.M. Vice-
Consulate, Pagoda Island.

Hoihow.

HOIHOW.

Kiungchow (Hoihow).

March 6, 1894.

Mr. E. H. Parker (H.M. Consul) presents his compliments to the Secretary of the Royal Commission on Opium and begs to forward his own and the only other replies obtainable (within the limit of time given) to the series of printed questions transmitted through Mr. O'Connor.

The 10 European officers in Chinese employ here decline to make answers without Sir Robert Hart's consent, and Mr. O'Connor was informed of this by telegraph over a week ago. One missionary is sending his replies to the Anti-Opium Society. The others are either new arrivals or are up country.

Consul PARKER.

1. Yes; all nine provinces I know.
2. Average, perhaps 30 per cent. Women, only prostitutes, say, 2 per mille. Children, never.
3. Moral and social, no harm. Physical, deterioration in staying powers. Effect same on all. Indian effects greater.
4. Smoke, never drink. Eat when they cannot smoke. Cannot distinguish; know nothing of eating-drinking effects.
5. 50 per cent.; 49 per cent. (conjecture).
6. Yes. (1.) My official servant here. (2.) The late comprador, Shanghai Consulate. Both steady smokers and brainy men. Never saw great injury with own eyes.

7. Nowhere a majority, except perhaps Sz ch'wan. No bad effect on merchants or artisans beyond waste of money and (perhaps) time. Chair and boat coolies lose time and staying powers.

8. No abuse of alcohol in China. In rare cases, where rich men or soldiers drink too much, they quarrel, which opium-smokers do not.

9. Yes. They know nothing of alcohol habit. To get drunk is a complimentary act to the host, on a par with gorging and eructating. No disgrace. The magistrate of this city got dead drunk in this house on the Queen's birthday as a compliment to my predecessor, and I have known other similar cases; it is no habit, and does no harm in their eyes.

10. Yes. They are obliged to when in our prisons. But voluntary act is hard.

11. They would move heaven and earth to get it, and not resort to kinds they did not like until absolutely forced. They would certainly not take alcohol, and most positively not abstain altogether.

12. Never heard of any but French in Tonquin. It is so serious there that officials have just been officially warned. Asiatics have fewer distractions, never take exercise, are never pressed for time, are more stay-at-home, &c., &c.

13.—(1.) For company. (3.) To assuage pain, and, it is thought, keep off malaria. I know nothing of it except that I once tried a pipe.

14. Yes, if they have an object. Not, if not.

15. None but officials know much about it, and with officials the cry is generally clap-trap. The Governor of this island, who has just left, was a heavy smoker, and has been superseded for joining the Chinese Consul-General at Singapore (who is a confidant of the Chinese Minister in London) to defraud the opium revenue and put \$20,000 in his own pocket. The Chinese Consul-General has been forced by the Singapore Government to disgorge \$35,000 of opium revenue squeezed. The previous Governor of this island wrote to me once (quite irrelevantly) upbraiding England for selling opium; but he was a furious anti-foreign man, and I told him to mind his own business. The present Viceroy at Nanking is a heavy opium-smoker.

16. All classes. Coast provinces. Where the two are readily obtainable Chinese drives Indian almost utterly away.

17.—(a.) None whatever. (b.) Immediate extension. (c.) Disastrous.

18. No. But with my own eyes I have seen the whole country covered with it in Sz Ch'wan; to a less extent in Kweichow, Fuh Kien, and Chêh Kiang. I estimate the Chinese out-turn at not under 100,000 piculs. But this is mere conjecture.

19. Over 1,000,000 a year. For exact amount consult published Customs Reports. The taxation on native opium is evaded, falsified, and persistently opposed by the local officials, most of whom are bribed by those interested, and put as much as possible of what they collect into their own pockets.

20. No. But I may observe that I have published a book called "Chinese Account of the Opium War;" also one called "Chinese Intercourse with Europe." I sent both to the Foreign Office in 1891, and they can also be purchased at Kelly, Walsh, & Co.'s in China. I have also published a book called "Up the Yangtse," which describes opium-growing provinces. This can also be purchased at Kelly, Walsh, & Co.'s.

E. H. PARKER,
Consul.

Kiungchow, March 2, 1894.

Mr. JÜDELL.

1. Yes, it is very commonly used.
2. In towns about 50 per cent. of the male adults smoke opium; in the country 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. Women very rarely smoke; children never.
3. When smoked in moderation, opium-smoking does not seem to have any deleterious effects, and neither moral, physical, or social changes are noticeable. I have only come into contact with Chinese opium-smokers, and cannot say whether the effects are different with regard to other races. Indian opium being much stronger, if therefore smoked in excess, the effects are sooner noticeable.

4. It is chiefly smoked in these parts. If eaten, it is heated, made into pills, and taken with tea, congee (rice water), or hot water. I have not noticed any difference in the effects if smoked or eaten. If eaten, smaller quantities suffice, and it is taken to economise.

5.—(i.) 80 per cent. ; (ii.) 15 per cent. ; (iii.) 5 per cent.

6. I know any number of Chinese who have smoked opium in moderation for quite a number of years. I know that a Ting Chai in the service of the H.B.M. Consul has smoked opium to rather a large extent since 1876, and is an excellent servant. One of my own employees has been smoking for many years in moderation, and I have not noticed any change in him, although he seems to have only a feeble constitution.

7. Yes, all classes smoke opium. In most cases it does not prevent them from doing their work properly.

8. It is by no means so deleterious as the abuse of alcohol.

9. No, not unless a man becomes a perfect opium sot. A man who takes often alcohol in excess is much more looked down upon than a man who indulges too much in opium.

10. I have known a few cases where people have gradually given up smoking opium. It was, however, only taken by them in moderation before.

11. They would take to Chinese opium. They would neither resort to alcohol or other narcotics, nor abstain altogether. When I arrived here in 1876 hardly any native drug was smoked here. Now at least one-half of the opium consumed is Chinese-grown.

12. Europeans in China do rarely contract the habit. They use alcohol as a stimulant. In Tonquin, among the French people quite a number have taken to opium, and it is becoming quite a curse there. I believe that Asiatics take easier to opium-smoking, because they are a quieter set of people, not so much given to conviviality and any noisy kind of entertainment, which alcohol almost invariably produces.

13. Very much the same way as Europeans and others take to tobacco. Curiosity may also have a good deal to do with it. Many Chinese believe in the opium pipe as being a preventative against fever and malaria.

14. No ; I only once came into contact with a petty military official, who wanted to get rid of the habit. He was a very heavy smoker, and suffered from the effects ; was also mentioning that it cost him too much money. I did not hear whether he was cured.

15. They never express a wish to this effect either one way or the other.

16. Indian opium is only smoked purely by the wealthier classes. Most of the consumers mix it to a large extent with Chinese-grown opium.

17.—(a) Opium will be just as much consumed as hitherto ; (b) there will probably be more cultivation of the poppy and opium production in China ; (c) naturally the Chinese Government will derive a larger revenue from Chinese-grown opium.

18. No cultivation of the poppy takes place here. The opium used comes from Tunvan Szechuen, and of late also from Kow Chow (Kwang Tsing).

19. I am unable to give any answer on this point.

20. I believe that the habit of opium-smoking prevents, to a certain extent, Chinese from drinking alcoholic stimulants. I have noticed often that as soon as a Chinese began smoking he invariably refused to take alcoholic drinks, and have been told that alcohol disagrees with opium-smoking.

(Signed) L. JÜDELL.

Hoihow, 6th March 1894.

Mr. Jüdel is the oldest resident.

Rev. C. JEREMIASSEN.

Kiangchow, Island of Hainan,
March 8, 1894.

1 Opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese throughout the various parts of China which I have visited during my 25 years of experience and residence, from Hainan, the south-western part of the Chinese Empire, to Newchang, the north-western part.

2 and 3. The proportion of those who use opium varies very much, from 3 or 4 to 95 per cent. Generally only women of the lowest class (prostitutes) and of the highest class use it. In two towns in the interior of

Hainan, which I have visited several times, out of the 80 families of which the town consists there cannot be found one family in which some member does not smoke opium. This is on the authority of a well-to-do man, who had come to me to be treated for the habit, a resident of the town, and is also confirmed by the testimonies of those of our missionaries who have visited the place. The general estimate of smokers in this town is from one to five in each family, and my informant also testified that he had seen children of one or two years of age who, while they could not smoke themselves, would lay down beside their parents on the opium-couch, the opium being administered by blowing the smoke from the pipe into the child's mouth, the child swallowing it. This man had smoked opium since he was 17. He is now 45. He was not so emaciated as most opium-smokers are, being a man of means who could afford to live well. You should have seen the change in this man, morally, physically, and socially, after three months. He had been a dirty, filthy, and morally-destroyed opium-smoker, but is now clean and decent. His self-respect has returned. A friend meeting him who had not seen him since he stopped smoking did not recognise him, so great was the change. What a man he would have been had he never taken to the opium pipe? He is of course still weak in body, and will no doubt never recover fully from the injury to his system. In the town mentioned above the demoralising and deadening effect is seen in all its darkness, and is most clearly shown in the children. The death-rate among children is very great. The people being partly blind to the true cause (opium), ascribe it to climatic influences.

4. In this island opium is only consumed by smoking, but in some parts of China the morphine habit has been of late years increasing at a most alarming rate, occasioning much discussion, and in Hong Kong legislative measures.

5. The overwhelming evidence at home and abroad of the baneful and awful effects of opium ought to be sufficient to give the death-blow to so indefensible a traffic—a traffic truly described as “providing a revenue for India out of the blood of Chinamen.” By Act of Parliament opium has been declared a poison, and its use is limited under severe restrictions. How can that which has been declared a poison in England and civilised countries generally, and which not less than one thousand missionaries in India, fifteen hundred missionaries, and the entire Christian church (50,000) in China, five thousand medical men in Great Britain, have declared a poison, and stamped as morally and physically debasing ; how can it be stated to be harmless to the Chinese? With this overwhelming evidence, is it still possible to believe in the sincerity of those who say that opium used in moderation is not injurious? We must declare the traffic as wicked and indefensible, and as the nation has declared it a poison, it ought also to prohibit the growth and manufacture, except to supply the need for medical purposes.

7 and 16. It is smoked by all classes, and it affects each and all in a greater or less degree. We have had workmen and teachers who were very efficient before taking to opium-smoking, but who had to be dismissed as almost useless, untrustworthy, and unfit for the least physical or mental exertion. Officials, merchants, and persons in general are wholly demoralised and ruined by the misuse of this otherwise efficient drug. Persons, high and low in rank, come to us to consult concerning breaking off the habit, as they all see how, sooner or later, it must work its deadly effects. Chair-bearers are nearly all opium-smokers, and experience has taught us never, if possible, to engage opium-smokers, but to take non-smokers, who are in every way more satisfactory.

8 and 9. The opium habit is condemned by all persons alike, smokers and non-smokers. I have never met a Chinaman who did not acknowledge its low and degrading effects, its ruining the health, and lowering the social standing. Those who smoke generally, when asked, deny it, the answer often given in a hurt and shame-faced manner. But if told by certain undeniable signs that he does use the drug, his answer is, “I sometimes play a little with it” (a common Chinese expression). Wine (alcohol) is used by the Chinese, but no one would think of denying it, for it is not considered an evil.

13. Having had an extensive practice in malarial and fever regions, I positively deny that opium is a

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prophylactic against fever or malaria. The therapeutic value is well known, and does not need discussion. Opium-smoking is sometimes taken up as a remedy in certain diseases, but more generally it is considered in the same way as people in England take to smoking tobacco. The evil has, however, now become so firmly rooted in some places that it may be considered a social evil. The cup of tea presented to the visitor is in a fair way to be surpassed by the opium pipe. Now very often visitors are invited to what is known as a social smoke, and in this way contract the habit.

15. The time given (10 days) is very inadequate for preparing a reply for so great and important a subject, but I hope at no distant time to send you directly the opinion of the natives in reply to Question 15 and others.

17. It is difficult to say what will be the probable consequences of the prohibition of the export of Indian opium, but one thing is certain, that it will, at least to some extent, erase the just reproach of the Chinese. It will show that England is a true Christian nation, with a faithful Christian principle, and does not desire to live on the life-blood of semi-civilised nations. The duty and honour of the nation which claims that "the Bible is the secret cause of its greatness," together with the commandment of the Book, "Do unto others as we wish it to be done to ourselves," demands it.

20. The friends of opium have no intention of encouraging or making it more easy for their wife, children, or friends to use the fascinating drug, for they now more carefully than ever seek to restrict as extremely dangerous for Britishers, but contend that it is by no means a dangerous drug to the Chinese. I have only during about half of my residence in China been a missionary, and therefore have seen the opium question from various view-points. I remember the time quite well when, like others, in my ignorance might have been ready to say that not much mischief is done by opium-smoking, and that very few people are smokers. Opium dens and opium-smoking are not paraded as the drinking saloons and public-houses, nay, on the contrary, they are in the darkness, and would not be noticed by an occasional observer, or one who is not introduced to real Chinese life. Most persons who proclaim opium harmless do so really because they are ignorant on the subject. As a missionary, I have on my travels, and among the sick in the hospital, met face to face with the dreadful calamity and misery caused by opium, and as an eye-witness of all the horrors of opium, pray that the Commission will do their utmost to erase this great evil, with its attending destruction of human life.

(Signed) CARL C. JEREMIASSEN.

Mr. Jeremiassen is a Danish missionary, once in the out-door staff of the Customs, with great experience of Hainan.

H.B.M. CONSUL, Hoihow.

I heartily agree to the views and statements here made by Mr. C. C. Jeremiassen.

(Signed) P. W. MCCLINTOCK.

Mr. McClintock is a young American missionary who has been a year in China (Hainan).

H.B.M. CONSUL, Hoihow.

I believe that Mr. Jeremiassen has rather under-estimated than over-estimated the evil effects of opium-smoking.

(Signed) CHAS. S. TENILL, M.D.

Mr. Tenill is a qualified medical man (United States) who has spent two years in Persia and six months in China (Hainan).

H.B.M. CONSUL, Hoihow.

Korea,

CHEMULPO.

H.M. Vice-Consulate,

Sir, Chemulpo, Corea, March 1, 1894.

UNDER instructions from Her Majesty's Minister I have the honour to enclose a reply to the questions put by the Royal Commission on Opium regarding opium consumption in China.

I have, &c.

W. H. WILKINSON,
Acting Vice-Consul.

Vice-Consul WILKINSON.

It should be premised that opium, except medicinal opium, is contraband in Corea. When any portions of the drug or the implements used in smoking it are discovered by the officers of the Korean Customs, these are seized and confiscated. Nevertheless opium does find its way into the country, smuggled, it is said, chiefly with the aid or connivance of the crews of Chinese men-of-war. Englishmen, and indeed foreigners at large, have nothing to do with it. The smugglers are all Chinese, and, as I am informed by the Commissioner of Customs at this port, the opium hitherto seized has been all Chinese-grown, and not Indian opium.

The majority of the Chinese settlers in Chemulpo (and in Corea generally) come from the neighbouring province of Shantung. The information obtained as to the habits and opinions of the Chinese here in regard to the consumption of opium would appear, therefore, to occupy part of the ground more fitly to be covered by Her Majesty's Consul at Chefoo.

From replies to certain of the questions of Her Majesty's Commissioners kindly furnished to me by Dr. Landis, an American physician in charge of the English Church Mission Hospital here, it will be seen that a proportion of Koreans are becoming addicted to the consumption of opium. It should, by the way, be borne in mind when considering the report of Dr. Landis that he, in common with all hospital physicians in the far East, sees necessarily only the worst phases of the practice and its results.

1. Dr. Landis affirms that at Chemulpo "opium is consumed to quite a large extent by the Chinese, and by a smaller but increasing number of Koreans." In the ports of China at which I have myself been stationed, Swatow, Amoy, Tamsai, Foochow, Wenchow, Ningpo, Hankow, and in Peking, its consumption is accepted as a matter of course. By this I mean that each of those places is admitted to contain a considerable proportion of consumers. I have not heard during my 14 years' residence in China of any part of the country of which much the same statement could not be made. If, however, by "commonly" is meant "by a majority," then I should not venture to make this assertion of any province except Szechuan, though I believe it to be true of many other districts, notably South Chekiang.

2. Dr. Landis replies: "Between 80 and 100 Koreans in Chemulpo, and at least two-fifths of the Chinese males consume opium." At Wenchow in 1892 I was informed by a reliable authority that 60 per cent. of the males, and 30 to 40 per cent. of the females smoked the drug. I have never heard of children smoking unless it be in seats of native luxury and vice, such as Shanghai or Peking. It is not usual to begin the practice before the age of 18 or 19.

3. "The effect of opium on the Koreans," says Dr. Landis, "is more decided than on the Chinese. It ruins morally and physically at least 90 per cent. of all Koreans who use it. The ruin caused among the Chinese is not so great, but yet it is extensive." The Korean is more lethargic than the Chinaman, and of less tough fibre. Among the Chinese of Shantung it is estimated (by themselves) that 70 per cent. are injured morally by the practice. Physically, they declare, about the same number become attenuated; some 10 per cent. remain unaffected, while the rest (20 per cent.) are the better—at any rate the stouter—for it. With regard to the different effects of the Indian and China drugs, I am informed that a smoker for three years of the former would require three months at the least to break himself of the habit, whereas a smoker of the latter could do so in one month. Indian is however universally regarded as the better, purer, as well as more potent, variety.

4. Dr. Landis answers that "opium is only consumed by smoking." A Chinaman, however, having upon him the yin or craving will occasionally mix opium with water and so drink it. It is never (that I am aware) eaten by the Chinese. The drinking of opium is regarded as worse than the smoking of it, as it is almost impossible to break off the habit.

5. Dr. Landis refers in his reply to Question 3. My Chinese informant (a Shantung man) states (i.) 3 per cent. to 4 per cent.; (ii.) 20 per cent.; (iii.) 76 per cent. or 77 per cent. In the entire absence of reliable statistics I should say that the proportions he gives are very wide indeed of the mark. At Wenchow

opium is offered as a matter of course at official dinners, and is a constant accompaniment of all large mercantile bargainings. I have never yet even seen an opium "sot," but if the proportions here alleged were true, one-half of the male population of Wenchow would be "sots," and three-fourths of those of Western China. In taking the evidence of natives in responsible or respectable positions very large allowances must be made, for (a.) the effect of the old fulminations against opium [due primarily to the dread of the drain of silver from the country] has not yet evaporated; (b.) it is a fact that an opium-smoker is, by reason of the thefts he is tempted to commit to raise the means for smoking, less trusted than a non-smoker. Hence Chinamen in the employment of others (particularly of foreigners) are tempted to paint the practice in the darkest possible colours, so that they may not themselves be suspected of addiction to it.

6. Says Dr. Landis: "I have never seen a single case of 'moderation' in the use of opium. The ultimate end is the same in every case which I have seen, although the rapidity of the course varies. During last year there were 15 cases of attempted suicide by opium, in 14 of which the unfortunate people were opium *habitués* who had been made desperate by inability to get rid of the habit, or by having no means to purchase the drug. The 14 cases were all Corean." I would draw attention to Dr. Landis's last sentence. The Corean has not the stamina to resist (or rather, to successfully practice) vice, possessed by the Chinaman. As regards the latter I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that there must be a very large number of cases of "moderation." If time allowed, particulars could easily be collected. My amah's father, she tells me, a Kiangsu man, was a Chinese doctor and an habitual smoker. Her mother used to prepare the drug, which in this way cost her father \$4 a month, as against the \$8 he would have had to pay at a divan. He was always a strong hearty man in appearance, and died at what in China is reckoned the respectable age of 63. My boy is well acquainted with a man of 40, who has smoked continuously for 17 years and is none the worse for it. His custom was to confine himself to one mace a day, and so on. On the other hand there have been no doubt a very large number of instances of great injury. None of these have passed under my personal observation, whereas from the nature of the case they would be precisely those which would most fall under the notice of a medical missionary.

7. Dr. Landis: "Among the Chinese here the *habitués* are chiefly from the labouring classes and petty shopkeepers, probably because they constitute the greater part of the Chinese population. Among the Corean consumers are numbered chiefly merchants and those who come in contact with the Chinese. It eventually in all cases renders them unfit for business, and so leads them to their ruin. Example: Hong, a prosperous and well-to-do merchant, and a good Chinese scholar, having a good business, was persuaded by a Chinaman to take a few whiffs of opium for indigestion. He gradually took more and more and finally neglected his business, and is now ruined and practically a beggar, though he should be in the prime of life, as he is only 34." In Shantung only three or four per mille of the agricultural labourers smoke (they are very poor and opium is dear), but some 20 per cent. to 30 per cent. of the merchants, 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. of the artisans, and 50 per cent. and upwards of the officials and their underlings. As regards the artisans, says my Chinese informant, their efficiency is not affected; they lose money because they lose time and have to buy the opium. Among merchants the practice, he affirms, is positively advantageous, for a pipe much facilitates business transactions. It keeps the seller's head clear and soothes the bargainer, who will deal more readily where he shares a pipe of opium than where only tea is taken.

8. Dr. Landis: "The effects of opium on Coreans cannot be compared with the effects of alcohol," which is rather vague. Abuse of alcohol is rare among the Chinese, but exceedingly common among the Coreans.

9. "Almost all Coreans," says Dr. Landis, "except those that come from the borders of China, regard opium with horror, and its importation and sale are forbidden by the Treaties, although the Chinese smuggle it in large quantities, chiefly through

"Chinese bluejackets. The opium habit is regarded as ruinous, while the alcohol habit is not." In China a certain sentiment of letters and art is associated with the wine (or rather, the samshoo) cup, whereas, as I have already said, the echoes of past fulminations against those who would barter the goodly silver of the cultured land for the dirty drugs of the outer barbarian, have not yet quite died away. Hence in China as well as in Corea, opium-smoking is spoken of as less respectable than dram-drinking. An opium-smoker is not, however, at any great pains to conceal the fact (I met one carrying his pipe yesterday) — a sufficient proof of the real drift of public opinion.

10. "Opium consumers are very rarely broken of their habit. In China cases, I believe, do occur, but in Corea I have not yet met with any who have broken themselves. This, however, may probably be due to the fact that the number of *habitués* has scarcely as yet reached a hundred." My Chinaman estimates the number of those who break themselves of the habit at 4 to 5 per cent. It should be remembered that a very large proportion do not honestly desire to break themselves any more than did the toppers of Whitfield's time.

11. "This does not," says Dr. Landis, "refer to Corea, as the opium is smuggled into the country." The doctor's idea evidently is that as the Chinese here provide themselves with opium, despite all Treaties and prohibition, they would contrive to provide themselves with the drug, even were Indian sources dammed. As a matter of fact, all but a very insignificant proportion of the opium smoked by Shantung men does not come from India, but from Ss'u-ch'uan, Shansi, and Manchuria. The stoppage of the Indian opium trade would have no noticeable effect on Shantung consumption.

12. Europeans do not contract the habit in China or Corea in any numbers. I have only heard of one case — a barkeeper. Dr. Landis can give no medical reason why they should not; and my Chinaman's theory that "the hearts of Europeans are more even," their dispositions less flighty than those of the Chinese, is I fear, far too flattering. It is not because opium-smoking is a solitary rather than a social vice, for in Wenchow non-smokers often find pleasure in attending opium divans. Among Asiatics Japanese rarely contract the habit.

13. "Coreans," says Dr. Landis, "are led to contract the habit by the Chinese, who recommend it for petty sicknesses, usually giving it gratis for the first few times and afterwards selling it to them. Opium, in my opinion, is not a prophylactic against any disease." My Chinese informant says that the habit is usually acquired in houses of ill-fame; but I should venture to differ from him in this, and from Dr. Landis in his view of its uselessness as a prophylactic. By the testimony of all travellers in Western China its use enables coolies to undergo labour which would otherwise be impossible for them, and it is accepted (it may be, of course, without warrant) by the Chinese generally as in moderation a defence, if not a cure, for stomach troubles.

14. Dr. Landis "has never met with an *habitué* who has not desired to get rid of the habit." My Chinaman affirms that 80 per cent. wish to do so, but in my opinion very considerable deductions should be made from both statements. A Chinaman, and to a very large extent a Corean, will always tell a foreigner on whom he is in any way dependent that which he imagines the foreigner desires to hear; moreover, Dr. Landis' informants were patients who, ex hypothesi, desired to get rid of the habit. One-half the total number of smokers may have a genuine desire to abstain, but hardly, I think, more than one-half.

15. The Shantung Chinese are absolutely indifferent. Even popular legend in China does not generally endorse your Justin McCarthy's amazing assertion that England forced opium on China, while careful native historians, such as the author of the "Shêng Wu Chi," record that "it was the closing of trade, and not the forced surrender of the opium, that brought on the Canton War [1840-2], the events leading up to which were the objections, generally, to sign away the lives of opium traders, and, specifically, to deliver up the homicide." [See S. H. Parker, "Pagoda Library," No. 1, p. 38.] Of course, polemical writers are as glad in China as in England to make out, at any cost to truth, a case against their successful opponents.

16. Indian opium is consumed almost entirely by the wealthy classes. The question of the competition between it and native opium has been dealt with care-

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fully in the volume of "Decennial Reports," lately issued by the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs. Speaking generally, the tendency is to restrict the consumption of Indian opium to the Treaty Ports, and a few large centres of trade or luxury, and to confine it there to the rich or spendthrift class.

17. Almost certainly the prohibition or restriction of the export of Indian opium would

- (a) not, after a few months, affect consumption, for
- (b) the production of opium in China, Persia, and Turkey would be increased; while
- (c) the Chinese Government would proceed more openly than even now to raise excise from the native drug, and at the same time, owing to the weakness of Persia and Turkey, to impose as much duty and likin on the foreign drug as the trade could stand.

18, 19. I would again refer to the "Decennial Reports," particularly to that on Chungking. I need merely repeat that opium is contraband in Corea, whence China has not only the right but the power to exclude it. Yet those who are pressing it on the Coreans are Chinese only, and the opium they bring was all grown in China.

M. H. WILKINSON,

H.M. Vice-Consulate, Acting Vice-Consul.
Chemulpo, Corea, February 28, 1894.

Formosa.

FORMOSA.

H.M. Consulate,

Tamsui, March 5, 1894.

SIR,

In accordance with instructions from Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith two sets of answers to the paper of questions relating to opium, which I received on the 23rd ultimo. The present opportunity is the first available since that date for despatching them.

I regret that the number of answers is so limited. Tamsui contains at any time but few foreign residents, and at present it happens that their number is unusually reduced. Two gentlemen to whom I applied, including the only resident medical man, begged to be excused, and Dr. Mackay, of the Canadian Mission, whose opinions would have been valuable, as he has an unrivalled knowledge of the island, is absent in Canada, and his substitute is a new comer.

I have, &c.

The Secretary, (Signed) L. C. HOPKINS,
Royal Commission on Opium, Acting Consul.
India.

Consul HOPKINS.

1. Opium is commonly consumed in every part of China in which I have been, including my present post in North Formosa.

2. The following answer applies to this neighbourhood. It is founded on information obtained locally, with much care, mainly from keepers of opium shops, in conversation with my agent, himself an opium consumer. The element of wilful misrepresentation may therefore be eliminated. If by "consumers" it is intended to include occasional as well as habitual smokers, 90 per cent. of the adult male population of this neighbourhood are consumers, and about 16 per cent. of the women, but no children. But if habitual, that is daily, consumers only are meant, the figures will be 33 per cent. for adult males, and about 6 per cent. for women.

3. In answering the first branch of this question I must promise that though it is partly based on personal observation, my opinion is also, in great part, the result of accumulated information, derived from incidents, conversations, and statements, during my residence of nearly 20 years in China, and to that extent is not direct observation.

I think that opium-smoking *per se* has no moral effect one way or the other. But indirectly, with heavy smokers of limited means, it often becomes the temptation to theft. Compared however with the disastrous effects of alcoholic excess, those of opium seem insignificant.

The physical effects of opium-smoking, apart from the temporary stimulus, are of course in proportion to the habitual dose, but these symptoms are the common

ones. Dryness of the eyelids, and of the lining membrane of the nose; falling away in flesh to some extent, and sallowness in complexion; considerable sensitiveness to cold and chill; more or less constipation; some weakening of the powers of endurance, unless aided by a few whiffs of the opium pipe; gradual disinclination to sexual intercourse, and gradual loss also of procreative powers. On the other hand, both mental and physical powers seem to answer well to all ordinary calls, with ordinary smokers, except I think that the call must not be too prolonged. So far as I can see, provided the daily stimulus is given, the effect does not fail, and does not decrease.

The social effect is of more than one kind. Where the smokers are poor and abuse the practice, there must be a certain number constantly falling into acts of dishonesty and becoming generally worthless and hopeless—useless, but not dangerous—members of the community.

Otherwise, the regular opium-smoker is a peaceable and quiet person, disinclined by his habit to take part in stirring or dangerous enterprises, and ranging himself on the side of public law and order.

But the most important element in the social effects of habitual opium-smoking is its tendency to reduce the birth-rate.

Seeing how extremely prolific the Chinese race is, how almost universal early marriage is, and how large is the proportion of those who have to live on, or only just above, the irreducible minimum required to support life, this tendency to check increase of population might be considered beneficial rather than otherwise.

With regard to the question, "Is the effect the same on consumers of each race, &c.," I can only speak of the effect on Chinese with any detail, having known personally only one occidental (an Englishman) who was an habitual opium-smoker, and the circumstances of the case were such as to prevent my alluding to the matter with him.

So far as my experience goes, in other parts of China as well as here, very little Chinese-grown opium is smoked unmixed, but I have never been in the West, which is the great producing area for Chinese opium. I understand that to those who are accustomed to other kinds, Indian, Persian, or Turkey, the Chinese drug is insipid, and a larger quantity is needed to produce the desired results.

4. Smoking is the invariable way of consuming opium here.

5. The answer to this depends on whether occasional smokers are or are not included. Of the very large number of occasional consumers, I should say that practically none receive any injury from such occasional indulgence, probably, indeed, while they remain in that class, some benefit. Coming then to habitual smokers, my answer, based on a careful estimate by Chinese informants, is that of every 100 such habitual smokers, 30 to 35 suffer serious injury; 35 to 30, some, but not grave injury; and 30 no practical injury, this total being made up of 20 who smoke regularly but very lightly, and 10 who derive positive benefit, viz., persons suffering from very serious and wasting complaints.

6. Certainly it is not correct to say that "there cannot be such thing as moderation in the consumption of opium." Not to mention that all occasional smokers, nearly 60 per cent. of the total here, must be considered "moderate" consumers, if we take the class of habitual smokers, about 50 per cent. of their number must be reckoned among the moderate consumers.

Personally, I know of only one case where an opium-smoker has smoked regularly for years without any injury to himself. He is one of the native staff of this Consulate and has for years been suffering from a very serious lung complaint, which causes him to spit blood. He has been examined by three European medical men, Drs. Ringer, Johanson, and Rennie, who took such a grave view of his case that the latter told his friends some six or seven years ago that the sufferer had barely three months to live. He not only lives, however, but works regularly, and his health is no worse now than when condemned to death by the doctors. He lives carefully, smokes very moderately, once in the middle of the day, once at night. I believe that what his friends say is correct, that opium has kept him alive.

No doubt there are many cases of great injury done by excessive smoking, but I have not myself been brought into personal contact with such cases closely enough to describe their features.

My experience and belief is that the majority of regular opium-smokers belong to the class who do receive some injury, but that that injury is usually not very serious, and of such a nature that it may easily escape the detection of any observer unless the latter has unusual opportunities of knowing all the facts, and this cannot often be had. I venture therefore to detail the case of a man who has been in my service for eight years as a body servant, and who has thus been under close daily observation without interruption, except during the time I have been on leave in Europe. He has also in the course of that period told me from time to time those details which I could not possibly have learnt otherwise.

His age is now 42, and he is a well-grown and well-developed man of sound constitution. Even now he has not a single unsound tooth, and ever since he has been with me, has enjoyed almost unbroken good health. He seems to have, for a Chinese, rather highly strung nerves and is more energetic than the average. Thus I often hear him running up stairs, two steps at a time, and his movements are generally brisk and rapid. When he stops opium-smoking, which he has done twice in the above eight years, he at once puts on flesh and gains colour in the face, he being of the ruddy-complexioned Shanghai race. Speaking generally, he is illiterate but very intelligent, willing, and active, has quick observation, and a very good and accurate memory. He married at 19, his first child was born when he was 21, he has three others, the last born in 1884, since which year he has had no more children. He began smoking, at first occasionally only, when he was 24, and has smoked regularly since with the two interruptions mentioned above, but has always been a light smoker. Women were the motive for his beginning the habit. Considers regular opium-smoking a bad habit, because of the expense, because it makes a man sallow and thin in the face, and because his wife always dislikes it, besides, without his opium, he cannot walk far without feeling soon tired; and because he feels lazy in the early morning. These are the grounds volunteered by him for his opinion. He is quite sure that the opium habit gradually indisposes a man from sexual intercourse, and in the end takes away the power of having children. I will conclude this reply by saying that without these admissions on his own part, I should have been obliged to say that so far as his work and habits were concerned, opium appeared to have done him no appreciable harm.

7. A majority of town labourers, that is, chair-coolies and carrying-coolies, smoke regularly. A majority also, but rather a smaller one, of merchants. A minority of artisans. The following per-centage is probably not far from the truth. All agree that the country farmers and their labourers are less addicted to the habit than any other class.

Farmers and their hired hands	
probably not	- 10 per cent.
Fishermen, probably not	- 20 "
Smiths, " "	- 30 "
Tailors, " "	- 30 "
Shop assistants, " "	- 30 "
Carpenters, masons, &c.,	
probably not	- 40 "
Merchants, probably not	- 70 "
Coolies in towns, probably not	- 80 "
Literary men (in Formosa, contrary to the usual rule, generally well-to-do)	- 80 "
Officials and their secretaries, clerks, police, runners, &c.,	
at least	- 80 "

The northern troops garrisoned in Tai-peh-fu and round here are very strictly looked after, and seem not to be regular smokers. In the more malarious inland posts, however, the rule has to be relaxed, and smoking is allowed and usually practised.

8. The comparison is impossible to make as there is no abuse of alcohol here or anywhere else in China where I have been.

9. I think that the general opinion of Chinese is that all heavy opium-smoking is injurious, and that nearly all regular smoking is more or less injurious or objectionable. I have not sufficient data for answering the latter part of this question.

10. Yes, rather frequently, when a strong motive, usually the need for economy, exists.

11. The effect would be almost *nil* in North Formosa. The consumption of Indian drug here is almost con-

fined to the wealthy, and to the Cantonese colony. All the rest smoke Persian opium, and if the supply of Indian drug were cut off from here an increase in the import of the Persian kind would probably be the sole result.

12. Very rarely indeed. I have only known one instance of a European opium-smoker, and have heard of two or three more.

I feel nearly sure that the true reason for the great prevalence of the opium habit among Chinese is *ennui*. The classes among whom smoking prevails most are those which include persons having a good deal of spare time, whether they are rich landowners, or officials and their followers, or the literary, or merchants, or poor men whose work is irregular and liable to interruption, such as chair-coolies. As Chinese do not care for sport, detest exercise, seldom have hobbies, and are much less generally given to study or literature than one might suppose, leisure time hangs very heavily on their hands, and the opium pipe, under these circumstances, supplies a long felt want, for it fills a void and affords a stimulus.

13. The following estimate I believe to be fairly trustworthy with regard to the causes for the acquirement of the opium habit. Of those who smoke regularly, 4 or 5 per cent. are led to do so through ill-health, and in this locality especially opium seems to be regarded as a medicine of almost magic power. Some, perhaps 10 per cent., begin from associating with friends who are smokers. Others, perhaps 15 per cent., take to it to enable them to work overtime, to keep awake, or to make extra physical exertions. This category mainly applies to coolies or others whose calling is laborious.

The rest, at least 70 per cent., acquire the habit through associating with public women. I cannot say of my own knowledge whether opium is a prophylactic against fever or rheumatism. What I do know is, that it is commonly regarded in North Formosa as the only means of avoiding malarial fever, which unfortunately is very rife. And this is especially true of the more newly opened places in the densely wooded regions of the interior, such as Sau-O-Bay, Tokoham, Sak-kak-eng, and others, where I am told that almost everyone smokes, as the only means of withstanding the deadly miasma.

14. I think they often perhaps usually do in a vague and fitful way. Where the desire or motive is really strong and persistent, the average smoker, I think, can and does abandon the habit.

15. For the reason given in answer to Question 11, the export or non-export of Indian opium is a matter of indifference to the North Formosan population.

16. I have never made special inquiries, but I believe that the Canton provinces, and the Cantonese colonies throughout China, are pre-eminently the consumers of Indian opium, together with the wealthy men in whatever province they may live. I believe also that Chinese-grown drug is more usually mixed with Indian than smoked alone.

17.—(a.) I should conjecture that in so far as Indian opium was restricted, the Chinese would endeavour to supply its place from Persia, Turkey, and any other country not under British rule, experiments being made in French Indo-China, the Netherlands Indies, Africa, and other countries to supply its place. I should suppose that if the Indian supply were suddenly cut off, there would be some diminution of smoking, at any rate during the period of dislocation, and an immense stimulus to the sale of morphia pills and such forms of "opium-curing" medicine.

(b.) To say the least, a considerable stimulus.

(c.) It is very hard to guess. But the Chinese Government is so much in need of money that it cannot afford the loss of the revenue derived from the import of the foreign drug. I believe that they could not, and would not try to, raise the equivalent by further taxing the native drug, and that in one way or another they would endeavour to raise it from foreign trade.

18. I can only say that no opium is raised in Formosa.

19. _____

20. I have nothing further to add.

Tamsui, 3rd March 1894.

L. C. HOPKINS,
Acting Consul.

APP. XXVI.

Formosa
(Tamsui).

APP. XXVI.

Mr. ASHTON.

1. Yes.
2. Sixty-six per cent. males, 20 per cent. females, children under 15 years of age, none.
3. Its moral, physical, and social effects when indulged in moderately appear to be beneficial just as in the case in the moderate use of alcohol, but like alcohol the abuse of opium is attended with very disastrous, but by no means so repulsive results. I have not observed any difference in the results of the use of opium on consumers of different races. I believe there is no difference between the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium.
4. They chiefly smoke it.
5. I estimate that the proportions of those who use opium to be—
 - (i.) Without injury, 50 per cent.
 - (ii.) With slight injury, 30 per cent.
 - (iii.) With great injury, 20 per cent. opium sots.
6. No, many consume opium in moderation. Yes, several. (A.) is a compradore employed by a firm of merchants at this place. I have known him intimately for several years, for 10 of which he has been a consumer with to all appearance beneficial results. He is a bright, keen, and successful man of business. (B.) is a Chinese clerk in foreign employ, has been a moderate smoker for six years, and says he has found much benefit therefrom; suffers from asthma and is consumptive, but is a bright smart man and most attentive to his duties. (C.) is a sedan chair-bearer in my own employ for the last five years, has used opium daily for that time, and is reported to have used opium for over 20 years. The man is a fine active and powerful fellow and most attentive to his duties. I could enumerate many more cases that I have an intimate personal knowledge of, persons with whom I have had to do during the 25 years I have resided in China and Formosa.
7. The majority of labourers and agriculturers do not consume opium. Merchants and artisans do. The merchants I am acquainted with seem little or not at all affected by the opium habit, but the artisans deteriorate much and it is amongst this class that opium sots are most frequently met with.
8. Alcohol does not seem to be used to any noticeable extent in North Formosa, I am therefore unable to make any comparison as to its effects.
9. I should say that in the opinion of the Chinese the opium habit would scarcely be condemned as degrading, but its abuse is certainly regarded as injurious. I do not know how they would regard the alcohol habit, I think with disgust, and would consider the opium habit much more refined as a vice.
10. They can, and occasionally do, break themselves of the opium habit.
11. If the supply of Indian opium was entirely cut off from North Formosa the effect upon opium-consumers here would be nil, as more than 90 per cent. of all the opium imported is Persian, Turkey, and Wénchow. Indian opium is being almost entirely dispensed with in favour of the above named, consequently there would be no need for the people to forego their opium.
12. I have never known an European take to using opium. I think firstly because they do not consider it fashionable, and secondly because it is distasteful; were it fashionable the primary distaste and nausea would soon be got over. The converse of this I consider the reason why Asiatics are more liable to contract the habit than Europeans.
13. Again, fashion, together with the desire for some kind of stimulant, natural to most men, leads the Asiatic to try opium.
- Of my own knowledge I do not know if opium is a prophylactic against fever or rheumatism or malaria, but it is most certainly regarded as such by the people hereabout.
14. They do not usually desire to get free.
15. I have never heard a Chinaman express such a wish.
16. I do not know.
- 17.—(a.) It would not in any way interfere with the consumption of opium here.

(b.) I do not know, but think that it would only tend to increase the cultivation of the poppy and production of opium in China.

(c.) I cannot tell.

18, 19. I can give no estimate. I do not know.

20. None.

I, Francis Ashton, agent for the firm of Lapraik Cass and Company, state that the foregoing replies are made by me, without having had time to devote that attention I should like to have given to him; as they stand, however, they are the result of 25 years of almost daily intercourse with Chinese consumers of opium in Southern China and Formosa.

(Signed) FRANCIS ASHTON.

Tamsui, Formosa,
March 2, 1894.

Tainan,
Formosa, March 6, 1894.

SIR,

In accordance with instructions received from Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, I have the honour to forward herewith four replies to the papers set by the Royal Commission on Opium from the following persons:—

1. From myself.
2. From Mr. Perkins, of Her Majesty's Consular Service.
3. From Dr. Wykeham Myers, surgeon to His Imperial Chinese Majesty's Customs Service, Tainan.
4. Mr. Julius Mannich, merchant, Tainan.

I would draw special attention to Dr. Myers's contribution, as he has long devoted much study to the subject of opium-smoking.

I have, &c.
The Secretary, (Signed) R. W. HURST,
Royal Commission on Opium, Consul.
India.

Consul HURST.

1. My observation of opium-smoking chiefly extends to the ports of Wénchow, Foochow, and Tainan, at which places opium is commonly smoked.
2. At Wénchow I conjecture that 30 per cent. of the adult male population smoke, while in Foochow I should say the proportion was less. In Tainan the habit is most widely spread. I am told by a well-informed Chinese that here in Formosa 50 per cent. of the men and 7 per cent. of the women smoke. I have not heard of children contracting the habit.
3. Moderate opium-smoking is said to exert a soothing influence on the smoker, and to make him comfortable and contented, but excessive opium-smoking deteriorates the race both morally and physically. Morally, I think servants who are opium-smokers are more prone to steal, as opium being an expensive luxury their wages are often insufficient to afford them the indulgence. The effect of the drug on the physique of a confirmed smoker (one who has the "yin" or craving) is very apparent. He loses flesh, looks pale and emaciated, and he is incapable of prolonged physical exertion. Socially, I do not think the consumer suffers in any way. It is a common practice for merchants when making contracts to meet together over the opium pipe, and its sedative influence is found to conduce to the settlement of differences and to the promotion of business.

I know of no distinction in the effects of opium-smoking on consumers of different races, nor in the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium except that Indian is a somewhat more powerful drug.

4. Opium is almost universally smoked, cases of eating the drug being very rare. The effects in whichever form it was taken would probably not differ materially in character, though the latter would unquestionably be more noxious.

5. I should roughly estimate the proportion of those who smoke—

- (1.) Without injury, at 70 per cent.
- (2.) With slight injury, at 25 per cent.
- (3.) With great injury, at 5 per cent.

6. The habit of opium-smoking is undoubtedly very insidious, and it is difficult to use it within the bounds of moderation. The tendency is gradually to increase the consumption in order to produce an equivalent effect. When a man has once acquired the "craving" the habit is most difficult to throw off.

The moderate consumption of opium does not seem to affect the efficiency of the official and compradoric classes, who are generally possessed of keen intellects; probably their powers of restraint are greater than those of the labouring classes. I have heard it frequently stated (with what truth I know not) that coolies employed in arduous tasks are sometimes stimulated when jaded by a whiff of the opium pipe; a friend informs me, on the contrary, that when travelling in Szechuan for a period of six months he carefully weeded out the opium-smokers from his chair-bearers, as he found them less capable of the arduous physical labour involved than the bearers who did not smoke.

Confirmed smokers (those who have the "craving") when not under the influence of the drug are most helpless and good-for-nothing. I have known the case of a literary man who, if he had any work to do, had first to reinforce himself with an opium pipe before he felt himself equal to the task.

8. The effects of excessive opium-smoking are widely different from those of alcoholism. The former renders its victims effeminate and indolent, and unfit for exertion of any kind.

As long as China remains a nation of opium-smokers there is not the least reason to fear that she will become a military power of any importance, as the habit saps the energies and vitality of the nation. It also tends to render those who have the "craving" impotent, and so checks the growth of the population.

9. The abuse of opium is generally regarded as degrading by the Chinese, though, when smoked within moderate limits, it is probably not so regarded. A drunkard is almost unknown in China, and would meet with universal execration.

10. Those who have the "yin" or "craving" can only break themselves of the habit with the greatest difficulty. They do so in a small per-centage of cases by the help of anti-opium pills, but the cure is a long and painful one, producing colic and stomachic pains, for the relief of which they too often fall back on the drug.

11. Persian opium is more fancied in Tainan than the Indian drug on account of its comparative cheapness; last year the value of Persian opium imported amounted to 190,917 $\frac{1}{2}$., as against 13,630 $\frac{1}{2}$. of Indian; Chinese opium is not grown in Formosa, nor is it imported into Tainan unless smuggled.

If the supply of the Indian drug were suddenly cut off, I am of opinion that the first effect would be a rise in price with a temporarily diminished consumption; that larger tracts of country in China would be devoted to the growth of the poppy, with the ultimate result that the consumption would go on as before. It is possible that the Chinese Government might be stimulated by the Indian Government to take vigorous measures to repress the growth of the drug, but having in view the large revenue it derives from opium, I think such a step improbable. Numerous proclamations against opium-smoking have been fulminated from time to time, but they have generally remained a dead letter. I do not think the Chinese would take largely to alcohol in any case.

12. I have heard of one or two instances of Europeans contracting the habit, but the temptation in their case seems less, as it induces an indolent frame of mind which is foreign to their natures. Its effects are probably less prejudicial to the Chinese than to other races. Living, as they do, chiefly on rice and a vegetable diet, it is said to prevent rapid digestion, and thus retards the feeling of hunger. Poorly-fed people like the Chinese would thus take more naturally to opium than well-fed Europeans.

13. It is probably taken originally as a remedy for some illness, or to while away a vacant hour. It is reputed to be a prophylactic against malaria, and this would account for its very common use in Formosa where malaria is much dreaded.

14. No, as a rule, I am assured that opium-smokers wish to continue the habit; though doubtless those who are ruining themselves by excess would like to free themselves from it.

15. The Chinese dealers would regret the stoppage of the importation from India; the non-smoking popu-

lation would approve of the step, while the smoker would object to it as likely to increase the price.

The idea of India's relinquishing the opium revenue is regarded by the officials as unintelligible and Quixotic.

16. Indian opium is chiefly affected by the affluent, the official and compradoric classes, by whom it is valued for its finer flavour; its high cost causes the poor artisans and labourers to resort to Persian or the Chinese-grown drug.

17.—(a) The consumption would be temporarily reduced, but it is doubtful whether the reduction would be permanent.

(b.) The poppy would probably be more extensively grown in China.

(c.) Impossible to say.

18. No.

19. On Indian and Persian opium the Chinese Government levies a tax of taels 110, say 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ 12s. 2d. per picul of 133 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., being taels 30 import duty and taels 80 likin tax. Any native opium which finds its way here is "smuggled," as otherwise it cannot compete with Persian.

20. No.

H.M. Consulate, R. W. HURST,
Tainan, February 28, 1894. H.B.M. Consul.

Mr. B. M. PERKINS.

1. Yes, very commonly.

2. The number of adult males is difficult to conjecture, but probably 5 per cent will not be a bad estimate amongst the poorer classes of Peking, concerning whom I can best speak.

Women of a certain class smoke a good deal of opium, it being a fashionable vice with the young rakes of the city, and the girls from attending on them get to smoke themselves.

I have never heard of children smoking opium, except that occasionally their parents give them one pull at a pipe as a form of medicine.

3. I have seen opium-smokers of various kinds, but have never noticed any "moral" deterioration, unless in the case of an inveterate smoker suddenly deprived of his pipe, who might not improbably be thereby tempted to steal.

This does not apply to "opium sots," a class that I have never come across except in missionary literature, where the smoker is represented smoking in an erect position.

Physically the effects of opium seem to depend entirely on the quantity consumed, being, on the whole, beneficial up to a certain point; and, in the case of the poor, who are just able to smoke a little, appears to be a comfort and benefit, similar to but greater than the virtues which the "poor man" in England ascribes to his pipe.

Socially, have always found opium-smokers sociable and pleasant, and the effect of the drug has always seemed to be a humanising one. An opium-smoker will never cause a riot.

4. Have only seen opium smoked, though sometimes taken medicinally in other forms.

5.—(i.) and (ii.), but chiefly (i.) comprise, as far as I am concerned, all the smokers I have ever seen.

6. Certainly not; know several cases of opium-smoking without any apparent injury. One, in particular, a friend of mine, has been smoking for years, and his intellect, a brilliant one, is as good as ever. His name is K'uang; he was at one time employed in British Legation, Peking.

8. Alcohol when taken in excess has results which, compared with opium, are simply deplorable, but such excess in alcohol is comparatively rare—a Chinese drunkard is, like most others, noisy and highly objectionable.

9. By a small portion it is perhaps disapproved of, but the alcohol habit is certainly regarded as much more injurious.

10. Yes. Have known cases, one coming under my frequent observation being that of a girl, aged about 18, who had been smoking a great deal for two years, and succeeded in breaking it off, but suffered from

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great irritability at times during the progress of the renunciation, which was very gradually done.

11. None, except an increased growth of Chinese opium, and probably largely increased adulteration. Abstinence would certainly not result from it, unless enforced by a stronger Government than China possesses.

13. Partly answered under Question 2. It is also regarded as a solace for most ills, and apparently is so, as poor people, whose existence would otherwise seem to be intolerable, appear to derive great consolation and resignation from it, and so the habit spreads by force of example. It is certainly regarded as a prophylactic against various diseases by the Chinese, and, as a cure for colic, is also frequently taken.

14. Not in my experience; quite the reverse.

15. Never heard such a thing suggested, though the subject of opium is one that frequently arises in conversation.

16. By the richer classes; the poorer chiefly use Persian or native. (This applies to Peking only.)

17 —(a.) Probably very little; in my knowledge, that is except it may be for a year or two, when China will grow sufficient for her needs, or get it from Persia; (b) it follows from the last that an increase may be expected.

20. Indian opium is generally regarded as the purest and best. In the country round Peking native-grown would appear to be most commonly used.

DR. W. W. MYERS.

Takow, South Formosa,
March 1, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your note of to-day's date, enclosing a series of questions issued by the Royal Commission on Opium, regarding the consumption of and revenue from that drug in China, and requesting my reply thereto.

Soon after my arrival in China in 1870, feeling that the general independence of my position should enable me to approach the investigation, at least free from suspicion of personal bias, whether ascribed to sectarian antagonism or tradal partiality, I commenced to utilise the opportunities afforded by my close relations with the people generally to make observations and inquiries as to the effects produced by the use, and, or abuse of opium.

These investigations were continued for 10 years, during which time I had been stationed at Chefoo, in the Province of Shantung, Wenchow, in Chehkiang, and finally at South Formosa.

In 1881 the results of my inquiries were embodied in my routine report to the Inspector-General of Customs, and as this, in great part, gives much of the information desired by the Commission, so far as I can afford same, I venture to append the said report, as extracted from the Service Volume published by order of the Inspector-General.

During the 13 years that have elapsed since the issue of this report my relations with the people in this island have been of the most intimate nature, and I have not failed to avail myself of the further opportunities thus afforded for continuing the inquiry.

As to the result of such, the answers I now have the honour to give below to the questions you have sent me will, I trust, be deemed sufficient indication.

The numbers at the beginning of each answer correspond with those of their respective questions, as set forth on the printed list.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

1. I should say yes, certainly.

2. Even speaking solely for Formosa, it seems almost impossible to hazard a conjecture, as the proportion of smokers so obviously and materially differs in the large cities and towns from the country places. For instance, the proportion of adult males that smoke in Tainanfu and the Treaty Port may most probably be fairly put at 75 per cent.; while if one extends the calculation for the whole island, notwithstanding that I believe it to be larger for Formosa than any other distinct portion of the empire, the per-centage will, no doubt, fall within the limits of the fraction which the Inspector-General of Customs, after careful calculation,

based on the best and most reliable data, gives as expressing the per-centage of the entire Chinese population who smoke opium, i.e., " $\frac{2}{3}$ of 1 per cent."

With reference to women, it is probable that those living in the country districts seldom or never smoke, but in the city and Treaty Port there can be no doubt that an annually increasing number of the married women indulge; indeed I am inclined to say that possibly 40 per cent., as against 25 per cent. of a few years ago, consume the drug in the pipe. As far as my own experience goes, I should say that children very rarely smoke. I can only recall two instances during my 25 years' residence in China; but it is only fair to state, however, that others, whose experience commands respect, have informed me that they have met with several cases where lads, from 12 to 16 years of age, have acquired the habit.

3. The summary of my experience goes to show that opium taken in reasonable moderation, or even somewhat beyond this limit, does not seem to have any marked moral, physical, or social effect on the consumer.

It must be noted, however, that this remark solely applies to the inhalation of the drug, as if taken either by the stomach or hypodermically the converse happens.

I have had no experience of the effects from smoking on any other race than Chinese, as no foreigners or aborigines use the opium pipe.

Beyond the fact that Chinese-grown opium seems to be, bulk for bulk, less powerful than Indian, and therefore has to be taken in larger quantities, this latter necessity being compensated for by its relative cheapness, I am not aware of any practical difference in the physiological effects of either.

4. Except as a temporary substitute, occasionally taken when time or other conditions do not permit of the pipe being used, the Chinese certainly do not habitually eat opium, decidedly preferring to smoke it, believing the latter method to be less likely to do injury. In this they are undoubtedly right. For suicidal purposes solutions of opium are used, but not as far as I am aware, in any other case.

Although as above shown I have little or no experience with Chinese opium-eaters, unfortunately I have had to deal with several others (non-Chinese) who have consumed opium, or I should say, morphia, by mouth, or hypodermically. Judging from such cases the difference between eating and smoking may be approximately indicated by comparing the effects of a noxious drug when used as a lotion and what would happen were the same to be swallowed in equivalent quantities.

5. Adopting the Chinese method for expressing proportions, my reply is as follows:—

To	(i.)	7	out of 10.
	(ii.)	$\frac{2\frac{1}{2}}{30}$	"
	(iii.)	$\frac{1}{20}$	"

These figures are only approximate, as there are no convenient means for obtaining data from which absolutely accurate conclusions could be got.

6. It seems to me that it would be as decidedly, indeed far more incorrect to say there can be no moderation in the consumption of opium smoked, as to affirm the same with regard to tobacco or alcohol; and I have, as a fact, met very many cases of smokers who have contented themselves with a limited quantity of opium for years without any apparent injury.

For detailed instance, and further particulars on this point, see appended Report (p.).

In this paper I have also attempted to describe a case typical of extreme indulgence (p.).

7. I think a majority of the labouring class in Formosa do indulge in opium, but very moderately; probably nearly all the merchants, and great numbers of the artisans, though I am of opinion that the great majority of these also do so with comparative impunity.

This question has been gone into at greater length on p. 63 of Report.

8. The Chinese are most abstemious in the consumption of a comparatively weak kind of alcohol (Samshu), and the only cases in which I have ever seen alcohol abused systematically was when natives have been induced by foreigners to indulge in Western spirits and wines.

In all these instances, fortunately few, the result has been most disastrous and speedy, showing up well how much more rapid and ruinous alcoholism is than even

the worst cases of opium excesses. (See Report, p. 64, par 3.)

9. I think the general opinion of the Chinese is that opium can be injurious, and in the end, not infrequently, is apt to provoke an excess which they deprecate, though they all seem to say that it generally takes from 15 to 20 years to attain such a condition.

I feel sure they do not look on the habit as "degrading," however much they may admit that abstinence is best, but there can be no doubt of the opinion they hold about the drunkard, and that they look at him as utterly degraded and useless. Indulgence in alcohol is, however, so uncommon, save perhaps during the New Year festivities, that it is difficult to fix on any specially illustrative case, and so one must be content with what seems to be an universally prevalent opinion. There is no trait they more openly despise and remark on in foreigners than the latter's tendency to exceed in this respect, nor do they conceal the strong views they hold as to the comparative innocence of even the worst form of opium excess.

10. Opium-smokers undoubtedly can and do break themselves of the habit, and I have obtained from the debtors' gaol in several yâmens curious corroboration of the Hong Kong Colonial Surgeon's statements as to the ease and benefit with which prisoners submit to the gaol deprivation.

Of course in any yâmen prisoners affluent enough to pay for it could still continue the use of the drug, but there are a sufficient proportion of the debtors whose poverty affords instances of the ability to suddenly stop, and the complete harmlessness of doing so.

11. If Indian opium were to stop to-morrow I do not think there can be any doubt but that Chinese opium would pour into the island, and probably before very long be as generally cultivated as it is on the mainland.

Formosa happens now to be nearly the last instance in China of a place where foreign opium is chiefly or almost entirely used.

On the mainland the latter, save for mixing with native-grown drug, has been considerably ousted, and *vis à vis* Indian, Persian has very materially taken its place in Formosa. The following comparative tables of Indian (Benares) opium and Persian or "Turkey," which latter, I am informed, is merely a trade name in Formosa for the same variety of drug, covering the period from 1882 to 1891 inclusive, will show how the Indian article is gradually giving place to its Persian competitor.

TABLES showing comparative AMOUNTS of INDIAN and PERSIAN OPIUM imported into TAINAN for a period of 10 Years from 1882 to 1891 (inclusive).

	Benares	Persian.
	Piculs.	Piculs.
1882 - - -	1,213.20	2,039.81
1883 - - -	804.89	2,003.33
1884 - - -	550.88	1,725.34
1885 - - -	516.00	1,883.09
1886 - - -	535.77	1,489.06
1887 - - -	573.61	2,061.34
1888 - - -	674.58	2,114.57
1889 - - -	531.36	2,259.32
1890 - - -	522.78	2,691.15
1891 - - -	372.65	3,213.09
	6,295.72	21,480.60

From this it appears that whereas in 1882 the import of Persian was only 826.61 piculs more than Benares, in 1891 it was 2,840.44 piculs ahead, or for the whole decade, 15,184.88 piculs in excess.

Thus, by a natural process of competition, Indian drug is slowly but surely being driven out by Persian. In its turn, however, if the vendors continue to show the same strong inclination to "kill the goose that lays the golden eggs," by keeping up an artificially high price, *i.e.*, raising it to the standard of its ousted competitor, there are already visible many signs that native opium is vigilantly on the "stand-by," and will rush in at the first chance. China-grown opium was, up to three or four years ago, unknown in Formosa, but in this time, owing to the artificial fluctuations

alluded to, this drug has undoubtedly obtained an entrance, if not quite a footing, while various attempts have been and no doubt will be further made to establish its local cultivation.

We may thus see at least as far as Formosa is concerned, that in the event of Indian drug being driven out or prohibited, Persian will for a timetake its place, *i.e.*, for so long as the vendors consent to reasonably compete with the native production; but that one or other kind of opium will be available there cannot be the slightest doubt. It is equally sure that the Chinese will have opium, and certainly not take either to alcohol nor any other narcotic, and it need scarcely be said would never, save under circumstances of compulsion, almost impossible to imagine, think of total abstinence.

12. If by "opium habit" is meant smoking the drug, my answer must be that Europeans very rarely, if ever, thus indulge. In all my experience I have only known of two instances, both of whom, however, carried the practice to great excess. They eventually broke it off abruptly, informing me that the deprivation did not seem to cause more discomfort than that experienced by tobacco-smokers under similar circumstances.

In the cases to which I allude it may be interesting to state that both attributed the commencement of the indulgence to an unavoidable absence of all medical aid at a time of severe illness.

Judging, however, from the avidity and persistence which Europeans often exhibit (when subjected to temptation) for taking morphia by mouth or hypodermically, it would seem that there is no inherent individual obstacle to their acquiring the "opium habit"; but as the associations and procedure connected with opium-smoking are, *prima facie*, distasteful and incongruous with their general habits, it is possible that this does, in great part, account for the absence of European participation in the local and prevailing form of indulgence. Again, both from hereditary tendency, and everyday custom, Westerners are strongly prompted to satisfy any craving or call for stimulation by means of alcohol, which latter produces results more consonant with their constitutional activity. The Asiatic, on the contrary, finds in the soothing and comparatively gentle exhilaration of opium a stimulant more in keeping with his naturally apathetic and indolent nature. Here, too, we have an example of those peculiar contrasts in thought and act so frequently met with between Chinese and Westerners; for whereas the European is inclined to show leniency and forbearance to a very great extent towards those who display some amount of recklessness in the use of alcohol, the man who is known to habitually subject himself to the effects of opium or other narcotic drug would assuredly have to submit to a considerable amount of public disapproval. As shown under Question 9, the very converse is the case with Chinese.

In further illustration of the suggestion that choice of stimulant is generally regulated by racial proclivities, inherent or induced, it may be mentioned that the aborigines of this island (probably belonging to the Malayan family) will on no account touch opium although it could and would be readily supplied to them by the Chinese, if desired. On the other hand they lose no opportunity of obtaining Chinese wine, organising prolonged orgies whenever possible. They despise the Chinese habit of opium-smoking, saying "that wine is the only suitable excitant for men."

Another Chinese peculiarity is the general and intense horror of scenes, or any form of violent or ridiculous display, all of which they rightly assert alcohol has an irresistible tendency to produce.

What applies to the Chinese may, no doubt, *mutatis mutandis*, be said of other Asiatics.

13. The great majority of consumers assert that they began the habit first in order to relieve pain or discomfort from sickness, and considering the very poor resources at their command for alleviating, at any rate, immediate suffering, there is in all probability a good deal to be said for the statement, indeed when analysed such might in a certain sense be said to be the rationale of the therapeutical use of the drug in Western lands.

Having once discovered its pleasant properties, and, as I believe, to a great extent protected themselves, by their method of using it, from many of its evil consequences, they can continue for long to indulge with comparative impunity, soon finding out the limit of safety, and being perfectly able if they choose to avoid exceeding this. There is no doubt that opium is universally regarded by the people in this island as

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being prophylactic against malaria and curative of fevers and other diseases, but I know of no evidence which would be sufficient to disprove the assertion (if made) that such belief is in reality only based on the subjective sensations of the sufferer, most prominent to his mind, and the relief of which, therefore, is apt to confer undue merit on the alleviating medium. Though it must be admitted that, even thus modified, the popular belief is not devoid of some justification, though not wholly true. Therefore, while I cannot say from our medical standpoint, possessing as we do better means for determining the nature and course of disease, and also to some extent for directly treating it, that opium should be looked on in any other light than a possible and even useful adjunct, still, with a people practically so much bereft of what we consider the commonest medicinal advantages, I imagine that opium consumption may in many cases of sickness, if not always in health, offer facilities for favourable argument which those in daily contact with the consumers can readily understand.

14. Those who have gone to great or inconvenient excess certainly desire to be assisted in reducing the amount consumed, but that there is any sincere or general wish to be freed of the habit, because it is a bad or injurious one, I am inclined to think should not be universally affirmed. For fuller details on this point, see appended report, par. 3.

15. I should most decidedly say that it is now-a-days a matter of supreme indifference to the people of China who supplies the drug, so long as it is available; and I think it may be taken for granted that the only interest shown by them, and this no doubt is very great, is in all that tends to keep down price and preserve quality.

16. This question has been already answered, so far as I am personally able to afford information, in the reply to Question 11.

As to classification of smokers, see appended report, p.

I would also beg to refer to the following Customs publications:—

“New Series, No. 14, Opium Trade, March Quarter, 1889, Explanation of Decline in Import of Foreign Opium.”

“New Series, No. 9, Native Opium, Production of, in each Province, &c., 1888.”

17.—(a.) Save in so far as any temporary scarcity of drug, and consequent elevation in price enforces, during the period of recovery, reduced consumption, I do not think the prohibition or restriction of Indian opium will for long affect the habits of the people, as—

(b.) The cultivation of the poppy and production of opium in China will no doubt be thereby immensely stimulated, and in a very short time, if indeed it is not at present, be quite capable of meeting all possible demands, and this too at probably much cheaper rate than now obtains.

(c.) I am quite unable to say what the Chinese Government are likely to do under the circumstances suggested, but assume that they would, no doubt, take means for adjusting any deficiency in revenue consequent on the withdrawal of that previously obtained from foreign drug.

It seems, however, from a general point of view, highly probable that the present very uncertain and light tax levied on native opium would be increased, and its collection superintended and organised.

I know of no reason for supposing that the production would be otherwise interfered with.

18. Customs' publication “New Series, No. 9, Native Opium, Production in each Province, &c., 1888,” supplies the best and most reliable information available on the point raised in this question.

19. The Revenue obtained by the Chinese Government for the year 1892 (including Lekim) and collected through the Imperial Maritime Customs amounted to:—Haikwan taels 7,792,134, mace 4, candareens 5, and cash 9.

In calculating the above into sterling the Hkwan tael may be taken at 4s. 4½d., being the rate of exchange for that year.

In the same year, Hkwan taels 161,280, mace 4, candareens 4, and no cash were collected from native opium by the Customs.

It must be stated that native opium, over which the Imperial Maritime Customs has control, is solely that which chances to be conveyed in foreign bottoms, and it only pays the tariff duty of Hkwan taels 30 per picul. The Lekim is not collected by the Customs, as it is assumed to have been paid at the native barriers.

It must be noted that in the above return of revenue for 1892 the figures represent the return from “foreign” opium, and so includes Persian, but as the amount of this, going to other places than Formosa, is very small, the revenue from Indian drug can easily be got at. The great bulk of Chinese-grown opium, of course, passes through native channels, and, by reason of the ease with which it can be smuggled, or even when declared to the Lekim officials, the leniency shown towards it (two and often more “catties” being allowed to count as one) the rate actually levied is not only nominally very much lower than that imposed on its foreign competitor but, on account of the irregularities indicated, may be said to be practically insignificant. Of course, all native drug which is not forced by occasional exigencies to be shipped in foreign bottoms avoids the tariff-duty. In accord with Treaty and Convention every atom of foreign drug has not only to pay the tariff-duty, but also Hk. taels 80, which, under the head of Lekim, is simultaneously collected by the Imperial Maritime Customs, through which this opium is bound to pass.

It may thus be seen that native opium is at present (accidentally or otherwise) favoured by a protective system of taxation levied on its foreign competitor.

20. In conclusion, I would remark that, although nothing I have been able to observe during my long residence in the country seems to point, either on moral or fiscal grounds, to any need for national penitence or financial sacrifice, still I do willingly bear testimony to the sincerity of those with whom I have come in contact (especially missionaries) and who hold very different opinions to those I am constrained to express.

I think that in many cases, at least, there has no doubt been much exaggeration, and a certain amount of equally unintentional submission to pre-acquired bias, but that this has been deliberately brought about by any desire or indeed necessity for covering personal or corporate shortcomings in other respects, I believe to be an absolute and wrongful calumny most justly resented by those chiefly assailed.

In investigating this matter, which certainly, on the face of it, calls for the most careful and conscientious examination, there are bound to be varying opinions, and it is highly confusing, to say the least, if either side, by imputing improper and irrelevant motives to their opponents, does that which can only complicate the inquiry.

Trusting that the foregoing may be of some use—
I have, &c.

W. WYKEHAM MYERS, M.B., &c.,
Medical Officer,
H. I. Ch. M.'s Customs,
Tainan, South Formosa.

EXTRACT appended to CUSTOMS MEDICAL OFFICER'S (Tainan) reply to ROYAL COMMISSION QUESTIONS.

Opium-smoking.—I am aware that in trenching on this subject I enter very debatable ground, and I am not unmindful of the strong opinions held on both sides of the question; but I can at least say that I have neglected no opportunity during the past 10 years of closely investigating the matter, while circumstances have more than once been particularly favourable for making the necessary observations.

Looking back at many of the various arguments produced on either side, it has often struck me that their force has in several instances been modified by the uncontrolled enthusiasm of the disputants. Thus, those who argue from the “no injury” point of view are very apt to run into the extreme of asserting “positive benefit,” while those again who urge that the use of opium is noxious to health and prosperity too frequently ascribe to it a universality of destructiveness which cannot be borne out, save in cases where intemperance in the use of the drug is as marked as is the violence of language adopted by its critics.

I think I may fairly claim to rank among those who speak from an entirely disinterested point of view, and therefore for the purpose of this report I put for a moment aside the moral aspect of the question, and, confining myself simply to the professional bearing of the subject, narrate as shortly as possible the observations I have made, and leave in great part to others the task of drawing what conclusions they think proper from the data I shall attempt to lay before them.

In Formosa the use of opium is indulged in by a great proportion of those of the inhabitants who are either

themselves immigrants or the descendants of colonists originally coming from the mainland. In the south part of Chéhkiang, where I was before coming here, the opium pipe is also in very general requisition. It would seem to me that both here and generally over China the smokers may be divided into two classes: (1) a minority, who, being either officials or well-to-do persons, can afford to give vent to their passion, and indulge to an extent which would in many cases quite justify the worst that has been said as to the effects and consequences of the vice; and (2) the majority, consisting of persons who are obliged to work hard for a living, and among whom moderation is the rule. I am bound to say, however, that even among the former the use of the drug is usually for a considerable time tempered with more or less moderation, and that many years of unimpaired usefulness are thus enjoyed ere that condition is attained which so justly calls for commiseration.

Here as elsewhere the grand prompter to excess is the co-existence of that idleness which in many parts of the world is often thought to be the privilege of wealth. Hence, as far as my inquiries go, we do not meet the extreme effects of over-indulgence so frequently among officials, or at any rate so early a manifestation of its most baneful effects, as among those who, independent of exertion, give themselves up entirely to that indolence which is prone to seek among the vices generally for relief from otherwise unbearable *ennui*. On the other hand, it is not quite fair always to attribute to opium-smoking those fearful concomitant vices which are often depicted as its consequences. That they are frequently coincidences, or that they sometimes precede and at others follow extreme indulgence in opium I am aware, but still, though excessive smoking may hasten the effects of a general moral depravity, I am inclined to think it is much more often rather a sequence than the cause.

Taking one from this class as a type of opium-smoking carried to its dire end, we shall find that probably he began smoking from 10 to 20 or 30 years previously. When young, and before becoming entirely enslaved, he smoked from 1 to 2 mace* weight per diem. The increase in quantity was probably gradual during the first 10 years, until at the end of that time it reached, say, 3 to 4 mace in the day. During this period he did not feel much the worse for his habit. He smokes thrice daily, once in the forenoon, again after the mid-day meal, and finally in the evening. This latter extends more or less far into the night, in proportion to the degree of his infatuation.

Presume him to be an official, or a man who, though well off, is still engaged in some business occupation, and so long as the requirements of his business necessitate diurnal briskness, he may not exceed the maximum I have stated; but should either the advance of his prospects render further excess possible, or an inability or disinclination to resist the allurements of the drug prompt him, the progress is rapid, until he reaches a daily consumption of from 7 mace even up to 1 tael.† With this advance begin those outward manifestations of decaying mind and enfeebled body which have been so often depicted. The pipe is seldom out of his mouth; his hours of mental lucidity become fewer and fewer; he scarcely ever obtains natural sleep; he wakes dull and heavy, to be briefly flashed into temporary consciousness by the first whiff of his pipe, quickly relapsing into semi-stupor. His bowels are constipated for periods sometimes of 10 days; his appetite is almost gone, his digestion of the weakest; he becomes sexually impotent, and so on, until at last, intensely anæmic, extreme debility is further aggravated by the characteristic diarrhoea, and he finally passes away unregretted from the world in which for so long he can scarcely be said to have mixed.

Opium-smokers will tell you that there is a point (varying with different men, and regulated by the general energy of their lives) up to which they can go with impunity. One very intelligent old gentleman, who said he had smoked for 30 years, and at that time seemed to be, as he said he was, tolerably healthy, told me that he never exceeded a certain quantity, in fact, that this was the maximum that he allowed himself on festive occasions; but that there was a lower rate, which was quite sufficient to give him all the satisfaction he required, and this was his ordinary allowance. He had varied but little, he said, for the last 15 years, and felt no irresistible temptation to do

so. He was 50 years of age, and was engaged in active mental occupation as a large merchant. He thoroughly enjoyed his pipe, and admitted he could not do without it. He suffered from constipation to a greater extent than non-smokers do (the Chinese generally are much subject to this) but he was not aware that it affected him. He ate well, and after his evening pipes had sound and refreshing sleep, rising about 11 o'clock each day. He was not by any means impotent either as to desire or efficacy, and pointed to a son aged four years as a proof of this. He said that, as far as he knew, many others were like him, and that although, of course, there were several who made no effort to control the amount of opium used, still he did not think until the evening of life came it was by any means the rule for opium-smokers to abstain from doing so. He instanced officials who, he said, often adjusted their indulgence by the leisure available, i.e., the rank, or appointment they held. Of course there were many cases of persons who rushed deeply into the bonds of opium; "with them there was no thought of what amount could be borne, but rather, it would seem, what quantity could be consumed in the time vouchsafed."

Not taking all my friend said as being literally exact, still I found it a very good standard for comparing my own observations, and I have been struck by the amount of truth there was in the statement. That point of there being the safe and satisfying maximum to which every man might with comparative impunity indulge seems curious, but I have been repeatedly assured of it by many most confirmed opium-smokers. Several that have admittedly gone far beyond it, and were exhibiting all the consequences of their imprudence, have told me the same, and in their own cases have named the date from which they reckoned their downfall. I have also made a point on many occasions of closely questioning and examining those who have avowedly kept within the alleged limits of immunity, and I have seen no reason to question their assertions. I may here mention an interesting fact, and that is that in the case of the poorer classes, to be hereafter spoken of, under pressure due to reduction of means, a comparatively small amount of opium suffices to overcome or satisfactorily modify the craving and other unpleasantness which, as far as I could discover, invariably follows a sudden cessation of the accustomed indulgence. The highest amount smoked in a single day with alleged safety was 5, while the lowest rate quoted was 3 mace; but it must be remembered that Chinese of this class would scarcely notice anything that did not interfere with, say, six or eight hours' attention to duties, shorten life, or set up some marked manifestation of illness, and thus, probably, if we contrasted the condition they call perfect with that we should describe as belonging to the typically healthy, we should find several shortcomings. Again, it must be remembered in quoting these quantities that the manner of smoking has to be taken into account; the affluent rapidly refilling the bowl, and not nearly exhausting the charge, which often affords considerable enjoyment to humbler votaries, who re-smoke it.

To turn to the other class (and this includes a vast proportion of the general public), one will be really surprised to find how comparatively few there are who indulge to disastrous excess. Case after case will be met of men, even in the lowest ranks of life, who have smoked regularly for from 10 up to 20 or even 30 years, and who, as far as we can discover, show little or no signs of mental or physical degeneration. Taking the average amount of opium consumed by these, I found it to be from 1 to 2 mace per diem. Here in Southern Formosa there is a class of men, including the coolies, chair-bearers, and couriers, who daily do an amount of physical work that is remarkable in its extent. These have for years been in the habit of taking a certain quantity of opium during the day, seldom or never varying it; and they assert that by so doing they at least attain a greater degree of comfort in carrying on their labours, and, with but very rare exceptions, I must admit that I have failed to obtain evidence which would justify me in attributing any marked harm to their habit.

Of course, among every class of men there are those to whom moderation is impossible, and who, in the gratification of their desires, will drag themselves and those dependent on them to the lowest misery. This we find one of the greatest evils connected with alcoholic intemperance; but I must say that my experience both here and in other parts of China would go to support the statement that the use of opium through the

* 1 mace = (say) grains lviii.

† 1 tael = 10 mace (say) grains dlxxx.

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medium of a pipe does not, at least up to a certain point, so irresistibly and inherently tend to provoke excess as undoubtedly is very often the case with the stimulants commonly indulged in by foreigners. Were the seductive powers of opium so great and cumulatively overwhelming as has sometimes been asserted, I cannot but think that among the class of which I am now speaking, dependent as most of them are for a livelihood on their exertions, we should have a very much greater number of instances of its disastrous effects on purse and person; but I do most conscientiously state that although I have met with instances in which the effects were most marked and deplorable, still, when considered in numerical relation to the numbers who smoke opium, I have been struck with their paucity, and my preconceived prejudices with reference to the universally baneful effects of the drug have been severely shaken.

If I were asked the question as to whether I believed the use of opium necessary or even harmless, I should be inclined to reply that both queries required specific and relative answers. We know in medicine that under certain conditions the exhibition of opium is not only gratefully but beneficially borne, and that this is in direct relation to the cause which called for the administration, *e.g.*, pain. Without going deeply into the rationale of the process, the physiologist could perhaps imagine a condition, such as might be induced by arduous physical or mental toil, where the moderate use of opium might be even beneficial, or where at least by imparting comfort its injurious effects (if any) might be neutralised. We know well that the population of China—I am now alluding to that portion which, while forming the vast majority, would be those who could least afford to indulge in a practice materially affecting either their health or their fortunes—I say we know that these are, as a rule, industrious and laborious to a degree. Whether they could get along just as well—nay, perhaps better—if for opium was substituted some less suspicious restorative—*e.g.*, better and more nourishing food—is a suggestion that would undoubtedly admit of interesting consideration, but as I am at present only dealing with the state of affairs as we find them, I need not dwell further on the question of possibilities.

Again, whether in view of the enormously preponderating amount of opium cultivated in China, Indian drug should ruffle the sensitiveness of our national conscience to the extent some would seem to think proper, or whether the obstacles (if any) to international *entente* are so much supported by the import of opium, *per se*, as by the various unpleasant incidents of a past, when other articles of import had little or no chance of acting as irritants, I take it does not concern me at present.

As contrasted with the drunkard, the opium sot decidedly has the advantage, that is as far as his bearing to his fellow-beings goes; for whereas one, under the influence of liquor, is noisy, quarrelsome, and often dangerous, the druggard (if I may for convenience coin a word) is at least quiet and orderly. That abuse of alcohol is a marked factor in the production of crime of the most heinous nature all will admit, while, as far as I can learn, opium comparatively seldom leads to crime, and even then this rarely, if ever, attains to higher dignity than petty theft.

Dr. Tanner, in his standard work on practice of medicine, suggests, in the case of confirmed dipsomaniacs, the substitution of opium-eating for wine-bibbing as the lesser of the two evils. Opium-eating, however, seems to me to stand on a very different footing from smoking. It would appear that when taken by the stomach incessant and cumulative craving is much sooner set up; that rapid increase of dose is absolutely necessary; and that the drug soon obtains the mastery, concentrating, both in time and vigour, its most disastrous effects. Except at advanced stages of the opium-smoker's career, one does not hear of sufferings and other manifestations such as have been so graphically depicted by De Quincey; but at a very early period the opium-eater begins to complain and show marked symptoms of the sad effects of his vice. I have had some opportunity of contrasting the two effects, and I feel justified in asserting that smoking as compared with eating opium is as different as the excesses of the *bon vivant* are from chronic, hopeless dipsomania. The smoker may after a comparatively long period reap the painful fruits of his indiscretion; with the eater the consequences begin almost directly.

We must also consider the difference between the two modes of introduction into the system, the one process by which but a small proportion of the drug consumed can obtain access, and the other by which not an atom of the poison can escape, added to which are the local derangements set up in the alimentary canal by repeated calls for an exercise of its functions on that which by mere contact proves injuriously obstructive to the natural processes exerted for its assimilation.

This brings me to the subject of remedies for the cure of opium-smoking, and the question as to whether it is advisable, to however slight an extent, to substitute for the inhalation of the drug its administration in solid form.

Medical men in China have, as far as I know, as a rule, followed the plan of giving opium or morphia combined with some strong tonic such as quinine or strychnine, gradually and rapidly decreasing the amount of opium and increasing the dose of tonic, adding iron or some similar medicine, until the patient has lost the desire and been strengthened by the remedies administered. The late Dr. Osgood, of Foochow, was, I am told, the first to commence the cure of opium-smoking by immediate and total deprivation of the drug, substituting for it chloral hydrate, which, with tonics, he gave in the form of pill. Dr. Dudgeon, of Peking, from his recent strong denunciations of the use of opium in the system of cure, I assume also disapproves of the old method, and I observe that Dr. Lyall, of Swatow, treats all his cases without opium. I myself have hitherto followed the beaten track, and provided, of course, the patient is watched and the opium rapidly diminished, good results have followed the treatment. I have, however, been led to fear that the number of smokers really desirous of being cured is very small, and too often application to the foreign physician is merely to tide over some temporary inability to procure the drug, to which they return as soon as circumstances prove favourable.

One of the greatest obstacles to the permanent cure of opium-smoking in individuals, as I am convinced it will prove the great bar to all efforts at putting down the general use of opium in China, is the despotism of the tyrant Fashion. To present the pipe, to join in its participation, has become the almost universal sign of courtesy and hospitality. No business can be completed nor acquaintanceship inaugurated without its aid, and, in fact, it would be a tremendous strain on the not unlimited moral courage of the native were he to refuse to present or join in the fashionable civility. In some few instances a show of privacy is kept up, but I have reason to think that even this semblance of deference to those theoretical moral platitudes Chinese know so well how to write and utter is fast passing away; and I am bound to admit that although I have in my time had a considerable number of applicants for treatment, and many have undoubtedly been "cured," I cannot recall a single instance where I was sure relapse after a longer or shorter time did not take place, and it was ever the same excuse:—"I can't help it; my friends all smoke, and if I do not they will leave me, and I shall lose my business," or "face," as the case might be.

I think all medical men agree that unless patients are under immediate observation little can be done; and if the remedy used contains opium, and this be dispensed to all and sundry, facilities are offered for setting up the greater evil of opium-eating. As a fact, this has actually happened in Formosa. Several years ago, at the missionary hospital at Taiwan-fu, the cure of opium-smoking used to be effected by pills in the first instance containing opium combined with strong tonics. Of course the patients obtaining the pills were kept under the supervision of the doctor and had their doses of opium rapidly diminished until total deprivation was arrived at; in a word, they were treated in the usual and rational way. Observing, however, that opium administered by the mouth proved for the time as effectual as smoking, and naturally ignorant of the more speedy disaster liable to follow its habitual use in this form, having also its great cheapness to support it, some of the old employees of the hospital have by means of their agents instituted an enormous sale of so-called "great foreign opium pills." In some cases these pills are made from crude opium purchased in the native shops, but in the majority of instances are manufactured with the pulvis opii of the Pharmacopoeia or with muriate of morphia. The opium pills contain from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 grain, made up with some aromatic mess obtained in the Chinese medicine shops, and the

morphia pills from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ grain of the alkaloid, prepared in a similar way. The first are sold at about $\frac{1}{2}$ of a cent, and the others at 1 cent. each. They are dispensed indiscriminately by natives all over the country, though the chief depôt is at Taiwan-fu. I need hardly say that this is done entirely without the cognizance, still less approval, of those whose name is audaciously appropriated. The result is that opium-eating is now becoming very common in the south of Formosa; and although it does not by any means supersede the use of the pipe, still, whenever from pecuniary or other causes this would not be convenient or available, resort is had to the pill. One grain of morphia or 2 grains of opium swallowed is found to be equivalent to 1 mace of the preparation smoked; 1 mace = about 58 grains.

To give an idea of the consumption of morphia, I may state that one man in Taiwan-fu alone imports upwards of 100 ounces of morphia per annum, which he uses in the manufacture of these pills.

Applicants at either the Taiwan-fu or Takow Hospital are now treated without either opium or its alkaloid; but, in my experience at least, as soon as the patients discover the absence of their favourite drug the anxiety for cure vanishes, as does also the *soi-disant* penitent.

True Extract—

(Signed) W. WYKEHAM MYERS, M.B., &c.,
Surgeon H.I.M. Customs Service,
Tainan (S. Formosa), and
Takow, S. Formosa, Port Medical Officer.
March 1, 1894.

Mr. MANNICH.

Taiwanfoo,
February 23, 1894.

1. Opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese in Formosa.

2. I consider that one-half of the male populace of Formosa smoke opium. I do not know of opium being smoked by children or women.

3. I do not know of bad effects of opium being smoked. To a certain class of Chinese (such as carriers, chair-bearers, and rice farmers' hands) I consider opium-smoking of beneficial effect physically, as the moderate use of the drug assists them to overcome the hard work which their occupation on the road and ricefield entails upon them.

4. As far as I know, consumers in Formosa smoke only.

5. I cannot say, since I met no injurious cases.

6. It is not correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. During my 25 years' residence in China I met but Chinese who smoked moderately.

7. Almost all out-door labourers and most of the merchants smoke opium without the slightest effect on their efficiency and calling.

8. If the opium-smokers of Formosa were but to consume the fourth part in value of alcohol, I think they would all become incurable drunkards.

9. Opium-smoking is not condemned by Chinese as degrading.

10. I have heard of Chinese breaking themselves of the opium habit.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off, Formosa would at first consume less, owing to the rise in price of Persian opium, but the greater import of native opium would soon lower the price of Persian opium, which has long ago driven the Indian opium from the Formosa market.

12. I do not know of Europeans ever having contracted the habit of opium-smoking.

13. Well-to-do Chinese of sedentary habits and occupations smoke opium as freely as Europeans smoke tobacco. Out-door labourers will smoke opium to refresh themselves, and I have seen frequently chair-bearers stagger quite exhausted under their load in a broiling sun, and after a pipe or two of opium resume their load quite refreshed. In all serious and painful

sicknesses Chinese doctors prescribe the use of an opium pipe, so there is a general belief among Chinese that opium-smoking is the best prophylactic against any illness.

14. Not that I know of.

15. The Chinese in Formosa ridicule the idea of England not allowing the Indian or other opium to come here, and if a patriotic (P) Chinaman was to wish such a thing, it would be prompted by the simple desire of seeing the native opium come to the front.

16. I can talk of Formosa only, and here no native opium is being grown, and very little Indian opium is consumed.

17—(a.) Consumption would not materially decrease, since Persia would treble its cultivation; and

(b.) Native opium would be grown much more on the mainland.

(c.) The consumption of native-grown opium will enrich the provincial authorities, but lessen the revenue collected by the foreign customs for the central Government.

18. No.

19. I cannot answer this question.

20. As a general remark, I wish to add my solemn conviction that opium-smoking as it is generally indulged by Chinese does not do harm to the people.

(Signed) J. MANNICH.
To H.B.M. Consul, (President since 1868.)
Taiwanfoo.

SHANGHAI (Supplementary).*

Shanghai.

H.B.M. Consulate-General,

Shanghai, March 9, 1894.

SIR,

IN continuation of my despatch, No. 3, of 2nd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith further replies received in answer to the questions regarding opium consumption and opium revenue in China, furnished by medical men, merchants, and others, who are specially conversant with the subject.

I have, &c.

G. JAMIESON,
for Consul-General.

H.B.M. Consulate-General,

Shanghai.

Dr. MATHEWS.

This gentleman is a member of the same Mission as the foregoing. He has had the like experience and opportunities of examining the subject, and is also editor of the "Chinese Medical Journal."

(Signed) G. JAMIESON,
Consul.

H.B.M. Consulate-General,

Shanghai.

Dr. BOONE.

A member of the American Protestant Episcopal Mission. This gentleman has had large opportunities of examining the subject. He has been for 13 years in charge of St. Luke's Hospital for natives.

(Signed) G. JAMIESON,
Consul.

PERCY MATHEWS, M.D., LL.D., F.R.G.S.

1. Is opium commonly consumed by the Chinese in the part of China with which you are acquainted?

1. Few cases of excessive opium-smoking, and but two opium suicides, have come directly within my cognizance during the past six years. Careful inquiry leads me to place the opium-smoking community at some 40 per cent. of the population in and around this neighbourhood, and "all drink wine" (*sau true*).

2. What proportion, should you conjecture, of the adult males of each race are consumers? Do women consume opium to any extent? Do children?

* For other Shanghai papers, see page 240.

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2. The Chinese only as a race are under consideration. (Question No. 5 deals with proportion.) I find that it is most exceptional for a woman to smoke in the country; children do not. Having had some little experience with regard to the neighbouring metropolis, it will of course be recalled that an urban population contrasts widely with a rural, and that Shanghai, the successor of Soochow, "the city of pleasure," cannot be regarded as representing the prevalency of the opium habit in this part of China.

3. What have you observed to be the effects of opium, moral, physical, and social, on its consumers? Is the effect the same on consumers of each race, or can you draw distinctions between the effects on consumers of different races? Is there any difference between the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium?

3. I do not believe that opium, if used in moderation, tends either to the moral or physical deterioration of the Chinese. As to the social status of the opium-smoker, doubtless the poor coolie, who, either from overwork, disease, or whatever the cause may be, substitutes opium for rice, would be regarded in the same light as an habitual drunkard would be at home, but when we know that a mandarin who notoriously smokes an enormous amount of opium daily is advanced to one of the highest positions in the State, we realise that opium-smoking (as indeed we know) when viewed from a social standpoint is merely a question of degree. Qualities being even, I should say none whatever.

4. Do consumers chiefly smoke, or do they eat opium? Or do they drink a decoction of opium? If opium is taken in two or all of these forms, can you distinguish between the effects of each?

4. Smoke; but since the introduction of pills by philanthropists containing either opium or morphine for the cure of the opium habit, eating has largely increased, and I have been informed that the morphine syringe will soon rival the opium pipe. Some of the poorer classes (burden coolies) drink a decoction of opium as a stimulant. As to relative effects, it is, I take it, a matter of purity with regard to the particular preparation of opium.

5. What are the proportions of those who use opium—

- (i.) without injury;
- (ii.) with slight injury;
- (iii.) with great injury ("opium sots")?

5.—(i.) 70 per cent.; (ii.) 27 per cent.; (iii.) 3 per cent. These figures apply to Shanghai, and are based on Chinese authority. This would not apply to the country. The proportions are considerably less.

6. Is it correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium? Do you know any or many cases of consumers who have taken their opium for years without harm to themselves? If so, please give description of one or two such cases in detail. If you know any, or many, cases of great injury, give examples?

6. It is incorrect. Yes. I know of men who may be regarded as specialists in their calling, one case especially recalling itself to me. A man of fine physique and a confirmed opium-smoker for many years past is daily engaged in all the intricacies of eastern commercial life. He is a man of intellectual, mental, and physical vigour, and certainly gives no indication whatever of being the victim of a pernicious vice. I have not heard of any case of great injury in reference to this class (statistics already given with regard to other classes).

7. Do a majority of the labourers, or of the merchants, or of the artisans, of the part of China with which you are conversant, consume opium? If so, what is generally the effect of the opium habit on their efficiency in their calling?

If possible, give details and examples in reply to this question.

7. No, not in the country, but more or less they take wine, *i.e.*, I should say that wine-drinking here would be analogous to beer or cider drinking in the country in England. With regard to opium-smoking in the country, I am of opinion that, under the climatic conditions to which the Chinese farmer is subjected, the moderate use of opium is beneficial as a prophylactic

in checking the first symptom of malarial fever, *i.e.*, chill, and it is by them so recognised.

8. How does the use or abuse of opium among the races of that part of China with which you are conversant compare with the use or abuse of alcohol among such races, in regard to the effect on consumers?

8. "Alcohol" is more injurious.

9. Is the habit of consuming opium condemned as degrading, or injurious, by the general opinion of the Chinese? How would they regard the opium habit as compared with the alcohol habit?

9. The consumption of opium by the better classes is not condemned as degrading. The question of its being injurious is dependent upon personal equation idiosyncrasy, excess, and moderation. There is no comparison whatever between the native wine (*sau tsue*) and "alcohol" (the latter is practically unknown) since a Chinaman ordinarily drinks several pounds weight, and must imbibe several pints before he can be considered legitimately drunk; therefore, from my experience, the drinking of spirit, to which these people here are accustomed, is looked upon by them as "fun," whereas the smoking of opium is strictly business.

10. Can and do opium-consumers break themselves of the opium habit?

10. They can do so when the habit has not been carried to excess; there are plenty of statistics of radical cures, and plenty again who require to be cured over and over again. The habitual consumer oftentimes becomes accustomed to the drug, and there is no occasion to break off the habit.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off, what would be the effect on opium-consumers, and on the population of your neighbourhood? Would they resort to Chinese-grown opium? or would they take to alcohol or to some narcotic other than opium? or would they abstain altogether?

11. They would resort to Chinese-grown opium, if it is not already used; they would not abstain.

12. Do people of European race contract the opium habit in any numbers? If not why not? And what makes Asiatics more liable to contract the habit?

12. I have only heard of two instances. This answer covers a far more extended experience than the writer's. The energetic temperament of the European is naturally opposed to the soothing and tranquillising effect of the opium pipe, whereas the Chinaman, from his lethargic nature, and influenced by climate, food, dress, and association, primarily seeks it as a stimulant, and is thus for these reasons more calculated to indulge in the habit than the European; further, he evidences a marked constitutional toleration for the drug.

13. How are opium-consumers led to use the drug? Is opium, within your knowledge, a prophylactic against fever, or rheumatism, or malaria? Or is it so regarded commonly by the inhabitants of the part of China with which you are conversant?

13. For various reasons—toothache, fever, dyspepsia, and bowel complaints. It satisfies a craving for some kind of stimulation, and is a popular method of treating and entertaining guests. Yes, within my knowledge opium is advocated by the Chinese as a prophylactic, certainly as regarding fever and bowel complaints. I have repeatedly prescribed a preparation containing opium in the early stage of malarial fever, and there is a sound physiological basis for so doing.

14. Do opium-consumers themselves usually desire to get free of the opium habit?

14. If when used to excess it interferes with their interest, they certainly do.

15. Is there among the Chinese in the part of China with which you are acquainted any wish that England should not allow opium to be exported from India?

15. I do not believe, and upon inquiry I have never heard, of any uninfluenced desire in this direction.

17. What will be the probable consequences of the prohibition or restriction of the export of Indian opium—

- (a.) on the consumption of opium by the Chinese;
- (b.) on the cultivation of the poppy and production of opium in China;
- (c.) on the arrangements made by the Chinese Government for raising a revenue from opium.

17.—(a.) Chinese opium will be wholly substituted.
(b.) Proportionately increased, and smuggling ensue.
(c.) Presumably taxing home production.

20. Have you any other remark to make in regard to opium-consumption among the people around you?

20. It occurs to me to add in connexion with the foregoing answers that, upon my arrival in China, I was naturally prejudiced with regard to the opium habit, and that it is only upon conviction I now speak. To emphasise my position, it is right to add that, apart from the interest I have taken in this matter for some years past, and the constant desire to avail myself of all practical information, is the fact that, as editor of the only medical journal in China, I have had more extended facilities for examining into the question than ordinarily falls to the individual medical man. Such being the case, I, though in all diffidence, state that it is my firm conviction that the evils of the opium habit, though they are many and great, have been exaggerated, and the good derived from it but little recognised. With regard to contrasting opium and alcohol, it seems to me but the conflicting of essential requirements of the eastern and western worlds, *à propos* of which a small incident occurs to me, viz., that of a refined English lady spending several days in Shanghai for the express purpose of photographing a dying opium-smoker. Little need, indeed, had she for coming so far a-field, when I should have imagined that a dying drunkard at home would have amply sufficed for an equally sad and gruesome spectacle, even as the smoke-laden, spirit-charged atmosphere of a London gin-shop, with all its accompaniments of alcoholic abuse, could hardly be held up as an object-lesson even to the debauchee of the lowest opium-den in heathen China.

March 7, 1894.

1. Is opium commonly consumed by the Chinese in the part of China with which you are acquainted?

1. Yes.

2. What proportion, should you conjecture, of the adult males of each race are consumers? Do women consume opium to any extent?—Yes. Do children?

3. What have you observed to be the effects of opium, moral, physical, and social, on its consumers? Is the effect the same on consumers of each race, or can you draw distinctions between the effects on consumers of different races? Is there any difference between the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium?

3. Effects: Moral, lowers the stamina, makes them dishonest, they produce unfair work. Physical, mal-assimilation, wasting diarrhoea, dysentery, constipation, illness from nerve disturbances, gradually need more and more opium.

4. Do consumers chiefly smoke or do they eat opium, or do they drink a decoction of opium? If opium is taken in two or all of these forms, can you distinguish between the effects of each?

5. What are the proportions of those who use opium—

- (i.) without injury;
- (ii.) with slight injury;
- (iii.) with great injury ("opium sots").

5. (i.) Few, if any. (ii.) Some are temperate.
(iii.) Most of them gradually take more and more, become greater slaves to the habit.

6. Is it correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium? Do you know any or many cases of consumers who have taken their opium for years without harm to themselves? If so, please give description of one or two such cases in detail. If you know any, or many, cases of great injury, give examples.

6. There may be moderation. No. I know a general who is in a state of misery and ill-health from the habit, a judge, and I know of another judge who died from it. My own head servant died from effects of opium habit. A Mr. W., and several others I knew, died from effects of opium habit.

7. Do a majority of the labourers, or of the merchants, or of the artisans, of the part of China with which you are conversant, consume opium? If so, what is generally the effect of the opium habit on their efficiency in their calling? If possible, give details and examples in reply to this question.

7. They are less efficient than others who do not use opium.

8. How does the use or abuse of opium among the races of that part of China with which you are conversant compare with the use or abuse of alcohol among such races, in regard to the effect on consumers?

8. Opium has the worst effect.

9. Is the habit of consuming opium condemned as degrading or injurious by the general opinion of the Chinese? How would they regard the opium habit as compared with the alcohol habit?

9. Yes. Regard opium habit as the worst.

10. Can and do opium-consumers break themselves of the opium habit?

10. Very seldom.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were to be cut off, what would be the effect on opium-consumers, and on the population of your neighbourhood? Would they resort to Chinese-grown opium? or would they take to alcohol or to some narcotic other than opium? or would they abstain altogether?

11. Would buy any opium they found in the market.

12. Do people of European race contract the opium habit in any numbers? If not, why not? And what makes Asiatics more liable to contract the habit?

12. Because it is cheap. I know of a few Europeans who have contracted the habit, and all were seriously injured by it. Some died from the effects of the habit. Among these were persons of rank and education.

13. How are opium-consumers led to use the drug? Is opium, within your knowledge, a prophylactic against fever or rheumatism or malaria? Or is it so regarded commonly by the inhabitants of the part of China with which you are conversant?

13. No. So far as I know, the Chinese resort to it in cases of illness for the relief of pain.

14. Do opium-consumers themselves usually desire to get free of the opium habit?

14. Many of them wish to be cured. About 25 come to me a year and pay all expenses to be treated for the cure of this habit.

15. Is there among the Chinese in the part of China with which you are acquainted any wish that England should not allow opium to be exported from India?

15. The Chinese do wish that England should not allow opium to be exported from India.

16. By what classes of persons and in what provinces or districts of China is Indian opium usually consumed, and how far does Chinese-grown opium compete with Indian opium in the provinces or districts in which the two kinds are readily obtainable?

16. See Customs Reports as to Chinese-grown opium.

17. What will be the probable consequences of the prohibition or restriction of the export of Indian opium—

- (a.) on the consumption of opium by the Chinese;
- (b.) on the cultivation of the poppy and production of opium in China;
- (c.) on the arrangements made by the Chinese Government for raising a revenue from opium.

18. Can you give any estimate of the area now under poppy in the several provinces of China and the average annual out-turn of opium?

18. See Customs Reports.

APP. XXVI.
Shanghai.

APP. XXVI

19. What revenue does the Chinese Government derive from opium, and how does the taxation levied on Indian opium compare with that levied on opium produced in China?

19. See Customs Reports.

20. Have you any other remark to make in regard to opium-consumption among the people around you?

20. I have had the charge of St. Luke's Hospital in Shanghai for 13½ years, and during that time have seen all classes of the people from high mandarins and wealthy gentry and merchants to the very poorest persons. I am satisfied that the Chinese universally look upon a person who consumes opium as one who is on the road to ruin, and that he will ultimately die from the effects of the drug. Opium-smokers as a class are lazy and shiftless, and they are reported by the police to be very dishonest. I have seen the vice transmitted from one generation to the next, and have seen families descend in the social grade from wealth to poverty owing to their indulgence in this habit. I have treated numbers of opium-smokers. They are persons of lowered vitality, and stand injuries less well than those who do not smoke opium. Most opium-smokers who try to give up the habit revert to it sooner or later.

(Signed) H. W. BOONE, M.D.,
Superintending Surgeon, St. Luke's Hospital.

Wuhu.

WUHU.

H.M. Consulate, Wuhu.
March 6, 1894.

SIR,
In accordance with instructions received from Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, I have the honour to forward herewith the answers that I have been able to procure locally to the list of questions concerning opium in China.

These answers consist of four sets, and I am indebted for them to the following gentlemen:—

1. R. H. Cox, Esq., Phys. and Surg., Medical Officer to the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs at Wuhu.

2. The Rev. G. A. Stuart, M.D., of the American Methodist Episcopal Mission, Physician in charge of the Wuhu General Hospital.

3. Père H. Moisan, S.J., a much experienced and well-informed French priest of the Jesuit Mission at Wuhu.

4. Dr. Robert C. Beebe, M.D., of the Philander Smith Memorial Hospital at Nanking.

I am unable to add, of my own knowledge, to the information thus collected.

I have, &c.

E. L. B. ALLEN,
Acting Consul.

Dr. Cox.

1. Yes.

2. About 40 per cent. adult males; 1 per cent. women; children nil.

3. The effects of opium, moral, physical, and social, depend on the quantity consumed. There is little or no effect in those who smoke in moderation; but those who smoke to excess all three suffer, the physical more than the others. There is only one race in this part of China, the Chinese proper. Indian opium is said to be stronger, more satisfying, and less injurious than Chinese-grown; but, on the other hand, it is more difficult to give up. A half Indian is equivalent to a whole Chinese.

4. Consumers chiefly smoke opium. Only those who smoke to excess drink a decoction, to produce a speedy effect, and those who take it with suicidal intent. Whichever way taken the immediate effects are the same, but symptoms dangerous to life would point to the drug being swallowed.

5.—(i.) About 20 per cent. smoke without injury.
(ii.) About 60 per cent. smoke with slight injury.
(iii.) About 20 per cent. smoke with great injury.

6. No. There is such a thing as moderation, as there is in alcohol, though the ranks of those who smoke to excess are recruited from the moderate class. I know of some who are smoking 5 mace a day, and have been smoking gradually increasing amounts up to that quantity for 10 years without any apparent harm. I have also known cases where old opium-smokers have made the lives of their families burdensome from the frequency of calls on the purses of their children.

7. The majority are labourers, and those in a more or less independent position. The effect depends on the amount consumed.

8. I consider the use in favour of alcohol, and the abuse in favour of opium.

9. It is universally condemned. No means of judging.

10. Yes. About 70 per cent. do.

11. A number of moderate smokers would probably give up the habit, but the majority would resort to Chinese-grown opium. I do not think they would take to alcohol, or another narcotic, though in time the use of hypodermic injections of morphia might be substituted for it. Few would abstain altogether.

12. No. It does not suit their idea of happiness. The European likes excitement, the Asiatic rest.

13. Through the influence of certain societies, illness, and idleness. Not so within my knowledge. No.

14. Yes.

15. Yes.

16. Indian opium is consumed by the wealthy and those having leisure, especially at the open ports and their vicinities. Chinese-grown drug is driving the Indian out of the market.

17.—(a.) It would reduce the consumption temporarily.

(b.) It would increase the production of opium in China.

(c.) The Chinese Government would probably make good the deficit by levies on native-grown opium.

18. No.

19. Indian opium is taxed at the rate of Hk. taels 110 a picul. Native-grown Hk. taels 60 a picul.

20. None, except that I consider it is not as great an evil as the consumption of alcohol in Great Britain.

(Signed) ROBERT W. COX, L.R.C.S.I., &c.
Medical Officer I.M.C.

Wuhu, February 23, 1894.

Rev. G. STUART, M.D.

1. Yes.

2. I should conjecture that fully 60 per cent. of the adult males consume opium. I know that very many women consume it. Applications by women for the cure of the opium habit are frequent. Small children are not usually allowed to use it, but they sometimes consume it clandestinely.

3. The effects of opium, moral, physical, and social on its consumers is first and always disastrous. The consumption of opium is a solitary rather than a social vice. Its final effect is to wreck the physical system. But preceding this is the wreck of moral character. A man may be honest enough when his opium craving is satisfied, but before that business and business integrity are an unknown quantity.

4. Smoke.

5. I hold that opium is never used, except medicinally, without injury.

6. I think it quite correct to say so. Cases of great injury are seen in this part of China at every time. Families, through smoking opium and the consequent neglect of business, have lost their property. Suicides are frequent, and the physical wrecks now going about the streets as beggars, who formerly were active, intelligent business or literary gentlemen, constantly attest to the baneful effects of opium.

7. Labourers, including farmers, consume less than the other classes, although its consumption is rapidly increasing in this class. The efficiency of all classes is very much lessened. See answer to (6).

8. Alcohol is very little used in this district.

9. It is considered degrading by the better class.
10. Very rarely. The habit is usually resumed.
11. Entirely a matter of conjecture. Unable to say.
12. They do not, on account of its being regarded as a most degrading habit.
13. They are usually led to begin its use by the example of others; sometimes for the relief of pain or the cure of disease. It is sometimes used as a remedy for fevers, but is greatly inferior to other remedies for this purpose. It is not a prophylactic against any of the diseases named; and is not so regarded by the natives. Consumers of opium contract these diseases as readily as others.

14. There are those who do, but many are indifferent on the subject, although nearly all regard it as a useless habit.

15. Very many Chinese have expressed such a wish to me. Unable to answer other questions.

Respectfully,

GEO. A. STUART, M.D.

REV. FATHER H. MOISAN.

1 & 2. L'usage de l'opium est très-répandu. La moitié des hommes le fument; il n'est pas rare de voir des femmes le fumer aussi. Je n'ai pas vu d'enfants fumer l'opium, j'ai seulement entendu dire que lorsque les parents fument les enfants ne tardent pas à les imiter.

3. Par rapport aux effets de l'opium, il faut distinguer deux choses (a) l'usage et l'abus; (b.) la condition de fortune dans laquelle se trouvent les fumeurs. L'abus est dangereux et funeste pour tous; ayant pour effet d'obscurcir les facultés intellectuelles et morales; et, chez plusieurs de les éteindre presque complètement. Au point de vue physique l'abus de l'opium a pour résultat habituel d'affaiblir le corps et de le rendre impropre au travail, spécialement au travail qui demande une grande dépense de forces. Pour bien des gens il peut même être une cause indirecte de mort. Je dis indirecte, parceque je ne crois pas que la fumée de l'opium ait jamais causé directement la mort de personne; mais il n'est pas rare de voir des gens ruinés par l'opium et dans l'impossibilité de se procurer la dose à laquelle ils sont habitués. Alors on les voit tomber dans un abrutissement et une insensibilité complète, dans laquelle ils meurent au bout de quelques jours. Quant à l'usage, je ne crois pas qu'il ait d'effets fâcheux sur ceux qui ont habituellement une nourriture substantielle. Je suis en conséquence persuadé que pour les gens riches, ou simplement d'une condition aisée, l'usage modéré de l'opium n'a pas plus d'inconvénients que l'usage du tabac. Il n'en est pas de même pour les pauvres; en voici la raison; L'opium en Chine est relativement très cher; il en résulte que les ouvriers et autres gens sans fortune qui s'y adonnent n'ont plus suffisamment d'argent pour se procurer une nourriture capable de compenser ses effets débilitants. Comme en outre l'habitude de l'opium engendre un besoin très-impérieux, ils sacrifient tout pour le satisfaire. Il en résulte qu'ils n'ont plus de quoi se nourrir, ni nourrir leur familles. En conséquence le fumeur d'opium se débilité peu à peu, tandis que sa femme et ses enfants n'ont pour vivre d'autres ressources que de mendier. Ceci est un fait d'expérience et je pourrais citer nombre de familles réduites à cette extrémité par la faute du chef. Je n'ai constaté ces effets que sur les Chinois; je ne puis pas me prononcer sur les autres races. Les Chinois ne distinguent pas entre l'opium des Indes et l'opium, indigène. Existe-t-il une différence dans leur effets? C'est une question que je ne puis résoudre.

4. En Chine l'usage de l'opium consiste surtout à le fumer. Telle est la coutume dans les pays que j'ai fréquentés. Il peut se faire qu'ailleurs on le mange et qu'on en boive des décoctions; mais je ne saurais me prononcer sur les effets qui en résultent.

5. (i. & ii.) Pour les gens riches ou aisés, je crois qu'ils peuvent user, (non pas abuser) de l'opium sans graves inconvénients. Je dis graves inconvénients; car l'exemple qu'ils donnent est toujours regrettable et malheureusement trop suivi. (iii.) Je crois qu'il y a de très-graves inconvénients pour tous les gens sans fortune et réduits à vivre de leur travail de chaque jour. J'en ai donné la raison au No. 3.

6. Je crois la modération possible même dans l'usage de l'opium; mais à une condition, c'est que les effets débilitants en soient empêchés par une nourriture sub-

stantielle. Je connais des fumeurs d'opium invétérés, c'est à dire, qui fument l'opium depuis de longues années sans détriment pour leurs affaires ou leurs forces physiques ou intellectuelles; mais tous sont des gens riches, ou du moins très aisés. Pour ce qui en des graves inconvénients, j'en ai parlé au No. 3; je n'ai rien à ajouter.

7. Sous la 1^{ère} partie cfr. no. 1 and 2. Sous la seconde cfr. no. 3.

8. Je ne puis me prononcer sur cette question, vu que l'abus ou même l'usage des spiritueux n'existe point dans les parties de la Chine que je connais; partant je n'ai pu en constater les effets.

9. Je ne crois pas que les Chinois en général regardent l'habitude de l'opium comme dégradante ou funeste. Les missionnaires font leur possible pour le leur persuader; ils ont pour cela d'excellentes raisons mais produisant sur le peuple fort peu d'effet, attendu qu'il voit les gens riches et les mandarins adonnés presque tous à l'usage de l'opium. La seconde partie de la question "*How would they regard the opium habit as compared with alcohol habit?*" ne saurait se trancher a priori; c'est l'expérience qui la résoudra.

10. Je ne le crois pas; j'ai vu bien des fumeurs d'opium essayer de se corriger, je n'en ai pas vu un seul réussir. D'autres missionnaires que j'ai interrogés m'ont affirmé le même fait. Tous ont manqué de persévérance.

11. Si l'importation de l'opium cessait, je ne crois pas que les Chinois cessent par le fait même de fumer l'opium. La raison en est simple: l'usage de l'opium s'étant répandu, les Chinois se sont mis à le cultiver; et présentement la culture de l'opium en Chine se fait sur une grande échelle. Le grand avantage qui résulterait de la cessation du trafic, c'est que l'Angleterre dégagerait sa responsabilité et le gouvernement Chinois serait plus fort pour supprimer l'usage et les abus de cette drogue.

12. Je n'ai point vu d'Européen contracter l'habitude de l'opium. Pourquoi les Asiatiques sont ils plus enclin à la contracter? J'avoue que je n'en sais rien.

13. L'habitude de l'opium se contracte comme toutes les mauvaises habitudes. On se trouve avec des amis qui fument l'opium, on fait comme eux. Si les occasions se présentent souvent, l'habitude en est vite prise. La curiosité et l'attrait du fruit défendu peuvent exercer aussi une certaine influence. Beaucoup de fumeurs s'excusent en disant qu'ils emploient l'opium comme médicament. Ils lui attribuent une grande efficacité comme calmant.

14. Comme les ivrognes désirent se corriger de l'habitude de l'enivrer. Ils le disent continuellement, mais n'en prennent point les moyens, ou du moins, n'y persévèrent pas.

15. Le peuple est peu au courant de l'importation de l'opium in Chine. Il le fume sans s'occuper de sa provenance; en conséquence je n'ai entendu exprimer aucun désir relativement à l'importation d'opium faite par l'Angleterre.

16. Je ne puis me prononcer en connaissance de cause sur cette question: L'opium des Indes se consomme surtout dans les ports.

17. (a.) La suppression de l'importation aurait pour résultat de diminuer grandement la consommation de l'opium dans les ports et sur le littoral. Car c'est là surtout que l'on fait usage de l'opium Indien.

(b.) Elle pourra développer la culture du pavot en Chine; car les fumeurs ne pouvant plus se procurer de l'opium des Indes se rabattant nécessairement sur l'opium Chinois. Il y a quarante ans la suppression de l'importation aurait pu supprimer l'usage de l'opium en Chine, à cette époque la culture du pavot étant chose à peu près inconnue; actuellement il est trop tard, seulement, comme je l'ai dit plus haut, cette mesure dégagerait la responsabilité de l'Angleterre et faciliterait l'action du gouvernement Chinois à l'intérieur.

(c.) Je ne puis répondre.

18 & 19. Je ne puis répondre.

20. Les Chinois se servent assez fréquemment de l'opium pour se suicider. Le suicide est chose fréquente en Chine, et l'opium cru est le moyen ordinaire dont les Chinois se servent. Je pourrais citer un bon nombre de cas.

H. MOISAN, S.J.

Wu-Hu, March 6, 1894.

APP. XXVI.

Dr. BEEBE.

Wuhu.

1. Yes.
2. About 60 per cent. Some women smoke, possibly 30 per cent. Have known a few cases of children smoking.
3. Demoralising.
4. Majority smoke; some eat opium.
5. I consider it more or less injurious to all consumers.
6. It is not, if by moderation is meant a small quantity.
7. See Answers 2 and 3.
8. The use and abuse of alcohol in this section is slight. No safe comparison can be made.
9. It is condemned. Do not know.
10. Rarely. I have known some cases.
11. Probably no effect. 2nd, Yes. 3rd, Do not know. 4th, No.
12. (P).
13. Through social influences and to relieve pain and disease. 2nd, No. 3rd, It is regarded by many as a good remedy for many diseases.
14. Very many so desire.
15. I think so, but not because they do not want opium.
16. (P).
17. (a.) Probably no effect.
- (b.) Increase.
- (c.) (P).
18. (P).
19. (P).
20. It is an evil without one recommendation.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT BEEBE, M.D.

Sir,

H.M. Consulate, Wuhu,
March 13, 1894.

With reference to my letter of the 6th instant, forwarding four sets of answers to the questions of the Royal Commission on Opium, I have now the honour to enclose a copy of a further set of answers subsequently received from Dr. Jellison, of the Philander Smith Memorial Hospital at Nanking.

I fear that the lateness of despatch of these latter answers may possibly prevent their being of use, but I have thought them of sufficient interest to be supplementarily forwarded.

Dr. Jellison's answers having been written on a number of very small sheets of paper and somewhat illegibly, I have thought it better to forward a copy instead of the original.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. L. B. ALLEN,
Acting Consul.

Dr. JELLISON.

1. Opium is commonly used in Nanking and the surrounding country. There are 30,000 shops in Nanking where opium is sold.

2. Twenty per cent. of adult males use opium, 1 per cent. of women, no children.

3. So far as I have observed, a man's moral nature is ruined by the habitual use of opium. The opium *habitué* will lie, steal, neglect his appointments, abscond with money entrusted to him, lose all sense of shame, pawn his father's clothing for money to smoke up, sell his wife and children, and all his household furniture to smoke, go hungry and nearly naked in order to get opium.

It constipates the bowels, retards excretion. It weakens digestion, and saps the strength of the consumers.

I have seen healthy farmers come into Nanking to carry sedan chairs and fall a victim to the opium habit, and become thin and weak, and finally leave the

business from lack of strength to do the work. Opium-smoking makes men lazy and unfit for responsible positions. In a thousand men in charge of other men's business, only about five eat opium, because the Chinese cannot trust an opium *habitué*.

I never noticed any difference between the effects of opium on different races. No difference in effect between Chinese and Indian opium.

5. Where 1,000 smoke opium only one or two will eat it, and for the reason that a poor man cannot buy enough to satisfy by smoking and so eats it, for 1 grain eaten is equal to 10 grains smoked. It is drunk dissolved in wine for suicidal purposes only.

I cannot tell the difference in the effects of taking opium in these different manners except by the odour of breath.

5. There are four classes according to injurious effects, viz. :—

- (i.) One per cent. take without injury to health.
- (ii.) Five per cent. take with slight injury to health.
- (iii.) Eighty-five per cent. take for many years with a gradual and continuous deterioration of health. They die old, after years of helplessness. Eighty per cent. of this class die of diarrhoea.
- (iv.) Nine per cent. are opium sots, good for nothing without opium, and good for little with opium. And what with poverty from neglect of business, and starvation, they die early of some intercurrent disease. A surgical operation, with loss of blood, is certain to be followed by shock.

6.—(a.) As to moderation. Some men can take 3 grains a day for 10 years, no more, no less, but with a slowly weakening body and impairment of health, most men must slowly increase the dose to keep up the effect.

(b.) I know no one who has taken opium for years without harm.

(c.) None.

(d.) Healthy men come from the country to pound rice with a heavy stone hammer, 80 per cent. of them begin to smoke opium and in 10 years must give up their work and return home on account of weakness.

7. Sixty per cent. of labourers smoke opium, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of merchants, 20 per cent. of artisans smoke opium. A labourer who does not use opium easily can carry 100 catties, but after using some time comes down to 80. The artisans' wages are cut 25 per cent. if he smokes opium, on account of lost time and poor work.

My personal teacher came to me an ordinary teacher. He had no bad habits, and was dismissed by another foreigner because he was too proud. With good pay and light work, with a good many days of no work, he fell into the opium habit. He stole money from my desk, spoons from my sideboard, and, last of all, stole a blank cheque, and inserting some figures which he had learned to write, he got 35 dollars at a native bank by presenting my card and the cheque. Since then he has become a common thief, and has been seen sitting on the street, ornamented with a wooden collar and forced to beg for food. He is ruined morally and lost all his pride and ambition.

8. There are for every person who uses alcohol 100 who use opium. Wine does not detract from a man's business ability, and I have never seen a Chinaman sick from any disease caused by alcoholic liquor. One never hears of the bad effect of wines, but opium is considered by the natives generally as the worst evil in China.

9. The use or abuse of opium is considered by all Chinamen who do not use it, and by a large majority of those who use it, as exceedingly degrading and injurious.

The Chinese consider the opium habit an unmitigated curse, and look upon the use of alcohol as of no importance because few use it, and that without damage.

10. Chinese have broken themselves of the opium habit, but only to begin again with a small dose. They break because they must use too costly an amount to satisfy, and prefer to suffer a time and then enjoy it for a small price.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off, those who use the Indian opium would use the Chinese opium instead. They would not take to alcohol, and there are no other narcotics used here that could replace it. Tea and tobacco could not replace opium. Indian and Chinese opium have the same effect. Indian opium has a more agreeable odour. They would not break.

Consul MANSFIELD.

APP. XXVI.
Wênchow.

12. I never knew a European to smoke opium, but I knew one who used morphia hypodermically. I do not know how he began. He was a doctor of medicine.

The Chinese smoke for pleasure and to quiet pain, and about equal proportions. I do not consider the Asiatics more liable to contract the habit. If the Europeans were in similar circumstances, they would use opium the same as Asiatics. Europeans who care for narcotics use alcohol and tobacco, and although I never heard of an opium *habitué* drinking alcohol, some hard drinkers take morphine. Probably the main reason why Europeans do not use opium is because they are morally opposed to it, while a heathen who will commit all the known and many of the unknown sins will use opium because he delights in anything that is sinful, and any sin that begins as a pleasure, as opium-smoking does, is all the easier to fall into. Why one man falls a slave to a degrading habit and another does not is explained in China in the same manner as in any other place, viz. (1) by example; (2) by tendency; (3) natural depravity.

13. Opium-consumers are led to use the drug by their friends and companions. They are driven to use the drug by pain.

So far as I know, opium is not a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, or malaria. Opium-smokers have all these diseases, and, I should think, are more susceptible to malaria on account of the lowered vitality caused by continued opium-smoking.

No Chiraman ascribes any prophylactic effect to opium in any disease.

14. Ten per cent. of opium consumers desire to break off. Fifty per cent. say they do, but really will not.

15. No.

16. The lower classes use the greater quantity of Chinese opium, and the higher classes use the Indian. I do not know about the districts, but, as far as I know, the two kinds of opium are everywhere, and it is only a question of money which is purchased. The poor take what they can buy, and the rich use the best, which is Indian.

17.—(a.) Restriction will cause more use of Chinese.

(b.) Cultivation will increase faster. There is a steady increase now.

(c.) The internal revenue will replace the external. All goods that move are taxed every few miles in China.

18. The question cannot be figured out, as it varies in different places.

19. Do not know. Duties are same on both kinds.

20. The consumption of opium is a most pernicious evil, and has not one argument in its favour. When a Chinaman wants to instance a bad man, he always takes the opium *habitué*, and the name alone calls to the listener's mind a panorama of all the iniquities, except drunkenness and lewdness. He cares for nothing but opium, and has no mind for wine or women.

The use of opium habitually arrests the secretions of the stomach, liver, and bowels, causing indigestion, constipation, and later emaciation and asthenia, and when seized by an ailment not fatal in a person not accustomed to opium they soon sink and die.

E. R. JELLISON, M.D.,

March 2, 1894. M. E. Mission, Nanking, China.

WÊNCHOW.

H.B.M. Consulate, Wênchow,
February 28, 1894.

SIR,

IN accordance with a circular from Her Majesty's Minister at Peking, I have the honour to enclose replies by Dr. Lowry, of this port, and myself to the paper of questions of the Commission on Opium, dated October 1893. I have not addressed myself to the Chinese authorities on the subject, as the time allowed (10 days) is insufficient, and, moreover, I deem it impossible to obtain from them any *bonâ fide* information such as is required.

I am, &c.

R. W. MANSFIELD.

H.B.M. Consul.

1. Yes.

2. The proportion in Wênchow and its suburbs of adult male consumers might be 20 per cent. Of women 5 per cent., chiefly rich widows and prostitutes. Of children, none.

3. I have not observed any marked effect either moral, physical, or social on moderate consumers. In the case of a confirmed smoker, his power of resisting temptation to dishonesty should his means be insufficient to gratify the craving would be weakened. For this reason alone, I would not employ a notorious smoker as a household servant. In the case of excessive smokers, the physical effects seem to be in the later stages diarrhoea, an increasing disability to take sufficient nourishment with corresponding wasting of the body and impotency. Smoking as a convivial after-dinner recreation is common, and is not regarded as objectionable. It is a breach of etiquette, however, to ask a person with whom one is not intimate if he smokes, and there always seems a delicacy on the part of a smoker about the discussion of the subject. I am told that the effects of the native drug are worse than those of the Indian. The former discolours the skin. For this, however, I do not vouch.

4. I have never heard of opium-eating in China except as a favourite form of suicide.

5. I cannot say. In a long residence in China I have not come in contact with half-a-dozen "opium sots." For this district my writer estimates about 10 per cent. of smokers as "opium sots."

6. Undoubtedly incorrect. I have known hundreds of moderate smokers among officials, lettered men, and merchants with whom I have associated, and many also among the poorer classes.

Examples.—(1.) A writer in one of the Consulates who had been over 30 years in Government employ. He had smoked about three-tenths of a Chinese ounce per diem all that time and probably long before. He died apparently of old age at 79, in possession of all his faculties, which were of a very high order. (2.) My present writer's father smoked four-tenths Chinese ounce daily for nearly 50 years, and enjoyed excellent health until his death at the age of 76.

The worst case I have met was that of a well-to-do shopkeeper who smoked excessively. He gradually neglected his business, and came down in the world till he was a beggar living in a little wayside shrine. He was reduced to a mere skeleton, and for some months I supplied him daily with food. His condition did not improve, and I found he was selling his ration to other beggars for a few cash to buy opium. He died, I believe, from starvation.

7. Certainly not a majority of any class. The largest proportion is among officials, gentry, merchants, and priests. Among labourers and artisans a much smaller proportion. The agricultural class rarely use the pipe. I should not say that smoking opium has any effect whatever on the efficiency of either a brain or a hand worker, unless, of course, it is carried to great excess.

Examples.—(1.) Three of the best stone-cutters now employed in building a new Consulate here are smokers. It in no way interferes with their work. (2.) One of the most intelligent English-speaking clerks in the employ of a merchant in Foochow is a somewhat heavy smoker. He can do nothing until 10 a.m., when he has consumed his daily allowance. After that hour he is quick and intelligent, and in every way a first-class worker.

8. The alcohol habit is practically unknown in China. By far the greater proportion of the population never touch wine or spirits except perhaps at a New Year's feast. I have never seen a Chinese dead drunk, nor even unable to walk straight. Occasionally one may meet a few persons flushed and somewhat excited with wine, but drinking as a vice and delirium tremens are unknown to the best of my belief.

9. Opium-smoking, I should say, is looked upon much as wine-drinking generally is in England, that is, as degrading and injurious only when carried to excess, and in the case of women. No comparison can be made (*see* preceding reply).

10. I cannot say; but if it has become a habit and not a mere occasional indulgence, I believe rarely. My writer estimates that some 5 per cent. of habitual moderate smokers break it off.

Apr. XXVI.

11. The import of Indian opium is very small here (Wénchow). The poppy grows freely in the immediate neighbourhood, and only the well-to-do use the foreign drug. The total import for 1893 was only 18,000 lbs., and much of this goes into the interior.

12.—(1.) No. (2.) I cannot say why not. (3.) It is probably the result of a less stimulating dietary, and the absence of any form of healthful exercise and outdoor amusements.

13. As a matter of fashion and imitation as with tobacco-smokers, and because the Chinese believe it to be both a prophylactic and a remedy for many diseases, chiefly consumption, diarrhoea, and rheumatism. It is also taken to alleviate pain and is considered in small doses as an aphrodisiac. Chair-coolies and those who have to make long-sustained physical effort take it occasionally as a stimulant while working.

14. Not usually. Still there are many who find the habit expensive and enslaving, and would willingly leave it off if they could without suffering.

15. None whatever.

16. Indian opium is every year taking more and more the character of a luxury for the rich. It is rapidly assuming the relation to native opium which high-class wines bear to beer and spirits in England.

17.—(a.) Nil.

(b.) To increase it in proportion.

(c.) The Chinese Government would doubtless make up their revenue by increased taxation on the native drug. (The revenue from the Indian drug now goes in great part to the Central Government; that from the native drug entirely into the provincial treasuries.)

18. No. The out-turn in this district is very large, and for 1892 was 270,000 lbs.

19. I cannot give the total revenue. Taxation is as follows:—

Indian drug:	\$
Import duty, Haiknan taels 30 a chest of, say, Chinese lbs. 100 =	
about	45
Likin tax, Haiknan taels 80 a chest = about	120
Total per Chinese lbs. 100	\$165
Native drug:	\$
Likin tax if used in the prefecture, per Chinese lbs. 100	24
Additional likin tax on entering another prefecture	24
Total per Chinese lbs. 100	\$48

20. It is to be deplored that the populations of the towns in this district are so much addicted to opium-smoking. The people are too poor to be able to afford the luxury except at the expense of proper nourishment, and the effects on the race generally of underfeeding and diminished reproduction should be ultimately disastrous.

R. W. MANSFIELD,
H.B.M. Consul for Wénchow.
(Residence in China 24 years.)
Wénchow,
February 28, 1894.

my notice at Pakhoi; he was a moderate smoker, and was intelligent, quick, punctual, and painstaking in his work. During office hours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., he did his work well; during these hours he had no chance of smoking.

(2.) Another English-speaking clerk (a Christian) I had opportunity of observing at Kiungchow. He also was a moderate smoker. He was intelligent and independent, and his ways of living and thinking were English. During the regular office hours he worked hard, and was painstaking.

(3.) Two other Customs employés, a writer aged 54, and a weigher aged 47, and who have smoked in moderation for over 20 years, have also come under observation. Both still perform their duties efficiently and well.

(4.) Another employé, aged 62, who though physically a wreck from opium, managed to perform his duties as a calculator of duties efficiently and well for 12 years; eventually he died from bronchitis. He smoked a Chinese ounce of opium daily.

(5.) Case of great injury. My own Chinese teacher at Kiungchow was an "opium sot;" he had in his day been a man of ability. He smoked nearly the whole day, stank when he came near you, had lost control over the sphincters of his bladder and rectum, and suffered constantly from bronchial catarrh with much expectoration. Eventually he ceased to be employed by anyone.

7. Not a majority—say of the officials, gentry, and merchants 10 per cent. smoke, and of the labourers (not farm) and artisans, say 20 per cent. smoke—10 per cent. are chair-bearers.

8. As there is no abuse in the use of alcohol among Chinese no comparison can be made.

9. Not degrading except in the case of women; not injurious in moderation in the general opinion of Chinese. As there is no alcohol habit there can be no comparison.

10. Some try to, and do at any rate reduce the quantity smoked daily.

11. No likely change in the population, and undoubtedly consumers would resort to Chinese-grown opium. In this district it is estimated—

80 per cent. smoke Chinese-grown opium;
15 " " " and Indian (mixed);
5 " " " Indian-grown opium.

12. No, no desire or object. The diet of Asiatics is neither stimulating or sustaining, and they are likely soon to appreciate the stimulating effects of opium once having tried it and contracted the habit.

13. Often from seeing others smoke—imitation. Opium is not, so far as I know, a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, or malaria, but Chinese believe it to be.

14. No.

15. In this district they are indifferent as the majority smoke native opium.

(Signed) J. H. LOWRY, L.R.C.P.Ed.,
L.R.C.S.Ed.,

Surgeon in the Chinese Imperial
Maritime Customs Service.

Wénchow, (Twelve years resident in China.)
March 1, 1894.

Dr. Lowry.

1. Yes.

2. Of adult males about 30 per cent.; women about 5 per cent., chiefly widows with means and women of the unfortunate class; children, no.

3. In the case of "opium sots," the effect morally, socially, and physically is bad; in moderate consumers there is little observed.

4. Smoke.

5.—(i.) 60 per cent.

(ii.) Nil.

(iii.) 40 per cent.

6. No. Have known many cases of consumers who have smoked opium in moderation and without harm to themselves.

Examples:—

(1.) An English-speaking Chinese clerk employed in the Imperial Maritime Customs Service came under

Mr. CHRISTOPHER THOMAS GARDNER, C.M.G.

1. Opium is commonly consumed by the Chinese in the parts of China with which I am acquainted, i.e., Kuanghung, Fokien, Chekiang, Kiangsoo, Kiangnan, Anhui, Kiangsi, Hupei, Shantung, Chihli and Shengking. I have reason to know it is equally commonly consumed in the other eight provinces of China, with which I am not personally acquainted.

2. From my experience I should say that 75 per cent. of the adult male population occasionally consume opium. Ten per cent. are regular consumers, and 3 or 4 per cent. have the opium craving. I do not think women consume opium to any extent. I have never heard of children consuming opium.

3. My observations of the effects of opium are, moral, it always leads to quietism and calming of the nerves,

in excess to indifference, and to the blunting of the conscience; occasionally it leads to theft and the selling of wife and children.

Physically, when taken in moderation it seems to have a beneficial effect in enabling the consumer to endure hard work on scanty diet. In excess it leads to a yellow waxy complexion and sometimes to extreme obesity, sometimes to extreme emaciation.

Socially, it helps to pass away the time and to facilitate the enduring the long and tedious conversations, and the dilatory mode of conducting business.

4. In China the only mode of consuming opium I am acquainted with is smoking opium.

5. I should say considerably over 90 per cent. of the consumers consume without injury, 1 or 2 per cent. with slight injury, perhaps a half or 4 per cent. with great injury. Not all those who have a craving for opium are injured by indulging.

6. It is not correct to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the consumption of opium. I have known the cases of many consumers who have taken their opium for years without harm to themselves. Notable the case of the Compradore of Her Britannic Majesty's Consulate, Shanghai. He was, to my knowledge, extending over 20 years, a great consumer; he had the craving for over 20 years, he performed his duties well and faithfully, and was the father of a large and healthy family.

The writer of the Consulate at Hankow, known to me for over eight years, during which time he smoked opium largely without evil results.

A Chinese official with whom I was acquainted for over nine years smoked opium all the time, daily, and was always an energetic efficient officer, and enjoyed uncommonly good health. The compradores and shroffs of many British firms, who are habitual smokers, enjoy good health. Personally, I do not know a single case of great injury to health that can be attributed to opium-smoking alone. I do know of three youthful Chinese, great smokers, whose constitutions were ruined, but these young men were addicted to sexual excesses, to drinking and dissipation generally, and therefore I am unable to state how far the opium-smoking accelerated their degeneration. Though personally I have not met such cases, I have heard accounts from trustworthy persons, of Chinese, especially of the lower classes, being ruined physically and morally by over indulgence in opium, but I have heard of far more Chinese, and have come across many, who have been ruined morally by gambling.

7. The majority of labourers, merchants, and artisans in the parts of China with which I am conversant smoke opium. The carters of Chihli and Shengking, the boatmen along the Yangtze, the porters and chair coolies of Kuanghung and Fokien smoke regularly every day. The opium-smoking seems to give them pluck and heart to endure hardship, fatigue, and hunger. As for the literary classes, merchants and shop-keepers, they are far more averse to physical exercise than is morally good for them, but whether this is the effect of opium-smoking or of other causes I cannot say.

8. Very few Chinese indulge in the abuse of alcoholic drinks; when tipsy with alcohol they are quarrelsome and violent; when under the effect of excessive opium-smoking lazy and indifferent, and want to lay down and dream in a half somnolent condition.

9. It is extremely difficult to get at the general opinion of the Chinese. From an experience of over 30 years I am inclined to think the majority of the Chinese have no opinions except on subjects in which they have an obvious and material personal interest. Unless when they have a district end to gain they will express views not that they hold, but which they think their interlocutor holds.

10. Occasionally an opium-smoker breaks himself of the habit, but very seldom.

11. If the Indian supply were cut off, its place would be taken by native, Turkey and Persian drug, not an ounce less would be smoked, not a drop more alcohol would be drunk, and no other stimulant would be resorted to.

12. People of European race do not contract the opium habit. People of European race are active in their habits and full of life and energy. They will not give up the time for smoking opium. An exceedingly moderate smoker will spend an hour a day with his opium pipe in a recumbent position, the opium pipe feeding, &c., &c., takes up the whole attention, nothing

can be done while smoking opium except smoke. The Chinese have no amusements, nobody reads for pleasure, time has to them no value.

13. Some Chinese are led to smoke opium to relieve coughs or spitting of the blood. I think the majority smoke merely as a pastime. I think opium-smoking acts as antiseptic in case of bronchial disorders. I also think it a prophylactic against low fevers of an agueish type. I have never heard of its having an effect on rheumatism. It is a common belief among the Chinese, that opium-smoking impairs fertility and prolongs the enjoyment of sexual intercourse. Hence it is invariably smoked in brothels.

14. Some opium-smokers who are well-to-do do not desire to get rid of the habit. Others, who are poor, do desire to do so, for the luxury is an expensive one.

15. As far as I am able to get at the ideas of the Chinese they would like the importation of opium and all other foreign products prohibited, as they consider the purchase of foreign commodities impoverishes China.

16. The practice now throughout all the parts of China with which I am acquainted is to blend the native and Indian drug. The rich and the aged prefer the flavour of the Indian drug, the younger and poorer go in more for the native drug. Where native opium is easily procurable as in Hupei, Shengking, and Shantung, very little Indian drug is used. In Kuangtung, where native drug is dear, the Indian is more used.

17. The probable consequences of the prohibition or restriction of the export of Indian will be—

- (a) absolutely nil on the consumption of opium by the Chinese;
- (b) it will increase the cultivation of the poppy and the production of opium in China;
- (c) the Chinese Government will endeavour to recoup itself for the loss of the import revenue by attempting to levy inland revenue taxes on native opium.

18. I am unable to answer this question. All I can say is that fields in the vicinity of various consulates are a blaze of poppies.

19. The revenue derived by the Chinese Government on opium is about one and a half million pounds sterling per annum. Nominally the dues on native opium are the same as those on foreign opium, but owing to the ease with which the former are evaded, the Chinese Government have found it necessary to remit a large percentage of the taxes on native opium. I believe this remission amounts to from 30 to 50 per cent. of the tax.

20. I have no further remarks to make with regard to the opium consumption among the people in China except to note that the higher and respectable classes only smoke at home or in the houses of their friends, or in the better class brothels, and do not frequent the popular opium shops and smoking palaces, that the cost and beauty of opium-couches and opium-smokers' requisites vary from fifty pounds to a few shillings, that the making opium lamps is an important industry in Canton, many hundred thousands are exported every year from that port. Making opium pipes is an important industry in Hankow, making silver opium boxes an important industry of Soochow, making opium trays of Tonkwin, Japan, and Yangchow, Hankow, &c. That at the opium shops the price charged is the wholesale price of refined opium, and that at first sight it would appear that the opium saloon-keeper provides his guests with house and couch room, lamps, oil, implements, and service gratuitously, he is really paid by the ash of the opium, which is reboiled and yields 50 per cent. of opium. Or, in other words, in smoking only half the opium is consumed, the rest is drawn into the bowl with the ash.

Söul, Corea,
February 24, 1894.

CHRIS. GARDNER.

Chung King.

H.M. Consulate, Chung King,
March 12, 1894.

SIR,

IN accordance with the instructions of Her Majesty's Minister, received on the 3rd instant, I have the honour to forward herewith six sets of replies to the questions of the Royal Commission on Opium regarding opium consumption and opium revenue in China.

IJ u

APP. XXVI.

Of these replies, two sets are by medical missionaries, three by gentlemen in the Imperial Maritime Customs, and one by myself.

The brief time afforded, according to the above instructions, for preparing the replies considerably interfered with their thoroughness.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. H. FRASER.

The Secretary,
Royal Commission on Opium,
India.

CONSUL FRASER.

1. Yes; opium is commonly consumed in the western provinces, viz., Szuchuen, Yunnan, Kueichou, Shansi, Shensi, and Kansuh.

2. In and about Chungking 30 per cent. of the adult males, according to an educated and intelligent Chinese gentleman brought up in this city, consume opium; and the same statement holds good probably of all the province. A missionary, long resident in Kueichou, writes that 70 per cent. of the people there smoke as against 40 per cent. in Szuchuen. The Chinese have no experience of statistics, and the replies to such a question are widely divergent, and usually designed to meet the supposed wishes and views of each questioner. I should not myself consider that the per-centage exceeds 40. Of the women in Chungking possibly 3 or 4 per cent. are regular opium consumers, and 1 per 1,000 or so of youths of 12 or 13 contract the habit from want of supervision on the part of their guardians. The vast increase in poppy production in Szechuen during the last decade, and the cheapness of native opium, have led to the opening of public divans, said to number 928 to a population of perhaps 200,000, whereas formerly foreign drug was only smoked at home, and the habit was checked by public opinion.

3. Indian opium is said to be more deleterious than native opium. I have met officials who smoked. They looked pallid and emaciated, and the Chinese say that smokers are not fit for legal positions as they get lazy and careless. On the other hand, I knew from 1883 to 1887 a linguist in the Foochow Consulate who smoked regularly. After his morning allowance he was a brisk, clever fellow; before it a dull, sleepy oaf. The Chinese here hold that confirmed opium-smokers never have healthy, and rarely any, children.

4. Mostly smoked. Beggars eat opium ashes, and opium-smokers, when pressed for time, take small pellets of opium, which are given also for diarrhoea and indigestion. The decoction is used only by intending suicides. Eating is said to have a more deleterious effect than smoking.

5. Of the 30 per cent. mentioned above, 5 per cent. smoke little or only occasionally, and do not suffer evil effects; 15 per cent. smoke regularly, and suffer slight injury; the remaining 10 per cent. smoke to excess, and usually become "sots," so says the above Chinese gentleman.

6. No. My Chinese informant is positive that 1 or 2 per cent. of the adults keep to small consumption, but usually the amount is increased till, after four or five years, the smoker may either reduce the amount or give it up. After that period, if he makes no stand against the habit, the smoker is apt to degenerate into a sot.

7. Most of the boat population smoke when they get the chance, but their wages are too small to let them exceed. (1.) The majority of labourers in the city and of artisans smoke; of the agricultural population, not many. (2.) Of merchants and shopkeepers possibly 10 per cent. are smokers. On class (1) the effect is to make them slow and ready to shirk work; on class (2) the effect is said to be noticeable only if they exceed. Moderate opium-smoking is not in itself made a reason for dismissing clerks or artisans.

8. Opium-smokers rarely, if ever, care for Chinese wine. In Szuchuen most men drink spirits, but not 10 per cent. are heavy drinkers, and none are "sots" in the sense in which there are "opium sots." Nor is the alcohol habit so injurious to business. The Chinese say that drinking leaves such unpleasant effects that drunkards are warned, while opium acts on the weakly, at least at first, as a tonic.

9. The respectable classes look on opium-smoking as both degrading and injurious, though the officials do not seem to despise opium-smoking comrades. The only advantage of opium over alcohol is, the Chinese say,

that drink makes a man noisy and troublesome to his neighbours.

10. So I am told. Chinese doctors give tonics and aperients in pills also containing 100th or so of a tael ($1\frac{1}{2}$ oz.) of opium. After four or five days' discomfort, opium-smokers, especially if the habit is of not more than three years' standing, can break it off. The old and worn find it almost impossible. If a man returns to the habit he rarely gives it up for good.

11. Absolutely none, as only 1 cwt. or so of prepared Indian opium comes into the West annually through the Imperial Maritime Customs here, unless, indeed, the increased demand for native drug on the coast should raise the retail price for a time until more opium could be grown.

12. I have never known Europeans take to opium in any form, presumably because of their more interesting lives and the fact that the majority take stimulants.

13. Smokers mostly learn to smoke from friends. At first, smoking makes beginners miserable, but it soon produces pleasing sensations. I am not aware that it is considered a prophylactic against fever, &c., though it is eaten for bowel complaints.

14. Not as a rule. They usually complain of the expense, but profess to be unable to break off the habit.

15. The growers here would like Indian opium stopped so that they might profit. Ten years ago, before much was grown here and only the richer classes smoked, we were occasionally blamed. To this day it is used as an argument against missionaries, but apparently more to worry them than from any real feeling on the matter.

16. Indian opium is practically unknown in the West, the export from the three provinces, Szuchuen, Yunnan, and Kueichou, being probably at least as great as the total import from India.

17.—(a.) Nil; they will take to the native drug.

(b.) A large extension.

(c.) Probably none. Li Shu-ch'ang, the late Chinese Minister to Japan, while deploring the prevalence of opium-smoking, tells me that in his opinion any attempt to raise the taxation on native opium would lead to extensive smuggling and not pay the cost of collection.

18. In a report to the Indian Government, dated 8th July 1893, I have given tables showing the estimated production in 31 districts of Szuchuen, the total export of the province being placed at five million lbs., of Yunnan at three million, and of Kueichou at one million lbs. The local consumption is probably at least as much, but in China there is no means of obtaining accurate figures.

19. The Chinese Government levies Haiknan taels 110 per picul* on Indian opium, the total revenue in 1892 on 71,000 piculs being 1,500,000. On native opium in transit there are many local charges, e.g., all opium leaving Yunnan pays about $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., leaving Kueichou 7 per cent., entering Chungking $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and Yunnan and Kueichou opium pays 5 to 6 per cent. on passing Hsü-chou Fu, the great port of entry into Szuchuen. Native opium exported through the Imperial Maritime Customs here pays Tls. 24.80 per picul and Tls. 40 at Schang, say, Hk. Tls. 64.80† in all or about 25 to 30 per cent. The native Customs let it pass at rather less than Tls. 24.80, but each province it enters levies other rates, while the payments to the Imperial Maritime Customs are supposed to clear it throughout the empire. How much of this revenue reaches the Central Government I know not, nor what the total collection should be. The Imperial Maritime Customs here collected about Hk. Tls. 52,000‡ during 1893 and about the same in 1892.

20. In the opinion of H. E. Li Shu-chang, it would be impossible for China to stop opium-growing and opium consumption. My native writer thinks it might be done in a number of years, if the officials would honestly try. But that it would be of no use to stop either Indian opium or Chinese opium alone is admitted by all the Chinese I have talked with. Meanwhile, the closing of the Indian mints has given native opium a vast advantage in competing with Indian drug, and my own opinion is that the import of Indian opium will gradually dwindle into insignificance.

In spite of the high per-centages of smokers often given, the Szuchuenese are as fine a race of Chinese as

* Say 3s. 3½d. per lb. † Say 2s. per lb. ‡ Say 10,400.

I have ever seen, and I rarely notice in the streets the yellow complexions of confirmed opium-smokers.

(Signed) E. H. FRASER,
Acting Consul.
Chung King,
March 12, 1894.

2. Mr. A. G. CARRUTHERS.

1. Yes.
 2. Adult males, 70 per cent. Here, I believe, from hearsay only, that women do smoke to some extent. Children, no.
 3. Except in very bad cases the effects on consumers are not noticeable. Both drugs I believe, if smoked to excess, produce similar effects.
 4. Consumers always smoke.
 5. I cannot answer this question at all accurately. I have resided for several years in various parts of China where both drugs are in common use and have only seen two "opium sots."
 6. Most certainly not. I know personally people who for years have used opium steadily without any obvious effect. My examples, I am sorry to say, I am not at liberty to give.
 7. Yes, but as stated above, unless smoked to excess, their efficiency for work is unimpaired.
 8. It is obviously impossible to answer this question as the Chinese use little or no alcohol.
 9. I do not think the Chinese consider it at all degrading to smoke a pipe now and then quietly and privately just as one might take a glass of wine in his own house or elsewhere, but a man who smokes too much is regarded like a drunken sot at home, shunned by respectable people and unfit for his work.
 10. Yes, I believe so, but it is seldom done, as either the consumer smokes moderately and does not wish to discontinue the habit or he smokes to excess and is unable to give it up.
 11. Cutting off the Indian drug supply would to my mind simply cause a big "boom" in the opium trade of this province (Szuchuen) and wherever the native drug is produced.
 12. I believe not, but cannot say why. Possibly because alcoholic products are practically unknown to them.
 13. I cannot say. I do not think opium is much used by Chinese as a medicine.
 14. No.
 15. Certainly not, except perhaps amongst the native opium merchants for selfish and personal motives.
 16. By the richer classes and chiefly in Southern China. Those who can afford to buy Indian opium do so in preference to native drug on account of the former's superior flavour.
 - 17.—(a.) Nil.
(b.) Immense "boom" in native opium.
(c.) Probably nil.
 18. No.
 19. This question I am not at liberty to answer.
 20. In conclusion I only wish to remark that to the best of my knowledge the evil effects of opium are enormously exaggerated. I have been in opium-smoking resorts in Shanghai and elsewhere and seen none of this bestial degradation papers so often rave about. Compared with alcohol at home, opium contrasts very favourably, being more moderately used, less abused, and I really think it is less hurtful. I think Chinese will never give up using it any more than Englishmen will beer or Scotchmen whisky.
- Chung King, (Signed) A. G. H. CARRUTHERS,
March 7, 1894.

3. J. A. KERR.

1. Yes.
2. Over 60 per cent. adult males are said to smoke opium; women also smoke it, but not to the same extent. I do not know of any cases of children consuming opium.
3. The effects of opium when taken to excess are the general weakening of both moral and physical power. I have had no opportunity of drawing "distinctions" between the effects on consumers of different races."

I believe there is no difference between the effects of Indian and Chinese grown opium.

4. Consumers in this district smoke opium. I am given to understand that consumption of the drug in other ways is rare, except where opium pills are taken as medicine.

5. This question is difficult to answer, as there are no trustworthy statistics bearing on the matter. As far as I can learn, however, not more than 7 or 8 per cent. of consumers could justly be called "opium sots," and, say, 10 per cent. use opium with slight injury. The remaining 82 or 83 per cent. do not use opium in sufficient quantities to cause injury.

6. It is decidedly incorrect to say there can be no such thing as moderation in the use of opium. I know many cases both here and in other parts of China of opium-consumers "who have taken their opium for" years without harm to themselves."

7. The majority of labourers, &c., in this district consume opium. If they consume it to excess naturally their "efficiency in their calling" is impaired.

8. I consider that the "use or abuse" of opium compares favourably with the use or abuse of alcohol.

9. The habit of consuming opium in moderation is not considered degrading or injurious by the general opinion of the Chinese. Of course the general opinion of the Chinese condemns the abuse of both opium and alcohol.

10. I believe so.

11. If the supply of Indian opium were cut off, I believe it would have no effect whatever on consumers in this neighbourhood, except that probably for a year or two they would have to pay a higher price for their opium. On the population generally cutting off the supply of Indian opium would have a good effect, as it would give great stimulus to the cultivation of the poppy in this province, and consequently benefit farmers, &c. A very small proportion of the opium consumed in this province is Indian. I believe that if the Indian supply was stopped those who now use it would resort to Chinese-grown opium in its stead.

12. As far as I know, people of European race rarely contract the opium habit.

13. I believe that opium is first taken as a stimulant. Opium here is regarded as a prophylactic against both rheumatism and malaria, but I am unable to say of my own knowledge whether it is so or not.

14. Moderate consumers not as a rule.

15. No, except among opium-growers who would derive great benefit from the stoppage of the supply of the Indian drug.

16. I prefer not to attempt to answer this question, as to answer it with any degree of accuracy would require more time and research than I am able to give to it. I have said, however (Answer 11) that a very small proportion of the opium consumed in this province is Indian.

17.—(a.) None whatever, except as stated above in answer to Question 11.

(b.) It would give it a great stimulus (*vide* answer to Question 11).

(c.) I should say that from the Chinese Government point of view it would have an excellent effect.

18. No.

19. I am unable to answer this question.

20. No.

Chung King, (Signed) J. A. KERR.
March 7, 1894.

4. Dr. McCARTNEY.

1. Yes.
2. Three-fifths of adult males. (i.) Yes. (ii.) Yes.
- 3.—(i.) Morally, to a state of total depravity. (ii.) Physically, a complete wreck. (iii.) Socially, entirely unfit for good society. (iv.) Do not know. (v.) I do not know.
4. They always smoke when they can afford it, otherwise they eat the ashes from the pipe or raw opium.
- 5.—(i.) Not One. (ii.) A very small per-centage. (iii.) The larger per-centage.

APP. XXVI.

6.—(i.) There cannot be such a thing as moderation in opium-smoking. (ii.) I do not know of such a person. (iii.) . . . (iv.) I have known many, both among the higher and lower classes, who have suffered great injury. Mr. A—, a wealthy gentleman, smoked large quantities daily, after several years became greatly emaciated, to all appearances suffering from some organic disease, loss of voice, with derangement of all the physiological functions of the body. Could give many other examples.

7.—(i.) Yes. (ii.) It incapacitates them both mentally and physically. A carpenter or labourer who smokes is unable to perform the same amount of work in a day than a man who does not use it.

Their work is not as satisfactory as those who do not use the drug.

I am told that they are not paid the same wages.

8. The use of opium is far more extensive than that of wine-drinking (to excess).

The effect on the consumer is much more injurious and demoralising than that of alcohol.

9. Yes. (ii.) Much worse than the alcohol habit.

10. They can. (ii.) Very few, if any.

11. No effect whatsoever. (ii.) They would. (iii.) Do not think they would. (iv.) I believe they would abstain altogether from any narcotic (providing they could not get any form of opium.)

12.—(i.) No. (ii.) They do not readily develop a liking for the drug (as the Chinese use it), and are not thrown into the same temptation as the Chinese. (iii.) Because grown by them and prescribed by their physicians. Also for its peculiar effects on them.

13. Principally as a remedy for disease. (ii.) No. (iii.) To some extent.

14. Yes.

15. Yes, to some extent. Mostly quite indifferent.

16. I do not know.

17. (a.) None whatever.

(b.) "

(c.) Do not know.

18. No.

19. Do not know.

(Signed) JAS. H. MCCARTNEY, M.D.,
I.M. Customs Medical Officer.
(American Methodist Episcopal Mission.)
Chung King, March 10, 1894.

5. Dr. DAVENPORT.

These replies relate only to the city of Chung King.

1. Opium is largely consumed by the Chinese here.

2. There are two classes of consumers. Class 1. Those who merely take the drug at odd times for pleasure or politeness, or other reasons. Class 2. Those who have a craving or "yin," and who have to satisfy such. From what I have seen, and information I have gained, I should conjecture 60 to 70 per cent. of the people here are consumers either of Class 1 or Class 2, 20 to 30 per cent. falling under Class 2. In the out-patient department of the hospital I have charge of I have personally asked 3,268 adult patients, of both sexes, and chiefly of the lower classes, whether or not they consume the drug. Out of this number 729 have admitted to taking it. I am aware that this gives a minimum proportion, for many are ashamed to admit the fact, and many will admit if further pressed. Women consume less than men. The upper classes consume more than the lower. I am told 5 per cent. of the lower classes and 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. of the upper classes take the drug. Children, I am told, often take "whiffs" at their parents' pipes, but to no great extent consume the drug.

3. Of the moral and social effects on consumers I cannot speak much from observation. I have personally met with cases where a husband has sold his wife's clothing to buy the drug; where a mother has destroyed her child that she might buy the drug with the money that formerly went to keep the child; where a father has sold his son for money to buy the drug, and the lad, rather than be attached to another family, has poisoned himself with the drug; where scores of men and women have attempted suicide (and children too) by taking the drug; where lying and deception have been used to hide the fact. Physical effect depends largely on the consumer's conditions and surroundings. I have known some who apparently physically have suffered little, while others have had their vitality reduced to a minimum. With good food and surroundings the consumer may maintain his former health and strength, apart from some constipation. On the other

hand, if he becomes reduced, the drug helps to reduce him still more. I believe in the end, either sooner or later, the drug always affects the body, both to reduce its strength and vitality. The ill-effect is first shown by constipation, and then after few or many years, with the aid of secondary causes, such as bad feeding, bad surroundings, bad habits, and other diseases, it produces such malnutrition that body and mind are reduced to a wreck. I am told that Indian-grown opium is much stronger in its action than the drug locally produced.

4. Consumers chiefly smoke the drug. It is also eaten. The pills sold to cure the habit are largely eaten, and are but another form of taking the drug. In this form the drug is taken more easily and secretly, i.e., on a journey or visiting friends. A decoction is seldom taken except when suicide is attempted. It is then often swallowed with spirits. The ashes from the pipes of the wealthier are also taken by those who have no money to buy better. This form of swallowing is the most injurious to the digestion. The Chinese themselves look upon eating as a worse vice than smoking, and one which produces a worse effect. They themselves say they can tell an "eater" from a "smoker" by his colour, he being more of a dirty yellow.

5. Those who merely smoke occasionally for pleasure I think do not suffer. Of this number, I believe 20 per cent. fall into the habit, and become confirmed smokers—if not more. As I have above said, I consider all who have acquired the habit sooner or later suffer, and to a greater or less extent. "Opium sots" are few, compared with the number who smoke, perhaps 2 or 3 per cent.

6. Of those who smoke occasionally, I believe at least 20 per cent. become slaves to the habit. I believe moderation may be practised for some years without much physical injury, though I believe its use rarely remains moderate. I know and have treated patients of advanced years who have taken the drug 20 or 30 years. Their own families have lamented the fact, telling me it has harmed them. Some I have treated who, one might say, have been saturated with opium—reduced to the last extent with some concurrent disease and the habit itself. Under good tonic treatment, while they still consume the same quantity of opium, they have gained strength. (The notes of these cases I am not able to give, as the time given me to answer these questions has been brief.)

7. From what I learn the larger half of labourers, merchants, and artisans here do not consume opium. The larger proportion of those in the yaméns do, probably the scholar class too. The efficiency of their calling is affected sooner or later. The drug may for a time stimulate and help, but sooner or later deceit is practised or work is scamped, or physical weakness comes upon the consumer to the detriment of his work. The people themselves say, "it first takes up time, and afterwards tells on efficiency."

8. In this city more native wine is consumed than opium, but its effect is not regarded to be as bad as that of opium.

9. The habit is universally condemned, both as degrading and injurious. It is regarded as worse than the alcohol habit. If the habit were not considered to be detrimental, why should we have in our hospitals yearly hundreds of those who wish to break it off, each one paying \$2 3c.?

10. As Indian opium is only used here by the officials and merchants from the coast, the effect of its supply being cut off would be very little. I have heard it expressed that probably more wine would be drunk.

11. I have met one or two who have told me they have broken off the habit themselves. It is very rare. Many say they have broken it off by taking pills, not knowing that they are only eating it in another form.

12. I have never known a European to contract the habit. The reason perhaps is that we have more moral stamina, greater self-respect, brighter, happier, and healthier surroundings, and the knowledge that the indulgence is a sin in the sight of the God in whom we believe. The lack of the above makes Asiatics, as far as my knowledge leads me to believe, liable to contract the habit. To my mind, the damp, dull, heavy climate of this city, together with the dark, comfortless, crowded houses in which the people live, is quite enough to drive them to the use of a drug such as opium, which thrives so abundantly in their very midst, apart from the above restraining influences.

13. Many are led to use the drug for the cure of disease and pain, either voluntarily or by the advice of Chinese doctors; many for amusement, and to pass the time away; many young people copy their parents; many for politeness sake, when visiting or doing business. It is a custom, and I am sorry to say a custom in which some of our own fellow-countrymen join, of supplying an opium pipe and lamp to customers, or business men when doing business, or to visitors when paying calls or visiting. I have never heard it hinted at as a prophylactic against fever, rheumatism, or malaria (all of which diseases abound here), nor do I know it to have such properties.

14. I believe most consumers desire to get free of the habit, especially among the poor.

15. I have never heard any such wish expressed.

16. As before stated, officials, merchants from the coast, and other wealthy people, only take Indian opium here.

20. I have formed the above opinions after only four years spent in China, three being spent in medical mission work in this city, so that I cannot speak with much experience, and may alter my opinions after longer experience. I think without doubt that the opium habit is a curse to this nation, evidently a growing curse, the future of which I cannot conceive. I think the cutting off of the Indian supply would make very little difference to its consumption here. This does not, however, bear upon the morality or immorality of our own Government partaking in a trade which, as far as I can see, brings suffering and sorrow and harm on every side, without any advantage to the people. I would with my whole heart join with those who are urging on our Home Government to take every step possible in discontinuing to have any part in a trade which supplies to a fellow-nation a drug which does such harm.

(Signed) CECIL J. DAVENPORT, F.R.C.S.E.,
London Mission, Chung King, West China.

March 8, 1894.

6. UNSIGNED.

Chung King, March 7, 1894.

1. Yes.

2.—(a.) Eighty per cent. adult males.

(b.) Thirty-five per cent. women.

(c.) One per cent. boys about 12 years and over.

3.—(a.) Moral. A general tone of indifference or lack of interest.

(b.) Weakens the frame, and reduces the energy.

(c.) Social. Not so noticeable, but has a tendency to lower the individual as well as family.

Note.—In this question so much depends on the amount consumed. When taken in moderation, few of the evil effects are observable.

4.—(a.) All smoke.

(b.) I know none who drink, or eat; people who are deprived of their pipe, in the performance of their official or other duties, will take a pill of opium to stave off the craving.

(c.) I cannot detect any difference, only knowing the one class, i.e., smokers.

5. I think it is always injurious, both morally and physically, only modified by the smoker's means and moderation. I could not answer these sub-divisions of the main question without a greater knowledge than any foreigner is likely to possess.

6.—(a.) It is correct to say there is moderation, and great moderation, amongst the consumers of opium.

(b.) I know, of course, a great many of respectable Chinese who smoke opium, elderly men who have smoked opium from 20 years to old age, without any baneful effects apparently; good food and regular habits have much to do with these cases.

(c.) Yes, where people are poor and have no power of restraint on their appetite.

7. Yes. All the classes mentioned use opium. The general effect is harmful; it weakens the labouring man, undermines his constitution, he spends in opium what he ought to spend on food and clothing.

The same with the artisan, but not so soon as he is protected from the weather; the latter, when rain or cold, with wind, is very severe on the opium-smoker.

The merchant and shopkeeper have more self-restraint, better food, which counteracts on the effects of opium-smoking, and are not exposed to all weathers

like the boating population. The farmers and agricultural labourers seldom smoke opium, but the latter when they come to the city fall very readily into the habit.

8. The Chinese are a strictly temperate race in the use of alcohol; all drink, but few are drunkards. Of two men seeking employment, one an opium-smoker the other a drinker, the drinker would have the preference. There is, however, no drunkards and no teetotalers, that is speaking generally, amongst so many millions.

9. Opium-smoking is not considered respectable, but no stigma attaches to those who indulge, but all classes consider it injurious. There being no alcohol habit it cannot be compared. It is a fact, however, the opium-smoker simply injures himself. He is not a nuisance to other people, or a trouble to the police.

10. Few can or do break themselves of the opium habit. The Chinese themselves never believe in the possibility. If given up for a short time, at great suffering, a man is sure to return to it.

11. Indian opium is not used here. All use native opium.

12. In China. I know no foreigner who uses opium.

13.—(a.) Social intercourse usually leads to its use, and the awful monotony of Chinese life, dull, cheerless evenings, and want of amusement.

(b.) Opium-smoking is considered by the Chinese good in all chest complaints, and in some parts in cases of malaria.

14. No, they do not, they generally grumble at the expense.

15. Yes, the Government of China, the officials, the dealers, and the poppy growers for reasons too self-evident to need referring to.

16. Not here in Szuchwan.

17. In my opinion it would be grown more extensively in China to the advantage of the Government and to the grievous detriment of the Chinese people.

18, 19. These two questions I will leave for others.

20. My opinion, stop the cultivation very gradually so as to injure no one, but make the tendency ever a diminishing one. Human happiness, Chinese prosperity, and British trade will increase beyond our most sanguine anticipations.

7. (Supplementary) MR. ARCHIBALD J. LITTLE.*

Chung King, March 16, 1894.

1. Yes.

2. I should say that two-thirds of the male population and one-fourth of the female population in Szechuen smoke, some only occasionally, others permanently and daily. As an instance, take the local employees of the Chung King Transport Company, Limited, numbering 32 in all, clerks, cooks, and coolies; of these five are regular smokers, have the "yin" as the Chinese say, and only four have never had an opium pipe in their mouths. The intermediate 23 smoke occasionally, when invited to do so by friends or when talking business with constituents. It is the proper thing to do, but these all say they do not care whether they smoke or not. As regards children, many whose parents smoke, learn themselves to smoke when quite young, but I cannot venture to give any statistics.

3. Morally, I consider opium, smoking a lazy habit, much as spending a morning in a club smoking tobacco and reading an excessive number of newspapers, a habit that saps the energy of some well-to-do Westerners. To Orientals, who are naturally lacking in energy, the opium-smoking habit is still more prejudicial. With regard to its alleged tendency to promote vice, I have never noticed this tendency myself, and believe that opium-smokers who are addicted to unnatural vice have naturally vicious inclinations, which they would gratify just the same without opium. Opium is generally acknowledged to stimulate the sexual passion in young smokers and to destroy its power in more advanced smokers.

* Author of "Through the Yangtse Gorges &c."

APP. XXVI.

Physically.—Smoked in strict moderation, I should say it improved the physique of those using it, rendering them capable of harder and more prolonged exertion than non-smokers. The physique of many smokers of the poorer classes suffers from the fact of their withdrawing a portion of their slender earnings, all of which are needed for food and clothing, to purchase opium. This evil is, however, not so noticeable in Szechuen where opium is so cheap that a moderate smoker can take his pipe three times a day after meals for 20 to 25 copper cash ($=\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ penny sterling); nor, of course, is any deterioration of physique from this cause experienced by the well-to-do classes. These latter, it must be remembered, form a very small proportion of the population of China, the bulk of the people earning nothing more than bare subsistence.

Social.—Opium-smoking is eminently a social habit and is in request to promote sociability, much as is the habit of taking alcoholic drinks amongst Occidentals. When carried to excess it is regarded as a social evil precisely as is drunkenness with ourselves. But generally in China all business transactions of importance are discussed and concluded over the opium pipe, and no more stigma attaches to the proceeding than does to the interchange of cocktails (a probably more immediately pernicious indulgence) between merchants and brokers at the Shanghai Club. No Indian opium reaches Western China; Chinese-grown opium is much milder. The only difference in effect known to me is that the number of pipes that will produce a marked mental stimulus on a Chinaman is insufficient to affect a healthy European. I know no European smokers, though some have made attempts out of curiosity.

4. I know no opium-eaters.

5. (i.) Roughly speaking, 45 per cent. without injury.
 (ii.) „ „ 50 „ with slight injury.
 (iii.) „ „ 5 „ with great injury.

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6. It is absolutely incorrect to say that there cannot be such a thing as moderation in the use of opium. I know numbers of opium-smokers who have smoked for years without any apparent harm. One of the most active energetic Chinamen I ever knew had smoked opium for 50 years at the time of his death, aged 76. This man, whose name was Su, taught Chinese to me, to Mr. Davenport of the Consular service, and others in Shanghai, in 1860. He was an early riser, beginning his lessons at 7 a.m. all the year round (my lesson was from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.). He told me that he should like to save the cost of his pipe, but that he could not stop smoking without getting dysentery. He had gradually increased his dose, which at the time of his death was three to four morce (nearly half an ounce) of prepared opium daily. He smoked Patna, which in those days was expensive. At the time of his death, in 1868, he was employed as writer and teacher of Chinese in the British Consulate at Kuikiomg. Up to the time of his death, which was caused by dysentery, contracted by his moving from Shanghai to Kuikiomg, he appeared to me to enjoy excellent health, taking his rice regularly. He was of spare habit, but no one looking at him would take him for a victim of opium. Another regular smoker, who took also three or four morce per day was my Kuikiomg compradore, named Ko, a man in the forties, an exceedingly capable, energetic, and satisfactory man in every way. He was an early riser, but could do nothing until he had had his pipe. I could give more similar instances. Personally I have known no cases of great injury, probably owing to my having had little intercourse with the poorer classes of Chinese.

7. In this part of China I should say that undoubtedly the majority of labourers, merchants, and artisans do smoke opium. The effect on all but the "sots" (whom I have noted above as 5 per cent. of the whole of smokers, an estimate rather over than under the mark) is decidedly stimulating, and so promotive of efficiency in their calling. I must qualify this statement, however, by expressing my belief that the labouring classes who smoke opium, by diminishing their consumption of solid, nourishing food, reduce the period of their activity, in short, reduce the length of their lives by, later on, when they begin to age, devoting an undue proportion of their diminished earnings to the purchase of the drug, now become more desired by

them than food itself. As far as the mercantile men are concerned, I must say that the majority of the most capable native clerks I have had have been opium-smokers, though I have had some equally capable who did not smoke. Apart from the fact that it is needful to entertain business friends on the opium couch, I should certainly prefer that my employees did not smoke opium, chiefly on account of the time spent lolling about and fiddling with the pipe.

8. Alcohol is very cheap in Szechuen, and at the innumerable markets, which are a peculiarity of the province, a great deal is drunk. In fact, with many of the farmer and country-shopkeeper class "going to market" (K'an chang) is equivalent to going to drink with one's friends, I should say that nearly as much time and money is thus wasted on alcohol as on opium. I have known more than one Chinaman, whom yet I never knew to be actually drunk, die early through disease contracted by drink.

9. The Chinese undoubtedly condemn the opium habit as injurious and degrading, but, seeing the number of highly respected and really estimable men who smoke, this disparagement of opium seems to me much akin to the disparagement of tobacco by European tobacco smokers, whose doctors have told them they would be better if they gave up smoking—this applies especially to warm climates like China—but who cannot make up their minds to abandon a habit they themselves believe they would be better without. So it is with many a native opium-smoker. On the other hand, the consuming of alcoholic drinks is certainly not looked upon as degrading; wine and spirits are drunk at every dinner by those who can afford them, and a man who can imbibe freely without getting tipsy is universally applauded.

10. I have known some, but not many, cases of Chinese voluntarily giving up the habit, once acquired, of opium-smoking and not taking it up again. They, in these cases, generally have a relapse of the weakness, such as bowel or pulmonary complaints, that originally led them to smoke (so they say), and in consequence return again to the pipe after a short interval of abstinence.

11. Notwithstanding the vast consumption in West China, the production is so enormous that a large export takes place to the Eastern provinces. The cutting off of the supply of Indian opium from these Eastern provinces would only lead to a still farther increase in the steadily increasing export hence.

12. Europeans in China (with very rare exceptions, of which I have heard in South China, but never knew an instance myself) do not smoke opium. The opium couch and its accessories are repulsive to the active Occidental. To the Oriental, who desires nothing better than to kill time pleasantly, the immense amount of time spent dawdling over the opium pipe is a recommendation in itself and soon ends in producing a fascination to which they only too easily succumb.

13. Many are led to smoke opium as a cure for diarrhoea, rheumatism, chills, and fever—all which are very prevalent in this damp warm province, and the cure is generally effected, but the patient being, by his mode of life as well as by constitution, predisposed to one of these complaints, naturally gets ill again, and again resorts to opium. Then he continues it as a prophylactic, and possibly enjoys many years of tolerable health in consequence. Then, if he ultimately dies before the usually allotted term of years, his death is set down to opium, whereas, in many cases, such lives have undoubtedly been prolonged through taking opium. My own personal experience of chills and fever and rheumatism, acquired through exposure in travelling through the remoter parts of this essentially damp province, is that morphia is the only cure, and never has it failed me.

But, valuable as opium is to those who need it, it is certainly worse than superfluous to those who do not need it; and numbers of young men, and not a few women, who do not need it are led to use the drug because it is, as they say, "t'i mien" ("the correct thing") to do so. The opium couch is inviting, and they are everywhere invited to sit and lie on it. Thus I consider opium-smoking a bad habit socially, whereas opium-eating is not a social habit, nor has it the adjuncts that make the smoking so attractive to the young man, who finds it as nauseous at the beginning as does the English schoolboy his first cigar. Fear of

ridicule leads the youngster in both cases to persist, in spite of his better judgment.

Those opium-smokers who have what the Chinese call the "yin" or passion for the drug, and who, instead of smoking regularly, i.e., a few pipes after each meal only, spend half or all the night on the opium couch, smoking from 5 morce (3oz.) to 1 tael (13oz.) of prepared opium in the 24 hours, certainly crave a *Deus ex machina* to free them from a habit they have not resolution enough to be able to keep under control themselves; these occasionally make feeble attempts at reform, and try to break off the habit by using so-called opium-cure medicines, usually to relapse worse than before. Moderate and regular smokers appear, as far as my inquiries have led me, to be satisfied with themselves, and these say that their business or their health compels them to smoke, and, having no fear of being carried to excess, have no desire to be rid of the habit. They all say, however, if "Heaven" should forbid the growth of the poppy, and so everybody be prevented from smoking by *force majeure*, they would not be sorry, but that nothing but the intervention of Heaven or God (T'ien lao ye) could now stop opium-smoking in China.

15. Among the trading classes there is no wish whatever that England should not allow opium to be exported to China; among the official class there are some who would prefer to see the money spent on Indian opium kept in the country. Among the Imperial entourage and the high officials in Peking I imagine there would be a feeling of regret were the easily collected revenue derived from the import of foreign opium to be cut off.

16. In the provinces where Indian opium is consumed this stands in much the same relation to native opium as to Havannah cigars to Manila cheroots.

The consequences of the prohibition of the export of Indian opium, as far as I can see, will be—

- (a.) On the consumption by Chinese, nil,
- (b.) On the cultivation of the poppy in China, a still further increase.

(c.) Arrangement by the Chinese Government for raising a still higher revenue from opium of native growth by means of additions to the many indirect and octroi taxes which it now yields, chiefly to the Provincial Governments.

18. The area under cultivation in South-Western China, by which I understand the three provinces of Szechuen, Yünnan, and Kweichow, is immeasurable; but one of the leading Chungking exporters, whom I consulted, vaguely estimated the export from Szechuen (derived from the three provinces) at 10,000,000 taels (say 2,000,000l.), and the home consumption at a like amount. This, if correct, would place our local production at over 5,000,000lbs. annually.

19. This can be best answered by the officials concerned.

20. My only general remark is that a long residence in China leads me to believe that the Chinese would be as much better off if opium were exterminated as we should be if no alcohol existed; but that in both cases it is absolutely impossible to stop the consumption by any legislative measures whatever. As far as opium is concerned, I should say the consumption in China is still on the increase, that the culminating point will be reached some years hence, when many changes, political and social, may be expected to occur, chiefly owing to increased intercourse with the West, which may be expected to lead to a gradual abandonment of this now fashionable vice.

(Signed) ARCHIBALD J. LITTLE.

P.S.—A large proportion of the junk trackers on this river is composed of opium-smokers who have squandered their small patrimony or of those who have been driven by opium-smoking to neglect their work as farmers and small traders. Ruined men, tracking is the only resource left to them; they get their rice from the junk master, and spend their small money earnings on opium; ill-clad and exposed to all the vicissitudes of the weather and the dangers of their occupation, they soon succumb, and few are to be found alive after forty.

APP. XXVI.
Chung King.

APPENDIX XXVII.

APP. XXVII.
French and Dutch Settlements.

CORRESPONDENCE regarding the CONSUMPTION of OPIUM in the FRENCH and DUTCH SETTLEMENTS in the EAST.

From the SECRETARY TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (Foreign Department).

SIR, Dated November 21, 1893.
I AM directed by the Chairman of the Royal Commission on Opium to say that the Commissioners are anxious to obtain information regarding the arrangements for the sale and consumption of opium in, and the effects of its consumption on the inhabitants of, the French Settlements in Cochin China and the Dutch Settlements in the Indian Netherlands, respectively. It appears to the Royal Commissioners that an effectual method of obtaining reliable information on this point would be to solicit the assistance of the Government of India in procuring such information through the consular representatives of France and the Netherlands in Calcutta. Lord Brassey would therefore be greatly obliged if the Government of India would invite the Consul-General for the French Republic and the Consul for the Netherlands at Calcutta to favour him, for the use of the Royal Commission, with information upon the following points:—

- (1.) What is the amount of opium annually consumed in each of the French Dutch Settlements in the East (excluding India)?
- (2.) Whence is the supply obtained? where and how is it sold, and what regulations govern the traffic? Are places licensed for consumption of opium? Are places licensed for sale also licensed for consumption?
- (3.) Is smuggling effectually prevented?
- (4.) Is opium commonly consumed by the people of these Settlements? If so, by what classes and by what proportion of the adult males of those classes? Is it consumed by women? If so, to what extent? Is it consumed by children?
- (5.) In what form do the inhabitants of these Settlements usually consume opium?

- (6.) Do the great majority of opium-consumers become slaves to the opium habit? Or are the majority or a considerable proportion of consumers found to be moderate consumers?
- (7.) Is the consumption of opium regarded by the inhabitants of the Settlement as disgraceful?
- (8.) Can any appreciable effect upon the public health be traced to the consumption of opium?

I have, &c.

J. P. HEWETT,
Secretary.

No. 752-I.

From the UNDER SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA to the SECRETARY TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM.

(Foreign Department.)

Dated Fort William,

February 28, 1894.

SIR, With reference to my letter, No. 4379 I., dated the 23rd December 1893, I am directed to forward, for submission to the Chairman of the Royal Commission on Opium, a copy of a letter (with enclosures) received from the Consul for the Netherlands, containing information in regard to the sale and consumption of opium in the Dutch Settlements in the East.

2. The necessary information in regard to the sale and consumption of opium in the French Settlements in the East is still awaited, and will be forwarded to you as soon as it is received by the Government of India.

I have, &c.

A. WILLIAMS,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

Enclosure.

APP. XXVII.
Dutch Settlements.

CONSULAAT DER NEDERLANDEN AT CALCUTTA.

(No. 7/31, Bijlagen.)

Calcutta,

February 23, 1894.

SIR,

In answer to your letter of the 18th December last, No. 4305 L., containing different questions regarding the arrangements for the sale and consumption of opium, and the effects of its consumption on the inhabitants of the Dutch Settlements in the East, questions about which the Royal Commission on Opium should wish to obtain some information, I have the honour to inform you that I have, without delay, submitted the same to the Director of Finances at Batavia, whose department deals with the subject.

A letter which I recently received from the said official contains the answers on most of the questions you put before me, and I herewith allow me to communicate the same to you, kindly requesting you to forward them to the Chairman of the Opium Commission.

1. What is the amount of opium annually consumed in each of the Dutch Settlements in the East?

1. Table A. herewith enclosed shows the quantities of opium delivered by the Government during the years 1890, 1891, and 1892 to the farmers in those districts where they are obliged to take their supply from the Government; whilst Table B. gives the quantities imported during the same period in those districts where the farmers do not receive the drug from the Government.

2. Whence is the supply obtained? Where and how is it sold, and what regulations govern the traffic? Are places licensed for consumption of opium? Are places licensed for sale also licensed for consumption?

2. With regard to the Bengal opium, the Government obtains its supply by purchasing it at the public sales at Calcutta, whilst the opium of the Levant that the Indian Government requires is procured by the intermediary of the Home Government in the Netherlands. The Government's opium is delivered to the farmers at a fixed price, and these farmers in paying a monthly sum, determined by public competition, have the exclusive right to sell in retail the prepared opium, and in some districts also the crude drugs. This sale takes place in stores appropriated to that purpose (kitten) which are established in localities indicated by the authorities, and where no women and children are admitted. No special licenses are granted for consumption on the premises, but the farmers can arrange the places where the drug is sold also for consumption.

3. Is smuggling effectually prevented?

3. Notwithstanding the Government has gone through a lot of expenses to suppress the illicit importation and smuggling, it has till yet not succeeded in checking these evils in a sufficient way.

5. In what form do the inhabitants of these Settlements usually consume opium?

5. The different sorts of prepared opium which are sold by the farmers can be considered generally as prepared mixtures of Bengal and Levantine opium, which contain the two varieties in different proportions. A particular form in which the opium is also consumed in these districts is the so-called tikee, which is obtained by mixing the prepared opium with cut awar-awar, lontar, or other sorts of leaves.

With regard to the other questions, the Director of Finances remarks that there is no printed information available which, in his opinion, is worthy of laying before the Commission, and that for this reason he would desire to restrict himself to the foregoing communications, only adding the following:—

1. That it is not known that opium is consumed by others, except natives and foreign Orientals.
2. That in some districts, also among the natives.
3. That the importation, the possession, the transport, and the sale of opium is prohibited in the Preamjer Regeotschapen and some parts of other districts in Java, and also in a great part of the residency of Amboina.

I have, &c.

J. C. T. REELFS,
Consul for the Netherlands.

Districts.	Quantities of Kattis* of Crude Opium supplied to the Farmers by the Government.		
	1890.	1891.	1892.
<i>Java and Madura.</i>			
Batavia, Krawang, and Lampong District.†	6,623	7,147	7,031
Cheribon - - -	2,398	2,400	2,397
Tegal - - -	2,797	3,396	3,148
Pekalongan - - -	2,483	2,750	2,510
Semarang - - -	14,720	18,697	12,500
Japara - - -	6,875	6,361	5,777
Rembang - - -	9,947	6,740	6,000
Soerabaja - - -	12,152	15,241	11,184
Paseroean - - -	4,600	4,517	4,500
Probolinggo - - -	2,598	2,534	2,689
Besoeki - - -	1,985	2,013	2,031
Banjoemas - - -	2,955	3,204	2,985
Bagelen - - -	1,526	2,352	1,842
Kedoe - - -	2,249	2,682	2,695
Djotjakarta - - -	2,690	3,875	3,105
Soerakarta - - -	9,008	12,812	12,223
Madioen - - -	4,027	4,482	5,047
Kediri - - -	13,746	13,384	10,962
Madura - - -	2,444	2,115	1,835
Total - - -	105,825	111,702	99,956
<i>Possessions outside Java and Madura.</i>			
Sumatra's West Coast -	7,702	9,665	7,871
Benkoelen - - -	400	450	475
Palenbang - - -	2,287½	2,308	2,398
Borneo's Southern and Eastern Division.	362	370	424
Menado - - -	145	147	10
Ternate - - -	23	84	25
Total - - -	10,919½	12,974	11,503

* 1 Katti = 0.617,613 K. G.

† These three districts form one with regard to the supply of opium.

Districts.	Quantity of Imported Opium in Kilos.		
	1890.	1891.	1892.
Atjeh and Dependencies	3,724	1,860	3,420
East Coast of Sumatra -	65,254	53,617	40,321
Reonw and Dependencies.	30,293	25,120	27,806
Banka - - -	1,860	1,240	1,364
Billiton - - -	2,875	3,625	2,125
Western Division of Borneo.	2,931	3,965	3,120
Celebes and Dependencies.	29,722	42,780	31,186
Bali and Lombok -	52,687	56,600	60,450
Amboina - - -	40	68	—
Timor and Dependencies	—	—	75
Total - - -	189,386	188,875	169,867

Consul McLACHLAN.

(No. 65.) British Consulate, Batavia,

SIR,

February 23, 1894.

WITH reference to your circular dated 21st November last, requesting information as to the sale and consumption of opium in Netherlands India, I beg to inform you that I learn from the Government of Netherlands India, of whom I requested the particulars required, that such have already been supplied through the intermediary of the Netherlands Consul at Calcutta.

I am, &c.,

A. F. McLACHLAN,
Acting British Consul.

Consul O'CONNELL.

SIR, Saigon, January 6, 1894.
In reply to your circular of 21st March, received on the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to reply as follows to your queries:—

1. The amount of opium annually consumed in Cochinchina is about 3,000 chests.
2. The supply is obtained from Calcutta by the French Government, who has the monopoly of the sale. The raw opium thus received is prepared by the Government and sold in small boxes. Official regulations, rather strict, govern the traffic. There are places licensed for consumption. In some cases places licensed for sale are likewise licensed for consumption.]
3. Smuggling is effectually prevented; and no attempt has been made since the Saigon selling prices have been placed on the same basis as those of Hong Kong.
4. Opium is commonly consumed by all classes of the population, either Annamite or Chinese, in the

proportion of 75 per cent. of the adult males. Annamite women using opium can be recorded as 8 per cent. Children do not consume any. Many of the European French officials indulge themselves in this habit, in the proportion of 15 per cent.

5. The inhabitants of Cochinchina usually consume opium by smoking it in the Chinese opium pipes.

6. The inhabitants, when once accustomed to opium, become slaves of that habit, and generally have no reserve.

7. For the Chinese and Annamites, far from being disgraceful, it is a pride to smoke opium.

8. The effect of opium on the public health is indeed prejudicial, especially on Europeans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. L. O'CONNELL,
H.B.M.'s Acting Consul.

APP. XXVII.
French Settlement.

APPENDIX XXVIII.

TRANSLATION of MEMORIAL from certain CHINESE RESIDENTS in MOULMEIN.

To the Royal Commission on the Opium Trade 1893-94.

The humble Memorial of Chinese Residents of
Moulmein, Burma.

Respectfully sheweth—

We the undersigned members of the Chinese community of Moulmein desire to bring to the notice of your honourable Commission the unjust stigma which has been laid upon our community in regard of opium.

It is well known that the introduction for the produce of opium was first started in India and gradually spread to China and elsewhere. It was originally used by doctors as medicine, and their requirements were rather small, and by its frequent use the consumer becomes a confirmed opium-eater, and in consequence of the contamination with this vice the natural character of wise and ignorant men has been spoilt.

The rich man when invited by his friend merely entertain him with a decorative fancy lamp and a bamboo pipe through politeness, though the use of it

soon ruins their constitution, and the poor addicted to this vice spend their time both day and night without any means of livelihood, and, therefore, generally take to thieving, dacoity, &c.

When an opium smoker is addicted to the use of the drug he entirely pays no heed to the wants of his family, neglecting the law of respectability.

We Chinese know, by a rather longer experience, the disastrous effects of this vice, and our condemnation of it is most unmeasured, but we have no power to prevent it, because opium can be procured with facility.

It is said that these facilities are maintained on account of the Chinese, and that but for them opium would be entirely prohibited. We resent the imputation of being unable to do without opium, and do not want the door to be left open or even half open to this vice in Burma on our account. We will not be the pretext for the ruin of this country, but want opium altogether forbidden.

And your memorialists as in duty bound, &c.

APP. XXVIII.
Moulmein
(Burma).

Signed.

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Yaik Lee & Co. | 34 Cheong Haim Yee. | 67 Law Yee Hock. |
| 2 Leong Yuen Wee. | 35 Moy Tock Shang. | 68 Moy Yow Wee. |
| 3 Leong Chak Wong. | 36 Chee Foke Wo. | 69 Ng Mun Fat. |
| 4 Cheong Kain Kone. | 37 Tung Sai Pain. | 70 Moy Tock Shing. |
| 5 Chai Long Yeung. | 38 Leong Cheng Sen Hong. | 71 Tsao Hing Kee. |
| 6 Chwai Yee. | 39 Chee Keng. | 72 Wat Choo. |
| 7 Lee E. Mun. | 40 Tan Mone Hung. | 73 Po Chong & Co. |
| 8 Hong Yaik & Co. | 41 Heap Yaik & Co. | 74 Leong Yen Pain. |
| 9 Choon Sein & Co. | 42 Fung Yaik & Co. | 75 Leong Choon Chit. |
| 10 Tam Tai Wah. | 43 Chee Wing Ning. | 76 Lee Chun Cheong. |
| 11 Hoi Wun. | 44 Leong U Hing. | 77 Leong Foong Tsao. |
| 12 Chain Yau Kóng. | 45 Kong Wah Hain. | 78 Leong Shain Shoo. |
| 13 Ming Chee Yuen. | 46 Kon Sen Soo Hong. | 79 Ngau Chit Yan. |
| 14 Yeng Low Choon. | 47 Leong Tock Chee. | 80 Chen Choo. |
| 15 Kwai Wing. | 48 Leong Hone Chuck. | 81 Low Han Kyaing. |
| 16 Wat Mong Shun. | 49 Goon Lee & Co. | 82 Leong Wai Shum. |
| 17 Hup Sein & Co. | 50 Chun Sun Tuck. | 83 Leong Yuen Yap. |
| 18 Moy Chin Foo. | 51 Lim Chone. | 84 Moy Toon Po. |
| 19 Lee Fut Wing. | 52 Leong Mun Tein. | 85 Wong Yung Soo. |
| 20 Lee Choo Yeo. | 53 Kong Tong Hew. | 86 Mun Lee & Co. |
| 21 Chwai Chon Yuen. | 54 L. Ah Choy. | 87 Wong Chee. |
| 22 Chwai Kun Yeng. | 55 K. Ah Fun. | 88 Wong Shoong. |
| 23 Kong Shun. | 56 L. Ah Hone. | 89 Lee Song Shen. |
| 24 Wong Kim Moon. | 57 Yee Hup & Co. | 90 Tai Hing & Co. |
| 25 Song Hup & Co. | 58 Chan Yoke Soon. | 91 Cheong Kat. |
| 26 Chan Kwong. | 59 Chan See Chow. | 92 Lee Woi. |
| 27 Moy Fa Fut. | 60 Leong Son Ming. | 93 Leong Mun Yee. |
| 28 Chu Tsao Koon. | 61 Lone Cho Put. | 94 Lo Thit. |
| 29 Lim Paw Sum. | 62 Lone Kum Yow. | 95 Cheong Fong Chaw. |
| 30 Leong Ho Seen. | 63 Leong Ming Chum. | 96 Wong Tong. |
| 31 Tong Tai Kawn. | 64 Wong Geong. | 97 Leong Chye Yow. |
| 32 Chan Sing Kóng. | 65 Yaik Lone & Co. | 98 Po Chai Tong. |
| 33 Mow Cheong & Co. | 66 Lee Tock. | 99 Ng Wai. |

APP. XXVIII.
Moulmein.

100 Chwai Keng Soy.
101 Chan Kah.
102 Chwai Yong.
103 Cheong Liu.
104 Leong Yan.
105 Low Wai Yot.
106 Kong Lee & Co.
107 Leong Quai.
108 Leong Kum.
109 Choi Pat.
110 Ng Choy.
111 Lee Yow.
112 Lee Zink.
113 Lee Hing.
114 Lim Foi.
115 Tain Hain & Co.
116 Cheong Yee.
117 Cheong Ho.
118 Cheong Yuan.
119 Cheong Chat.
120 Cheong Hou.
121 Yeng Hoi.
122 Cheong Ming.
123 Wong Soon Kang.
124 Wong Lin Toon.
125 Kong Yuan Chong.
126 Kwok Sat Wah.
127 Leong Hong Mon.
128 Fong Chon Lin.
129 Chee Foi.
130 Chan Mow Lim.
131 Chan Tuck Toy.
132 Lee Ah Shee.
133 Shing On & Co.
134 Tam Shun.
135 Cheong Hing & Co.
136 Kong Hing & Co.
137 Yen Tsee.
138 Yen Choy.
139 Yen Kwong.
140 Low Thik.
141 Heap On & Co.
142 Kwok Chin Shoo.
143 Lee Ting Yot.
144 Lim Hoi.
145 Wong Shim Ting.
146 Seng Heap On & Co.
147 Yen Seng Chun.
148 Yap Tau Toon.
149 Lim Jam Choon.
150 Ng Him Hang.
151 Twai Mah Soon.
152 Ngau Toy Poy.
153 Twai Loy Wo.
154 Twai Yuan Choi.
155 Lo Yow.
156 Low Lo Toon.
157 Song Mok & Co.
158 Po Wo Tong.
159 Lim Chow Choy.
160 Tai Wo & Co.
161 Cheen Choon & Co.
162 Mun On Tong.

163 Tong Chan & Co.
164 L. Ah Choo.
165 Ng Sing Hong.
166 Leong Hin Tong.
167 Leong Yuan Yan.
168 Huan Fat & Co.
169 Wong Soy Kat.
170 Soo Yuan Chong.
171 Wing Cheong.
172 Law See.
173 Cheong Yow.
174 Heap Wo & Co.
175 Jon You Hing.
176 Wong Chon Hon.
177 Chap Sing & Co.
178 Soo Yee.
179 Lee Sing.
180 Mow Shing.
181 Soo Lay.
182 Hup Cheen.
183 Mun Shing & Co.
184 Shain Wo & Co.
185 Woon Yat Pon.
186 Hing Lone & Co.
187 Soo Kim On.
188 Chow Yee Ngan.
189 Chow Kim Lin.
190 Soo Tuck Lo.
191 Chow Mah Chen.
192 Cheen Sing & Co.
193 Soo Kee Hon.
194 Lim Hin Mun.
195 Sing Hin & Co.
196 Soo Kap Sum.
197 Yu Fong & Co.
198 Chan Shan Choon.
199 Kwong Foke & Co.
200 Chim Fun.
201 Kone Ah Chip.
202 Lee Yat Yoo.
203 Kong Fat & Co.
204 Soo Ah Shun.
205 Yuan Yaik & Co.
206 Soo Mah Yong.
207 Kwong Yen.
208 Chim Num.
209 Soon Lone & Co.
210 Hoi Soy.
211 Soon Fat & Co.
212 Soo Lin.
213 Sing Fat & Co.
214 Ah Kwai.
215 Leong Moon.
216 Leong Yoke Khan.
217 Quan Ah Foke.
218 Ho Wai.
219 Yaik Fong & Co.
220 Ong Yen Wai.
221 Chan Ming Chee.
222 Leong Yuen Kow.
223 Chai Tsee.
224 Ng Tuck Lee.
225 Leong Shain Toy.

226 Ng Tam Yet.
227 Lim Yau.
228 Po Kim Yong.
229 Chain Sing.
230 Lew Kong.
231 Chwai Zin Num.
232 Leong Yow.
233 Chow Chee.
234 Chow On.
235 Soo Kee.
236 Low Tam.
237 Koon Hin Woon.
238 Hong Chong & Co.
239 Lee Kew Po.
240 Tang Yone.
241 Lee Ping Shum.
242 Lee Ping Choon.
243 Lee Yoke Keng.
244 Lee Yip Ting.
245 Lee Kew Tuck.
246 Sing Chong & Co.
247 Lee Chon Soo.
248 Kwok Cheong Hon.
249 Wong Ting Fo.
250 Fong Zin On.
251 Wong Yen Kwong.
252 Hong Choo Wo.
253 Chan Lone Yaik.
254 Kwok Chong.
255 Kong Chong & Co.
256 Cheen Lone & Co.
257 Wing Shang.
258 On Yen Hing.
259 Ong Ting Kyain.
260 Kwok Kee.
261 Wong Lone.
262 Lim Lai.
263 Tang Foke.
264 Yow Shing.
265 Leong Yum Cheen.
266 Leong Hing Ming.
267 Kong Hoi Pit.
268 Chan Yee.
269 Lee Choy.
270 Leong Wain Louk.
271 L. Hong Lyan.
272 Leong Yuen Ho.
273 Kong Hoy Lyan.
274 Ho Chain Sing.
275 Leong Tuck Choy.
276 Leong Tuck Wong.
277 Leong Pon.
278 Wong Yoon.
279 Hew Swee Hin.
280 Kong Yuan Lone.
281 Chwai Chim You.
282 Chan Leon Shum.
283 Lee Yoke Teng.
284 Chan Moon.
285 Hang On & Co.
286 Leong Shain Foon.

APP. XXIX.

Perak (Straits Settlements).

APPENDIX XXIX.

COMMUNICATION from the RESIDENT, PERAK.*

[Received through Sir EDWARD BUCK, Secretary to the Government of India, in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture.]

British Residency,
Perak, February 22, 1894.
SIR, I ENCLOSE some papers concerning the smoking of opium by Chinese in this State that have special interest in view of the inquiries of the Royal Commission on Opium.

It appears from these papers that about 25 per cent. of the Chinese miners in Perak are opium-smokers, and it is a fact that they do very hard work in an exceptionally trying climate. By far the largest number of patients in our hospitals are Chinese, and a considerable proportion of them are opium-smokers, but that practice sends very few of them to hospital; on the

contrary, our surgeons consider that it often protects those who have the habit from malarial and bowel complaints.

In order to make an accurate comparison between the general health and physical condition of opium-smokers and non-smokers it would be necessary to know what proportion of our whole Chinese population smokes, and what not, and what proportion of smokers and non-smokers fall ill. That, however, we have no means of ascertaining, but it can be stated that 25 per cent. of our Chinese population are opium-smokers and it is they who, as miners, do the hardest work under the most trying circumstances. They are the worst housed, the least well clothed, and they work all day exposed to sun and rain, standing in water and newly turned earth. Night and day, therefore, they are in an atmosphere charged with malaria.

* For other communications from Perak, see page 160.

Those who furnish the smallest proportion of smokers are agricultural labourers, traders, shopkeepers, women, and children.

I have thought it would be of interest and value to you that I should obtain the views of medical men on the subject, and I have therefore asked the Acting State Surgeon (Dr. Wright) and the district surgeon in charge of our Taiping Hospital (Dr. Fox) to give me as briefly as possible their views on the physical effect of smoking opium.

I enclose, for your information, the memoranda furnished by these officers. They are both highly qualified to speak on the subject.

I have, &c.

F. A. SWETTENHAM,
British Resident, Perak.

Mr. W. BARNES.

REPORT on the PROPORTION of the CHINESE MINING POPULATION of LARUT who smoke OPIUM.

I REGRET that I have been unable to follow out in detail the Resident's instructions. I made two attempts to carry out the census in person, but on each occasion the coolies, despite all I could say, took fright, and imagining that I must have some sinister reason for inquiry, stoutly denied that any of them smoked opium at all.

2. I therefore abandoned the census and asked the owners of the six largest mining firms in Larut to get returns for me. In each case I carefully explained what I wanted and gave written forms to be filled in. Capitan Ah Qui, Mr. An Chiok, Mr. Lai Sang, and the other heads of these firms took an intelligent interest in the inquiry, and used, I think, every effort to secure accurate returns. The firms in question are: "Hoi Ki," "Thai Li," "Co Fung," "Wai Chiong," "Lai Sang," and "Lo Fung Sang."

3. I obtained returns under the following headings:—

- (i.) Name of headman.
- (ii.) Number of men in gang.
- (iii.) What dialect the men speak.
- (iv.) What work they are doing.
- (v.) The number of Sinkhehs in the gang.
- (vi.) The number of men in the gang who smoke opium daily.

4. In the returns as to the dialect spoken by the men I have found it necessary to divide all the miners into classes:—

- (a.) Cantonese and Kheh.
- (b.) Hokkien, Tiechin, Sin In, and Huilok Hong.

5. The returns as to the number of Sinkhehs are inaccurate and useless. The headmen were afraid rendering themselves liable to the penalties laid down for not registering Sinkheh contracts, and have in nearly all cases made a "nil" return. As a matter of fact a very large number of the Hokkiens are Sinkhehs.

6. The return of smokers only includes daily smokers, i.e., men of whom the Chinese say that they "have the craving."

7. I have received in all 93 returns, and the following is the result:—

	No. questioned.	No. of Daily Smokers.	Per-centage.
Cantonese and Khehs - - -	4,058	944	23.266
Hokkien, Tiechin, &c. - - -	6,635	1,096	16.518
Totals - - -	10,693	2,040	19.086

8. According to the 1891 census there were in Larut in April that year 20,628 Chinese miners. I am informed by the Treasury that 101,064 piculs of tin paid duty in Larut in 1890, whilst last year the weight was only 69,855; obviously, therefore, there are fewer miners in Larut now than then. I should put the present number at about 15,000, of whom 8,000 would be Cantonese and 7,000 Hokkiens.

9. Calculating according to the per-centages of smokers given by these returns there are therefore at the present time 1,832 Cantonese and 1,156 Hokkiens daily smokers in Larut. That is a total of 2,988 out of a mining population of 15,000. The per-centage,

therefore, of daily opium-smokers to mining population is about 20 per cent.

10. This average seems very low, but is, I think, not much below the truth. From information I have gathered from various sources (and I have inquired widely) I should say that the true average does not exceed 25 per cent.

11. It must, of course, be borne in mind that this is the average of daily smokers only, in fact of the "opium victims," men who have acquired the habit and cannot shake it off. Of occasional smokers it is impossible to obtain accurate returns. I should say without hesitation that at least 75 per cent. of the mining coolies here have smoked a pipe of opium one time or another. For instance, all Chinese, even domestic servants, smoke in the brothels, and on holidays and rainy days when work is stopped in the mines many coolies indulge in a sociable pipe with a friend although they are not regular smokers and may go for weeks without a smoke. The opium farmers both in Penang and here inform me that in their opinion more than one-half of all the opium consumed is smoked by these occasional smokers, or "smokers for amusement" as they put it.

12. The very low price of chandu in Larut compared with the Straits tends to increase the number of these occasional smokers. In Larut chandu costs 6 to 7 cents a chi, in the Straits 25 cents, and in China from about 4 cents to about 9 cents. The 4 cent opium is the gunnan, or native-grown opium. The ordinary price of a smoke here in an "opium den" is 5 cents.

13. The Kinta averages will probably prove to be higher than the Larut ones. In Kinta the largest class of miners are the Khehs, and it is the Khehs who are the largest smokers. In Larut there are not many Khehs, but there are a great many Hokkiens, who probably smoke less than any other class of Chinese. Some of them, as the Sieu-ins, for instance, hardly smoke at all. In Kinta there are not many Hokkiens.

14. Again, men in small mines generally smoke more than men in larger ones, and Kinta is the land of shallow tin and small mining, whilst Larut, at present, only contains deep-lying tin sand worked by large capitalists.

15. It is a point worth noticing how very little opium there really is in the chandu usually smoked by the coolies. This is sold at a price which proves that it must contain an admixture of at least 50 per cent. of matters other than pure ball opium. These are opium dross, the residue left from once smoked opium and sugar. It is, of course, only the smoke produced by the ignition of this mixture which enters the system. It might be interesting to forward to the Commission for analyses a few samples of the chandu sold in the local shops. It is probably entirely different from anything known in India.

16. As to spirits, I found that it would be useless to include questions as to them in the reports. By a universal consensus of opinion not 1 per cent. of the coolies drink spirits. Spirits are provided free at all feasts, the cost of which falls on the employer, but even so not more than 50 per cent. of the men touch them. These feasts take place two or three times a year. Hardly any coolies buy spirits to drink, and of the few who do so only a very small number indeed drink regularly. Practically none both smoke opium and drink.

17. It is worthy of note that the China-born Chinamen, who as a class never drink spirits, smoke opium; whilst the Straits-born Chinamen, who as a class never smoke opium, drink spirits. A Chinaman who drinks generally gets drunk quietly and rapidly in his own house in the evening. He does not look on drinking as a social pleasure, but as a means to an end, i.e., to getting drunk.

18. Drinking at dinners consists in swallowing small cupsful (each cup holding, perhaps, half a sherry glass full) of weak warm spirits. Not much harm is usually done at these dinners. The guests play morra and get noisy, but that is all. Of course these dinners are only given by the well-to-do.

19. The abstemiousness of the ordinary Chinaman is proved by his inability to stand an amount of alcohol which the ordinary European would swallow without comment.

WARREN D. BARNES,
Ag. Protector of Chinese.

Taiping,
February 1, 1894.

APP. XXIX.

Perak.

Dr. WRIGHT.

THERE are certain particulars concerning the preparing of opium and the manner of using it that one should be acquainted with before being in a position to form a proper appreciation of the effects produced on the consumer.

2. There are three ways in which it is introduced into the body, all of which I have observed employed in the State:—

- (a.) Through the cutaneous system, by hypodermic injections.
- (b.) Through the alimentary system, by swallowing opium preparations.
- (c.) Through the respiratory system, by inhalation of products of burning opium—opium-smoking.

3. The hypodermic use of morphia is very little practised here as a habit, although elsewhere it is unfortunately becoming far too common. It is the most injurious manner of taking opium, and I think the opinions as to the bad effects it produces on health would be pretty unanimous.

4. The usual preparations used for smoking are by a few habitually eaten instead. The so-called “cures” for the opium-smoking habit in the shape of pills, &c., containing morphia to a large extent are getting to be more commonly used and do more harm than good. Opium introduced into the system through the stomach is also injurious, especially in the shape of “cures,” but not to the same extent as morphia injections.

5. Opium-smoking is the form most generally adopted in Perak; the bulk of the opium brought into the country is consumed in this way. I have had exceptionally good opportunities during a little over 10 years’ service in the State of observing opium-smokers amongst patients in the hospitals, prisons, mining coolies, and frequenters of the opium shops. A large body of Chinese pass through the hospitals annually. In 1884 I had a daily average of patients ranging from 800 to 900 under my charge, and then opium was regularly supplied to all smokers in hospital. In the large central prison too, where there are as many as 400 convicts at times, and the bulk of these Chinese, I see many who have been habitual smokers. The mining coolie gets his regular allowance of opium from the employer. I have throughout availed myself of these numerous opportunities, and from facts which speak for themselves have been led to come to the conclusion that the ill-effects to health said to result from opium-smoking have been very greatly exaggerated, especially in missionary publications. The ordinary moderate opium-smoker—and these form the majority—may be classed with tobacco-smokers. The one habit causes as little harm as the other and compares favourably with those addicted to taking alcohol, against whom there is more need to take action. No doubt when smoked to excess it injures health, but this would apply to the best things, even good food, if similarly abused.

6. Smoking is the least harmful way of using opium. There are circumstances connected with its preparation into a form ready for smoking and the large profits made by those who retail it to which I think insufficient weight has been attached. They are important facts which modify the action of this drug and explain to my mind how smoking is not so injurious. No one smokes the crude opium taken direct from the ball, but it first goes through a long process of “cooking” and is then sold as chandu and tangko. Chandu is an extract of opium of varying and uncertain strength. Tangko is the refuse collected from the pipes re-cooked with the addition of a little fresh opium, &c.

7. In the manufacture of chandu the opium from ball is worked into a paste spread out in a thin layer on a pan and heated over specially constructed ovens without regulation of temperature till dry. It is next dissolved in hot water boiled at a high temperature for about an hour or more and filtered through paper. To the filtered fluid sugar-candy is added and it is adulterated by the admixture of tangko and finally boiled again at a very high and unregulated temperature and evaporated to a thick syrupy consistence. The liquid is heated to that extent as to be kept bubbling throughout, and is only prevented from boiling over the pan by being flicked with cold water when it rises to brim. I have written this much to show to what a great extent during the cooking process opium is subjected to the destructive effects of excessive heat. Contrast this with the pharmacopœial directions for

dealing with vegetable products which are naturally delicate. Great heat is carefully avoided, as otherwise their composition and active principles would be destroyed. The sale of opium is a very remunerative trade and the large profits are made by free adulteration. So that between exposure to great heat and free adulteration, by the time the opium reaches the consumer it is very considerably modified. The consumer, however, does not object as he obtains it in the form, so to put it, of a pleasant smoking mixture to which he is always accustomed, and enjoys it without being subjected much to the actual effects of opium. He further destroys the action by exposing it to the naked flame of a lamp direct when smoking.

8. I have lost faith in these smoking preparations and have given up their use in hospital when I wish to produce the real effects of opium on a patient in favour of the ordinary pharmacopœial preparations of standard strength. It is a curious and interesting fact that when a patient, an habitual smoker, is given, say, a full dose of laudanum, I have often been told that it was not opium I had administered, so little do they apparently know the real effects, their experience being that of some sensation impressed on the respiratory passages by the smoke of the compound they are accustomed to. Give the same man a small amount of the refuse known as tangko and he would express great satisfaction and state he has gained relief.

9. I might mention that we have two attendants, Chinese, in the hospital whom I have known for 10 years. One is a man of 66 years, and he has been an habitual smoker for 42 years; the other is about 45 years of age and has smoked for 16 years. Both do their work well and are well preserved men for their age.

(Signed) M. J. WRIGHT,
Acting State Surgeon, Perak.

Dr. C. Fox.

Yeang Wah Hospital,

Taiping, November 14, 1893.

SIR, I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, a few observations made by myself on the opium habit, as practised by the Chinese in Perak, and particularly those in Larut, where, from being in charge for the last three years of the largest Chinese hospital in the State (daily average of about 200 patients, and 5,000 out-patients in a year), I have had considerable opportunity of noticing the effects of opium-smoking.

2. Where possible I have given figures, but I regret the conclusions to be drawn from them are in some instances valueless, because without knowing what percentage of the Chinese population are opium-smokers, no reliable deductions can be made.

3. In my annual report for 1891 I wrote as follows:—The misunderstandings and contradictions on the subject of opium-smoking are most striking, and the shocking pictures of the opium-smoker and his den are really drawn from observations influenced more from sentiment than from actual facts. An equally repulsive representation on a much larger scale could be given of alcohol and alcoholic dens, with the accompaniments of crime, disease, brutality, and misery, but these are scarcely ever depicted in such varied colours as of opium. No one denies the injurious effects of the immoderate use of opium, but if taken in small quantities it has the following advantages:—

- (i.) Its power to relieve pain.
- (ii.) Its prophylactic properties against malaria.
- (iii.) Opium-smokers can do with very little food, and by this means in time of famine (a condition not altogether unknown in India) many lives have been saved.
- (a.) Of its power to relieve pain there can be no manner of doubt.
- (b.) Of its prophylactic properties against malaria, this, on the evidence of the Indian surgeons is undeniable. Medical practitioners in the fen district of England also speak of the benefits of opium when ague was rife there.

The following figures taken from the Yeang Wah Hospital records show the number of fever cases admitted.

During 1892 and part of 1893 (up to October) the figures are as follows:—

Opium-smokers.

Intermittent fever	-	-	236
Remittent fever	-	-	4
Malaria cachexia	-	-	29
			269

Non-Opium-smokers.

Intermittent fever	-	-	241
Remittent fever	-	-	8
Malaria cachexia	-	-	21
			270

These figures are very equal, and no protective influence against malaria can be claimed by the opium-smoker, but it should be remembered, however, that it is only the bad type of fever cases that come into hospital; many obtain treatment from their own Chinese "doctors."

Speaking generally, the Chinaman suffers to a lesser degree from the ravages of fever when compared with other nationalities not belonging to the Peninsula.

The great objection to opium-smoking is its insidious action; the moderate smoker is very apt to develop into an immoderate one; a poor man with only sufficient money to buy food will, in most cases, get opium instead of something to eat. It has been suggested that opium was destroying the Chinese nation, but can this remark be truly said of a nation which we see penetrating and working everywhere.

Anyone having any transaction with the Chinese very soon find that they have to deal with a remarkably intelligent race, whose industry, among their lower orders especially, is far superior to European nations of a corresponding rank.

The pleasures of opium-taking are of a superior order to the pleasures arising from drink; no opium-smoker ever jumped on his wife, or got imprisoned for fighting. The fact that the moderate use of opium does not dull the intellect is evidenced by the Chinese taking their opium before they go to business.

In my report for 1892 I stated that, "with a view of getting at the actual facts of the case as they show themselves among the patients of the Yeang Wah Hospital, I made certain inquiries as to the proportion of opium-smokers to non-opium-smokers, their relative death-rates and the quantity each man was in the "habit of smoking," adding the returns of this year to those of 1892. Of 5,147 patients admitted into hospital on their own testimony 2,929 were opium-smokers, and 2,218 were not given to this habit. The mortality of those who were opium-smokers was 489, non-opium-smokers 228.

At first sight it would appear that the mortality among opium-smokers was very high, and was no doubt due to their pernicious custom, but such is not the case; it may be taken as a general rule that when a Chinaman is afflicted with some painful, chronic, or incurable disease he at once takes to opium-smoking heavily, especially those of them who are afflicted with bowel complaints and phthisis (consumption). I quote the following figures to bear out my statement:—

Cause of Death.	Deaths amongst.	
	Opium Smokers.	Non-Smokers.
Bowel complaints, diarrhoea, and dysentery	153	80
Phthisis	87	41
Other causes	209	97
Total deaths	489	218

If the effects of opium-smoking are to be fairly discussed, the opium-smoker should be divided into two classes, the man who smokes 10 hoons a day ought to be distinguished from the smoker of 30 hoons; without this division it would be the same to class a man who takes his glass of whisky or beer with his meals with the individual who is on the verge of delirium tremens. An habitual immoderate opium-smoker (one who smokes 20 to 30 hoons per diem, 54 to 80 grains) is generally to be recognised by his sallow appearance, thin and wasted body, deep set eyes, has no inclination for any form of exercise, suffers from obstinate constipation and loss of appetite, and is quite

incapacitated from deterioration of his mental faculties of doing his business. Should anything happen to prevent him getting his smoke, he usually gets a bad attack of diarrhoea with aching pains all over the body, accompanied by marked nervous depression. Quite a different picture can be drawn of a man who smokes opium in moderation only, his body is usually well developed, he does his work cheerfully, enjoys his food, and does not experience such bad effects, if he is unable to indulge in his smoke. If a miner he gives satisfaction to his employer; if a merchant, he is quite capable of attending to his business. Should this moderate smoker be unfortunate enough to meet with an accident necessitating amputation of a limb, it will be found he takes chloroform well, has primary union, and enjoys an uninterrupted recovery. Of the immoderate opium-smoker, and he is by no means common, I have nothing good to say; it is usually this type of smoker whom the anti-opiumist holds up as an example of the delsterious effects of opium, and so makes a general rule of an exception.

The moderate opium-smoker smokes from 8 to 10 hoons a day, and while he does not exceed this amount he is capable of performing a hard day's work, which in the tin mines means severe muscular exertion, and living at the same time on a diet composed of rice with a little salt fish and vegetables, and, when he can buy it, a little pork, so that the statement that opium-smokers are incapable of severe muscular exertion does not hold good. In Perak 85 per cent. of rickshaw pullers in Taiping smoke opium.

It is considered by the Chinese miners that opium-smokers are not so susceptible to the effects of beri beri, an extremely fatal disease peculiar to Chinese (especially miners); the examination of the hospital returns bears out this supposition—

Beri beri admissions.

Opium-smokers	-	-	74
Non-opium-smokers	-	-	137

Does the opium habit shorten life? There is no evidence as far as I am aware to show that it does. In the Decrepit Ward attached to the Yeang Wah Hospital there are 45 patients whose ages vary from 40 to 70 years, who are all opium-smokers.

I forward with this report two tables showing the weight of opium-smoking prisoners admitted into the Victoria Gaol, Hong Kong, during 1890 and 1892. From these tables we see that it is quite possible to leave off the opium habit, although it has been indulged in for years, and yet for the smoker not to lose any great weight; in some cases it will be noted that there has been an increase in weight. No. 53 in Table A. is an instructive case. Prisoner's age was 61 years, for 30 years he had been an opium-smoker, when he was admitted into gaol his weight was 83 lbs., and after having left it off for four weeks we find he is 9 lbs. heavier and still alive.

Mr. Wray, Curator of the Perak Museum and State Geologist, has been good enough to find out the relative amount of extract of opium (B. P.) in one hoon of chandu, and he makes it come to 3.60 grains, so that a man who smokes 40 hoons of chandu inhales 120 grains of opium a day, and the average man of 8 hoons would take 24 grains. I gave a Chinaman who was in the habit of taking 10 hoons of chandu daily 20 grains of extract of opium (B. P.), he smoked it all, and stated it was very strong, but it did not prevent his going about his duties, nor did he sleep after the smoke, although his pupils were slightly contracted. When asked to smoke another 30 grains he refused to do so, stating it was too strong, and very different to chandu smoking, the effects lasting some hours longer.

When it is remembered that 5 grains of extract of opium if swallowed would cause death, we are driven to the conclusion that either very little of the opium smoked by the Chinese finds its way into their system, or the preparation they smoke (chandu) contains very little opium.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. G. Fox,
District Surgeon, Larut, and
late Assistant House
Surgeon, Westminster
Hospital, London.

The Secretary to Government,
Perak.

APP. XXIX.

Accompaniments to Dr. Fox's Reply.

TABLE A.

TABLE showing the WEIGHTS of PRISONERS (OPIUM-SMOKERS) for the first Four Weeks' Confinement in VICTORIA GAOL, HONG KONG, during the Year 1890.*

No.	Age.	Length of Time Opium-smoker	Con-sump-tion per Diem.	Weight when admitted.	Weight first Four Weeks.				
					Years.	Mace.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1	58	30	2	80	78	80	80	82	
2	50	20	1½	120	115	114	112	112	
3	47	10	2	115	112	110	112	110	
4	58	10	1½	111	110	109	108	106	
5	32	3	1	115	113	114	117	116	
6	38	2	1	98	98	101	99	99	
7	38	23	1½	110	106	105	106	106	
8	60	20	1	86	85	84	84	—	
9	30	24	1½	95	94	92	91	90	
10	47	20	1	88	91	94	94	—	
11	30	10	1½	106	104	103	109	109	
12	50	20	1½	110	108	107	107	108	
13	44	16	2	125	122	124	124	124	
14	38	8	1	120	118	119	119	120	
15	30	12	1½	82	84	91	90	90	
16	36	6	1	109	107	107	110	110	
17	58	10	1½	100	100	101	101	102	
18	37	16	1½	110	109	110	113	112	
19	38	18	1½	115	122	123	124	—	
20	47	30	1½	106	102	103	104	105	
21	30	2	1	100	101	103	103	104	
22	30	2	1½	103	102	102	103	103	
23	32	8	1	82	84	94	94	—	
24	42	20	1½	107	106	108	109	110	
25	39	15	1½	116	114	115	115	116	
26	21	8	1½	90	91	92	92	92	
27	30	11	2	90	88	94	100	100	
28	33	8	1	108	105	105	106	109	
29	58	20	2	90	87	92	94	95	
30	40	10	1	103	100	101	102	103	
31	32	3	1½	100	100	102	105	107	
32	32	1	1½	90	88	90	91	92	
33	35	10	1½	90	89	90	91	92	
34	20	10	1½	103	97	97	98	100	
35	33	10	1½	90	89	96	102	107	
36	32	9	1½	118	111	115	116	117	
37	32	8	1	94	101	101	99	102	
38	35	7	1½	100	98	98	98	100	
39	28	10	1	113	108	109	110	110	
40	31	10	1½	135	124	123	130	130	
41	40	20	2	113	109	110	110	111	
42	42	20	2	114	113	113	114	116	
43	37	15	1	106	104	104	106	102	
44	42	13	1½	135	135	135	137	136	
45	42	24	1½	103	101	105	105	108	
46	50	3	1	87	88	88	93	94	
47	50	30	2	104	101	102	103	106	
48	35	2	1	113	112	110	113	111	
49	34	3	1	91	90	88	87	86	
50	46	20	1½	127	126	124	122	122	
51	30	10	1½	113	112	110	111	110	
52	24	6	1	86	85	84	83	—	
53	61	30	2	83	91	92	90	92	

No.	Age.	Length of Time Opium-smoker	Con-sump-tion per Diem.	Weight when admitted.	Weight first Four Weeks.				
					Years.	Mace.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
54	28	5	1	112	110	112	112	113	
55	58	30	2	96	96	101	102	107	
56	38	5	1	106	106	112	111	109	
57	23	7	1	84	80	83	82	85	
58	36	10	1	85	85	82	80	81	
59	28	8	1½	106	102	103	103	104	
60	37	9	1	107	107	108	107	115	
61	24	7	2	115	111	112	110	112	
62	42	14	1	103	102	101	100	100	
63	49	15	1½	124	120	121	120	118	
64	52	25	1½	117	114	114	113	113	
65	52	8	1½	129	125	127	123	120	
66	52	12	1½	99	97	95	92	95	
67	40	10	1½	94	96	95	96	95	
68	36	7	1½	97	96	97	99	102	
69	39	8	1½	80	78	79	81	84	
70	35	15	1½	96	95	94	95	—	
71	32	10	1½	91	88	87	90	90	
72	28	7	1	95	96	95	98	97	
73	31	5	1½	108	107	106	107	106	
74	54	30	2	109	108	108	106	105	
75	34	10	1½	119	118	115	116	—	
76	30	20	1½	103	102	102	103	106	
77	35	4	1	98	96	97	97	97	
78	30	6	1½	82	83	87	95	95	
79	32	10	1½	90	89	87	88	91	
80	25	12	1½	85	83	84	85	88	
81	31	10	1	109	105	104	103	103	
82	33	6	1	107	105	104	102	102	

TABLE B.

TABLE showing the WEIGHTS of PRISONERS (OPIUM-SMOKERS) for the first Four Weeks' Confinement in VICTORIA GAOL, HONG KONG, during the Year 1892.*

No.	Age.	Length of time Opium-smoker	Con-sump-tion per Diem.	Weight when admitted.	Weight first Four Weeks.				
					Years.	Mace.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
1	58	28	2	114	109	107	106	109	
2	56	18	3	115	109	109	113	115	
3	44	12	1	117	118	117	119	117	
4	59	20	2	106	106	107	106	106	
5	40	15	1	98	85	89	90	—	
6	62	20	2	134	130	133	128	130	
7	55	12	1	98	94	93	93	95	
8	30	10	1	96	96	90	95	96	
9	33	15	1	100	99	102	103	103	
10	28	10	2	81	88	89	90	99	
11	51	20	1	95	98	98	100	107	
12	37	10	1	115	111	110	109	—	
13	50	20	2	115	115	116	118	118	
14	50	20	2	106	106	108	108	—	
15	55	20	2	72	72	76	76	74	
16	45	15	1	81	80	80	80	78	
17	55	25	2	106	111	108	106	107	

* The figures for 1891 are given on page 196 above.

No.	Age.	Length of Time Opium-smoker	Consumption per Diem.	Weight when admitted.	Weight first Four Weeks.				
					lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
18	36	10	1	99	93	95	97	100	
19	43	10	1	91	90	93	90	—	
20	47	20	2	80	78	82	87	87	
21	40	15	2	102	101	103	103	103	
22	33	10	1	117	117	119	115	114	
23	36	10	1	88	84	84	85	—	
24	30	10	1	79	79	85	85	90	
25	39	10	1	92	92	91	91	—	
26	36	10	1	96	99	99	100	102	
27	50	10	2	100	92	94	97	98	
28	48	16	2	114	107	112	116	116	
29	35	10	1	89	89	89	93	93	
30	33	8	1	90	87	88	86	—	
31	44	10	1	96	95	96	96	100	
32	26	6	1	102	102	100	101	—	
33	53	20	2	103	100	107	104	104	
34	34	10	1½	94	94	104	106	103	
35	35	10	2	102	106	107	107	105	
36	50	22	2	101	102	102	102	102	
37	52	22	3	102	98	101	103	102	
38	50	20	2	104	102	103	102	103	
39	50	21	2	97	96	92	97	97	
40	23	4	1	100	93	96	97	100	
41	50	20	2	104	103	103	104	107	
42	23	6	1	110	108	105	106	106	
43	49	20	2	101	93	103	105	105	
44	40	20	2	92	91	90	91	90	
45	36	10	1	89	91	94	99	97	
46	69	40	2	93	95	95	93	89	
47	36	10	1	89	88	88	89	89	
48	61	20	2	109	110	109	110	110	
49	32	8	1	84	83	81	82	83	
50	47	10	5	85	84	Died.	—	—	
51	47	22	2	113	112	112	116	116	
52	45	20	1	120	118	119	117	117	
53	40	20	1	115	111	108	110	110	
54	23	2	1	95	97	100	99	97	
55	34		1	123	123	118	114	—	
56	57	20	1	106	102	101	103	103	
57	27	10	1	98	99	95	99	96	
58	32	8	1	116	117	118	115	123	
59	39	10	1	110	107	108	107	110	
60	50	22	2	104	102	104	104	105	
61	29	7	1	110	110	112	111	109	
62	35	15	1	90	86	90	91	90	
63	51	22	2	104	98	105	107	109	
64	64	25	2	106	115	118	118	116	
65	32	10	1	103	106	105	105	—	
66	54	22	2	110	110	112	114	117	
67	40	20	1½	118	105	106	110	110	
68	42	15	1	114	109	111	108	112	
69	50	20	2	114	116	118	115	118	
70	62	35	2	104	104	107	107	108	
71	31	10	1	83	78	79	80	83	
72	29	10	1	72	76	84	88	86	
73	44	20	1½	109	110	108	112	112	
74	40	16	1	105	98	99	99	100	
75	24	8	1	95	92	93	92	91	

No.	Age.	Length of Time Opium-smoker	Consumption per Diem.	Weight when admitted.	Weight first Four Weeks.				
					lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
76	30	12	1½	112	109	114	119	115	
77	40	20	4	96	92	94	92	94	
78	32	15	2	102	97	102	101	102	
79	29	10	4	95	100	100	100	100	
80	47	27	2	108	105	110	110	102	

TABLE C.

SHOWING the DIFFERENT DISEASES for which PATIENTS were admitted into the YEANG WAH HOSPITAL from January to end of October 1893, opium-smokers being distinguished from non-opium-smokers, and the deaths of each.

Disease.	No. of Non-Smokers.	No. of Smokers.	Death of Non-Smokers.	Death of Smokers.
Ulcer - - - - -	236	378	1	2
Intermittent fever - - -	112	103	5	4
Dysentery - - - - -	21	60	3	18
Remittent fever - - - -	—	1	—	1
Debility - - - - -	30	37	4	10
Diarrhoea - - - - -	76	161	22	60
Abscess - - - - -	26	35	—	4
Phthisis - - - - -	26	49	11	30
Anæmia - - - - -	56	61	4	13
Rupia syphilitic - - - -	3	1	—	—
Secondary syphilis - - -	46	29	1	—
Tertiary syphilis - - - -	10	42	—	3
Primary syphilis - - - -	79	34	1	—
Asirtes - - - - -	10	30	4	14
Leprosy - - - - -	31	22	5	6
Paraplegia - - - - -	40	15	16	4
Beri-beri, wet - - - - -	42	16	10	6
Beri-beri, dry - - - - -	50	16	2	1
Bubo - - - - -	33	10	—	—
Rheumatism - - - - -	22	2	—	—
Laryngeal tumour - - - -	—	1	—	—
Dyspepsia - - - - -	1	17	—	1
Tumour angle jaw - - - -	—	1	—	1
Bronchitis - - - - -	8	24	—	1
Carbuncle - - - - -	14	6	—	—
Peritonitis - - - - -	—	3	—	1
Keratitis - - - - -	—	1	—	—
Insanity - - - - -	—	1	—	—
Peripheral neuritis - - - -	5	8	—	2
Foreign body in cornea - -	—	1	—	—
Senile degeneration - - -	1	3	—	—
Double aortic - - - - -	—	1	—	—
Iritis - - - - -	2	3	—	—
Punctured wound - - - - -	3	2	—	—
Lymphadenoma - - - - -	—	1	—	—
Gastritis - - - - -	1	2	—	—
Arthritis - - - - -	2	16	—	—
Malarial cacexia - - - - -	11	9	—	—
Contusion - - - - -	11	10	—	—
Hepatic abscess - - - - -	1	4	1	4
Gonorrhœa - - - - -	2	5	—	—
Lacerated wound - - - - -	11	8	—	—
Dermatitis - - - - -	—	2	—	—

APP. XXIX. I

Disease.	No. of Non-Smokers.	No. of Smokers.	Death of Non-Smokers.	Death of Smokers.	Disease.	No. of Non-Smokers.	No. of Smokers.	Death of Non-Smokers.	Death of Smokers.
Tinea - - - -	3	4	—	—	Stricture urethra - -	2	2	—	—
Dislocation - - - -	2	5	—	—	Herpes - - - -	—	2	—	—
Scrofula - - - -	3	2	—	—	Starvation - - - -	—	1	—	1
Nasal polypi - - - -	—	2	—	—	Inguinal hernia - - -	2	1	—	—
Blind - - - -	2	2	—	—	Simple fever - - - -	—	1	—	—
Bright's - - - -	9	11	2	4	Alligator bite - - -	2	1	—	—
Asthma - - - -	2	2	—	—	Progressive muscular atrophy	—	1	—	1
Cataract - - - -	3	2	—	—	Pott's disease - - -	—	1	—	1
Pterygium - - - -	1	1	—	—	Elephantiasis - - -	—	1	—	—
Hepatitis - - - -	4	1	3	1	Suppurating sub Cyst. -	—	1	—	—
Hemiplegia - - - -	7	4	—	—	Ostitis - - - -	3	3	—	—
Aortic regurgitation - -	7	5	—	2	Sciatica - - - -	—	1	—	—
Pleurisy - - - -	2	2	2	—	Tonsilitis - - - -	—	1	—	—
Synovitis - - - -	9	8	—	1	Sprain - - - -	—	1	—	—
Jaundice - - - -	3	3	—	1	Tinea - - - -	4	3	—	—
Burns and scald - - -	2	4	—	1	Suppurating glands - -	2	1	—	—
Pneumonia - - - -	3	2	2	2	Warts growth, penis - -	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas - - - -	—	2	—	1	Necrosis - - - -	6	3	—	—
Scabies - - - -	4	1	—	—	Gastric ulcer - - -	—	1	—	—
Fracture - - - -	9	8	1	—	Amputation, leg - - -	2	1	—	—
Enlarged lymphatic glands	—	2	—	—	Rectovesical fistula - -	—	1	—	—
Tetanus - - - -	—	1	—	1	Typhoid fever - - -	4	1	2	1
Opium poisoning - - -	—	2	—	1	Cardiac debility - - -	1	1	—	1
Constipation - - - -	2	3	—	—	Catarrh of throat - - -	—	1	—	—
Torticollis - - - -	—	2	—	—	Perforation of palate - -	—	1	—	—
Prolapsus rectum - - -	—	2	—	—	Neuralgia - - - -	1	1	—	—
Facial paralysis - - -	—	1	—	—	Entropion - - - -	1	1	—	—
Conjunctivitis - - - -	7	3	—	—	Epilepsy - - - -	1	1	—	—
Laryngitis - - - -	—	4	—	1	Ankylosed hip joint - - -	2	1	—	—
Optic neuritis - - - -	—	1	—	—	Pericarditis - - - -	1	1	1	1
Eczema - - - -	3	7	—	—	Malignant growth - - -	—	1	—	1
Fistula in ano - - - -	7	3	—	—	Malinguer - - - -	3	1	—	—
Incised wound - - - -	1	2	—	—	Total - - - -	1,158	1,427	103	209
Orchitis - - - -	4	2	—	—					

Mr. LEECH.

I have taken a census of 5,262 Chinese coolies in different mines and enclose the result. I confess it surprises me as I thought the per-centage of opium-smokers would have been much greater, but there can be no question as to the accuracy of the figures as I visited each kongsi myself and got the numbers from the working boards of the kongsis and from the books of advances made to the coolies, in which the opium supplied to each man is shown.

There are very few sinkehs (new comers) in the district. There were only 392 in the kongsis I visited, and it is perhaps incorrect to form an opinion from such a small number, but it is still worth remark that the proportion of opium-smokers amongst them is double what it is among the lankehs (old hands).

February 14, 1894. J. B. M. LEECH,
District Magistrate, Kinta.

Name of Kongsi.	Name of Towkay.	Name of Headman.	No. of Coolies.	What Tribe.	How employed.	How many smoke Opium.	How many eat Opium.	How many drink Spirits.	How many Sick in Hospital.	How many of Sick are Opium Smokers.	How many New-comers (Sink-hehs).	How many Sink hehs smoke Opium.	Average Amount of Opium consumed Daily.
Sin Yi	Hin Ng -	Li Pow -	781	Hak Kah	Miners	170	None of the Chinese eat opium.	A little of the coolies drink spirits habitually. A little arack is sometimes drunk at festivals, but not at any other time.	31	I was unable to obtain this information. (Signed) J. L.	111	45	1 chee.
Sin Meow		Wong Shin	179	"	"	81			9		87	62	1½ "
Sin Wan		Hin Kang	103	"	"	47			12		60	43	1 "
Sin Fuk		Hin Ngian	254	"	"	43			10		36	16	1 "
Sin Kong Sang		Chai Pu -	75	Cantonese and Teow Chey.	"	24			5		38	12	1 "
Kit Shin	Chin Yung	Fam Yin -	256	Hak Kah	"	78			5		23	7	1 chee & 2 hoons.
Seong Won		Kong Yun	162	"	"	41			4		23	8	8 hoons.
Heng Chiong	Chan Thai	Wong Fat -	504	Cantonese and Hokien.	"	38			—		—	—	9 "
Kwan Thai	Wong Yan	Lin Seng -	424	Cantonese	"	83			5		—	—	1 chee.
Chiong On		Pat Kam -	373	"	"	148			1		14	—	8 hoons.
On Thai		Kam Sam -	254	"	"	110			9		—	—	1 chee.
		Fu Kin -	155	Hak Kah	"	55			2		—	—	1 "
		Li Pak -	80	Cantonese	"	31			—		—	—	1 "
	Thong.	Loh Moi -	415	Hak Kah	"	121			—		—	—	2 "
	Mr. Osborne.	Li Hi -	802	"	"	105			—		—	—	1 "
Wan Hap	Li Thian Hi.	Lam Kat -	445	"	"	138			18		—	—	1 "
	Yip Poh Sam.								—		—	—	1 "
			5,262			1,313			111		392	193	

J. B. M. LEECH,
District Magistrate, Kinta.

APPENDIX XXX.

APP. XXX.
China.

MEMORIAL presented to the ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM by BRITISH MISSIONARIES in CHINA of 25 or more years standing.

WE, the undersigned British missionaries, representing different societies labouring in nearly every province of China, and having all of us had for many years abundant opportunities of observing the effects of opium-smoking upon the Chinese people, beg to lay before the Royal Commission on Opium the following statement of facts in reference to this question :—

1. We believe it to be a fact established beyond possibility of reasonable doubt that the consumption of opium in China is exerting a distinctly deteriorating effect upon the Chinese people, physically, socially, and morally. Statements to this effect have been repeatedly made in Blue Books and other official documents, on the authority of British officials of high standing, and they are entirely corroborated by our own personal observation. The Protestant missionary body in China has twice by its representatives assembled in conference, and including men of various nationalities and of many different churches, unanimously passed resolutions condemning emphatically the use of opium by the Chinese for other than medicinal purposes, and deploring the connexion of Great Britain with the opium trade. (See "The Records of the Missionary Conference held at Shanghai," 1877, and ditto, 1890.)

2. It is a fact which cannot be reasonably disputed that the conscience of the Chinese people as a whole is distinctly opposed to the opium habit. It is continually classed, in common conversation, and in books, with fornication and gambling. Sir Rutherford Alcock, sometime Her Majesty's Minister in China, when examined before a Committee of the House of Commons, spoke of "the universality of the belief among the Chinese that whenever a man takes to smoking opium it will probably be the impoverishment and ruin of his family—a popular feeling which is universal both amongst those who are addicted to it, who always consider themselves as moral criminals, and amongst those who abstain from it." (See Report, East India Finance, 1871 (363), page 275. 5738.) We ourselves have never met with Chinamen who defended the practice as morally harmless, but we have heard it unsparingly condemned by the Chinese times without number. The missions with which we are respectively associated invariably refuse to admit opium-smokers to church membership, but in so doing they are only acting in accordance with the general sentiment of the Chinese, Christian and non-Christian alike, which always stigmatizes the habit of opium-smoking as vicious.

3. It is a fact that the opium trade, though now no longer contraband, is highly injurious, not only to China, but also to the fair name of Great Britain. The past history and the present enormous extent of the opium trade with India produces, as we can testify from personal experience, suspicion and dislike in the minds of the Chinese people towards foreigners in general. On the other hand, the attitude of hostility towards opium which foreign missionaries are known to maintain is approved and duly appreciated by the Chinese of all classes, as we have often found in our intercourse with the people.

4. It is an indisputable fact that the opium imported from India is neither required for medicinal purposes in China nor generally used for these purposes, and hence we regard the importation as being wholly prejudicial to the well-being of the Chinese people.

In view of these facts the undersigned venture respectfully to express the earnest hope that the Royal Commissioners will embody in their report a united recommendation to Her Majesty that the Indian Government should immediately restrict the Indian production of opium to the supply of what is needed for medicinal purposes in India and elsewhere. With our long and sad experience of the injurious effects of opium-consumption on the Chinese people, we cannot but feel the gravest apprehensions as to what the effects of the opium habit in other lands are likely to be. We are quite aware that some medical and other testimony has been given in India designed to show that the consumption of opium by the peoples of India is not accompanied with the same disastrous consequences that we have all witnessed for ourselves in China, but we are glad to know that strong testimony

has also been given in India of a contrary kind, for we are of opinion that a longer and wider range of experience will certainly show that opium is as injurious to all other races as it has been proved to be to the Chinese. Opium is rightly classed in England amongst dangerous poisons, and it is so regarded in other countries, and we cannot believe that what is a dangerous poison to the greater part of the human race acts only as a harmless stimulant on other parts of the race. We are convinced that if ever the day should come when opium is as widely consumed in India as it is now in China the result will be as lamentable there as we know it to be here.

In submitting this memorial, which we believe expresses the opinion of nearly every Protestant missionary in China, without distinction of nation or church, and of the whole native Protestant Christian community, consisting now of several tens of thousands of persons, we beg to say that we are actuated by feelings of the deepest loyalty to Her Majesty the Empress of India, and by the most profound desire for the truest welfare of her Indian dominions, not less than by the desire to see the curse of opium removed from China. We hold as beyond all shadow of doubt the conviction that thrones and dominions are established by righteousness, and that any source of revenue, however large, that is morally indefensible, tends only in the end to the weakening of the empire and the impoverishment of its resources.

J. S. BURDON,
Bishop of Victoria, Hong Kong.
G. E. MOULE,
Bishop of the Church of England in Mid-China.
WM. MUIRHEAD,
Chairman London Missionary Society, Shanghai.
J. CHALMERS,
London Missionary Society, Hong Kong.
J. HUDSON TAYLOR, M.R.C.S.,
Director, China Inland Mission.
GRIFFITH JOHN,
Chairman London Missionary Society, Hankow.
J. MACGOWAN,
London Missionary Society, Amoy.
H. L. MACKENZIE,
Presbyterian Church of England Mission, Swatow.
ARTHUR E. MOULE,
Archdeacon at Shanghai.
DAVID HILL,
Wesleyan Missionary Society, Chairman of the Wuchang District.
EVAN BRYANT,
London Missionary Society, Peking.
G. OWEN,
London Missionary Society, Peking.
JAMES SADLER,
London Missionary Society, and Pastor of Union Church, Amoy.
J. W. STEVENSON,
China Inland Mission, Shanghai.
JOHN R. WOLFE,
Archdeacon, Church Missionary Society, Foo Chow foo.

We certify that the above signatures have all been authorised by the persons whose names are given, and that the authorisations are in our possession.

ARNOLD FOSTER,
London Mission, Hankow.
A. HODSON BROOMHALL,
China Inland Mission, Hankow.
GILBERT G. WARREY,
Wesleyan Mission, Hankow.

Hankow, 17th April 1894.

[NOTE.—The signatures of Revs. Thomas Bryson and John Leets were subsequently added at their request.]

APP. XXXI.

Assam.

[EXTRACTS read by Mr. UPENDRO NATH BAROOAH, but not printed in his Evidence, *vide* Question 9047.]

"A Sketch of Assam," by an officer in Her Majesty's Army, second in command of the Assam Light Infantry. It was published in 1853 A.D. At page 34 he says: "The utter want of an industrious, enterprising spirit, and the general degeneracy of the Assamese people are generally promoted by the prevalent use of opium; they would rather consent to be deprived of food than of their accustomed dose of this deleterious drug, and so emaciated and weakened have many become from indulging in its use that they are unequal to any great exertion, either mentally or bodily, until the usual dose has been imbibed." Further on, at page 126, he says, regarding the Doooneahs (a mixed race), that "their addiction

"to opium is so great that no permanent reliance could ever be placed in them as soldiers in any emergency." Again, at page 133, we shall find that "the soil of Assam generally may be considered extremely rich; it abounds in valuable products, etc. But the bounty of nature is marred by the indolence and apathy of man; the cultivator seldom looks beyond his immediate wants, and makes no attempt to improve his condition. An inveterate indulgence in the use of opium by the population at large is the curse of the country, depressing the industry and withering the physical energies of the people by sinking their desires to the gratification of the wants of the day."

APP. XXXII.

APPENDIX XXXII.

INQUIRIES into certain facts connected with BEHAR POPPY CULTIVATION.

No. ^{Ex}
2510Government of India,
Finance and Commerce Department,
Simla, May 21, 1894.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward, for the information of the Royal Commissioners, a copy of a letter, No. 116 R, dated the 12th March 1894, from Mr. A. Forbes, Commissioner of the Patna Division, and of its enclosures, reporting the result of his inquiries* into the three cases referred to in his evidence given before the Commission at Bankipur on the 6th January last, in which the action of certain individual officers appeared to be inconsistent with the policy of Government in regard to poppy cultivation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. N. BAKER,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India.

To the Secretary
to the Royal Commission
on Opium.

(Accompaniments.)

No. 116R., dated Bankipore, the 12th March 1894.

From A. FORBES, Esq., Commissioner of the Patna Division, to the SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL, Revenue Department.

In my evidence given on the 6th January last before the Royal Commission on Opium, the following passage occurs:—

"As regards the question of compulsion being made use of to extend the cultivation, I beg to make the following remarks: In Regulation VI. of 1799 the cultivation of the poppy was declared to be optional, and it was laid down that engagements to cultivate should only be made with those raiyats who chose to take them. This has always been, and still is, the direct policy of the Government, and any officer contravening it would expose himself to very considerable peril. Parenthetically, I would observe that the Government of Bengal, in whose hands the administration of the Department lies, is not financially interested in its success, the opium revenue being Imperial. It may also be noted that the payment of all the superior officers, partly by commission, was put a stop to many years ago; in fact, during the time of the East India Company. It is, however, my duty to inform the Commission that during the last few days, in the course of the special inquiries which I have been making into this matter, I have heard of three cases in which the action of certain individual officers, if what I have heard is true, was inconsistent with the Government policy, and calls for inquiry. I would ask the indulgence of the Commission not to make any further statement on these cases to-day, as the form in which they are at present before me is merely *ex parte*, and

the evidence, so far as it has reached me up to now, is merely hearsay. For the present, I would only say that one of the officers referred to was a zilladar, another a sub-deputy opium agent, and the third a collector, not now in this division. I shall make strict inquiries into all these cases and report the result to Government."

2. The first case referred to, viz., that of the opium zilladar, came to my notice in the following manner. A few days before the arrival of the Commission at Bankipore, I heard a report that the anti-opium party intended to charge Government with using coercion of some kind or other towards the cultivators in order to compel them to grow opium. I immediately wrote to the district and other officers asking them to submit reports on this point. From all of them I received replies in the negative, except from Mr. P. C. Lyon, Settlement Officer, Muzaffarpur, who was of opinion that "the efforts of the departmental officers appear to have been directed towards the extension of cultivation, or at any rate the prevention of its decrease, by bringing pressure to bear upon those who wish to give it up by trying to induce khattahdars to extend the areas they agree for," and he gave the following instance in support of this opinion:—

"I was making inquiries the other day in a village in Hajipur, in which the raiyats were all expressing their wish to give up the poppy crop, on the ground that it had wholly failed in their village for two years past, and when I asked them why they did not, they explained that the khattahdar had paid up all dues to Government, and had formally resigned, but that, when he had done so, he had been followed back to the village by the zilladar, who eventually, after staying at the zamindar's house in the village for three days, induced him* and the raiyats to

*I presume "the khattahdar."—A. F. continue the cultivation for one year more, promising to let them desist if the crop should fail again.

3. After giving my evidence before the Commission, I called upon the magistrate of Muzaffarpur to make an inquiry and report the circumstances of this case, Mr. Lyon's report being founded on hearsay statements, given in the absence of the zilladar in question. I enclose a copy of Mr. Hare's report and enclosures (Appendix A), from which it will be seen that there are no grounds for suspecting the zilladar of having made use of anything in the shape of coercion towards the raiyats. Of course, a subordinate in his position has a certain amount of moral influence over men of the class of ordinary cultivators, and of this he, no doubt, made what use he could; but it is clear that he confined himself to persuasive arguments only, arguments of the *nil desperandum* character. A suspicious circumstance to my mind, and the one that chiefly induced me to lay any stress upon the case, was the fact of the zilladar's having stayed for three days at the house of the zamindar. It seemed to me not improbable that the reason of his remaining so long in the village was that he was trying to make use of this man's (the landlord's) influence to bring the raiyats

* See Vol. III. Q. 12,079.

round. His stay in the village is, however, explained by the raiyats themselves to have been due to stress of weather. In concluding my report on this case, I would remark that the part of the country where Mr. Lyon made his inquiries was the neighbourhood of Hajipur, where market garden produce has admittedly of late years begun to compete successfully with opium. Cases of this kind must therefore be expected to occur there unless the subordinates of the Opium Department perform their duties entirely in a *laissez aller* fashion. To my mind the result of the inquiry goes to show that the zilladar behaved in a temperate and reasonable manner. The raiyats themselves admitted before Mr. Lyon that he only pressed them to give the crop one more trial. If it succeeds this year, I have very little doubt, with Mr. Hare, but that they will do so again.

4. The second case arose in this manner. Rai Jai Prakash Lal Bahadur, Dewan of the Dumraon Raj, called on me at Bankipore on the first day (3rd January) the Commission sat there, and told me that he had been asked to give his evidence (a matter of which I was not previously aware). He evidently did not wish to give any evidence, and when I said that the subject was one that he must know a good deal about, and that I expected him to do so, he told me that his objection was that he had been asked by the opium agent of Shahabad to use his influence with some of the raiyats of the Raj to induce them to continue the cultivation. I replied that he must lay the facts before the Commission. He begged to be excused. I then told him that I should do so myself. At this he appeared much disconcerted, and urged that what he had mentioned had been in confidence, and that I had no right to make use of it. With this, of course, I disagreed. He then added that by "using influence" he only meant "persuasion," that he had merely asked the raiyats of certain villages "for his sake" to try the cultivation for one year (this year) longer, and that they had consented to do so.

5. The Rai Bahadur returned to Dumraon, pleading urgent business, but promising to return when sent for. Subsequently, he was directed to return, and be ready to give his evidence on Saturday, the 6th, to which date the taking of the evidence of the remaining witnesses cited by Government had been postponed by the President of the Commission. The Rai Bahadur sent me a messenger on the Friday, with a letter excusing himself on the plea of business. I replied by telegram, insisting on his appearing, and he did so. He was thus in attendance on the 6th January to give his statement before the Commission had they decided the press the matter then and there, instead of accepting my suggestion that I should inquire into it myself and report the result through Government. I mention these facts at length, as I understand that Mr. Wilson, subsequently at Lahore, made some comments, the nature of which I have not yet ascertained, about this witness not having been examined before the Commission.

6. After the departure of the Commission, I endeavoured to arrange a meeting at Arrah with Mr. Christian, the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of Shahabad, and the Dumraon Dewan, but without success, Mr. Christian being absent on tour, and the Dewan having gone away on business to the North-Western Provinces. I may here state that I have not up to date, in spite of several calls, received any visit or reply from Rai Jai Prakash, notwithstanding my having sent him extracts from Mr. Christian's report, which I will notice below, animadverting upon his (the Dewan's) attitude towards the Opium Department and the Raj raiyats who are opium cultivators. I feel some doubt as to the construction to be placed upon the Dewan's conduct in this matter. It is possible that he feels some foolish apprehension of having committed himself in the eyes of Government by having said what he did to me. But it is equally possible that he has reasons of a different kind, into which I need not enter here, for not courting a full inquiry. At any rate, his conduct throughout has been so unsatisfactory and shifty that I am not disposed to place much reliance upon whatever he may have to say.

7. In reply to my request to meet me at Arrah, Mr. Christian wrote me explaining why he could not do so, and at the same time forwarded me a copy of a memorandum recorded by him on the 30th August last, copy of which I enclose (Appendix B). Mr. Christian added that the reason of his and Mr. Sen's interview with the

Dewan and the Maharaja of Dumraon on the 28th August (*vide* Appendix A) was that "it had come to his knowledge, while paying out advances in the Buxar kothi, that obstacles had been thrown in the way of the opium cultivators by the amla of the Dumraon Raj." The object of the interview was not, Mr. Christian asserts, to coerce the raiyats in any way to cultivate poppy, but to ascertain and, if possible, to remedy their grievances, the chief of which, as appears from the memorandum, was that his immediate predecessor (an otherwise unsatisfactory officer) had not been careful in making assamiwar (individual) payments. To remedy this and to meet the opposition said to have been hitherto experienced from the Raj amla, the Dewan, who expressed himself in favour of the cultivation, agreed to depute a tahsildar to the villages "to assist the opium officers" and to issue orders to his local gumashtas to inform the raiyats that the advances would in future be paid to them individually.

8. I then inquired from Mr. Christian—
 - (1) what actual steps the Dewan of the Dumraon Raj took to carry out the arrangement agreed upon;
 - (2) whether there was any resulting increase in the area under poppy cultivation in the Raj villages, and if so, to what extent;
 - (3) of what nature were the "obstacles" which he mentioned as having been thrown in the way of opium cultivators by the Raj amla, and with what object they had done this.
9. I annex an extract from Mr. Christian's reply (Appendix C.), from which it appears—
 - (1) that after his interview with the Dewan, a circular was issued by that official to his tahsildars, directing them to use their endeavours "to help poppy cultivation."—I have written to Mr. Christian and to the Dewan for a copy of this circular, and will forward it when received;
 - (2) that whatever the assistance said to have been given by the Raj may have been, it did not result in any increase to the cultivation, the area settled in the Raj villages in 1893-94 aggregating 3,288 bighas, as compared with 3,292 bighas in 1892-93. Of course the countenance, if any was *bona fide* given, by the Raj may have prevented a falling off in the cultivation, but I cannot ascertain how far this may or may not have been the case;
 - (3) that opposition to poppy cultivation by the Raj amla was natural, and probably did therefore previously exist.

With reference to the last-mentioned point, I would remark that in the Shahabad district "guzashta" tenures, in which the tenants have permanent rights of occupancy at fixed rates, are more than usually common. Such tenures are necessarily hurtful to the interests of the zamindars, who take every opportunity to break them down. Against such attempts the records of the Opium Department are of invaluable assistance to the raiyats, and the longer they cultivate poppy the stronger the evidence in their favour becomes. Similarly, the construction of pukka wells from advances by the opium officers establishes the raiyat's ownership adverse to the zamindar. The object, therefore, of the amla in discountenancing poppy is not far to seek. Let alone the interests of the zamindar himself, the more the amla can reduce the raiyats to servility, the better they can feather their own nests. The greater the independence of the raiyats, the less their chances of doing so.

10. I thought it as well also to send a copy of Mr. Christian's memorandum of the 30th August to Mr. C. R. Marindin, C.S., the collector of Shahabad, and to inquire from him whether there was any reason to suppose that any compulsion had been used, and if so, in what manner, by the opium officers or the Dewan of the Dumraon Raj towards the cultivators in the Raj estates to induce them to undertake or to continue the cultivation of poppy. Mr. Marindin's reply, which has only now been submitted after the completion of his cold-weather tour through the district, assures me that there is no reason to suppose anything of the kind. Coming from an officer of Mr. Marindin's position and experience, this assurance is especially satisfactory.

11. I now come to the third case to which I referred in my evidence before the Commission. The manner in which the matter came to light was as follows. Mr. Additional Commissioner Wace had undertaken, as a test of the truth or otherwise of the compulsion theory, to

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Behar Poppy.

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institute an inquiry into the comparative areas under poppy in Government and Wards' estates (managed by Government), and in the adjoining estates belonging to private owners, and with which Government had no concern. In the course of this inquiry, Mr. Wace, on the day before the Commission left Bankipore (and after he had given his evidence), heard demi-officially from Mr. Marindin that Mr. Skrine, the late collector of Shahabad, had, shortly before leaving the district, written to the subdivisional officers, and to the manager of the D and D Kumar Court of Wards' Estate, telling them to extend opium cultivation in Government and Court of Wards' estates. There was of course no time to make any further inquiries then, so in this as in the other cases I merely mentioned to the Commission (on the last day they sat here) the fact of the matter having come to my notice and undertook to inquire into it. Accordingly after the Commission had left, I sent for the file of correspondence from the Shahabad collector's office, and have since then during my occasional visits to head-quarters (having been absent on tour most of the time in the other districts) pursued the inquiry.

12. I find that the facts are as follows:—

On the 2nd September last, Mr. Skrine, who was then collector of Shahabad, issued a circular letter No. 2004, dated 2nd of that month, a copy of which I enclose (Appendix D), to the subdivisional officers (of Buxar, Bhabua, and Sasaram), and to the manager of the D and D Kumar's Wards' estate at Arrah, instructing them to supply the sub-deputy opium agent with a list of Government and Court of Wards' villages containing lands fit for opium cultivation, and to direct the tahsildars to co-operate with that officer in inducing the raiyats to take advances.

13. Meanwhile, on the 16th October, Mr. Marindin relieved Mr. Skrine. A few days after, on the matter coming to his notice on a reference from the sub-deputy opium agent, Mr. Marindin directed the several officers addressed by Mr. Skrine to submit their views on the subject before taking any action, but if they had already done so, they were to report what steps they had taken. In reply, the subdivisional officer of Buxar (Mr. Oldham, C.S.) demurred to the policy initiated by Mr. Skrine, pointing out that any interference of the kind suggested by the Civil Officers of Government would be unauthorised and injudicious, liable to be regarded as coercion, and not calculated to promote the interests of Government. The subdivisional officer of Bhabua (Sheikh Abdullah) reported that in 4 out of 28 Government estates in his subdivision, 19 bighas odd had been brought under poppy, and that in three other villages there were 14 bighas fit for poppy, but that wells for irrigation would first have to be constructed. In reply, Mr. Marindin directed the subdivisional officer "to take care that the orders that had been issued from the Collector's office were not misunderstood; and that no raiyat should be made to take an advance for poppy cultivation who was not willing to do so; that this should be explained to the manager for his future guidance; and that, if any of the raiyats had taken an advance for the current season, they should be made to understand that their doing so next year was a matter for the exercise of their own free will."

4. In Sasaram matters were unfortunately carried further than in either of the other two subdivisions. On receipt of the collector's orders of the 2nd September, the subdivisional officer (Babu Kedar Nath Dutt) directed the manager of the Government estates in that subdivision to wait upon the sub-deputy opium agent with a list of villages in which there were lands fit for opium, and in which it had not hitherto been cultivated, or there were still lands fit for it. The manager accordingly put in a list of 45 villages in which it was

*The total area of the Government estates in the Sasaram subdivision is about 177,000 acres.—A. F.

roughly estimated that new or additional cultivation, measuring 495* bighas, could be secured. The sub-deputy agent then sent his gumashta and muharrirs to ascertain if the raiyats would take advances, and to what extent. The result was that advances for 223 bighas were given out, the amounts being distributed so the raiyats, partly by the sub-deputy opium agent, and partly by his assistant, Mr. Power. This was in September and October. The subsequent measurements showed that out of the 223 bighas, 188 were duly cultivated, and 35 were not. The advances for these 35 bighas were returned by the raiyats to the khattahdars or were not distributed by

the latter. In one village (Bhitari Bandh) the cultivators reported that they had insufficient means of irrigation, and they were at once released from their engagements. The Manager adds that the raiyats of this village intend to petition the collector to construct a pukka well in the village, in order to enable them to grow poppy, as they wish to do so.

15. The above is the account given me by the sub-deputy opium agent and the manager whom I have verbally examined on the subject. But that things were pushed further than they ought to have been I have myself very little doubt, for I find that Mr. Drake-Brockman, C.S., who on the 14th November succeeded Babu Kedar Nath Dutt in the charge of the sub-division, reported to Mr. Marindin that a number of objections (I have ascertained that there were in all 42 of them) had been filed by the raiyats, most of which, however, he or his predecessor had rejected on the ground that the raiyats had received the advances, and must therefore carry out their engagements. In a few cases only, viz., of Rajput and Brahmin cultivators, the petitions were allowed, as the women of these castes do not work out of doors. Mr. Drake-Brockman in conclusion submitted that the question was one which should be left to the option of the villagers themselves, of whom there was always likely to be a large number willing to cultivate. Mr. Marindin in reply issued orders similar to those conveyed to the sub-divisional officer of Bhabua (see paragraph 13 above).

16. Under orders from Government, I called upon Mr. Skrine, who is now employed in another division, to explain his action in issuing his orders of the 2nd September, and enclose a copy (Appendix E) of his reply. All I can say is that the orders were such as I should certainly not have approved had they come to my notice; nor are they warranted, so far as I am aware, by any instructions that have ever been issued by Government or by the Board of Revenue.

Annexure A.

No. 209, dated Muzaffarpur, 30th January 1894.

From L. HARE, Esq., Magistrate of Muzaffarpur, to the COMMISSIONER of the PATNA DIVISION.

IN reply to your No. 334R., dated 16th January 1894, calling upon me to make inquiry as to whether any, and if so what, measures of compulsion had been used to induce certain cultivators to grow opium, I have the honour to submit the depositions of the witnesses recorded by Maulvi Syed Ali Hosain, Deputy Magistrate and Collector in the village in question.

I cannot discover that any sort of compulsion whatever has been used. All that appears is that the lands of the village Hosainpur are not very well suited for opium cultivation in dry years, and that the crop failed in two successive years. Under these circumstances the cultivators became disheartened, and intended to give up the cultivation. The zilladar, however, wished them to continue the cultivation, and persuaded them by reasonable argument to give the crop a trial for one year more, as, owing to the heavy rains and floods this year it was likely that there would be no want of moisture in the soil to which the previous failures were attributed. I may add that his arguments seem likely to be justified, and that there is every probability of a good crop this year. No touch or trace of any attempt at compulsion appears, and indeed it is very difficult to see what kind of compulsion it would be possible for him to use. I do not even find in Mr. Lyon's remarks any assertion that compulsion was used. It is a pity that Mr. Lyon did not himself follow up his inquiry and ascertain precisely what was done to induce the cultivators to continue growing opium, before hinting or suggesting that any improper means was used. An inferior in this country always speaks of being permitted to do what he is fully entitled to do, and cannot be prevented from doing; but this is only the traditional language of politeness, and it is perfectly clear in this case that the cultivators fully and clearly understand that the cultivation is entirely optional, and that they can relinquish it if they please. It is probable that if this year's crop is successful they will not do so, but if otherwise they intend to do so, and they clearly know that they cannot be interfered with for doing so.

Report by MAULVI SYED ALI HOSAIN, Deputy Magistrate-Collector, of inquiry made by him into the case reported by Mr. LYON.

I WENT to Hosainpur in the thana Mahua. I inquired into the matter fully from the raiyats, and took down what they said. Zilladar had come in the village, and he stayed for some days in the house of khattahdar, whose name is Tulsi. The zilladar was detained owing to the incessant falling of rain during the rainy season when he had been in the village. It is not said that there was any other reason for his staying for so many days, excepting that he was compelled to do so by the continual fall of rain during those days.

From inquiry it appears that villagers wished to give up to produce opium for the reason that rain was not generally sufficient in previous years to favour the poppy cultivation, and the heat of the sun dried up the crop. They say that the productive powers of the soil have greatly deteriorated, or thereupon opium does not prove to them so advantageous as it used to do before. The zilladar, who had been in the village, told the raiyats to try once more, and advocated that rain was sufficient to prosper the growth of poppy. I see that no force was used, or any threatening attitude was shown by the zilladar to the villagers. It was the villagers themselves who considered the matter on the advice of the zilladar, and thought that rain was in sufficient quantity for the cultivation of poppy, and took up a trial this year. They affirmed that it was optional to them to grow or not to grow, as they liked. What the zilladar seems to have done was that he insisted a little too much upon the khattahdar to receive dadni, and holding out good hopes for the poppy growth owing to rains. But the raiyats took up to cultivate, seeing that the advice of the zilladar was reasonable, and cultivation would prosper this year. The raiyats did cultivate this year, owing to inducement given to them by the sufficient quantity of rain during the late rainy season, much less to any force or compulsion on the part of the zilladar. It is not said that the zilladar went from house to house or gathered all villagers to put any force upon them. I clearly asked them if they were said to be imprisoned or sent to gaol, or they were threatened with any criminal and civil suit if they would not take up to cultivate poppy; they say that there was nothing of this sort, but that the zilladar held out that the crop would prosper this year, and they should try, as the rain was favourable. The zamindar of the village, Manour Ali, whose statement I have taken, distinctly says that there was no force put upon the raiyats, but they cultivated poppy of their own accord and free-will.

The name of the zilladar who stayed in the house of the khattahdar is Kheda Bux. He has been since transferred to other circle. The villagers could not tell me where he has been transferred. His mistake, I believe, is only so much that he pressed the khattahdar a little too much to receive dadni (or advance), but it is not said that any force was used.

A letter may be written to the sub-deputy opium agent for sending the zilladar for his statement, if necessary; but as the evidence of the raiyats shows that there was no kind of violence used by him in compelling them to grow opium, I do not think that it is necessary.

ALI HOSAIN,
Deputy Magistrate.

The 27th January 1894.

Paroo states—My house is in this village. I have got a khet.* I do poppy cultivation. I saw the zilladar who was before. He has been transferred. He was in this village for three or four days in the house of Tulsi. It was owing to rains, and he remained to tell us that we should cultivate. He did not go to my house. He did not threaten me with any imprisonment, any criminal case, or assault. He said only that we should cultivate poppy. I have received dadni.† I am cultivating this year as a trial. I cannot say how he threatened us. He persuaded us to grow opium. I would not cultivate from the next year if I do not derive any benefit from opium. It is optional for me to grow or not to grow.

ALI HOSAIN,
Deputy Magistrate.

The 28th January 1894.

Shaik Hidayat Ali says—I have got poppy cultivation. I have other khets too. I do not derive any benefit from opium nowadays. The productive powers of the land have been greatly deteriorated. It does not produce so successfully as it used to grow. I would have left off the cultivation, but I was told that this year may succeed, as we had sufficient rain for the poppy cultivation. Zilladar came and put up with khattahdar, who is ill. He persuaded us to grow opium. He insisted Tulsi to receive dadni. If I would not have got dadni, I would not have grown poppy. The zilladar did not say that I would be convicted or sent to gaol if I did not cultivate poppy. He stayed for three or four days to persuade us to grow opium. Rain was falling when he stayed. It may be that he was detained owing to the incessant fall of rain. He did not come to my house to tell this fact. I met him somewhere. It may be at Tulsi's house. He did not beat any of us. He said that we should grow as rain was enough for poppy cultivation. His fault was to compel khattahdar to receive advance. We had since fear that if we did not cultivate we would be falsely proceeded against by zilladar with some suit of accusation. We would leave off cultivating if we do not succeed in getting good harvest this year. Opium cultivation requires a good quantity of rain in this village. The zilladar who told me to grow opium has been transferred.

ALI HOSAIN,
Deputy Magistrate.

The 25th January 1894.

Bausi Mahton states—My brother is khattahdar of this village. His name is Tulsi. Dadni was advanced in Assin and distributed among the raiyats cultivating poppy. About 10 bighas of land is cultivated for growing opium. The name of the zilladar is not known to me. The former zilladar is transferred. A new zilladar has now come. The former zilladar induced us to cultivate poppy, and told us to try for this year. The land is not capable of producing opium. The productive powers have been diminished lately. I also cultivate poppy in about five cottahs. I grow tobacco and other crops as well. The benefit from tobacco and opium is on a par, but we have to labour much for tobacco. The land nowadays dries up, and so poppy is not satisfactorily grown. Poppy nowadays dries up, and then it becomes useless. We did not file any petition of resignation, but we said that we would stop as we do not derive benefit. Zilladar said that rain has been plenty this year, and the poppy cultivation would succeed. He took my brother to Hajipur. My brother was unwilling to go, and he said that we would not grow opium. Since his return from Hajipur he is ill. We are watching the result of the cultivation. If it would not prosper we would give it up. If we would derive benefit we would continue. We receive dadni (advance) at the rate of Rs. 3 a bigha. Khattahdar is paid, and therefore he might have persuaded us to continue the cultivation. The former zilladar lived with my brother, who is khattahdar, for some days. The reason was that rain was continually falling. He did not force us in the way of cultivating khets with his ploughs, but he said that we should cultivate poppy. He did not threaten us with punishment if we did not grow. But he pressed us to do so by taking my brother to Hajipur for receiving dadni. I did not tell Saheb (Mr. Lyon) anything, as I was not here at that time.

ALI HOSAIN,
Deputy Magistrate.

The 26th January 1894.

Gudri Mahton says—I have got poppy cultivation. I would not grow from the next year if I do not get any benefit this year. We expect a good result owing to the rains that have been more than the previous year. But I cannot with certainty say that the crop would be in a very prosperous state. It depends upon time. Zilladar had come and put up with Tulsi, who has taken to Hajipur. We are trying for this year. Zilladar had been in the village for some days. I cannot say what was his real intention of staying for those days, but apparent reason was that rain was incessantly falling. I cannot say that he told each and every villager to grow opium. But he did me. He did not say that I would be sent to gaol if I do not

APP. XXXII.
Behar Poppy.

* Field.

† Advance.

APP. XXXII.

grow. He told me that we should cultivate poppy. He did not tell what would be the result if we do not grow. But he pressed Tulsi to take advance. It may be for his own benefit.

The 26th January 1894.

ALI HOSAIN,
Deputy Magistrate.

Lakhoo Koeri says—I have got a khet of poppy cultivation. I have got seven cottahs of land. Besides opium I grow tobacco, banga, ahur. This year I cultivate poppy as a trial. The zilladar had told us that we should grow opium. He did not say that we would be imprisoned if we do not cultivate poppy. He did not threaten us with assault. He spoke that we should cultivate as rain was sufficient for the purpose. We have this benefit from dadni, that we have nothing to pay any interest to mahajans. The zilladar took the khattahdar to receive dadni. We received advance from khattahdar. I do not know his name. That zilladar has been transferred. We consented afterwards to cultivate poppy. We were not forced to grow.

The 25th January 1894.

ALI HOSAIN,
Deputy Magistrate.

Babu Ram Mahto says—I am resident of this village. I am cultivating poppy in one cottah khet. Sometimes we derive benefit from opium and sometimes we do not. When the sun dries up poppy the crop fails, and hence no advantage. This year we are growing as a trial. Zilladar forced khattahdar to go to Hajipur to receive dadni. I did not file any petition against zilladar and for giving up the cultivation. Tulsi is ill since a long time. Zilladar had waited for some days in the house of Tulsi. Then rain was falling. The zilladar did not tell us that we would be prosecuted if we did not grow opium. I do not know when Saheb (Mr. Lyon) had come. I have got khet of dhan, alua, and soothni.

The 25th January 1894.

ALI HOSAIN,
Deputy Magistrate.

Tulsi Mahton says—I am khattahdar of this village. It is eight or nine years that I am khattahdar. I distribute money to the raiyats who grow opium. First I receive dadni (advance) and then I distribute among the raiyats cultivating poppy. In this village about 10 bighas of land is cultivated to grow opium. There are khets of tobacco and of other produce in the village. Tobacco is also produced here. Khoda Bux was the zilladar when I got dadni. But nowadays another man has come, whose name I do not know. Khoda Bux has been transferred to some other place. Khoda Bux took me to Hajipur for receiving dadni. He told me that we must grow opium. He advised us to cultivate poppy, as we had no mind to grow this year. He said that I must go to receive advance. On the return from Hajipur, where I had gone to get dadni, I have been ill. I have not recovered. The zilladar had come and he stayed for three or four days. He put up in my house. It was raining incessantly for those days. He was obliged to remain. During that period he persuaded me that dadni should be received, and that opium should be produced. We had no mind to take up poppy cultivation. But since the advice of the zilladar I took the advance. We would not have cultivated if we would not have been told by the zilladar. The productive powers of the soil have greatly deteriorated for opium cultivation. We would not grow the next year if it would fail this year. We derived benefit by cultivating poppy, but we have no advantage now.

The 25th January 1894.

ALI HOSAIN,
Deputy Magistrate.

Darshan Mahton says—I am cultivating khet of poppy. It is about two cottahs. I am growing since a long time. Lakhoo, Gudri, Nathuni, Kodai, Patto, Hidayat Ali, and others cultivate poppy. Tulsi is khattahdar. We receive dadni from khattahdar, who brings from Opium Department. He distributes us. I did not see the zilladar. I had no conversation with him. I only

heard that he said that it would be better for us this year to grow opium. We do not get so much by growing opium as we used to get previously. The land for cultivating poppy has become worse. We derive benefit from tobacco also. The zilladar did not tell that he would punish us or convict us. We receive dadni willingly. It gives some help. We have to pay no interest to the mahajans.

The 25th January 1894.

ALI HOSAIN,
Deputy Magistrate.

Patto says—I am cultivating poppy. I have received advances through Tulsi. Tulsi is khattahdar. He was taken by zilladar for receiving dadni (advance). Khattahdar was not willing to go. He is ill at home. We did not give any petition of resignation. Owing to failure of opium growth we had no mind to cultivate poppy this year. We cultivated when advised by the zilladar. He had been here and stayed with khattahdar Tulsi. He was detained, for the rain was falling. I grow opium in 2½ cottahs. If the crop would fail I would not cultivate the next year. When zilladar told us, then we consented. He did not threaten us with conviction or punishment, but told us that we should grow as rain is sufficient for the purpose. The power of land to grow poppy has been greatly diminished. We grow tobacco also. We had to labour at tobacco more than we do in the cultivation of poppy. The advantage, if the growth be successful, will be the same in both cases. If we would have not liked, we would not have cultivated, even if zilladar would have threatened us. He only insisted that we should grow, as it would succeed this year.

The 25th January 1894.

ALI HOSAIN,
Deputy Magistrate.

Khoda Bux says—I am resident at Juggado (this village is close to Hosainpur). I receive dadni from Tulsi. I did not meet the zilladar. The zilladar has never forced me to grow opium. I am willingly cultivating. I would leave off from the next year if we do not derive any benefit this year. I have never heard that force was put upon the raiyats by zilladar to grow poppy.

The 25th January 1894.

ALI HOSAIN,
Deputy Magistrate.

Sheik Manour Ali says—I am malik in this village. There are other maliks, but they are living in other villages. Tulsi Mahton is khattahdar of this village. He is ill. This village may be about 219 acres in area. I have got zariat about 26 or 27 bighas. I do not cultivate poppy or grow tobacco. Opium is produced in this village. It is to-day that zilladar had come. I had not seen the former zilladar, as I sometimes remain out. Lyon Saheb (Mr. Lyon) a deputy of survey, and amin saheb had come here. Saheb (Mr. Lyon) had come in the beginning of this month. The raiyats had told him something about opium. It was said to him that zilladar told the raiyats to grow opium this year. I do not know of any compulsion used by the zilladar. I did not hear of any force upon the raiyats. I heard that he told the raiyats to cultivate poppy once more this year. He told them to try. If the cultivation would fail, they would not do the next year. I heard that zilladar had put up with Tulsi. No force was put upon the raiyats; the raiyats took up the cultivation willingly. Had they not been willing they would not have done cultivation. It depended upon their option. They are induced to grow opium, owing to dadni which is paid before, and which at times relieves them of the interest that they have to pay to mahajans upon the money borrowed. They have their inclination in producing any crop they like. I do not see how any compulsion could have been used by zilladar. Tulsi khattahdar is ill from some time past. I do not know what benefit the raiyats derive from opium. I cannot blame the zilladar in this respect.

The 25th January 1894.

ALI HOSAIN,
Deputy Magistrate.

Thaga Mahton states—I am cultivating poppy. There is every probability that it may prove advantageous to us this year, as there was sufficient rain. Zilladar, whose name I do not know, had come. He was detained owing to rains. I cannot say what other intention he had in staying for three or four days. But apparent it was that he could not go, as rain was incessantly falling. Zilladar did not gather the villagers. He did not tell that we would be punished, or any criminal or civil suit would be brought if we did not grow. He only said that as a trial we may cultivate poppy this year. Khattahdar is ill since his return from Hajipur. He has got fever. I cannot say if any compulsion was used by the zilladar upon the khattahdar for receiving dadni.

ALI HOSAIN,
Deputy Magistrate.

The 25th January 1894.

Sheikh Asgar states—I have got five cottahs of poppy cultivation. I have khets for other cultivation as well. Poppy cultivation is not so beneficial nowadays as it was before. Zilladar, whose name I do not know, had come many times. The former zilladar is not coming now. A new man is seen. The former zilladar stayed with Tulsī for some days, owing to continual falling of rain in rainy season when he had come. He said that as a trial we should cultivate this year. The fault was with us to agree. It was optional for me to grow opium or not. Zilladar cannot imprison us. I know that he cannot threaten to compel the growing of poppy.

ALI HOSAIN,
Deputy Magistrate.

The 25th January 1894.

Annexure B.

No. 9.

MR. JOHN CHRISTIAN'S NOTE, dated Arrah, the 30th August 1893.

On the 28th evening Mr. Sen and I went up to Dumraon to interview the Maharaja's Dewan regarding the poppy cultivation in the Maharaja's zamindari, and to make certain other local inquiries about the cause of the reluctance of the cultivators to engage the full area.

We met the Dewan on the night of the 28th, and again on the 29th, and saw also the Maharaja on the latter date. We also drove to Basdewa on the 29th, as advised by Mr. Skrine, and met Rai Sankar Dyal, the Rajput zamindar of Kessat, and head of the Rajput house in that vicinity. The Dewan is very favourable to the poppy cultivation, and both he and the Rai recommend "assamiwar" payments in local and convenient centres, which both think would support and help our cultivation. The yearly decreasing profits from poppy cultivation, coupled with the comparative uncertainty of the crop, have been the main causes, according to Rai Sankar Dyal, that have contributed to make our cultivation unpopular in recent years. Along with this he states that the Bhojpur raiyats have not been treated properly by Mr. Wintle. He spoke of the good treatment they received during Mr. Peppe's time. The upshot of both these interviews was that we have arranged as follows:—

- (a.) Mr. Sen will be deputed to make local payments in the Bhojpur and Chowsa kothis in convenient centres. Sidipur was a centre suggested by Rai Sankar Dyal.
- (b.) In the meantime the gumashtas, muharrirs, and zilladars will be deputed to make inquiries, especially in villages in which the poppy cultivation does not exist at present. Mr. Sen will begin payments as soon as a sufficient time has been allowed for our amla to go round their elaka.

(c.) The Dewan has promised to depute a tahsildar of his for helping us, and will issue order to his local gumashtas to inform the cultivators that wherever they prefer they will receive the opium advances individually. Rai Sankar Dyal has promised to make inquiries in the meantime, and inform me in two or three days what villages are willing to take up the cultivation. Both have promised to do their best to prevent their subordinates from throwing obstacles and difficulties in the way of the raiyats, which I find has been done, and to which cause, as much as to any other, I ascribe the unpopularity of our cultivation.

APP. XXXII.
Bohar Poppy.

Annexure C.

No. 67M., dated Camp Barehpur, the 12th February 1894.

FROM JOHN CHRISTIAN, Esq., Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, of Shahabad, to the COMMISSIONER of the PATNA DIVISION.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters Nos. 445R. and 447R., dated the 17th and 18th January respectively, and to submit the following information under the several heads suggested in your letter under reply.

1. "What subsequent steps the Dewan of the Raj actually took to carry out the arrangement agreed on with you? Has there been any increase in the area under poppy cultivation in the Raj villages; and if so, to what extent?"

It appears that after the interview (mentioned in my letter No. 24M., dated 15th January 1894), the Dewan of the Dumraon Raj issued a circular to his tahsildars, asking them to use their endeavours to help our cultivation. From inquiries I have made, it appears that the tahsildars explained to the raiyats the profits resulting from poppy cultivation; that the Opium Department was prepared to pay their accounts individually instead of through the khattahdars, if they so desire it; and that the Raj countenanced the cultivation and would help them. To give specific instances of the kind of help given by the Raj, I would mention here the examples cited by the tahsildar in his conversation with me on the subject: when a raiyat came and said he had no suitable land for poppy, the tahsildar endeavoured to arrange for it, and if he succeeded the raiyat came for advance; secondly, if a raiyat said he had difficulty of water, the tahsildar arranged for it by asking the ticcadar of the village or jet raiyat who possessed a well to allow him to take water from it; thirdly, if the rent charged by the ticcadar for the opium land was exorbitant, the tahsildar spoke to the ticcadar and got the rent reduced, &c. These are a few of the several ways the Raj amla helped the raiyats. The procedure adopted appears to have been somewhat as follows: The Raj amla explained as above to the cultivators, and those who agreed to cultivate came for advances to four centres fixed for payment, namely, Arrah, Dumraon, Buxar, and Chowsa. I have been assured by the chief tahsildar of the Raj that no pressure whatever was used, and from the local inquiries I have made in the district, I have no grounds to think that pressure was employed.

From the subjoined table giving the results of the opium settlements in the Dumraon villages, it would appear that whatever the efforts of the Raj amla, they were not attended with success as regards increasing our area; for the aggregate settlements in these villages barely reached the area of the previous year. We obtained four new villages with an aggregate cultivation of 14 bighas 4 cottahs. These, as shown by the measurements just completed, have cultivated 15b. 4k. 2d., i.e., 1b. 2d. in excess of the settlements.

APP. XXXII.

ABSTRACT showing the NUMBER of VILLAGES and AREA settled in the Villages in the Dumraon Raj in comparison with last year.

Name of Kothi.	Number of Villages.		Area settled.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
Arrah	28	29	Bg. c. 639 4	Bg. c. 642 5	Bg. c. 8 1	Bg. c. 5 0
Gurbani	9	9	155 0	157 16	2 16	—
Bhojpur	120	123	2,436 8	2,428 12	31 12	39 8
Chowra	2	2	61 8	59 8	—	2 0
Total	159	163	3,292 0	3,288 1	42 9	46 8

Actual decrease 3 bighas 19 cottahs.

2. "To further explain what 'obstacle' you refer to as having been thrown in the way of opium cultivation by the Raj amla, and for what purpose they did so."

The obstacles I refer to may be chiefly classed under the following heads:—

- (1.) Attempts to break down or weaken the guzashta tenures of cultivators.
- (2.) Preventing or discouraging their taking well advances from the Opium Department, which would strengthen their tenures.
- (3.) Enhancement of rent of poppy lands.
- (4.) Requiring or insisting the cultivators to change their poppy lands, so as to weaken their guzashta rights.

In our intercourse with the opium cultivators, these complaints have been brought to our notice by them from time to time. I would here invite your attention to the Koransarae and Itan cases mentioned by Mr. Sen in his report (submitted herewith*) as specific instances of the difficulties not unfrequently thrown in the way of opium cultivators, and beg to add that I have ascertained from local inquiry that the facts stated are correct.

It is not difficult to see the object the maliks have in view in throwing these difficulties in the way of opium cultivators. The interests of the zamindar and those of the opium cultivator do not always coincide; opium cultivation helps a raiyat to establish his claim to his holding and pukka wells built under the system of advances made by the Opium Department, give him a prescriptive right to the land on which they are constructed. Hence it is to the interest of the zamindar to break down and weaken the guzashta tenure of the cultivators. He cannot do this easily in the case of an opium cultivator. The documentary proof the latter can bring forward for a number of years of his possession of a certain holding militates against the attempt that a zamindar not unfrequently makes to break or throw doubt on the guzashta rights of a cultivator. Hence it is that obstacles and difficulties are thrown in the way of opium cultivators, and they are subjected to petty annoyances, which I find from experience can be more easily smoothed over by conciliating the zamindar and securing his co-operation than by adopting a hostile attitude or having recourse to law, or by setting the raiyat to fight against his malik.

Annexure D.

No. 20004G., dated Arrah, the 2nd September 1894.

From F. H. B. SKRINE, Esq., Collector of Shahabad, to the SUBDIVISIONAL OFFICERS of BUXAR, BHABUA, SASARUM, MANAGER D. and D. KUMAR'S ESTATE.

As it is the policy of Government to extend opium cultivation in Wards' and Government estates, I have the honour to request that you will furnish the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent with a list of mauzas, specifying police station or outpost in which each is situated which contain lands fit for the cultivation of opium. Further, that you will instruct your tahsildars to use their utmost efforts in co-operation with the Sub-Deputy

Opium Agent to induce our raiyats to take opium advances. Any information required by the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent should be at once supplied to him.

Annexure E.

No. 2590G., dated Bhagalpur, the 26th February 1894.

From F. H. B. SKRINE, Esq., Collector of Bhagalpur, to the COMMISSIONER of the PATNA DIVISION.

I have the honour to furnish the explanation called for in your letter No. 481R., of the 14th current, on the subject of my action in fostering the cultivation of opium in the Government and Wards' estates of Shahabad during my incumbency as collector of that district.

2. About the middle of August last, Mr. J. Christian, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of Shahabad, called on me with a view, he said, to obtain my co-operation in restoring the area under poppy to its normal. He told me that owing to a variety of causes there had been a serious falling off in the cultivation of recent years, that the Board of Revenue viewed the resulting depletion of their reserve with some apprehension, and that the opium agent of Bihar had instructed him to consult me with regard to the causes of decline and the means of arresting it.

3. I replied that I should be most happy to afford them all the assistance in my power. I had been for nearly two years in the district, and had visited every part of it during my cold-weather tours. My experience had convinced me that the poppy crop was an immense blessing to the cultivator. In the first place, the cash advances came at a time when money was scarce and landlords pressing for rent. Then, in the absence of catastrophes, such as hail storm or heavy rain between December and February, the crop was a most paying one. The Koeri caste, who form the bulk of our opium cultivators, enjoy a degree of material comfort, superior to that seen in any other section of the raiyat class. Lastly, I regarded the influence of the Department as beneficial to the latter, inasmuch as it gave them indirectly a means of securing fixity of tenure, increased their facilities for irrigation, and in some measure counterbalanced the enormous power wielded by zamindars in South Bihar.

4. Mr. Christian suggested that I should issue a circular to the sub-divisional officers under my supervision, asking them to give him information as to the area in Government and Wards' estates capable of being brought under poppy, and to co-operate with him in extending the cultivation. I undertook to do so.

5. Soon after this interview my attention became engrossed by an agitation amongst the Hindu community directed against the slaughter of cattle for food. This led to strained relations between the Hindus and Muhammadans which culminated in a serious riot at Koath on the 28th August. It was not till the 1st September last I was able to take any steps in the matter suggested by Mr. Christian. On that day I received a demi-official letter from Mr. N. C. Sen, assistant sub-

* Not received by the Commission.

deputy agent of Shahabad, reminding me of my promise. Thereon I addressed a circular, No. 2004G., of 2nd September, to the sub-divisional officers of Bhabua, Buxar, and Sasaram, and the manager of D. and D. Kumar's Ward estate, in which I informed them that it was the policy of Government to extend opium cultivation in Wards' and Government estates. I asked them to give the sub-deputy opium agent a list of villages in their charge which contained lands suitable for sowing opium, and to instruct their tahsildars to use their utmost efforts in co-operation with the sub-deputy opium agent to induce our raiyat to take opium advances. A separate order directed the tahsildar of Government estates in the headquarters sub-division to furnish the sub-deputy opium agent with a list of such villages under his immediate control.

6. In justice to myself, I wish to offer some explanation as to the wording of this circular. It was written at a time when my attention was concentrated on the task of restoring peace to my district, and when the memory of the riots at Koath was fresh, and others seemed imminent, the time for reflection and weighing my words was wanting. Had it been otherwise, the phraseology of the opening sentence of my circular would have been different. I am well aware that Government has never, directly or indirectly, inculcated in its executive officers the duty of increasing the area

under poppy. Our attitude with regard to the Opium Department has always been one of strict non-interference; we are ready to intervene in the rare occurrences (I have never had personal experience of one) in which abuses of any kind are brought to light, but there our functions end. Mr. Christian, too, had told me that the Board of Revenue wished to see a larger area under opium than had been the case in recent years, and I was honestly persuaded that the extension of poppy cultivation meant increased prosperity to our raiyats and increased punctuality in the payment of our rents.

7. I never supposed that my instructions would be construed by my subordinates as authorising them to bring pressure to bear on cultivators. They were to place the department in relation with the latter, and explain to them the advantage of the cultivation, and that was all; nor would it have been in my power to do more. For it has been the fixed policy of Government for years past to concede, and indeed foster the acquisition by its tenants of occupancy rights. Nearly all of them now enjoy a fixity of tenure, and they would resist successfully any efforts on our part to dictate to them the crops which they were to grow or not to grow in their holdings; if the tenor of my instructions has been misunderstood, and any subordinate official has shown excessive zeal in acting thereon, I can only say that I regret the mistake.

APP. XXXII.
Behar Poppy.

APPENDIX XXXIII.

APP. XXXIII
China.

ADDRESS BY ANTI-OPIMUM SOCIETIES to the CHINESE AMBASSADOR to the UNITED KINGDOM and FRANCE,
with his reply.

To His Excellency, SIEH, His Chinese Imperial Majesty's Minister to Great Britain and France.

MAY it please your Excellency to consider the request of the undersigned. We have for years past been engaged in seeking to enlighten our countrymen on the evils associated, both in the past and at the present time, with the opium traffic, and in endeavouring to form a public opinion which should insist on the entire prohibition of the opium export from India to China. God has been pleased to favour our efforts, and the efforts of others in the same behalf, and, as your Excellency may be aware, there is now in this country a very strong feeling on the part of a large section of our people that the time has come when the Indo-Chinese opium trade should cease.

We approach your Excellency in the confidence that we have your hearty sympathy in this cause, and that you would rejoice with us in seeing the opium trade brought to an end. Such is the state of feeling against the opium traffic in this country now, that any clear expression of your personal opinion in condemnation of the trade before your departure from this country, would be exceedingly helpful to our efforts. We would further earnestly beg of you, that on your return to China, you would move His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China to take such steps as would make it clear that China desires to bring this trade to an end.

It is constantly asserted that the Indian opium trade brings in so much revenue to the Chinese Government, that it would shrink from any course which would diminish that revenue, and that it is, indeed, as much in love with the trade as the Indian Government itself. We ourselves do not believe this, and it would rejoice us exceedingly, and materially strengthen our position, if, in opposition to such assertions, we could secure a distinct pronouncement on the subject,

DONALD MATHESON.
J. BEVAN BRAITHWAITE.
JAMES E. MATHIESON.
ROBERT SCOTT.
JAMES L. MAXWELL.
B. BROOMHALL.
RACHEL B. BRAITHWAITE.
Representing the four Anti-Opium
Societies of London.

London, May 1894.

TRANSLATION of the REPLY to the ABOVE.

Legation de Chine, Paris,
Kwang-si, 20th Year, 4th Moon
May, 1894.

To the PHILANTHROPIC GENTLEMEN representing
ANTI-OPIMUM SOCIETIES of GREAT BRITAIN.

SIRS,

I HAVE the honour to communicate the following answer to your favour lately received.

From your letter I find that in the matter of suppressing opium, the zeal of your philanthropic hearts during these many years has not waned, nor have your schemes of philanthropy ceased, hoping earnestly to stop the noxious evils that spring from the drug, and to ensure to all the blessings of abstinence from it.

The reading of your letter gave me extreme gratification, which cannot but be lasting.

Evidences are that there has been a growing harmony in the intercourse between your country and mine, and an increasing prosperity in our international commerce. It is a satisfaction to me that during my residence in London, which was longer than in Paris, I so enjoyed the confidence of your Government that various matters which arose were settled without any difficulty. It is also a pleasure to see the philanthropy of your various associations, showing that your country is rich in men of noble character.

The efforts of the various anti-opium societies have my hearty sympathy, and what I now desire to say is merely to emphasise the fact that my Government, the local authorities, the literati, and the people are sincere in their wish to suppress opium. That you and we feel alike in this matter is another instance that "in the principle of doing good to others, foreigners and Chinese are in accord," and that "while there is opportunity one should think of prevention and cure."

The effects of opium indulgence are most pernicious, and if its use were to extend not only would China be ruined, but the people of India would fall into the habit and would suffer endless evils.

APP. XXXIII.

I understand that your Government has at divers times strictly prohibited the culture of the poppy,* and the trade in it, and now if the anti-opium societies would lead and guide public opinion, and would, as occasion offers, support your Government, the good resulting therefrom would be incalculable. For, it is evident that if henceforth each party would devise measures to restrict the culture and to lessen the traffic, the article would decrease, and the evil thereof cure of itself. Though the final extinction might take time, yet it would come some day.

* NOTE BY THE SIGNATORIES.—We suppose that his Excellency is here referring to the following words of the late Right Hon. W. H. Smith, in the House of Commons, on April 10th 1891:—"The course which this Government has taken, and which all Governments have taken, during the last few years—for the present Government take no credit for greater care and consideration for the morality of the people of India than has been shown by preceding Governments—has been to diminish the area of cultivation in India to an extent, in the last five years at any rate, of 20 per cent. The production and sale of opium has been decreased considerably in each year, and that must be taken as an indication of the policy of the Government." Whilst we do not for a moment question the good faith of the late leader of the House of Commons, it has since been shown by the Indian authorities themselves that he had entirely misapprehended the meaning of the temporary reduction in their output of opium.

I earnestly hope that your societies will put forth greater efforts, and ventilate the question more and more, till this old evil is uprooted and new benefits rise in its stead. Not only is this accomplishment my personal profound wish, but from it both my country and yours will surely reap advantage.

My tenure of office soon expires, and my departure is at hand, but I shall consider it my duty to fulfil your earnest request in making known to my Government your benevolent desires.

I send this answer on the eve of my journey; I have much to say, but time fails.

I present my compliments. May I always have your good will. To express which sentiments I avail myself of this opportunity, and write no separate letter [to the various signatories].

(Signed) SIEH FU-CHUNG,
His Chinese Imperial Majesty's Minister
to Great Britain and France.

APP. XXXIV.

Production of
Evidence.

APPENDIX XXXIV.

CORRESPONDENCE relating to the ARRANGEMENTS made by the GOVERNMENT of INDIA for the PRODUCTION of EVIDENCE before the ROYAL COMMISSION.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

SEPARATE REVENUE.

OPIUM.

A.

No. 306 of 1893.

To the Right Honourable the EARL of KIMBERLEY, K.G.,
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

Simla,

the 20th September 1893.

MY LORD,
On the 11th August 1893, His Excellency the Viceroy received from your Lordship the following telegram:—

"Opium Commission. Following is on behalf of Chairman:—Do you prefer that he should arrive India 1st November next, or 15th November next? Lyall will accompany him. He assumes that you are arranging course of inquiry, places to be visited, and witnesses, and that they will begin with official witnesses."

2. On the 15th idem we replied to your Lordship in the following telegram:—

"Your telegram of 11th instant. Opium Commission. We think it best that Commission should be ready to begin inquiry at Calcutta about 15th November. We had not intended to arrange course of inquiry and places to be visited, as we expected Commission would do so; but we will now prepare programme for consideration of Commission and send copy when ready. We are not certain what is meant by official witnesses. If by that term is meant witnesses who will give evidence as to extent of opium cultivation in India, amount of consumption, system of taxation, and so forth, we see no objection to their being examined in the first instance. But we think that, as a rule, the witnesses who are in favour of interfering with the present condition of things, by either prohibiting the use of opium, or imposing further restrictions, should be examined before the witnesses who are in favour of leaving matters as they are. In particular, we think it very desirable that such anti-opium evidence as may be available in England should be taken before the Commission come to this country. This would give both the Commissioners and the Government of India an idea of the points upon which Indian evidence was most wanted. At same time it must be recollected

that many witnesses can only give evidence at particular places and times, and that no hard-and-fast rule as to order of examination can be followed. We shall be prepared to suggest non-official witnesses, who will give independent evidence, but we cannot undertake to specially search for witnesses who will give evidence against opium. We presume this will be done by the Anti-Opium Society."

3. Subsequently, on the 23rd August, we received from your Lordship the following telegram:—

"Opium Commission. Following from Lord Brassey:—We propose to take some evidence here before going out, and to begin work in India in third week in November, opening with anti-opium witnesses: then go on as you may arrange."

4. In order to meet the wishes of the Chairman, we have prepared for the consideration of the Commission a provisional list of places which it may be convenient to visit. A copy of this list and copies of a resolution, No. 3910-Ex., dated the 8th instant, and of letters which we have addressed to Local Governments and Administrations, and to certain political officers, and to the Adjutant-General in India, regarding the appointment of the Royal Commission on Opium, the places to be visited by the Commission, and the course of the inquiry, are herewith forwarded for information. We request that these papers may be communicated to the Chairman of the Commission.

We have, &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.
G. S. WHITE.
P. P. HUTCHINS.
D. BARBOUR.
A. E. MILLER.
H. BRACKENBURY.
C. B. PRITCHARD.

B.—1.

No. 3910—Ex.

RESOLUTION.

Simla,

the 8th September, 1893.

Read—

The following resolution adopted by the House of Commons on the 30th June 1893, on the motion of Her Majesty's Government, viz.:—

That, having regard to the strong objections urged on moral grounds to the system by which the Indian opium revenue is raised, this House presses on the Government of India to continue their policy of greatly diminishing the cultivation of the poppy and the production and sale of opium, and desires that an humble address be presented to Her Majesty praying Her Majesty to appoint a Royal Commission to report as to—

- (1.) Whether the growth of the poppy and manufacture and sale of opium in British India should be prohibited, except for medical purposes, and whether such prohibition could be extended to the Native States.
- (2.) The nature of the existing arrangements with the Native States in respect of the transit of opium through British territory, and on what terms, if any, these arrangements could be with justice terminated.
- (3.) The effect on the finances of India of the prohibition of the sale and export of opium, taking into consideration—
 - (a) the amount of compensation payable;
 - (b) the cost of the necessary preventive measures;
 - (c) the loss of revenue.
- (4.) Whether any change short of total prohibition should be made in the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the opium traffic and for raising a revenue therefrom.
- (5.) The consumption of opium by the different races and in the different districts of India, and the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people.
- (6.) The disposition of the people of India in regard to—
 - (a) the use of opium for non-medical purposes;
 - (b) their willingness to bear in whole or part the cost of prohibitive measures.

Resolution.—The Right Honourable Lord Brassey, who has been appointed Chairman of the Royal Commission referred to in the resolution recited in the preamble, has, through the Secretary of State, intimated his expectation that the Government of India would arrange the course of the inquiry to be undertaken by the Commission, the places to be visited, and the witnesses to be called to give evidence.

2. Until the Commission has been fully constituted, and the members have had an opportunity of conferring together regarding the course to be followed, it is probable that the matters referred to by the Chairman cannot be definitely arranged. In order, however, to meet as far as possible the wishes of the Chairman, the Government of India have prepared an outline of the course which may, it is thought, be conveniently observed in conducting the inquiry, and a general outline of the route which the Commission might follow in the ordering of its tour throughout the provinces of India. The Government of India desire it to be understood that in proposing a programme and itinerary they are merely putting forward suggestions for the consideration of the Commission in the hope of thereby facilitating the completion of their labours, and that all questions connected with the course of inquiry places to be visited, and witnesses to be examined will be finally decided by the Commission.

3. The chief places which it is thought that the Commission should visit, and the order in which it would probably be convenient to visit them, are set forth in an appendix attached to this resolution. The itinerary has been drawn up on the assumption that the Commission will begin their inquiry in Calcutta in the third

week of November 1893. It is not yet known what length of time the Commission will require for the completion of their task. The scope of the inquiry is so wide, and the interests of India are so vitally concerned, that the time must necessarily be considerable. It may be that the Commission will desire to visit other places besides those now suggested. It may also happen that the number of persons desiring to give evidence may be so great that the time allotted to each centre of inquiry may differ widely from any estimate that it would be possible to make beforehand. It has, therefore, been decided for the present not to indicate any dates as likely to be observed in visiting particular places. As soon as possible after the commencement of the proceedings, dates can be notified as far in advance as may be practicable in order that all persons who desire to offer evidence may have ample notice when their attendance is likely to be required.

4. It is understood that on arrival in Calcutta the Commission will begin by taking the evidence of witnesses who are in favour of the prohibition or greater restriction of the consumption of opium. As regards the subsequent course of the inquiry, it appears to the Government of India that the several matters comprised in the reference to the Commission may most conveniently be taken up in the following order, which corresponds with what seems to be their natural sequence, namely:—

- (1.) The production and consumption of opium throughout India, and the various systems under which the poppy is cultivated and opium manufactured, and revenue raised therefrom in different parts of India.

This head of inquiry, it will be seen, is not expressly mentioned in the resolution of the House of Commons, except in so far as it is included in the fifth clause of the reference. But a correct understanding of the existing arrangements is manifestly a necessary preliminary to an inquiry into proposals for change.

- (2.) The consumption of opium by the different races and in the different districts of India, and the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people.
- (3.) The disposition of the people of India in regard to—
 - (a) the use of opium for non-medical purposes; and
 - (b) their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures.
- (4.) The nature of the existing arrangements with the Native States in respect of the transit of opium through British territory, and on what terms, if any, those arrangements could with justice be terminated.
- (5.) The effect on the finances of India of the prohibition of the sale and export of opium, taking into consideration—
 - (a) the amount of compensation payable;
 - (b) the cost of the necessary preventive measures; and
 - (c) the loss of revenue.
- (6.) Whether the growth of the poppy and manufacture and sale of opium in British India should be prohibited, except for medical purposes, and whether such prohibition could be extended to the Native States; and
- (7.) Whether any change short of total prohibition should be made in the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the opium traffic and for raising a revenue therefrom.

5. Although it is suggested that the course of inquiry may conveniently follow the order indicated above, it will not be possible to adhere to it exactly. Some of the official witnesses will give evidence on more than one of the matters enumerated. The non-official witnesses also in many cases will probably wish to do the same; and some of these may be unwilling or unable to arrange their evidence in accordance with the suggested classification. In all cases the convenience of the witnesses will have to be considered in regard to the place and time of their examination; and the order in which successive branches of the inquiry are taken up must be subordinated to the necessity of examining each witness at some centre within a reasonable distance of his home. Moreover, it cannot be expected that any branch of the inquiry will be exhausted at one place, and a strict adherence to the order suggested

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might necessitate a second visit of the Commission to one or more of the places entered in the earlier part of their tour. So far, however, as these considerations permit, the Government of India are of opinion that the course of the Commission's inquiries may advantageously follow the order indicated in the last preceding paragraph.

6. Evidence regarding the first head of the inquiry can, it is thought be most conveniently laid before the Commission either in the form of written statements, or orally, by selected officers authorised to produce official figures and explain the existing systems. The Government of India will therefore arrange, in communication with the respective local governments, to call witnesses in the first instance who will give evidence regarding the extent of cultivation of the poppy, the manufacture and consumption of opium in India, the various systems of taxation, and other matters falling under the first or preliminary head of inquiry specified in paragraph 4 above.*

7. When the ground has thus been cleared, the subsequent procedure in regard to the calling of witnesses must, it is thought, depend on the pleasure of the Commission. It is probable that the Commission will wish to receive evidence from all persons who possess information regarding any of the matters referred to them by the resolution of the House of Commons, and who are desirous of being examined. The Commission will doubtless invite all such persons to come forward and will intimate the dates and places at which they will be examined. It is anticipated that of the persons who tender themselves voluntarily for examination, some will be in favour of maintaining the existing arrangements in respect of opium more or less unchanged; while others will desire to advocate measures of restriction or prohibition. The Government of India consider that, after the preliminary official evidence as to existing arrangements has been recorded, it will be convenient at each centre of examination to receive the testimony of those persons or bodies who desire to see alterations introduced: it has been ascertained that this arrangement is in accordance with the wishes of the chairman.

8. When these have been examined, the Government will be prepared to produce further witnesses to deal with those heads of the inquiry regarding which official evidence may be found to be necessary. Thus, in respect of the second head of inquiry, it is probable that the ground will have been covered to some extent by the witnesses referred to in paragraph 6. Further detailed evidence will, however, be given in each province by selected officers of experience regarding the consumption of opium by different races and in different parts of India. Gentlemen of the medical profession, including both officers in the service of Government and private practitioners, who have had opportunities of observing the moral and physical effects of the consumption of opium, will be invited to lay the results of their experience before the Commission. The Government also hope to be able to suggest the names of a number of non-official gentlemen of recognized standing, whose experience and opinions will present the case from a different point of view.

9. As regards the third head of inquiry, it is anticipated that the official witnesses already referred to will be able to give evidence regarding the disposition of the people of India in respect of the use of opium, and their willingness to bear the cost of prohibitive measures. On these points, however, the Commission will probably wish to receive as much evidence as possible from gentlemen not directly connected with the Government. Some of the non-official witnesses referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8, especially those of them who hold a representative position among the native community, will be able to speak with authority regarding the feelings of their fellow-countrymen on the subject.

10. As regards the arrangements with native states, the Government of India will undertake to place before the Commission a full statement of all agreements now in force regarding the production of opium in the states in question, its export from, and import into, these states. It is probable that the Commission will hold sittings in or near some of the principal states which are concerned with the production or trade in opium, or which consume it on a considerable scale, and the Government of India will be prepared to give the

Commission every assistance in procuring a representation of the views of the durbars affected regarding the possibility of prohibiting or restricting the production of opium within their territories, or its export through British territory, and as to the compensation (if any) to which they would consider themselves to be entitled in the event of such measures being adopted.

11. As regards the effect on the finances of India of prohibitive measures, the Government of India will place before the Commission the best estimates that can be prepared. It will not be possible to frame an estimate of the cost of preventive measures until it is known to what area and over what length of frontier they are desired to be applied.

12. The remaining branches of the inquiry do not at present call for particular notice. They appear to be rather of the nature of inferences to be deduced from the evidence given and from the conclusions arrived at upon the previous questions. The Government of India will, however, be prepared to render any assistance in regard to them which the Commission may desire to have, either by tendering witnesses for examination, or in any other way that may be preferred.

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the local governments and administrations noted in the margin.

Madras, Bombay, Bengal, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Punjab, Burma, Central Provinces, and Assam.

Ordered also, that copies be forwarded to the Foreign Department for communication to the agents to the Governor-General, Central India and Rajputana, and to the residents at Baroda and Hyderabad.

J. F. FINLAY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

B.—2.

PLACES to be VISITED by the ROYAL COMMISSION on OPIUM.

1. *Calcutta*.—Starting thence, as a centre, the Commission will visit:—

- (a.) Orissa, including the districts of Cuttack and Balasore.
- (b.) North-Eastern Bengal, including the districts of Dinagore and Rungpore.
- (c.) Assam, including the districts of Lakhimpur and Sibsagar.
- (d.) Behar, visiting the factory at Patna, and possibly one or two of the opium-growing districts.

Of the above localities, the districts enumerated in (a.) (b.) and (c.) are those in which the consumption of opium is most considerable. In Behar a great part of the opium of Bengal is produced. It will be desirable to visit Behar during January or February when the crop is in flower.

2. *Burma*.—Both Upper and Lower Burma should be visited, and the conditions of each province considered separately. The Arakan division, and the town of Akyab, will probably require attention, as the consumption of opium has been greatest there. The new system by which the consumption of opium by Burmans is generally prohibited in Lower as well as in Upper Burma will be introduced before the arrival of the Commission, and it will not be possible to study easily the working of either the old or the new system.

3. *The North-Western Provinces and Oudh*.—The chief places to be visited are:—

- (a.) Benares. The factory at Ghazipur may be visited from here.
- (b.) Allahabad.
- (c.) Cawnpore.
- (d.) Lucknow.

4. *The Punjab*.—The chief places to be visited are:—

- (a.) Delhi.
- (b.) Umballa.
- (c.) Ludhiana.
- (d.) Amritsar.
- (e.) Lahore.
- (f.) Ferozepore.

* This evidence can, if necessary, be supplemented by the evidence of additional witnesses at each place which the Commission may decide to visit.

These are all districts in which the consumption is considerable. From Umballa, or Amritsar, some of the native states might be visited, and also the district of Gurdaspur. From Lahore, the Dera Ghazi Khan district might be visited if time can be made available.

5. *Ajmere*.—This place is not of itself very important for the present purpose; but as being British territory, and situated in the midst of the states in which Malwa opium is produced, it is a convenient centre for inquiring into the latter trade. The following states in the Rajputana and Central India Agencies are those which produce most opium, and might be visited:—

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| (a.) Meywar | - | } in the Rajputana Agency. |
| (b.) Jhallawar | - | |
| (c.) Indore | - | } in the Central India Agency. |
| (d.) Bhopal | - | |
| (e.) Gwalior | - | |

6. *The Central Provinces and Berar*.—The following towns might be visited:—

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| (a.) Jubbulpore | - | } in the Central Provinces. |
| (b.) Nagpur | - | |
| (c.) Amraoti, in Berar. | | |

7. *The Bombay Presidency*.—The Government of India will leave it to the local government to suggest the places to be visited in Bombay; they should, it is thought, include the native state of Baroda, and perhaps some others.

8. *Hyderabad*.—The capital of the Nizam's dominions may be visited if time permits.

9. *The Madras Presidency*. Here also the Government of India prefer to leave it to the local government to suggest the places to be visited. These might, perhaps, include some of the hill tracts, in which special arrangements in regard to opium are in force.

B.—3.*

No. 3917-Ex.

To the SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, Bengal.

SIR,
Simla,
8th September 1893.

I AM directed to forward herewith, for the information of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, a copy of a resolution of the Government of India of this date, with its enclosure, regarding the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the production and sale of, and trade in, opium in India.

2. The general course of the inquiry, and the places which the Commission will probably visit, so far as they can now be determined, are set forth in the resolution and its appendix, which also contain some account of the points on which it is proposed that evidence should be adduced by the Government, and of the classes of witnesses by whom it should be presented. I am now directed to indicate more precisely the matters as to which evidence will be brought forward by the Government of India, and those as to which the local governments, including that of Bengal, are desired to call witnesses.

3. The Government of India will be responsible for the production of evidence dealing with the following points, namely:—

- (1) the existing systems under which opium is produced and sold, or revenue raised from it;
- (2) the effect on the finances of India of the prohibition of opium;
- (3) the arrangements with native states, and the effects of prohibitive measures with regard to them; and
- (4) the consideration of prohibitive measures as affecting the native army.

As regards the first of these points, however, it is thought that an account of the Bengal system can be most conveniently given by one or more experienced officers, well acquainted with that system, to be nominated by the Government of Bengal. I am to request therefore that his Honour may be moved to select witnesses for this purpose and to cause a clear account

of the Bengal system, with full statistics, to be prepared, which one of these witnesses may lay before the Commission.

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4. The evidence adduced by the Government of India should be supplemented in respect of Bengal by the evidence of experienced officers, well acquainted with local conditions, with especial reference to the following branches of the inquiry, namely:—

- (1) the consumption of opium by the different races and in the different districts of India, and the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people, and—
- (2) the disposition of the people of India in regard to—
 - (a) the use of opium for non-medical purposes, and
 - (b) their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures.

I am to request that the Government of Bengal will be good enough to select a suitable number of experienced and capable officers who will give evidence on these matters at each place where the Commission may arrange to take evidence within the province of Bengal. It should be arranged that one or more of these witnesses, as may be convenient, shall be in a position to lay before the Commission such figures or statistics as, in the opinion of his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, may be required or are likely to be useful.

5. The Commission will probably wish to visit one or both of the factories at Patna and Ghazipur, and some of the districts in which the poppy is cultivated. Arrangements to this effect have been made in the provisional itinerary which is appended to the resolution. The gentlemen who may be selected to give evidence at Patna or in other poppy-growing districts should include some who are able to explain clearly the magnitude of the interests bound up with opium in those districts, the extent of cultivation, the money which it brings into the pockets of cultivators and landholders, and the manner in which its prohibition would affect rents, and the revenue derived from land. Some of these witnesses should also be in a position to represent with authority the views of the classes who as landholders, cultivators, or factory hands, are concerned in the industry. It is thought that the non-official witnesses referred to in paragraph 7 below will be able to give valuable evidence in this connexion.

6. It is especially important that the medical evidence to be laid before the Commission shall be the best and most complete that can be obtained; and in nominating the witnesses of this class, both official and non-official, I am to request that care may be taken to select those gentlemen who are of the highest standing in their profession, and who have enjoyed the most extensive experience of the effects of the use of opium and of other stimulants and narcotics.

7. In addition to officers of Government it will be necessary to adduce the evidence of independent non-official gentlemen, especially natives of India, whose knowledge of their fellow countrymen will throw valuable light on the disposition of the people in regard to the use of opium, and their willingness to bear the additional taxation involved in the adoption of prohibitive measures. The selection of these witnesses will require careful consideration. It is desirable that they should, if possible, be gentlemen of some social standing, of independence of character and good general intelligence, and so completely in touch with public feeling in their respective provinces as to command the respect and confidence alike of the people of India and of the members of the Commission.

8. I am to request that a list of the witnesses whom his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to nominate may be submitted to the Government of India, together with some indication of the branches of the inquiry regarding which each witness proposes to give evidence. This list, together with any observations which his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor may desire to offer, should be forwarded so as to reach this office not later than the 15th October 1893. It will doubtless be possible to put forward additional witnesses at a subsequent period if it should appear necessary to do so.

I have, &c.
J. F. FINLAY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

* This and the two following documents are reproduced as specimens of the letters addressed to local authorities on the subject.

APP. XXXIV.

B.—4.

No. 3165-I.

From the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA, to the AGENT to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL in CENTRAL INDIA.

Simla,

SIR,

9th September 1893.

I AM directed to forward herewith a copy of a Resolution which was adopted by the House of Commons on the 30th June 1893, praying Her Majesty to appoint a Royal Commission to report on certain matters connected with the production and sale of, and trade in, opium in India. A copy of a Resolution of the Government of India in the Finance and Commerce Department, dated the 8th September 1893, and of a list of places which the Commission will probably wish to visit are also forwarded for your information.

2. The branches of the inquiry to be made by the Commission which concern the Native States are—

- (1) Whether, if the production and use of opium for non-medical purposes are prohibited throughout British India, such prohibition could be extended to the Native States;
- (2) The nature of the existing arrangements with the Native States in respect of the transit of opium through British territory, and whether those arrangements could be with justice terminated; and
- (3) To what compensation would the Native States be fairly entitled in the event of measures of prohibition being adopted.

3. I am to request that you will be good enough to cause the Darbars of all the States within the Central India Agency to be fully informed of the appointment of the Royal Commission, by order of Her Majesty the Queen, Empress of India, and of the nature of the inquiry which the Commission has been instructed to make. Within the Central India Agency, the States in which opium is most extensively produced are Indore, Bhopal, and Gwalior; but several others also produce it in some quantity, and almost all are interested in the question to a considerable extent. It should be explained to the Darbars that the Government of India are most anxious that their interests should not be overlooked, and that a full expression of their views should be placed before the Commission. The Governor-General in Council therefore desires that the Darbars may be invited to nominate witnesses to give evidence before the Commission regarding the matters mentioned in paragraph 2 of this letter, and any others to which the Darbars may wish to call attention.

4. I am also to request that you will report, after ascertaining, in as quiet and informal a manner as may be possible, the views of the Darbars concerned, whether the three States named in paragraph 3, or any others in which the opium question is of importance, would be likely to raise difficulties in the event of the Commission wishing to visit their territory, for the purpose of taking evidence or otherwise prosecuting their inquiries. This matter is one which requires delicate handling, and no formal reference should, at present, be made to the Darbars on this point.

5. It will be understood that the places to be visited by the Commission have not yet been finally settled, and the itinerary enclosed with this letter is provisional only. It would be convenient if it could be arranged that the witnesses who may be nominated to give evidence regarding the Native States in Central India should be examined at a few central places, so as to obviate the delay which must be incurred if the Commission is required to visit a large number of places.

I am to inquire whether you can suggest any place, which should be in British territory if possible, which would be a convenient centre for the examination of all witnesses from the Central India Agency.

6. In addition to witnesses from the Darbars, in response to the invitation referred to in paragraph 3 of this letter, may nominate to state their views, it will be necessary to have the evidence of one or two political officers in the service of Government, who possess a thorough acquaintance with the opium question in the Central India Agency. They will be required to lay before the Commission full information, supported by such figures and statistics as may be found necessary, regarding the extent of poppy cultivation within each State in the Agency, the production of opium, the local consumption and export, the revenue which each

Darbar derives from it, either directly or otherwise, the nature of the agreements under which the drug is exported through British territory, and the compensation to which each State might reasonably be entitled if the production of opium were stopped or its export prohibited. I am to request that you will nominate one or two of the most experienced and trustworthy officers in your Agency for this purpose, and that you will submit their names, together with a brief outline of the evidence which each can give, so as to reach this office not later than the 15th October next. If you would prefer to give evidence yourself regarding these matters, or any of them, the Governor-General in Council would welcome your assistance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. J. CUNINGHAM,
for Secretary to the Government of India.

B.—5.

No. 4431-D., dated 15th September 1893.

From MAJOR-GENERAL SIR E. H. H. COLLEN, K.C.I.E.,
Secretary to the Government of India, Military
Department, to the ADJUTANT-GENERAL in India.

WITH reference to your letter No. 3861-B., dated the 13th September 1893, I am directed to forward herewith the draft of a circular which it has been decided to issue to officers commanding regiments and batteries of the Native Army regarding the extent to which opium is used by native troops, and to request that, under the orders of his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, you will be so good as to issue it as early as practicable.

2. I am further to request that the Government of India may be furnished at a *very early date*, with a copy of the circular for transmission to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India.

Draft of a Circular to be issued to the Officer Commanding every regiment and battery of the Native Army.

1. It is desired to place before the Royal Commission on Opium, which will take evidence in India during the ensuing cold weather, information regarding the extent to which Opium is used in the Native Army and the effects of its consumption on the health of the troops.

2. You are accordingly requested to report in respect to the ^{Regiment}_{Battery} under your command:—

- (a) the number and proportion of men by whom opium is commonly used, as well as the proportion of men who use opium (1) in moderation, and (2) to excess;
- (b) the average consumption per man;
- (c) whether, and to what extent, the use of opium by the men has been productive of injurious results, either physically or morally.

3. In forwarding the information you may obtain upon these points, you should state your own opinions with regard to each of them.

4. It is requested that your reply may reach this office not later than the 15th October.

C.—1.

No. 95 Ex.

To the SECRETARY, ROYAL OPIUM COMMISSION.

Calcutta,

SIR,

6th January 1894.

THE attention of the Governor-General in Council has been drawn to passages in the published reports of proceedings of the Royal Opium Commission, from which it appears that the action of the Government in respect of the inquiry entrusted to the Commission has been called in question by one of its members. I am desired to address you with reference to these incidents.

2. The first of them arose out of a statement made by the Chairman, in the course of the proceedings of December 21st, and the report of it in the *Calcutta Englishman* is set forth in Annexure A.

3. The Governor-General in Council noticed with pleasure that the Chairman of the Commission had expressed, apparently with the concurrence of his colleagues, his satisfaction at the manner in which the Government of India had co-operated with the Commission. His Excellency in Council therefore learned with regret that one, at least, of Lord Brassey's colleagues found himself unable to agree in his Lordship's observations.

4. The Government of India have undertaken the duty of facilitating the inquiries of the Commission in every way in their power, and the steps they have taken with this object, beginning with the resolution in the Financial Department, No. 3910, dated 8th September, and the letters to local governments issued upon the same date, have been communicated to the Commission from time to time. No exception has, so far as the Government of India is aware, been taken by the Commission to any of those proceedings; nor do they know of a single instance in which they themselves or their officers have not done their utmost to meet any wish expressed by the Commission or by any of its members.

5. It was not the intention of the Government of India to take immediate notice of the observation made by Mr. Wilson at the sitting of the 22nd, and they would have preferred to reserve for a more suitable opportunity any comments for which it might have seemed to call. Further observations were, however, made by the same member of the Commission upon the occasion of the sitting of December 27th, which, in the opinion of his Excellency in Council, render it necessary that the matter should not remain any longer unnoticed.

6. This second incident arose out of a conference held on the 11th instant, at Lord Brassey's request, between himself and Mr. Westland. A desire had been expressed by Lord Brassey on the part of the Commission that the volume of evidence offered by the Governments of Assam and of Madras might be reduced, and the question was what communications might be made to these Governments with this object. Mr. Westland's statements made at that conference were, at the sitting of December 27th explained to the Commission with substantial accuracy by Lord Brassey; and then, according to the newspaper report, the conversation set out in Annexure B. took place.

7. I am to explain, with reference to this conversation, that the Government of India have no intention of adopting any view of their duty towards the Commission other than that which they have held from the time when they were first invited to afford assistance to the Commission. Mr. Westland's statement of the position of the Government was not intended to mark a new departure, but will be found to be in accordance with the resolution of September 8th, and with the letters issued to the local governments on the same date; documents of which the full text is in possession of the Commission.

8. The document to which, if the newspaper report is correct, Mr. Wilson must presumably have referred when he questioned the accuracy of the memorandum, was the telegram from the Government of India to the Secretary of State, despatched on August 15th (Annexure C), when it first came to the knowledge of the Government of India that they were expected by the Commission to prepare a programme of proceedings.

9. The intentions declared in this telegram are the same as those which were more fully set out in the proceedings of September 8th, and are in accordance with Mr. Westland's explanations as read out by the Chairman. It is said in the telegram that while the Government of India were prepared to suggest non-official witnesses, who would give "independent evidence," they "cannot undertake to specially search for witnesses who will give evidence against opium." This statement was obviously not tantamount to an announcement that the Government of India refused to "undertake to present any evidence except that which practically favoured the present policy." As a matter of fact, some of the witnesses tendered by the local governments, under instructions from the Government of India, have, as was to be expected, shown that they did not favour the use of opium.

10. His Excellency in Council is anxious that there should be no misunderstanding as to the conditions

upon which the Government of India have, from the first, undertaken, at the instance of the Royal Commission, to make arrangements for the course of the inquiry, and for the production of the evidence of non-official as well as official witnesses, and I am to say that, if those arrangements have in any respect appeared to the Commissioners to fall short of what was necessary in order to elicit the material facts, his Excellency in Council will be grateful for the earliest possible intimation which the Commission may find it possible to make.

I have, &c.

J. F. FINLAY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

C.—2.

Annexure A.

REPORTS OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL OPIUM COMMISSION FROM THE CALCUTTA "ENGLISHMAN" OF VARIOUS DATES.

Thursday, 21st December.—"Lord Brassey: I should like to say, Mr. Lyall, that I shall be expressing the general feeling of the Commission when I say that we are satisfied that the Government of India have taken very proper steps to put their case before us, and that we are sensible that they have done their best to co-operate with the Commission in the not easy task of eliciting all the facts which it is desirable to bring before this Commission in dealing with an extremely complicated question. We have read your circulars, and they seem to be circulars which it is very proper that the Government should prepare and distribute amongst those who are competent to give evidence before the Commission."

Friday, 22nd December.—"Lord Brassey: In dismissing Mr. Lyall yesterday from the chair occupied by witnesses, I made some observations with reference to the arrangements which have been made by the Government of India for the purpose of conducting our inquiry in this country. Those observations seemed to come from the chair, in the name of the general body of the Commission; but I find that what I said must be taken to represent my individual view, and that, in order to put the case fully before the public, it will be necessary for Mr. Wilson to make a statement representing his own individual impressions."

"Mr. Wilson: I wish only to say that I regret that any difference of opinion should exist between Lord Brassey and myself on any matter in connexion with this Commission; but I am obliged to say that I am unable to endorse his observations to Mr. Lyall as to the action of the Indian authorities in regard to this Commission."

C.—3.

Annexure B.

"Mr. Wilson: I wish to direct attention to the last sentence in the first paragraph—'The Government, however, will not reply to such evidence as a defendant, but will merely pursue their course of enabling the Commission to fully ascertain the actual facts.' Now in previous papers put before us the Government distinctly stated that it was no part of their business—that they would not undertake to present any evidence except that which practically favoured the present policy. Therefore, this is scarcely consistent with their previous statement. I only wish to point that out."

"Lord Brassey: The memorandum must be understood to represent the view now taken by the Government of their duty towards the Commission."

"Mr. Fanshawe (to Mr. Wilson): Would you kindly let me know what previous paper you are referring to?"

"Mr. Wilson: I do not think we have had it put before us in print, and I do not think, therefore, that I have a copy. But I have no doubt that our secretary will remember that a document was circulated at a comparatively early stage of our proceedings, in which the distinct statement was made, and noted by myself at the time, that the Government did not consider it a part of its duty—I cannot recall the exact words—to

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produce anything, to use a common phrase, like anti-opium evidence. Therefore, I do not think it is quite correct to say the Government declines the position of a defendant.

"Lord Brassey: At any rate, speaking to me through Mr. Westland, they desire now to take a broader position, and I think we may accept the statement of what passed as read by me for the purpose of its being put on our minutes. I did not propose to raise any discussion upon this memorandum. I thought, as Mr. Westland had desired it, that I ought to make a report of the interview in writing, so that it might be submitted to the Government before it came before us to-day. I think we had better proceed with our business."

C.—4.

Annexure C.

TELEGRAM from the VICEROY to HER MAJESTY'S
SECRETARY OF STATE.

(This telegram is included in the Despatch marked A. in this Appendix).

D.—1.

The RIGHT HON. LORD BRASSEY, K.C.B.

Camp Umballa,

DEAR LORD BRASSEY, 17th January 1894.

1. The letter from the Government of India, No. 95 Ex., dated the 6th January 1894, has received my careful consideration, and I deem it my duty to set forth as clearly as I can the grounds on which I complained, and still complain, of the action of the authorities in India.

2. When I felt obliged, on the 22nd December last, to dissent from your lordship's compliment, through Mr. Lyall, to the Government of India, I did so partly on account of information which I was not then, and am not now, at liberty to divulge, and partly on account of some of the matters to which I am about to allude.

3. As to my remarks on the 27th December last, I frankly admit that the Government of India is technically accurate in pointing out that the actual language of the telegram of the 15th August last, does not justify the description of it given by me. But I was speaking from memory, as the report quoted shows, and I gave the impression which the perusal of the telegram had left upon my own mind. That this impression was not entirely erroneous will now, I think, be apparent.

4. A circular was issued by Mr. Lyall, dated the 11th November 1893, in which, following the resolution of the Government of India, dated the 8th September 1893, too much prominence is given to the question of "the disposition of the people" in regard to "their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures." Its insertion as the second point in the circular is in variance of the order of subjects for inquiry laid down in the Resolution of the House of Commons upon which the Royal Commission was appointed, in which it was given the last place. Again, having regard to the order of subjects as laid down in the circular itself, the proper place for this subject would appear to be after the 5th. The order of subjects laid down in the Resolution of the House of Commons and that laid down in the circular in question are set out in Appendix I. This document has had a very wide circulation, and whatever the intention of the alteration may have been, it is obvious that its tendency was to frighten many of the witnesses at the very outset with the prospect of having to bear the cost of preventive measures, as the necessary consequence of the total or partial prohibition of opium traffic; and it has had that effect to a considerable extent.

5. On the 21st December last, some official correspondence was circulated for information. It appeared therefrom that the Government of India, in a telegram, 5426 Ex., dated the 13th December last, asked the Government of Madras to do as follows: "Send abstracts of evidence of witnesses named in your list of 24th November. Letter follows. Await its receipt before replying regarding the question of what witnesses should go to Bombay." There is something remarkable in the anxiety which the Government in this

instance, as in several others, have shown not to allow any evidence to reach the Commission direct, without passing through a process of filtration, as it were, at their hands.

6. Bábu Govinda Rám Chowdry, Tahsildár at Gauhati, Assam, had promised to Mr. Thomas Evans to give evidence before the Commission, and his views were known to be opposed to the Government policy. He was, however, prevented by the Deputy Commissioner of Gauhati from coming to Calcutta (see Appendix III. a telegram dated the 13th December last).

7. On the 17th December last, Mr. Hewett, the Secretary to the Commission, sent me a printed list of 20 witnesses, dated the 20th November 1893, and signed by Mr. Driberg, Commissioner of Excise, Assam. Mr. Driberg was examined on the 22nd December last, and he put in a new list also of 20 witnesses, omitting three names and adding three.

One of the names omitted was that of Bábu Haribilás Agarwála, Tezpur (District Darrang). Having ascertained from Mr. Driberg on the 22nd December that he did not intend to call this witness, I invited him to give evidence, and he did so as an anti-opiumist, although he is himself a dealer in opium. Although Mr. Driberg stated on the 27th December that he did not drop this witness, it is quite clear that when the abstract of the intended evidence showed what its character would be, Mr. Driberg did not have it printed and took no further notice of the witness. This seems inconsistent with the declared intention of the Government to produce "non-official witnesses who will give independent evidence." Then on the 22nd December last, Mr. Driberg told the Commission that three of the witnesses in the second list could not come, two (*i.e.*, Bábus Hem Chandra Barua and Benudhar Barua) on account of illness and one (*i.e.*, Dr. Mullane) owing to public duty. On the 27th idem, the Commission, however, expressed a desire to examine these three gentlemen, and your Lordship intimated that "arrangements will no doubt be made for the purpose." I should add that Dr. Mullane is a civil surgeon of longer standing than Dr. Dobson who was examined. He says in his abstract of evidence that "an old opium-eater attacked with dysentery or diarrhoea enjoys a smaller chance of recovery than a non-opium eater." Bábu Hem Chandra Barua, retired superintendent of the Commissioner's Office, Assam Valley District, is the author of a popular play in Assamese the purpose of which is to condemn the use of opium. Both he and Bábu Benudhar Barua say in their abstracts that opium consumption, to a certain extent, injuriously affects the physical condition of the consumer and that the poorer opium-eaters commit theft, and sometimes perjury. Some of these facts were brought out in my examination of Mr. Driberg.

It is not needful now to say more in reference to the two incidents mentioned in the letter of the Government of India. But I have since had occasion to make remarks, or put questions, on other points, of a more or less similar kind, and I think it will be convenient now to mention them.

8. As another instance of the process of filtration referred to in paragraph 5, I may mention a document dated the 30th December last (Appendix II.) issued by the Government of North-Western Provinces and Oudh, asking officials not to communicate with the Secretary to the Commission direct.

9. At Bákpur, a list of witnesses intended to be called on the 3rd January was supplied to me. It included the name of Rái Bahádúr Jai Prakash Lál, C.I.E., Dewán of Dumraon. This gentleman represents a large estate in which poppy is extensively cultivated. He was not called. Information from two sources leads me to believe that his evidence would not have been altogether favourable to the Government.

10. At Benares, I was informed that some witnesses who had been communicated with by the authorities and who had sent abstracts of evidence, somewhat unfavorable to opium, had been told that their attendance was not desired. One of them, Babu Ishan Chandra Roy, a medical practitioner, was however examined as an anti-opiumist witness, and he spoke strongly against opium.

11. Mr. R. M. Dane, I.C.S., who accompanies the Commission to manage the case on behalf of the Government of India, was, at my request, asked by the Commission while at Lucknow, to put in the list of persons who had been asked by the authorities to give

evidence there, together with such abstracts of their evidence as had not already been produced. A paper has been put in by that gentleman, purporting to be a "list of rejected witnesses with abstracts of evidence" received from Allahabad." This is certainly a list, but apparently not the list which was required by the Commission. Now, what does the list put in show? Of the seventeen witnesses who were not called, abstracts were received from sixteen, of whom four seem to entertain anti-opium views and four others make some strong observations against the use of opium. I would draw particular attention to the fact that two of these gentlemen, namely, Mr. P. Wyndham, C.S., Assistant Commissioner and Excise Officer, Sultānpur, and Mirza Muhammad Beg, Deputy Collector of Basti, make the important statement that in their opinion revenue and rents derived from land will not be sensibly affected by the prohibition of poppy cultivation. A tabular statement of the names, rank, and extracts from the abstracts of evidence of these eight gentlemen, is annexed hereto as Appendix IV. These eight gentlemen all express opinions on the subject more or less unfavorable to opium; and while none of them was produced, every one of the witnesses produced by the authorities at Lucknow gave evidence much more favorable to the Government.

12. I am informed by Mr. Alexander, who represents the Anti-Opium Society, that at Rangoon five Chinese witnesses were produced by the authorities, three of whom spoke in favour of the Government opium policy and two against it. Now these two witnesses were both engaged in the liquor trade, and it was thus made to appear that the opposition to opium traffic amongst the Chinese community was confined to those who were likely to benefit by its prohibition. So far, however, was this from being the case, that in the short interval of time between the departure of the Commission for Mandalay and its return to Rangoon, no less than 305 signatures of Chinese residents were obtained to an anti-opium memorial, which was presented at Government House by 50 or 60 leading members of that community.

13. Apart from these cases of apparent interference by the authorities, I complain that they have not taken adequate steps to encourage the people boldly to come forward before the Commission, and to speak out their minds fearlessly. Having regard to our peculiar position in India, the Government ought to have assured the people that no harm would come to them by giving free expression to their views, however opposed they may be to the well-known wishes of the Government. Indeed, facts have come to my knowledge, as well as Mr. Alexander's, which satisfy us that certain persons, including officials, and specially native officials, whose names I am not at liberty to disclose, hold anti-opium views, but that they dared not express such views openly. The letter of Mr. Evans, published in the Calcutta "Statesman" of the 6th December last, testifies to the same state of things in Assam.

14. In conclusion I should observe that the Government may be quite justified in not going out of their way "specially to search for witnesses who will give evidence against opium," but it is another and quite a different thing for them or their officers to take special care to ascertain the views of the witnesses before their examination for the apparent purpose of excluding those who would give evidence against opium. In the face of the facts that have been detailed above, can it be said that the authorities have pursued their declared "course of enabling the Commission to fully ascertain the actual facts"?

15. I regret that I feel obliged to make these serious criticisms, and shall be glad if they can be shown to be uncalled for.

I remain, &c.
HENRY J. WILSON.

D.—2.

APPENDIX I.

Resolution adopted by the House of Commons on the 30th June 1893, on the motion of Her Majesty's Government:—

That, having regard to the strong objections urged on moral grounds to the system by which
u 82810.

the Indian opium revenue is raised, this house presses on the Government of India to continue their policy of greatly diminishing the cultivation of the poppy and the production and sale of opium, and desires that an humble address be presented to Her Majesty praying Her Majesty to appoint a Royal Commission to report as to—

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- (1.) Whether the growth of the poppy and manufacture and sale of opium in British India should be prohibited, except for medical purposes, and whether such prohibition could be extended to the Native States.
- (2.) The nature of the existing arrangements with the Native States in respect of the transit of opium through British territory, and on what terms, if any, these arrangements could be with justice terminated.
- (3.) The effect on the finances of India of the prohibition of the sale and export of opium, taking into consideration—
 - (a) the amount of compensation payable;
 - (b) the cost of the necessary preventive measures;
 - (c) the loss of revenue.
- (4.) Whether any change short of total prohibition should be made in the system at present followed for regulating and restricting the opium traffic, and for raising a revenue therefrom.
- (5.) The consumption of opium by the different races and in the different districts of India, and the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people.
- (6.) The disposition of the people of India in regard to—
 - (a) the use of opium for non-medical purposes;
 - (b) their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures.

Mr. Lyall's Circular.

- (1.) The consumption of opium by the different races and in the different districts of this province, and the effect of such consumption on the moral and physical condition of the people; and
- (2.) The disposition of the people of this province in regard to—
 - (a) the use of opium for non-medical purposes; and
 - (b) their willingness to bear in whole or in part the cost of prohibitive measures.
- (3.) Whether the growth of the poppy and manufacture and sale of opium in British India should in your opinion be prohibited, and whether you consider such prohibition possible.
- (4.) Whether any change short of prohibition should in your opinion be made in the existing arrangements for regulating and restricting the opium traffic in Bengal, and raising a revenue therefrom.
- (5.) The magnitude of the interests bound up with opium in those districts in which the poppy is cultivated, the extent of cultivation, the money which it brings into the pockets of cultivators and landholders, and the manner in which its prohibition would affect rents and the revenue derived from land.
- (6.) The views of the classes who, as landholders, cultivators, or factory hands, are concerned in the opium industry.

D.—3.

APPENDIX II.

No. 2169.
XIII.—326A., dated Allahabad, the 30th December, 1893.

From W. H. L. IMPEY, Esq., Secretary to Government N. W. Provinces and Oudh, to all COMMISSIONERS OF DIVISIONS, INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF CIVIL HOSPITALS, INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF PRISONS, COMMISSIONERS OF EXCISE, and all DISTRICT OFFICERS, N. W. Provinces and Oudh.

SIR,

It appears that some of these officials in these Provinces, who have been addressed by this Government

APP. XXXIV. — on the subject of the evidence to be produced before the Royal Commission on Opium, have communicated direct with the Secretary to the Commission, submitting to that officer abstracts of the evidence, or making inquiries as to the date of examination. I have the honour to point out that there is no authority for this procedure, and to say that all communications should be addressed to this Government.

D.—4.

APPENDIX III.

COPY OF TELEGRAM, 13th December.

To BANKIPORE, from PALASBARI, ASSAM.

To THOMAS EVANS (care of Rev. D. Jones), from DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, Gowhati.

Govindram Chowdry is unable to proceed to Calcutta; it would have been courteous and advisable if you had consulted me before ordering my subordinates away when engaged in emergent work.

D.—5.

APPENDIX IV.

No. on Mr. Dane's List.	Name.	Rank, &c.	Quotations from, and Notes on, the Abstract of Evidence sent in.
7	P. Wyndham, C.S. - -	Excise Officer and Assistant Commissioner, Sultánpur.	<i>Smoking</i> .—"Effect on the moral character is to banish all self-respect and induce laziness." "The opium-smoker is more inclined to resort to crime . . . The habitual opium-smoker in these parts has a sleepy jaded look, is a weakly good-for-nothing, with no energy left in him." <i>Eating</i> .—No complaint. "Chandu contractor, is not a savoury individual, nor is he a man who is much respected by his fellows. On the other hand one of the opium-sellers in each district is the district treasurer and his agent; he is not looked down on in any way for engaging in this trade." <i>Rents and Revenue</i> .—"As regards rents and revenue, prohibition, as far as I have seen, has produced no effect. Cultivation was recently prohibited within the Fyzabad municipal area. No fall in rent has been caused." <i>Sub-head 1, b</i> .—Opium strongly condemned as aphrodisiac—sad results. Does not think much of it as a febrifuge. "The general disposition of the people of India as regards the free use of opium is not favourable." Is partly favourable to opium.
13	Muhammad Abdul Rabím	Assistant Surgeon, King's Hospital, Lucknow.	Muddak is no good; chandu is worse. "99 out of 100 opium-eaters reach the lowest depth of physical weakness and degradation." Painful description follows. "All sense of shame and honour dies." "Bartering of wives of opium-smokers for money for opium. They are unable to commit violence, but ready for everything rascally."
16	Hakím Muhammad Sadiq	Lucknow - - - -	"Opium is in no way conducive to health when used for non-medical purposes, and consequently as a fact wounds morality of those who use it only for pleasure's sake." Opium no way "agrees to the disposition of the people of India."
17	Pandit Kalligi - -	Baid - - - -	Opium is used in cities for non-medical purpose; among rustics for medical purposes only. Whatever the origin, the habit is "no doubt quite obnoxious to mental and physical faculties, it debases the mind, and makes the man lean and drowsy." But benefits outweigh vices.
4	Rai Naráin Bah - -	Talukdár and Honorary Magistrate, Dariabad.	"The opium consumers become very idle and lazy." Well-to-do-people are "but slightly affected." "People commence its use either as a medicine or to enhance sexual pleasures." "It has a peculiar sort of craving which is quite irresistible."
5	Sheik Rurbán Ali -	Landholder, Sálimpur -	<i>Rents</i> .—"The rents will not, I think, be affected very much. Cultivators would grow other valuable crops. Opium is not considered a very valuable crop for various reasons."
10	Mirza Muhammad Beg -	Deputy Collector, Basti -	Speaks well of opium. "The greatest drawback is that the doses require to be gradually increased if the action of the drug is to be kept up."
15	Nobin Chandra Mitra, L.M.S.	Retired Assistant Surgeon, Victoria Street, Lucknow.	"The febrifuge properties of opium are very slight . . . The statement that it acts as a prophylactic of fever in malarious districts should be accepted with caution, for the immunity reported to be so enjoyed, has proved in many instances to be imaginary." Opium-eaters when found out make fever a pretence. He was in charge of hospital and lock-up in Burdwan when malarious fever raged fearfully from 1861 to 1869. Moderate use does not seem to do much harm, but the temptation to indulge in large doses is great, and the result deplorable.

E.—1.

Mr. R. M. DANE'S statement.

The Chairman: Will you make a statement to us with reference to any points which have come within your knowledge which have been raised by Mr. Wilson in his letter?

A.: In compliance with your Lordship's directions, I offer the following explanation, partly written and partly verbal, of the facts within my knowledge concerning the matters referred to in Mr. Wilson's letter of the 17th of January. The letter, I may add, only reached me yesterday, and I have therefore not had much time to consider the allegations made in it, and to refer to my papers, and collect the necessary information. I hope, therefore, that if my statement is not considered a sufficient answer to Mr. Wilson's complaints, his letter will, as promised in your Lordship's memo. of 13th January, be forwarded to the Government of India for consideration and reply.

No remarks appear to be called for from me in regard to paragraphs 1, 2, and 3; and I therefore pass on to paragraph 4. The remark made by Mr. Wilson on the 22nd December to the effect that he was unable to endorse the chairman's observations to Mr. Lyall as to the action of the Indian authorities in regard to this Commission, referred, presumably, to the action taken by the government of Bengal. In that province all, or nearly all, of the native non-official witnesses tendered for examination at Calcutta, were representatives or members of the leading public associations, and they appear therefore to refer more particularly to the manner in which abstracts of evidence were obtained from witnesses in that province. The abstracts were, it will be remembered, called for at the request of the Commission. Copies of Mr. Lyall's circular letter calling for these abstracts have, I understand, been submitted to the Commission; but as Mr. Wilson lays special stress on the wording of the letter of the 11th of November, and a portion of the letter is given in the appendices to the letter, I think that the whole of the two letters should be brought on the proceedings. I therefore solicit permission to read them.

MY DEAR—,

"YOUR name has been sent up as a witness before the Royal Opium Commission, and it will greatly facilitate the work of the Commission if you will submit a short precis or abstract of the evidence you propose to give, to Mr. J. P. Hewett, the Secretary to the Commission, on as early a date as is consistent with your convenience. Overleaf you will find a copy of the resolution of the House of Commons in accordance with which the Royal Commission has been appointed, and a note on the chief points on which evidence is to be submitted in this province, and a cross has been put before the points on which it seems probable that you will be able to give evidence. In addition to the points raised in the extract any information you may be able to give as to the efficiency of the present Bengal monopoly system in restricting the consumption of opium in Bengal and the other provinces of British India will also be valuable."

Yours—

The remainder of this letter which is dated 11th of November 1893, is given in Appendix I. of Mr. Wilson's letter. On the 14th of November another circular letter was issued,—

DEAR SIR,

"IN continuation of Mr. Lyall's letter of the 11th current, I am directed to send overleaf a copy of the resolution of the House of Commons, which was omitted in the hurry of printing."

Yours truly, &c.

As regards the order of subjects laid down in the circular, an inquiry into the facts of the consumption of opium in Bengal and the disposition of the people of that province in regard to opium would, I venture to think, naturally precede the consideration of the question whether the growth of the poppy and manufacture and sale of opium in British India should be prohibited; and I confidently submit that the wording of the letters is not open to the charge that their tendency was to frighten witnesses.

In respect to paragraph 5 which deals with the subject of Madras evidence, I cannot do better than read the letter of the Government of India to the Government of Madras to which reference is made in

the telegram quoted by Mr. Wilson. The letter speaks for itself.

No. Ex.
5427.

To the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of MADRAS,
Revenue Department.

Calcutta, December 1893.

SIR,

In continuation of my telegram of this date, reproduced in the margin (in the margin the telegram is dated 3rd December) "I am directed to enclose copies of a letter of the 13th instant, received from the Secretary to the Royal Commission on Opium regarding the evidence relating to Madras to be placed before the Commission, and of the reply thereto. You will observe that the Commission desire to have in Bombay the evidence relating to Madras, and that the Government of India have replied that this request will be complied with. The Commission also desire that as much of the information relating to Madras as possible may be embodied in printed statements which can be forwarded by post to the Commission without requiring any officer to attend to present them. I am to request that this course may be followed."

"The Commission also indicate their wish that only those witnesses should be sent to Bombay whose evidence is considered to be specially important, and that the number of witnesses from Madras should be reduced. I am to request that you will forward the abstracts of the evidence of the witnesses named in the list given in the resolution of the Board of Revenue, Madras, No. 4775, dated 24th November, and that you will inform the Government of India which of those witnesses His Excellency the Governor in Council considers to be of special importance, in order that those only may be deputed to Bombay. The abstracts should be prepared as requested in my telegram of the 1st of December."

The Government of India have now informed the Commission that they consider it desirable that the selection of witnesses from the Madras Presidency for examination at Bombay should be made by the Royal Commission, and an intimation to this effect has been made to the Madras Government.

With regard to the question of Assam evidence, Mr. Hewett has already placed the facts regarding Tahsildar Gobind Ram Chaudhuri before the Commission. He will, I understand, appear for examination at Agra.

Mr. Wilson has informed me that Appendix 5, which is referred to in paragraph 7, has not been attached; and, if I correctly understood him, he said, I think, that it was not a matter of importance: so that no remarks appear to be called for from me in regard to the alteration made in the list of 20 witnesses, dated 20th November, except as regard Babu Haribilas Agarwala. I would invite attention to the statement made by Mr. Driberg in his evidence regarding this gentleman. He said in reply to a question asked him by Mr. Wilson, "I did not drop him: I wrote to him two or three times, asking him to give an abstract of his evidence. I have a letter from him in which he says, 'I volunteered to give my evidence before the Commission direct, and I send you a copy of what I propose to say to them.' I then wrote to the Deputy Commissioner, and of course we had nothing more to do."

Reference has also been made to the abstracts of Dr. Mullane, Hem Chandra Barua, and Benudhar Barua, and it is suggested that Government has kept back or struck out of the Provincial list of witnesses all persons who were ascertained to hold views unfavourable to the use of opium. I venture on my own personal responsibility to suggest for the consideration of the Commission that a note of the contents of the abstracts of all witnesses whose names were on the Assam Provincial List, put in upon the 22nd of December, be brought upon the proceedings. The Government was perfectly willing that all witnesses on that list should be examined, and as has already been explained by Mr. Wilson, Babas Hem Chandra Barua, and Benudhar Barua, were prevented from attending by illness. Mr. Wilson lays special stress apparently upon a passage in Dr. Mullane's abstract. If your Lordship has no objection, I should like to read a paper which is,

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referred to by Mr. Wilson, as I think it shows clearly that even if Government had been anxious to exclude all evidence unfavourable to the use of opium, there could be no possible objection to his appearing to give evidence. The abstract is as follows:—I have had opportunities of observing opium-eaters both in the Punjab and in Assam. Generally speaking, the Sikhs are great opium-eaters, and as a fighting race, few better exist in this world. In Assam I have daily, for the last 13 years, been brought into contact with opium eaters. In several portions of the country opium is absolutely a necessity of life with the elder portion of the community. Its power as a prophylactic in malaria is, as far as my experience goes, universally admitted, while its effects in dysentery and diarrhoea are known to the most ignorant of the community. Quinine would certainly replace opium in the case of malaria, but it should be remembered that quinine, as an article of common every-day use amongst the rural population of Assam, is unknown. In fact, the drug to the vast bulk of the inhabitants has never been heard of. The total disuse of the opium would, in the present condition of affairs, lead to enormous suffering among the people, and would result in the depopulation of extensive areas. I do not intend it to be understood that I imply that opium is quite an unmixed blessing; for, although opium-eaters do undoubtedly enjoy a marked degree of immunity from malarial fever, dysentery, and diarrhoea, still an old opium-eater attacked with dysentery or diarrhoea, enjoys a smaller chance of recovery than a non-opium-eater.

The abstracts of evidence of the two Babus referred to are as follows:—

(1.) Babu Hem Chandra Barua, retired Superintendent of the Commissioner's Office, Assam Valley District, Gauhati, (district Kamrup).

Sale of opium by the Government should not, I think, be prohibited for non-medicinal purposes.

Such prohibition is not, in my opinion, practicable.

The consumption of opium is not confined to any particular race or races, but the people of almost all races take it more or less in the different districts of Assam; and such consumption, I think, in some cases injuriously affects the physical condition of the people, and many of the poorer opium-eaters become thieves, and give false evidence in our courts for what they get for perjuring themselves.

The people of Assam, in my opinion, are naturally disposed to use opium for non-medical purposes, and are not, I believe, willing to bear any part of the cost of prohibitive measures, nor can they afford to do so.

(2.) Babu Benudhar Barua, Pleader and Vice-Chairman of the Municipality Gauhati (district Kamrup).

Sale of opium ought, in my opinion, not to be prohibited, such prohibition is, I believe, not practicable.

Opium is consumed by almost all races, mostly by the aboriginal ones in the different districts of Assam, either by smoking or eating. Smoking affects, to a certain extent, the physical condition of the consumer, specially when taken at early age, and without good food. Many of the poorer opium-eaters commit thefts, but they are generally of petty nature, and as far as I know such opium-eaters do not commit heinous offences.

Some people of Assam are naturally disposed to use opium for non-medical purposes, but certainly they are not willing to bear any part of the cost of prohibitive measures, nor can they afford to do so.

The character of the evidence which these gentlemen were prepared to give, shows that Government did not merely tender for examination persons holding views altogether favourable to the use of opium.

I should like, however, to add that the Assam witnesses were examined during my absence from Calcutta. Partly when I was in Burma, and partly when I was in the North-West Provinces and the Punjab, and such information as I have been able to furnish, is derived from documents which have been supplied to me; and I have no personal knowledge of any thing occurred in connexion with the examination of those witnesses.

Passing on to paragraph 8 of Mr. Wilson's letter, I would observe that Mr. Impey's letter of the 30th of December 1893, to which reference is made, and which is published in extenso in Appendix II., is an ordinary routine official communication. I am responsible for

the printing and punctual submission of the abstracts of evidence of witnesses tendered by Government for examination, and for the arrangements made to ensure the attendance of such witnesses. If local officers were allowed to correspond direct with the Secretary to the Commission, and make arrangements without reference to me, it would be impossible for me to perform satisfactorily the duties entrusted to me by Government.

In paragraph 9, Mr. Wilson states that Rai Bahadur Jai Prakash Lal, C. I. E., Dewan of Dumraon, was not called at Bankipur to give evidence, although his name appeared on the list of witnesses intended to be called on the 3rd of January, and that information from two sources leads him to believe that that evidence would not have been altogether favourable to the Government. With regard to Rai Bahadur Jai Prakash Lal, I regret that my memory is not as clear as it might be as to the circumstances under which he was not examined at Bankipur. It is, however, not correct to say that he was not called. He attended at Bankipur on the first day that the Commission sat there, and I have a distinct recollection that I was told by some one (probably by the Hon. T. Brassey, who was acting as Secretary in Mr. Hewett's absence), that the Dewan could not be examined as he had sent in no abstract of his evidence. My first impression was, however, that I was informed by Mr. Hewett that the Dewan could not be examined, and as Mr. Hewett was not at Bankipur on that day, my memory of the circumstances was to this extent at fault throughout. The Dewan was in attendance at Bankipur the first day, and also, I am informed, on the fourth day; and if any desire to have his evidence had been expressed by the Commission he would have been produced at once. He was, I may add, evidently unwilling to give evidence, and intentionally, it appears, refrained from sending in an abstract. Mr. Forbes, Commissioner of Patna, referred to information supplied to him by the Dewan in his evidence as being one of the matters connected with the administration of the Opium Department into which he was making inquiry.

The telegrams which I shall now read will show that efforts were made to induce the Dewan to send in an abstract, and his failure to do so was not the fault of the Government or of any Government officers. In a letter addressed to me by Mr. Inglis, Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated the 3rd of January, he wrote, "I also inclose a copy of a telegram received by "Mr. Lyall from Rai Jai Prakash Lal Bahadur, and a "copy of my telegram in reply."

Copy of a telegram, dated Bankipur, 31st December 1893, from Rai Jai Prakash Lal Bahadur, to Honourable R. D. Lyall, C.S.I.

"Returned here from up-country. Busy in preparing abstract of my evidence. Will give it to Hewett, Esq., immediately on his arrival here."

Copy of Reply to above.

"Twenty copies of abstract wanted. Sixteen for Commission, four for Mr. Dane."

I should also like to mention that I forwarded to the Secretary to the Commission on the 26th of December a list in manuscript of witnesses proposed for examination at Patna.

On that list of witnesses were the names of three officials, Mr. Forbes, Mr. Wace, and Mr. Tytler, and the fourth name is that of Rai Bahadur Jai Prakash Lal, Dewan, of Dumraon Raj. I submit, therefore, that there is conclusive proof that the Dewan Rai Jai Prakash Lal was not kept back by Government, but that on the contrary he was actually tendered for examination, though there was reason to believe that his evidence would be in a measure unfavourable. For reasons of his own he was evidently unwilling to give evidence.

In regard to the Benares list of witnesses referred to in paragraph 10 of Mr. Wilson's letter, I would invite attention to the explanation already given by me at Benares, and which has, I believe, been duly recorded in the proceedings of the Commission. To that explanation I may add that it will be within the recollection of Your Lordship and the Members of the Commission that of the two days devoted to the inquiry at Benares, practically the whole of one day was allowed for anti-opium evidence, and a considerable part of the evidence of witnesses examined at the instance of I understand, the abstract of Dr. Mullane's evidence

Government referred to the question whether or not the cultivation of poppy was carried on voluntarily by the cultivators. Ishan Chandra Roy was a Bengali medical practitioner of, as well as I remember, eight years' experience. The Commission had taken a considerable amount of evidence from independent medical practitioners, and from official medical practitioners in Calcutta, and three or four Bengali assistant surgeons tendered by Government for examination at that place were not examined. Of the five medical officers tendered for examination at Benares, Dr. Cameron, the Civil Surgeon, held what I may describe as anti-opium views, and I submit that it would have been altogether unreasonable that Babu Ishan Chandra Roy should be put forward as a witness on behalf of the Government, merely because he happened to hold views which were unfavourable to the policy of the Government.

I have not been able to record any explanation with regard to paragraph 11, but I understand that Mr. Wilson is of opinion (I am unable to put any other construction upon it) that this list of rejected witnesses with abstracts of evidence received from Allahabad is not a genuine list. He says, "This certainly is a list, but apparently not the list which was required by the Commission."

I was verbally requested by Mr. Hewett to produce a list of witnesses who had been originally selected to give evidence, and had afterwards for some reason or another been rejected, with the abstracts of their evidence. Three names were specially given to me in pencil by Mr. Hewett. I think he obtained them from Mr. Wilson. One was Nobin Chandra Mitra, retired Assistant-Surgeon; and the others were, as far as I can remember, Hakim Muhammad Sadiq, and Pandit Kalliji Baid. I received the abstracts of evidence, which I put in, from the Financial Secretary of the Government of the North-West Provinces, and, I believe, that they were the abstracts of all the witnesses whose names were in the list of selected witnesses submitted by the Government of the North-Western Provinces to the Government of India, who were proposed for examination at the Lucknow centre, and who had afterwards been omitted from the list in consequence of the necessity for its reduction, owing to the short time which the Commission proposed to devote to the inquiry. Mr. Wilson having objected to the list, then passes on to argue that "Of the 17 witnesses who were not called, abstracts were received from 16, of whom four seemed to entertain anti-opium views, and four others made some strong observations against the use of opium. I would draw, he writes, particular attention to the fact that two of these gentlemen, namely, Mr. P. Wyndham, C. S., Assistant-Commissioner and Excise Officer, Sultanpur, and Mirza Muhammad Beg, Deputy Collector of Basti, make the important statement that, in their opinion, the rents derived from the land will not be sensibly affected by the prohibition of poppy cultivation." As regards these officials, I may say that, as far as I am aware, in the North-West Provinces, Bengal, Assam, and Burma, no European officers of the standing of Mr. Wyndham have been tendered before the Commission for examination. And also as regards Mirza Muhammad Beg, the deputy-collector of Basti, I may say that only two deputy-collectors have been tendered as witnesses in the North-West Provinces, one of whom in a measure represents the Rampur State, and the other was in charge of the court of wards, and, therefore, was considered to have had exceptional opportunities for studying the question of the profits of poppy cultivation.

I wish further to draw attention to Mr. Wilson's Appendix IV., where extracts are given from the opinions of these officers, of whom he says: "Four seemed to entertain anti-opium views, and four others make some strong observations against the use of opium." Mr. Wyndham, for instance, is shown in the abstract in the quotation there given to say "Smoking—effect on the moral character is to banish all self-respect and induce laziness. The opium-smoker is more inclined to resort to crime. The habitual opium-smoker in these parts has a sleepy jaded look, is a weakly good-for-nothing, with no energy left in him. Eating.—No complaint. Chandu contractor is not a savoury individual, nor is he a man who is much respected by his fellows; on the other hand, one of the opium-sellers in each district is the district treasurer and his agents; he is not looked down on in any way for engaging in this trade. Rents and revenue.—As regards rents and

"revenue, prohibition, as far as I have seen, has produced no effect. Cultivation was recently prohibited within the Fyzabad municipal area. No fall in rent has been caused."

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I think the last quotation about rents and revenue would be more complete if the words used by Mr. Wyndham had been added:

"Potatoes and other garden crops can take the place of poppy, so far as rent and revenue are concerned, but the cultivator would object."

Mr. Wyndham also, in his abstract, made remarks on the subject of opium, which should also be considered before any opinion can be pronounced on the general tenor of his evidence. One of his remarks was: "In the Terai a Mahomedan takes to opium-eating at his middle age, just as a European takes tobacco on leaving school. The effect on the moral character is nil, unless of course a man takes to excess. I have only come across one such case. He was wanting in thrift, but in all other circumstances was as good as his fellows." Further on in the report he adds: "He looked well fed and nourished, and was bright and intelligent." Then he also says: "Effect on physical condition is generally beneficial. Consumers cannot be detected by their looks, and they invariably sing the praises of the drug, and state that they are better and fitter than when they lived without it."

Under those circumstances, I submit that Mr. Wyndham's evidence is distinctly favourable to the use of opium.

With regard to the second witness, Muhammad Abdul Rahim, assistant surgeon, King's Hospital, Lucknow, the following quotation is given: "Opium strongly condemned as aphrodisiac; sad results. Does not think much of it as a febrifuge. The general disposition of the people of India as regards the free use of opium is not favourable. Is partly favourable to opium."

In another part of his abstract this gentleman writes: "Those who take it in small doses, such as from 2 to 6 grains, or a little more, in 24 hours as a medicine, or those who commence to take it at a pretty advanced age, say 40 or 45, and keep the dose under certain limits, do not suffer from any bad consequences in the long run; in fact they are benefited by it in receiving a sort of protection against the vicissitudes of climate so common in different parts of the country. They do not seem to suffer from any particular class of diseases."

The third witness from whose abstract a quotation is given is Hakim Muhammad Sadiq, of Lucknow. The quotation given is: "Madak is no good, Chandu is worse, 99 out of 100 opium-eaters reach the lowest depth of critical weakness and degradation. Painful description follows. All sense of shame and honour dies. Bartering of wives of opium-smokers for money for opium. They are unable to commit violence, but ready for everything rascally." That abstract has been in the hands of the Commission. I have read it, and my impression of it is that it refers almost, if not entirely, to the question of opium-smoking, and that opium-eating is scarcely, if at all, referred to. The quotation given is incorrect in so far as it says "99 out of 100 opium-eaters reach the lowest depth of physical weakness." The actual words used in the abstract are "99 out of 100 opium-smokers."

The fourth witness is Pandit Kalliji, Baid. This gentleman undoubtedly appears to hold views unfavourable to the use of opium, but his standing position does not, in my opinion, entitle him to be regarded as an important witness. Then we come to Rai Narain Bah, talukdar and honorary magistrate, Darriabad. The quotation given from the abstract fairly represents this gentleman's views; in fact in the summing up to, "benefits outweigh vices," should also have been added "benefits derived from the cultivation of the poppy outweigh vices." I would point out, however, that this gentleman has evidently not made much study of the subject. He begins: "The consumption of opium in its various forms, charas, madak, and chandu, together with ganja, bhang, and other strong liquors." Charas is a preparation of Indian hemp, *Cannabis indica*, and has nothing to do with opium. His evidence, therefore, even if taken, would not have been very valuable.

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The sixth witness referred to is Sheikh Kurban Ali. He also holds unfavourable views about the use of opium. The quotation given from the abstract fairly expresses his views on the subject as to the use and effects of opium. At the same time, however, I think it would only have been fair, as so much stress had been laid on the opinions expressed by Mr. Wyndham, and by Mirza Muhammad Beg, as to the effects of the prohibition of poppy cultivation on revenue and rents, to point out that Kurban Ali on that point holds diametrically opposite views. He said in his abstract "If poppy cultivation be stopped, the rent would be realised with greater difficulty than at present."

The seventh witness is Mirza Muhammad Beg, the deputy collector of Basti. The quotation given is, "People commence its use either as a medicine or to enhance sexual pleasure. It has peculiar sort of craving, which is quite irresistible."

"Rents.—The rents will not, I think, be affected very much. Cultivators would grow other crops. Opium is not considered a very valuable crop for various reasons."

I would invite careful reference to his abstract. He certainly writes strongly about the effects of the abuse of opium, but he adds: "But this no doubt is its abuse." "If people choose to abuse it, it is no fault of the opium." In another place in his abstract he says: "People derive great benefit from its use, and I see no reason whatever why the use of opium should be prohibited. Again, opium-eaters are very useful members of society. Use of opium never leads to commission of crime, and violence is unknown to them. There is no tendency in the use of opium to make the consumers less moral." The last witness referred to is Nabin Chandra Mitra, retired assistant surgeon, Victoria Street, Lucknow. His abstract is summed up as follows: "Speaks well of opium. 'The greatest drawback is that the doses require to be gradually increased if the action of the drug is to be kept up.' 'The febrile properties of opium are very slight. The statement that it acts as a prophylactic of fever in malarious districts should be accepted with caution, for immunity reported to be so enjoyed has proved, in many instances, to be imaginary.' Opium-eaters when found out make fever a pretence. He was in charge of hospital and lock-up in Burdwan, when malarious fever raged fearfully from 1861 to 1869. Moderate use does not seem to do much harm, but the temptation to indulge in large doses is great, and the result deplorable."

The following passages in his abstract appear to me to be worthy of reproduction, if any fair idea of the character of the evidence he was prepared to give is to be obtained: "Every medical practitioner cannot but admit that opium is a remedy of great value in the treatment of disease, and that as a therapeutic agent it is, quinine excepted, perhaps second to none in the whole pharmacopœia." He also says: "It is also a prevalent belief that if a man, after he is 40 years old, takes small doses of opium he preserves his health better, suffers less from the infirmities of age, and thereby prolongs his life." In another passage he says: "That persons addicted to the habitual use of opium in small doses have succeeded in preserving their health in excellent condition, is a fact which cannot but be admitted, as several such have come under my own observation."

He, therefore, I maintain, can certainly not be regarded as a witness unfavourable to the moderate use of opium.

The excessive use of opium was condemned by several of the witnesses who gave evidence, at the instance of the Government, at Lucknow. Opium-smoking in particular was condemned by Babu Sri Ram, and Gokal Chand, both non-official witnesses of standing position.

The practice is also condemned by Mr. Cadell, member of the Board of Revenue, who will appear before the Commission at Agra, and by Mr. Stoker, the Commissioner of Excise, who may be supposed to represent the views of the Government of the North-Western Provinces. It could, therefore, hardly be considered unnecessary that the evidence on this subject should be unduly multiplied.

I should like to add on this subject that since I made this statement Mr. Wilson has verbally informed me that I misunderstood his meaning in regard to the list produced by me. I regret that I should have made the mistake.

Finally, I shall refer briefly to the question of the evidence tendered in Burma. The correspondence which led to the prohibition of the use of opium by Burmans in Lower Burma, except those who registered themselves as habitual consumers, is in possession of the Commission. I do not think that anybody reading that correspondence will think there was any probability that the local administration in Burma would have put the case unfairly before the Commission. As a matter of fact, the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Fryer, advocated the prohibition of the use of opium by Burmans, or more correctly, the assimilation of the law in Lower Burma to that in force in Upper Burma. I also submit, with regard to the evidence of the Chinese witnesses, that the description given of it by Mr. Wilson is not very accurate. Mr. Wilson says: "I am informed by Mr. Alexander, who represents the Anti-Opium Society, that at Rangoon five Chinese witnesses were produced by the authorities, three of whom spoke in favour of the Government opium policy, and two against it. Now, these two witnesses were both engaged in the liquor trade, and it was thus made to appear that the opposition to opium traffic amongst the Chinese community was confined to those who were likely to benefit by its prohibition." It is true that one of the witnesses who spoke against opium was also a wine seller, Mr. Chin Tek, who was selected by the local administration as being a representative Chinese gentleman, and who, in their opinion, was best able to express the views of the Chinese community at Rangoon. Mr. Warry, the Chinese adviser to the local administration, mentioned the names of two Chinamen who, he thought, would best be able to represent the views of the Chinese residents in Lower Burma. Both those gentlemen unfortunately were unable to attend, although endeavours were made to secure their attendance. They were, if I remember right, ill. With regard to the other gentleman, whose evidence is apparently referred to, Mr. Park Chan, did not, as far as I am able to understand, speak against the Government policy. He himself was a consumer, and admitted the fact. His evidence should be referred to and considered. Mr. Alexander, in giving his evidence, made the following statement as to the Chinese:—"Mr. Hanbury, at the deputation to Lord Kimberley, said, produce me 10 or even five Chinamen who will say that opium-smoking is innocuous."

This was a distinct statement, and it was therefore thought desirable to enable the Commission to ascertain the absolute facts about the effects of opium-smoking upon Chinamen, and the views of consumers of that race upon the subject, that a certain number of respectable Chinamen, themselves in the habit of smoking opium, should appear before the Commission, and state their own views and personal experience. That was done. It is for the Commission to pronounce an opinion upon the evidence. It may be urged that the evidence taken by the Commission did not correctly represent the views of the Chinese community, but I submit that there are absolutely no grounds for stating that the evidence tendered by Government was of a character to mislead the Commission, or that the facts regarding the Chinese community in Burma were unfairly represented.

E—2.

Mr. J. PRESCOTT HEWETT called in.

The Chairman: I will ask you to submit a statement to us upon any of the matters raised by Mr. Wilson, which have come within your personal knowledge.

A.: The first point that has come within my personal cognisance relates to Babu Gobind Ram Chaudhuri, Tahsildar of Gauhati, whose case is referred to in paragraph 6 of Mr. Wilson's letter. I have circulated to the members of the Commission at different times the papers regarding Gobind Ram Chaudhuri. The Chief Commissioner telegraphed, on January the 6th, to the Government of India that Gobind Ram Chaudhuri would be sent to meet the Commission on tour. A copy of this telegram was forwarded to me by letter, and reached me on January 10th, on which date I telegraphed asking where he might be expected. I have now received a telegram that he will be at Agra on the 25th or 26th of January.

The next point upon which I have any personal knowledge is that referred to in paragraph 7 of Mr. Wilson's letter. Mr. Finlay wrote to me on the 8th of December asking me if I could kindly let him know the names of the anti-opium witnesses from Assam, and the district in which each was resident. I gave this letter to Mr. Wilson, and on the 10th of January I received an answer from Mr. Wilson, junior, to the following effect:—

"My father, who is not very well to-day, requests me to return Mr. Finlay's letter, and to point out that he gives no reason for the request made; and, considering that the witnesses in question are to be examined seven days before the official witnesses, he does not at this moment feel called upon to comply with Mr. Finlay's request."

I forwarded this letter to Mr. Finlay, and I received his reply to the following effect:—

"Your letter enclosing Mr. Wilson's refusal to let me know the names and districts of residents of the witnesses from Assam who are to be produced by the Anti-Opium Society. Will you kindly explain to Mr. Wilson that the reason for my request was that I might ask Mr. Driberg to be prepared with witnesses who know the facts regarding the particular parts of Assam from which the witnesses in question will come in case it may be necessary or desirable to correct any incorrect information given by them. Please also explain to Mr. Wilson that the journey from some parts of Assam to Calcutta takes, I believe, more than seven days; and certainly there are very few parts of that province from which a reply to a letter sent by post could be received in seven days."

I showed this letter to Mr. Wilson. On the 16th of December Mr. Wilson wrote:—

"I am now, and only now, in a position to give the names of the Assam witnesses. You are entitled to them when you want them. If Mr. Finlay would like them I am willing to proceed on the lines of exchange. You will see by telegram enclosed that one witness who had promised to come is prevented by his Deputy-Commissioner. I think this ought to be overruled by the authorities. It will be very much commented on, of course."

That was Gobind Ram Chaudhuri, who was referred to before.

On the 17th of December, Mr. Finlay sent me the list referred to by Mr. Wilson, with the following remarks:—

"I enclose the list of Assam witnesses. It has since been reduced, in accordance with the request of the Commissioners to omit all but important witnesses. But I do not know which names have been struck out."

On the 25th of December I received from Mr. Driberg the following letter:—

"In accordance with the wish expressed by the Chairman of the Royal Commission on Opium, I have, in consultation with Mr. Dane, considerably reduced the number of official and non-official witnesses for Assam. The following is a list of witnesses whose evidence we consider essential, arranged in order of importance.

1. Surgeon-Major E. F. H. Dobson, M.B., civil surgeon, Shillong.
2. J. D. Anderson, C.S., Deputy-Commissioner, Darrang.
3. R. C. Haviland, tea planter, Gauhati.
4. Ernest Bridge, tea planter, Mangaldai, Darrang.
5. E. P. R. Gilman, tea planter, Sonapur, Kamrup.
6. Jagannath Barua, B.A., tea planter, Letekujan Factory, Rangajan, P.O., District Sibsagar.
7. Mohendra Nath Phukan, tea planter, Nokhola Tea Estate, Nowgong District.
8. Rahamat Ali, tea planter, Puranigudan Tea Estate, District Nowgong.
9. Madhar Chandra Bardoloi, extra-assistant Commissioner, Barpeta.

"Two of the witnesses (viz., Rai Lahman Hazarika Bahadur and Babu Radhanath Changkoti) whom I removed from the original provincial list to meet the wishes of the Commissioners for curtailment of the inquiry, in regard to Assam, have since represented that they consider their evidence of importance, and they have, therefore, been brought down from Assam

in case the Commissioners may wish to examine them."

That is all I know with regard to that point.

Q.: Have you anything else to say?

A.: The third point upon which I have any information is with regard to Dr. Mullane, Babu Hem Chundra Barua, and Babu Benudhar Barua, who are referred to in the second portion of the 7th paragraph. The Chairman gave me the following written instruction: "We are desirous to take the evidence of Dr. Mullane, Babu Hem Chandra Barua and Babu Inar Barua. It will be desirable that these witnesses should meet the Commission while on tour." I at once communicated this to Mr. Driberg, who, the following day, produced a telegram from the Deputy-Commissioner to the effect that both the native gentlemen were too unwell to leave their homes. This telegram was brought before the Commission; and I was instructed that under the circumstances it was not necessary that the Babus should be required to follow the Commissioners on tour.

To the best of my recollection I was asked by Mr. Driberg to endorse the paper in his possession to this effect, and I did so. The following telegrams have passed between the Chief Commissioner and the Government of India about Dr. Mullane:—

"From the Secretary to Chief Commissioner, Assam. To Finance. Dated January 8th, 1894. Driberg wires Opium Commission insist on Mullane, civil surgeon, Dibrugarh, proceeding at once give evidence. Please explain Commission, Mullane cannot possibly be spared until Abor expedition is over."

"Telegram, dated 8th January 1894. From Finance. To Secretary to Chief Commissioner, Assam. Your telegram of 8th, Mullane. When is Abor expedition likely to be over?"

"Telegram, dated 9th January 1894. From Secretary to Chief Commissioner, Assam. To Finance. Your telegram 8th. Abor Expedition starts 14th January. Chief Commissioner hopes that it will be over in a month, but it may be two months."

Upon this I took the Chairman's orders. His Lordship directed that Dr. Mullane might be asked to re-write his abstracts in such a form that it could be printed as evidence and supplemented with replies to any questions which members of the Commission might wish sent to him to answer, and when this was received from him it could be brought on the record by the Secretary being called upon to produce it. This order was passed by the Chairman on the 19th. I had no copy of Dr. Mullane's abstract, or I should have circulated the papers at once to the members of the Commission. I asked Mr. Fanshawe to provide me with his copy on the 20th, but I have not yet received it. That concludes that portion of the matter.

The next paragraph of Mr. Wilson's letter of which I have any personal knowledge is paragraph 8. With reference to the letter of 30th December 1893, from the Government of the North Western Provinces and Oudh, I desire to explain that two, perhaps three, abstracts of evidence were forwarded to me of witnesses from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh. As they were forwarded to me by the collectors of districts I knew that they must appertain to the list being prepared by the Government. I therefore sent them to Mr. Dane and suggested that he should have directions issued to secure that such abstracts should come to me through him. The only abstracts which I have regarded myself as responsible for obtaining direct from the witnesses are those of gentlemen who have addressed me direct in consequence of the invitation advertised by me in the newspapers under the directions of the Commission. Even in the case of such witnesses, when their letters to me have shown, by their requests for copies of the questions issued by Mr. Alexander, that their object was to give evidence on behalf of the society which he represents, I have made such letters at once over to him, and taken no further action in regard to them.

The last letter of which I have any personal knowledge is that referred to in paragraph 9 with regard to Rai Bahadur Jai Prakash Lal. With regard to this gentleman I should like to say that a few days after Christmas, while I was unwell, he came to my room at 7 p.m., when I was in bed, to ask about the tents which he was going, as agent of the Maharaja of Dumraon, to send to Patna for the use of the Commission. When I had completed this business with him I said, "Your name is on the list of witnesses for

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Production of Evidence.

APP. XXXIV.

" Patna; you have not sent in an abstract, if you do not do so the Commissioners will not hear you." He replied, "I will send you one." He then left, after saying that he was leaving Calcutta by that night's mail. Those are all the points upon which I have any knowledge. I was not at Patna the first two days.

The Chairman.—Your statement will be circulated to the Commission for consideration in connexion with Mr. Wilson's letter.

F.

Ajmere,

2nd Feb. 1894.

DEAR LORD BRASSAY,
It was understood that I would make some communication this morning; and I have considered:—

- (i.) the complaints in my letter of 17th January;
- (ii.) the additional incidents mentioned by me yesterday (including a reference to a communication of a semi-private character, and the treatment of the missionary memorial);
- (iii.) the printed statement of Mr. Hewett and Mr. Dane; and
- (iv.) the conversation at the sitting yesterday.

I have already intimated that in view of the explanations given, I withdraw my complaint relating to the Tahsildar of Gowhatti.

In view of the explanations, I also withdraw the reference to the non-production of Dr. Mullane.

I must ask to be excused for great brevity (unavoidable in the circumstances) in dealing with other matters.

I am conscious of the danger of putting a wrong construction on evidence which is unavoidably incomplete.

My endeavour has been to give full weight to this consideration, and I admit that full investigation, were it possible, might lead me to withdraw other complaints.

But at the present time I cannot dismiss from my mind the impression that some of the proceedings of the authorities have had a tendency to unfairly influence the character of the evidence, as well as the report of the Commission.

I am, therefore, unable at the present time to withdraw the other parts of my letter.

It is right to add that I feel strongly that I cannot at present devote to this complicated matter the time which its further elucidation would require, without neglecting my primary duty in connexion with the Commission.

I remain, &c.

H. J. WILSON.

G.

From the SECRETARY to the ROYAL COMMISSION ON OPIUM
to the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
Finance and Commerce Department.

Camp Ajmere,

3rd February 1894.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward two letters addressed to the Chairman by Mr. Wilson.

The Commission have received from Mr. Dane and myself explanations on such matters as lay within our personal knowledge, which they consider satisfactory.

On the general question I am desired to say that the other members of the Commission are agreed that the Government of India have consistently pursued their declared course of endeavouring to place them in full possession of the actual facts. In the various localities in which the Commission have held their sittings they have received much valuable assistance from the representatives of the Government. The Commissioners recognise a general desire to put forward such evidence as would assist the Commission in their investigations. In the conduct of an inquiry extending over vast provinces and embracing enormous populations, the practical execution of instructions must be entrusted to subordinate officials. In such circumstances, if here and there an instance should occur of indiscreet zeal, it would not justify a charge against the Government that they had not acted up to the spirit of their undertaking to facilitate the inquiries of the Commission in every way in their power. The Commission are of opinion that Mr. Wilson has not proved the specific charges made by him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. P. HEWETT,
Secretary.

K 20 MAY 1971

